

City of Santa Cruz

PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

Parks • Recreational Facilities • Open Spaces • Beaches



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
AND PARKS
RECREATION

City of Santa Cruz

PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

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AUGUST 2020





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• 5.8 Presentations from Subcommittee Meetings
• 5.9 Potential Grant Sources



CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Executive Summary



Mitchell's Cove



SECTION 1.1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. Purpose of the Parks Master Plan 2030
- B. Planning Process
- C. Organization of the Parks Master Plan 2030
- D. Overview of Chapters & Sections

A. PURPOSE OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

The *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) is a tool to guide the City of Santa Cruz in parks, facility, beach, and open space planning on a long-term basis. This document contains policies and actions for the provision of parks services and recommendations for improvements at specific parks.

B. PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process included three significant report milestones:

- Administrative Draft – A working draft of the Parks Master Plan 2030 distributed amongst key City staff for review, study, and comment.
- Draft Plan – Comments on the Administrative Draft were incorporated, and the report was open to public review and comment.
- Final Plan – Final comments from the public, City Council, Parks & Recreation Commission, and key City staff were incorporated before release of the Final Plan. The Final Plan was adopted by the City Council on October 13, 2020.



University Terrace Park

C. ORGANIZATION OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

The Parks Master Plan 2030 is comprised of the following chapters and sections:

CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Executive Summary

CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION & INVENTORY - WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE HAVE

2.1 Goals & General Objectives

2.2 History & Introduction

2.3 Community Profile

2.4 Existing Conditions



1.1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & NEEDS ASSESSMENT - WHAT WE NEED & WANT

3.1 Community Outreach

3.2 Emerging Trends

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION - WHERE WE'RE HEADED & HOW WE'RE GETTING THERE

4.1 Goals, Policies & Actions

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4.4 Ongoing Planning & Updates

CHAPTER 5: APPENDICES

5.1 Existing Plans

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5.3 Community Meeting Materials: Flyer, Handout, & Boards

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5.8 Presentations from Subcommittee Meetings

5.9 Potential Grant Sources



View up Woodrow Avenue, planted with drought-tolerant vegetation

D. OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS & SECTIONS

CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This chapter provides an overview of the purpose and organization of the Parks Master Plan 2030, while also explaining the process that the Plan undergoes in order to be approved.

CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION & INVENTORY - WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE HAVE

In order to make relevant recommendations for the future, it is critical to understand the Santa Cruz community as well as the history and current condition of the parks system. This chapter presents an introduction to the City of Santa Cruz's existing parks and recreation system as well as the community. A detailed inventory and assessment of the existing parks, open spaces, beaches, and facilities is included. Specific recommendations for each of these assets can be found in Chapter 4.

Section 2.1 Goals & General Objectives of Master Plan

The Parks Master Plan 2030 presents a road map to improve the existing parks system and anticipate future needs of the community while still



preserving the City's unique character and environment. The Parks, Recreation, & Open Space chapter of the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 provides the outline for the recommendations. The specific goals are:

- **Goal PR1:** Ample, accessible, safe, and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreational facilities
- **Goal PR2:** High-quality, affordable recreational programs, activities, events, and services for all
- **Goal PR3:** Well managed, clean, and convenient public access to open space lands and coastline
- **Goal PR4:** An integrated system of citywide and regional trails

The objectives of the Parks Master Plan 2030 process were as follows:

- Identify and assess the City's various existing parks, open space, and facility assets.
- Conduct a comprehensive outreach effort including telephone surveys, community meetings, and interviews with key stakeholders and community members.
- Create a feasible vision and goals that prioritize community needs and desires for expansion and improvements.
- Generate policies to support community goals.
- Construct an implementable action plan to accomplish community goals, while establishing phasing and funding opportunities.

Section 2.2 History & Introduction

This section introduces the recreational lifestyle of Santa Cruz and the history of recreation in the City. The bay, beaches, and extensive greenbelts provide numerous opportunities to explore and recreate.

Additionally, the City has a variety of traditional park facilities for its residents and visitors. These include group picnic areas, a swimming pool, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, a golf course, horseshoe pits and such unique facilities as an archery range and

disc golf course. The City continues to embrace new trends in recreation with such facilities as pump tracks and pickleball courts. Indoor community facilities offer a wide variety of programs and activities. The extensive trail network provides both transportation and recreation throughout the City and access to a regional trail network.

Santa Cruz's history of recreation is also outlined in this chapter, starting with the incorporation of the City in 1866. Highlights include establishment of the Parks and Recreation Department, introduction of surfing, donation of DeLaveaga Park, construction of the wharf, interest in recreation after World War II, donation of Harvey West Park, and a rapid park expansion from the 60's to present time.



The City's 150th Anniversary Celebration on Main Beach in 2016

Section 2.3 Community Profile

This section focuses on the factors that influence recreation in Santa Cruz, including location, geography, climate, and demographics.

Santa Cruz's location, geography, and climate are conducive to recreation. The Monterey Bay and surrounding mountains provide diverse landscapes to accommodate a wide-range of recreational



1.1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

interests and activities, and the mild climate facilitates year-round participation.

Increasing 7.1% between 2010 and 2014, the population of Santa Cruz continues to grow. The City has lower percentages of children and seniors than the state-wide averages, but both groups still need to be considered in recreation planning. The population of the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) is a large user group for recreation. An additional significant user group that must be considered is the tourist population, with over three million trips to Santa Cruz County each year.



Youth Basketball at Kaiser Permanente Arena

Section 2.4 Existing Conditions

This section examines what assets the City of Santa Cruz has that can be used to meet the needs of the community.

Compared to other Central California cities, the City of Santa Cruz has a higher than average ratio of parks and open space. These ratios do not include other assets such as school property, privately owned recreation facilities, and adjacent county and state park lands.

Existing City facilities include 32 neighborhood parks, 6 community parks, 7 open spaces, and 18 community, cultural, or recreational facilities such as community centers. Though the overall ratio of parklands is relatively high, there are some neighborhoods that lack direct access to parks.

Besides the various parks owned and maintained by the city, there are many other resources both within and adjacent to the city. These include school facilities, the Boardwalk, the UC Santa Cruz campus, over 30 county parks, and 14 state parks in the county.

The City's parks have a great diversity of natural habitats that contribute significantly to Santa Cruz's unique character.

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & NEEDS ASSESSMENT - WHAT WE NEED & WANT

The needs of the community are presented in this chapter, as uncovered through the public outreach process, and a discussion of emerging trends in parks and recreation that should be considered in future recreation planning.



Second community meeting at Loudon Nelson Community Center



Section 3.1 Community Outreach

The goals, objectives and action items of the plan are the result of an extensive community outreach process which included quantitative surveys, open houses, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, department-wide meetings, and questionnaires distributed at parks, facilities, events, and online.

Key findings included:

- An overall favorable impression of City parks
- Concern about illegal activities and safety in many parks
- Need for more sports fields
- Desire for more recreation amenities and upgraded playgrounds
- Need for more bike trails and facilities
- Desire for greenbelt preservation
- Access to all parks and facilities for all users

The information obtained from the outreach process was used by a working group comprised of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, City Council members and City staff to frame key directives on parks management, specific parks and facilities action items, and safety and security.



Bicycle Trip Bike Park at Depot Park

Section 3.2 Emerging Trends

In addition to expressed community needs and desires, understanding trends in recreation is crucial for framing action items. These trends may influence future recreation needs within the community. Trends examined include changes in demographics, programming, access, marketing, and management.

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION - WHERE WE'RE HEADED & HOW WE'RE GETTING THERE

Based on the information received in the community outreach and needs assessment process, this chapter frames specific recommendations, time frames for those recommendations, funding strategies, and ongoing planning and updates.



1.1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Scott Kennedy Fields re-opening dedication in 2014

Section 4.1 Goals, Policies & Actions

This section presents the vision, goals, policies, and actions proposed in the plan. Goals are intended to support those reached in the adopted City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 process and include:

- Provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City.
- Provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City.
- Provide parks and facilities to meet the existing and emerging needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Protect the City's natural resources, wildlife habitat, and environment.
- Maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for all park users.
- Provide an integrated parks system with clean, convenient access to parks, open spaces, and the coastline.

- Establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community in a manner that maximizes involvement and support.

Each goal is supported by policies and action items that sustain that goal.

Section 4.2 Asset Inventory & Specific Facility Recommendations

This section contains recommendations and action items for specific parks, open spaces, beaches, and facilities. In addition there are detailed descriptions of amenities at each park, open space, beach, and facility. Many of the recommendations reflect community goals that have been studied and vetted during previous processes.

Section 4.3 Funding Strategies

This section examines possible funding mechanisms available in California for municipal parks and recreation acquisition, improvements, and on-going operations and maintenance costs. Funding strategies describe potential partnership opportunities for further exploration.

Section 4.4 Ongoing Planning & Updates

The Parks Master Plan 2030 is a means to guide future park improvements and to accommodate emerging needs to continue to provide a quality parks system. It is envisioned as a living document that continues to evolve and progress over time. Outlined in this section are the factors for consideration including need, environmental impact, and funding impacts. Other key factors are ability to move large projects forward with grants and responsiveness to community needs.



Pogonip Open Space

CHAPTER 5: APPENDICES

This chapter compiles the detailed information gathered throughout the planning process of the Parks Master Plan 2030 for reference and support of the final recommendations. Included in the appendices are links to pertinent existing plans, the results and analysis of the community telephone and email surveys, materials that were displayed and distributed at the community meetings, a summary of feedback from the community, the Joint Study and Subcommittee Meeting presentations, and potential grant funding sources.



1.1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION & INVENTORY

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE HAVE

- 2.1 Goals & General Objectives
- 2.2 History & Introduction
- 2.3 Community Profile
- 2.4 Existing Conditions



Grant Park



SECTION 2.1: GOALS & GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- A. Introduction
- B. Guiding Principles from the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030
- C. Relationship of the Parks Master Plan 2030 to Existing Plans & Studies

A. INTRODUCTION

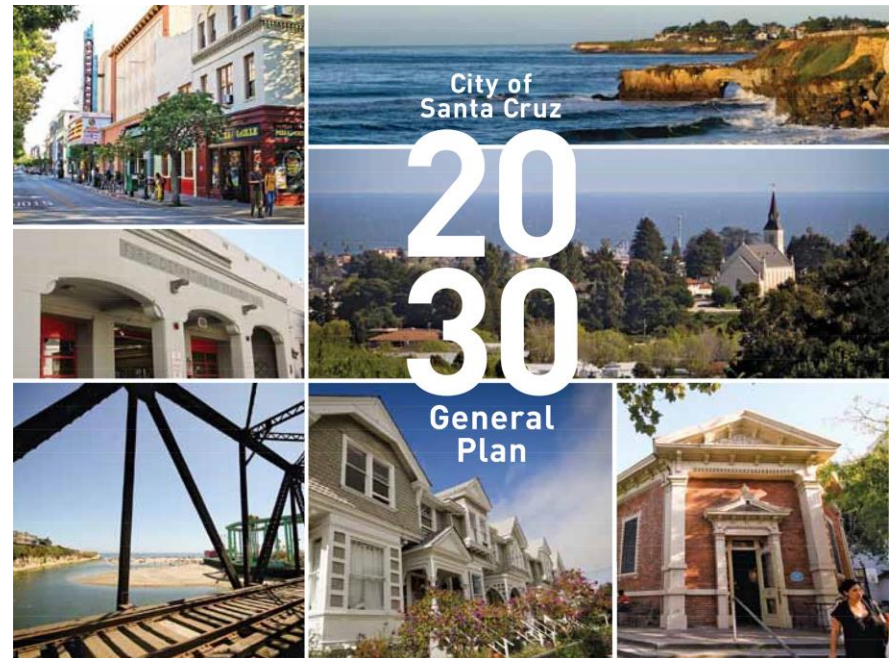
The *City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) represents an opportunity to improve the existing parks system and anticipate future needs of the community while still preserving the unique character of the City's community and environment. The Parks Master Plan 2030 provides an analysis of the current parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities, based on assessments of the existing assets, quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the community, emerging trends in recreation, and standards for park development. This analysis directly shapes the Parks Master Plan 2030's recommendations, reflecting the wishes of the community and guiding the future development of the park system for the next 15 years.

The objectives of the Parks Master Plan 2030 process were as follows:

- Identify and assess the City's existing park, open space, beach, and facility assets.
- Conduct a comprehensive outreach effort including telephone surveys, community meetings, and interviews with key stakeholders and community members.
- Create a feasible vision and goals that prioritize community needs and desires for expansion and improvements.
- Generate policies to support the community goals.
- Create an implementable action plan to accomplish community goals, while establishing phasing and funding opportunities.

B. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ GENERAL PLAN 2030

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 acts as the long-term planning document for the City of Santa Cruz as required by California Law. The General Plan 2030 presents goals, policies, and recommendations for future development and is separated into State-mandated elements. The Parks Master Plan 2030 document helps implement the General Plan 2030, providing more detailed direction and recommendations for the future development and maintenance of parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities in Santa Cruz.



The Parks Master Plan 2030 lays out recommendations for the next 15 years, but is designed to be updated over time. This document should evolve with the City, providing a guiding framework while allowing for adjustments based on both presently anticipated and unforeseen future needs and community desires.



2.1: GOALS & GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The general goals outlined in the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space chapter of the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 helped to guide the progress of the Parks Master Plan 2030 and played a vital role in the development of its recommendations. Those goals are included here for reference:

- **Goal PR1:** Ample, accessible, safe, and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreational facilities
- **Goal PR2:** High-quality, affordable recreational programs, activities, events, and services for all
- **Goal PR3:** Well managed, clean, and convenient public access to open space lands and coastline
- **Goal PR4:** An integrated system of citywide and regional trails

C. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030 TO EXISTING PLANS & STUDIES

Prior to the undertaking of this comprehensive Parks Master Plan 2030 process, the City of Santa Cruz has completed various other plans and studies that helped inform this document. The existing Plans listed here were considered, referenced, and incorporated where applicable into the overall Parks Master Plan 2030. Many suggestions from the community requested complying with the goals and actions of recently completed plans for specific parks. Conversely, as part of this planning process, new community needs were examined, and, some of the existing plans for specific parks and park assets may need to be updated to accommodate current and future trends and desires. These plans can be amended separately, and a concurrent amendment of the Parks Master Plan 2030 will not be required. The Plans are listed here alphabetically:

- Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006)
- Civic Auditorium - Concept Design Study (2012) and Business Planning Study (2015)
- Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014)

- DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002)
- DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)
- Depot Park Master Plan (2001)
- Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998)
- Moore Creek Interim Management Plan (2002)
- Neary Lagoon Management Plan (1992)
- Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2002)
- Pogonip Master Plan (1998)
- San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003)
- Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan (2014)

The City has also adopted many plans to help guide the overall direction on community-wide level improvements that also helped inform this document. These plans include:

- Active Transportation Plan (2017)
- Arts Master Plan (2008)
- City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan (2008)
- Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan (Currently being updated)
- Local Coastal Program (Currently being updated)

See Appendix 5.1 for links to view the full text of these existing plans, as well as summaries of other important documents that have provided background and context into the Parks Master Plan 2030 process.



SECTION 2.2: HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

- A. A Recreational Lifestyle
- B. Honoring Our Heritage

“The most rewarding use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it!”

– Harvey West

A. A RECREATIONAL LIFESTYLE



Santa Cruz’s temperate climate, location, scenic beauty, and diverse landscapes combine to create a unique and favorable recreational destination and support an active lifestyle. Santa Cruz and the surrounding region provide a broad range of recreational activities and natural treasures for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

THE COASTLINE:

Located at the northern tip of Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz is known for surf and beach play. The large sandy beaches of Cowell and Main Beach are popular to sunbathe, swim, play beach volleyball and other beach activities. These beaches host a variety of public and private programs and events such as the Junior Lifeguard Program, volleyball tournaments, concert performances, movies on the beach, and an occasional fireworks show. The Santa Cruz Wharf is located between Main and Cowell Beaches. The pier, spanning a half-mile in length, is the longest timber pile-supported pier structure in the United States. Visitors to the beaches and wharf can shop, dine, rent kayaks, fish, or view wildlife. Along the northern edge of Main Beach, the Santa Cruz Seaside Company’s Beach Boardwalk amusement park features rides and games including the historic, wooden Giant Dipper roller coaster.



The coastal bluffs along West Cliff Drive are an additional feature, attracting visitors with coastal views and providing opportunities to walk, run, bicycle, watch wildlife, as well as access to beaches and surf breaks. Along this corridor resides Lighthouse Field and Natural Bridges State



2.2: HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

Parks, managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Natural Bridges State Park is an exceptional location to view large populations of Monarch Butterflies overwintering during the fall.

Santa Cruz is renowned for surfing, its numerous breaks are designated as a World Surfing Reserve. Surfing was introduced to Santa Cruz in 1885 by three Hawaiian princes, who surfed at the San Lorenzo River mouth. It is the first recorded board surfing in North and South America. Along West Cliff Drive, the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse houses the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum and a Surfer Statue pays tribute to the sport. The museum is located on Lighthouse Point and contains interesting artifacts tracing more than 100 years of surfing in Santa Cruz. Lighthouse Point overlooks the world famous surf break, Steamer Lane, where spectators line the cliffs above the surf break to spectate. It is no wonder why most regard Santa Cruz as the “real surf city.”



Steamer Lane

Additional resources along the City’s coastline include the Santa Cruz Harbor Port District’s Santa Cruz Harbor and the adjacent Seabright and Twin Lakes State Beaches. The Santa Cruz Harbor provides a boat launch

ramp for recreational boating in addition to fishing, paddle boarding and kayaking rentals and other recreational opportunities.

THE GREENBELT:



Moore Creek Preserve

Beyond the coastline lay many scenic, natural environments to wander and admire. The City’s Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge has a floating pathway which allows access across the lagoon. It is a respite of nature surrounded by urban development, where visitors can peacefully watch birds, turtles, and fish.

Arana Gulch Open Space features woodlands, creeks, and grasslands. Bluffs and bridges offer elevated perspectives of the creeks and surrounding natural features. Cattle graze the property seasonally to help restore the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant.

Pogonip Open Space contains natural habitat for a large variety of plants and animals. Trails pass through grasslands and forests and by creeks, former limestone quarries, and the historic Pogonip Clubhouse. The Emma McCrary trail is a relatively new addition and provides multi-use



access from the City to a regional network linking the City's Harvey West Park to the State's Henry Cowell and Wilder Ranch State Parks and UC Santa Cruz's wilderness areas.

The trails in Moore Creek Preserve wind through canyons, forests, and grasslands and provide views to the Pacific Ocean. Cattle graze the coastal prairie areas to help restore native plants and local species such as the Ohlone tiger beetle and San Francisco popcorn flower.

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

The City provides a variety of traditional park facilities including group picnic areas, a swimming pool, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, community gardens, off-leash dog use areas, a golf course, and horseshoe pits. Throughout the years, the City has embraced new trends in recreation and the range of recreational facilities reflects the diversity of interests within the community. Sergeant Derby and Frederick Street parks were among the first public skate parks in the world, and the more recent addition of Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park has gained national recognition. Located in DeLaveaga Park, Santa Cruz Archery Range is an indoor and outdoor archery range and DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course is a 29 hole disc golf course that has hosted world championships. The San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling facility maintains a nearly perfectly flat artificial turf surface to meet playing standards. The Bicycle Trip Bike Park is the only ramped bike park of its kind in the area. The Main Beach volleyball courts allow for both pick-up games and tournaments. More recent recreational facility additions to accommodate emerging trends and desires have included pump tracks, pickleball courts, outdoor exercise equipment, bocce ball courts, and new multi-use trails.



Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park

COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

The City's community facilities provide programs and services. The 20,000 square foot Loudon Nelson Community Center hosts Santa Cruz's teen center, community rooms for rent and programming, and an indoor auditorium and stage. The Civic Auditorium is a 34,000 square foot space which accommodates large gatherings, concerts, and sporting events.

Smaller community centers and facilities are leased out to separate non-profit providers to offer services. Senior Citizens Opportunity provides services and programming for seniors at 222 Market Street. At the Beach Flats Community Center, Community Bridges offers programs and



2.2: HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

services for summer recreation, environmental education, application assistance, after school programs, advocacy, parent education, and food and nutrition. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History provides services, events, programs, exhibits, and other educational tools to inspire stewardship and connect people to nature and history at the Museum of Natural History. The City recently worked with Santa Cruz Shakespeare to locate a new outdoor amphitheater to hold summer performances in Delaveaga Park.



Louden Nelson Community Center

TRAILS:

The City's 35 mile network of trails allow for hiking, biking, dog walking, and horseback riding. Many provide access through designated open spaces or along the coastline, and others provide linkages across the City to a regional network. Significant trails in the City include the Santa Cruz Riverwalk, an important north-south connector along the San Lorenzo River, and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail which will soon cross through the City, connecting Davenport to Monterey.



Santa Cruz Riverwalk



B. HONORING OUR HERITAGE

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030, the guiding document for the City, establishes a vision for the future.

“Surrounded by the greenbelt and the Pacific Ocean, Santa Cruz is a compact vibrant city that preserves the diversity and quality of its natural and built environments, creates a satisfying quality of life for its diverse population and workers, and attracts visitors from around the world”.

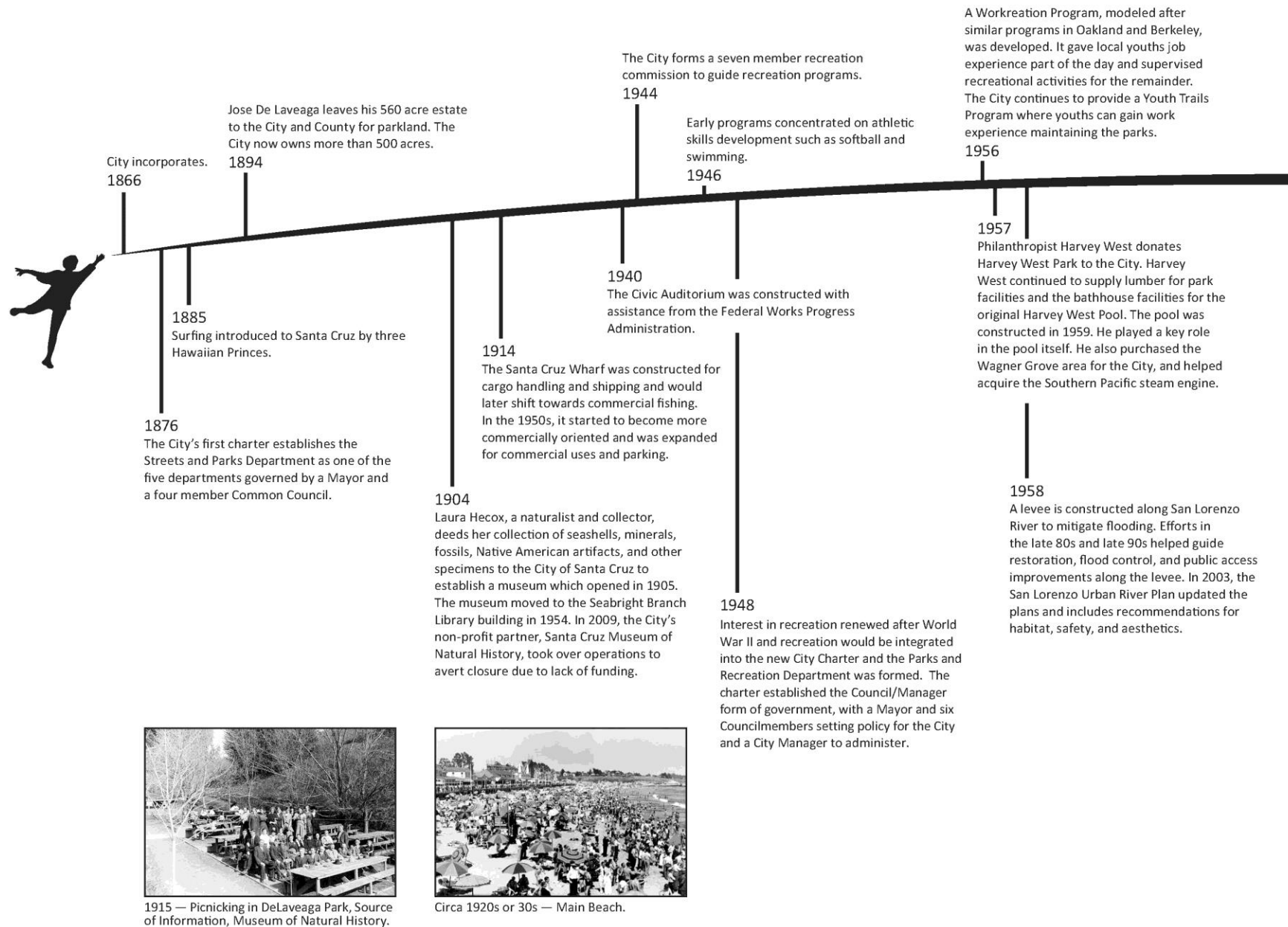
The *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) will help achieve this vision and continue the traditions of efforts that led to the parks system we have today. The history of the parks system reflects a community that deeply cares about providing and preserving the quality and diversity of the recreational, natural, and urban environments. The following timeline highlights some of the milestones of the City’s park system:

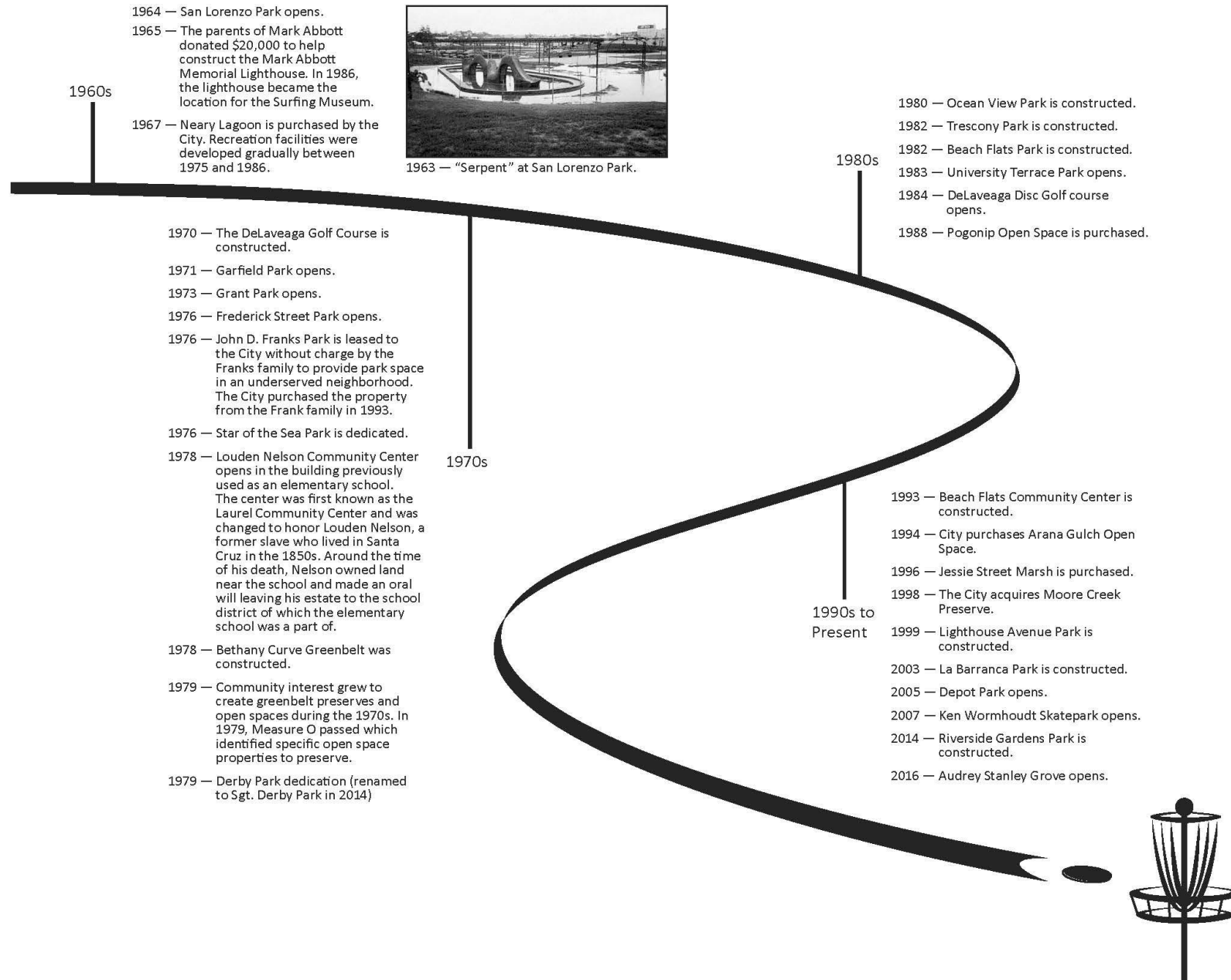


Santa Cruz Wharf and Cowell and Main Beaches



2.2: HISTORY & INTRODUCTION







2.2: HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

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SECTION 2.3: COMMUNITY PROFILE

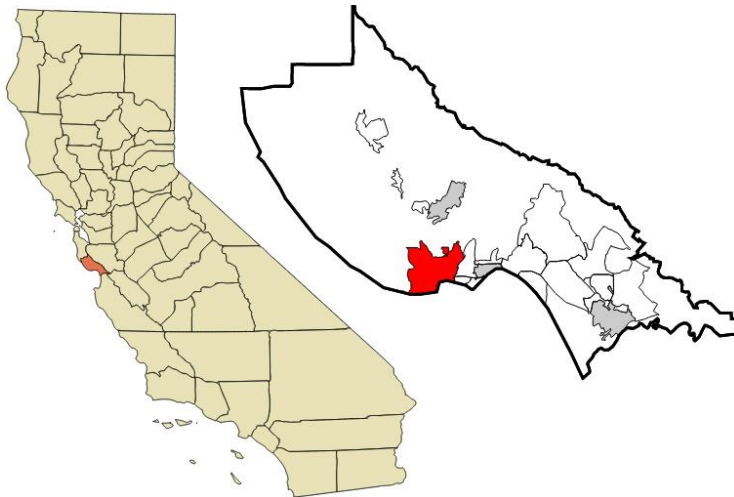
- A. Location, Geography, and Climate
- B. Demographics
- C. Community Profile Summary

A. LOCATION, GEOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

The City's location, geography, and climate provide for a wide-range of outdoor recreational opportunities, not only within the City limits, but throughout the region. The City has a strong sense of physical identity because of its four miles of beautiful Monterey Bay coastline, and well defined natural features and open spaces along the City's edges. Its mild coastal Mediterranean climate contributes to the popularity of year round recreation.

LOCATION

Surrounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains, the City is on the northern edge of the Monterey Bay. The City is roughly 15.8 square miles in area, of which 12.7 square miles is land and 3.1 square miles is water. Part of Santa Cruz County, the City is approximately 32 miles south of San Jose and 75 miles south of San Francisco.



GEOGRAPHY

The geography of the City is split between the coastal plain and the slopes of the foothills and mountains. Divided by several rivers and streams, the coastal plain gently slopes toward the Bay and its beaches. The northern part of the City rises up into foothills along the edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The bay and mountains are natural boundaries which give Santa Cruz a strong physical identity.



CLIMATE

Santa Cruz has a Mediterranean climate influenced by its coastal location. According to the National Weather Service, temperatures are mild with monthly averages of highs ranging from 76 in the summer to 62 in the winter, and lows from 41 in the winter to 54 in the summer. Coastal fog, contributing to the mild summer climate, is common during morning and night hours in the summer. Rain occurs primarily during the months of November through March.



2.3 : COMMUNITY PROFILE

B. DEMOGRAPHICS

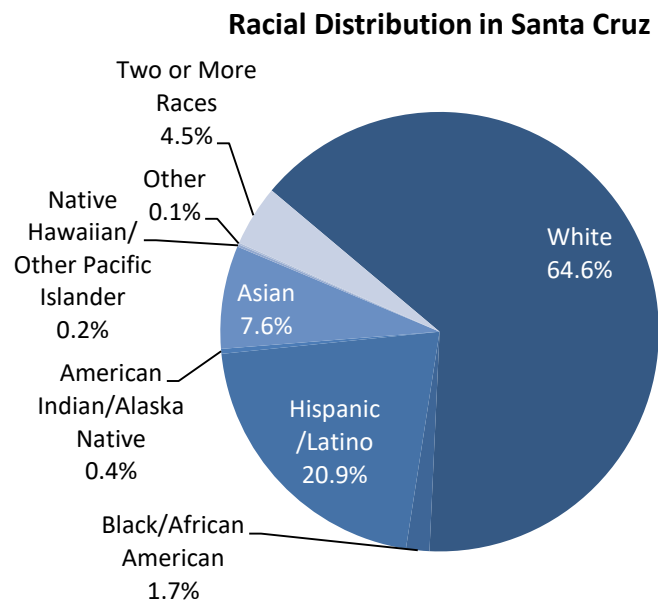
The following demographic figures are based on the 2010 Census and the US Census American Community Survey 2010-2014 projections.¹

POPULATION

The City of Santa Cruz has a population of 63,364 (2014 US Census Bureau estimate). The population for Santa Cruz is higher in 2014 than that of 63,265 projected for 2020 in the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Monterey Bay Area 2008 forecast, indicating a strong growth pattern. In the 2010 Census, the City had a population of 59,948, showing a growth rate of 7.1% between 2010 and 2014.

RACE

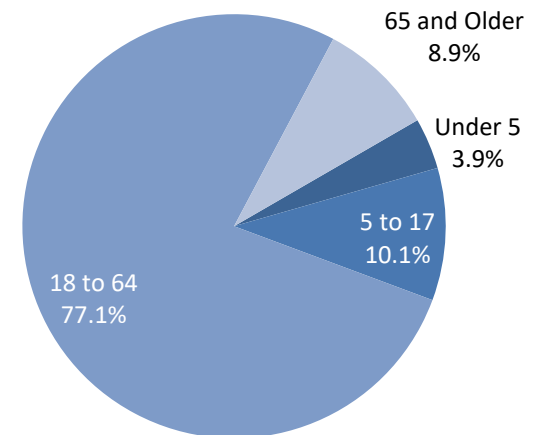
The City of Santa Cruz is predominantly White and Hispanic. The chart below shows the racial distribution within the City.



AGE DISTRIBUTION

According to the 2014 Census, at 77.1%, the majority of the population was between 18 and 64 years of age. The populations both under 18 and over 65 were significantly lower than the State-wide population averages at 13.7% and 8.8%, respectively. According to the census, the California population under 18 was 23.6% and the population over 65 was 12.9%. The senior population is expected to grow steadily. This existing and future distribution potentially influences the demand for active recreation in Santa Cruz.

Age Distribution in Santa Cruz



The City of Santa Cruz is home to the University of California, Santa Cruz. The three quarter average enrollment for the 2016-2017 year was 18,063 students.² The portion of this student population that declared Santa Cruz as their primary residence is included in the population data above, which may account for some of the skew in age distribution. Students do use City facilities and therefore should be considered in the needs assessment. This was particularly true during the recent drought conditions when the University stopped watering their sports fields. As a result, casual University sport groups used City sports fields.



POVERTY LEVEL

In 2014, 24.3% of the Santa Cruz population fell below the poverty level. This is higher than the overall California poverty level of 16.4%. This may impact the ability of certain persons to pay fees for recreation. Santa Cruz's large student population could impact poverty rates, as students living in non-campus housing are included in a census. Looking closely at the Census, the rates are highest for men and women age 18-24 in Santa Cruz which would include the student population.

DISABILITIES

The 2014 Census lists 9.2% of the population under 65 as having a disability and a total of 4,721 persons with disabilities. According to the website Local Disability Data for Planners', within the County of Santa Cruz, 11.6% of the population between the ages of 5 to 64 has a disability.³ Neither the census or Local Disability Data for Planners' website gives statistics for persons below 5 or over 65, which would considerably raise these percentages. These statistics indicate a need for accommodation in park facilities and recreation programs for persons with physical and mental challenges.

TOURISM

One major influence on recreation in Santa Cruz is the large number of visitors to Santa Cruz. According to the Visit Santa Cruz County (VSCC) tourism board website, "Tourism ranks, alongside agriculture, as one of the top employers and revenue-producing industries in Santa Cruz County, generating over \$700 million in direct travel expenditures annually. There are approximately 3 million visitor trips taken to Santa Cruz County each year."⁴ In an intercept survey conducted by the VSCC, top activities of visitors included going to the beach, visiting attractions such as the Boardwalk and Wharf, exploring the area, and shopping. The high impact of visitors on recreation should be considered in recreation planning.

TRANSPORTATION

The City of Santa Cruz has high percentages of its population that commute by walking and bicycling. According to the American Community Survey, Journey to Work data 2010 - 2014, 9.9% of the population walked and 9.7% bicycled as compared to the state averages of 2.7% and 1.1% respectively. This indicates a need and high demand beyond recreation for pedestrian and bike routes and trails.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

According to the 2016 Community Well-Being Rankings, a report produced through Gallup-Healthways, Santa Cruz is highly ranked in the overall well-being of its community members.⁵ The report assesses the following elements as indicators of well-being: purpose, social, financial, community, and physical. In the assessment, Santa Cruz ranked 3rd out of 189 communities evaluated in the United States revealing a high level of satisfaction with the City's quality of life.

C. COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

The City of Santa Cruz's location, climate and geography contribute to its recreation diversity and abundance. The population of the city is relatively young, most likely in part due to the adjacent university and the attraction of the outstanding access to outdoor recreation. Tourists are major users of Santa Cruz parks and beaches. Recreation programming and facility development will need to consider this community profile, while accommodating all age groups and abilities. When setting fees for recreation programs, consideration must be given to the large segment of the population that is below the poverty level.



2.3 : COMMUNITY PROFILE

REFERENCES

- ¹ United States Census Bureau, Quick Facts. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/0669112>
- ² University of California Santa Cruz, Facts and Figures. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsc.edu/about/facts-figures.html>.
- ³ Local Disability Data for Planners: A Planning Resource for County and State Data. Retrieved from <http://disabilityplanningdata.com>
- ⁴ Visit Santa Cruz County, Tourism Facts. Retrieved from <http://www.santacruzca.org/partners/tourism-facts.php>
- ⁵ State of American Well-Being: 2016 Community Well-Being Rankings. Retrieved from <http://www.well-beingindex.com/2016-community-rankings>



SECTION 2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

- A. Parkland and Facility Inventory
- B. Other Community Recreation and Facility Service Providers
- C. Level of Service Assessment
- D. Benchmarking Comparison of Similar Cities
- E. Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- F. Safety and Security
- G. Organizational Structure and Roles
- H. Existing Parks Master Plans
- I. Natural Resources

The City's Parks System covers more than 1,700 acres of parks, open spaces, beaches and recreational facilities. This section includes a review of the quantity, type, condition, level of service, access, and quality of the overall parks system. More information on each asset is provided in Section 4.2 Asset Inventory & Specific Recommendations.

A. PARKLAND AND FACILITY INVENTORY

The parks system is comprised of neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open spaces, beaches and recreational facilities. The parks system offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Many recreational facilities are located within individual parks and open spaces and some stand alone. This section describes the types of parkland and recreational facilities that are provided in each area.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks serve the recreational needs of those living or working within a service radius of one-half mile. They provide recreational facilities such as children's play areas, picnic areas, athletic fields, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The City does not currently differentiate neighborhood parks from mini parks. Some communities account for parks smaller than 2 acres in size as a mini park. Smaller parks often provide less recreational opportunities for

the surrounding neighborhood and the distinction helps in determining an adequate level of service.



Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge

Neary Lagoon Park and Chestnut Park have previously been accounted for as open space as part of the Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. These parks provide neighborhood-serving facilities such as playgrounds, a basketball court, picnic tables, and tennis courts. These recreational facilities are more accurately described as neighborhood park space and have been listed as neighborhood parks in the inventory.

Neighborhood parks that have very limited recreational use such as Rincon Park, Scope Park, Town Clock Park, and El Portal Park are included in the neighborhood park inventory because they contain art, pathways,



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

landscaping treatments, monuments, or other features that provide a recreation benefit, although limited, to employees and residents.

School facilities are not included under neighborhood parks. School lands have been an important park resource for communities for the provision of park and recreational facilities during schools' off-hours. The use of school lands for public recreation can be an important resource to meet community needs given their size, distribution, seasonal and daily non-use periods, and proximity to neighborhoods. However, issues such as safety, liability, maintenance costs, enforcement, and vandalism have caused many schools to close or offer limited access during off-hours. The City's current reciprocal joint-use agreement with Santa Cruz City Schools is more specifically tailored for facility use and scheduled programming. The joint-use agreements could be updated and the acreage could be added to neighborhood parks at a future time.

The City leases underutilized land from private property owners to provide neighborhood park space at Beach Flats Community Garden and the Westside Pump Track. The leases are currently short-term. Therefore, the acreage has not been added to the total park acreage.

The City has 32 neighborhood parks (49 acres):

- Beach Flats Park (0.22 acres)
- Bethany Curve (3.4 acres)
- Branciforte Dog Park (0.22 acres)
- Central Park (0.16 acres)
- Chestnut Park (0.28 acres)
- El Portal Park (0.21 acres)
- Frederick Street Park (3.97 acres)
- Garfield Park (1.78 acres)
- Grant Park (2.36 acres)
- John D Franks Park (0.48 acres)
- La Barranca Park (2.26 acres)
- Laurel Park (1.77 acres)
- Lighthouse Avenue Park (0.35 acres)
- Mimi de Marta Dog Park (0.5 acres)
- Mission Plaza (0.94 acres)

- Moore Creek Overlook (0.12 acres)
- Neary Lagoon Park (1.27 acres)
- Ocean View Park (3.06 acres)
- Pacheco Dog Park (0.45 acres)
- Poets Park (0.13 acres) and Beach Flats Community Garden (Leased)
- Rincon Park (0.06 acres)
- Riverside Gardens Park (0.52 acres)
- Round Tree Park (0.28 acres)
- Scope Park (0.1 acres)
- Sgt. Derby Park (3.65 acres)
- Star of the Sea Park (2.1 acres)
- Town Clock (0.19 acres)
- Trescony Park (2 acres)
- Tyrrell Park (1.2 acres)
- University Terrace Park (8.7 acres)
- Westlake Park (6.03)
- Westside Pump Track (Leased)



Westlake Park

Table 2.4-1 below indicates facilities available in the parks system.



Table 2.4-1 Recreational Facilities by Location

General Recreational Facilities by Location	Baseball/Softball Field	Basketball Court	Bike Park	Bocce Courts	Community Gardens	Disc Golf	Exercise Equipment	Horseshoe Pits	Off-leash Dog Run	Pickleball Court	Playground/Play Equipment	Pump Track	Reservable Picnic Areas	Roller Hockey	Sand Volleyball Court	Skate Park	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis Court	Tot Lot Playground
Beach Flats Park											1									1
Branciforte Dog Park									1 (fenced)											
Central Park											1									
Chestnut Park		0.5									1									
Cowell Beach															2					
Depot Park/Bicycle Trip Bike Park /Scott Kennedy Fields			1								1						1 adult or 2 youth practice			
Frederick Street Park									1 (fenced)		1				1	1 (small)				1
Garfield Park		1									1							2		1
Grant Park	1 diamond field	1		1					1 (fenced)		1									1
Harvey West Park	6 baseball			2			1	2			1	1	9 (7 > 50 capacity)		1		2 (outfield of baseball fields)			1
John D. Franks Park							1				1									
Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park		0.5								3 (painted on multi-purpose area)				1		1				
Laurel Park		1								1 (painted on b-ball)	1							1		1
Lighthouse Avenue Park					1 (18 plots)						1									1



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-1 Recreational Facilities by Location

General Recreational Facilities by Location	Baseball/Softball Field	Basketball Court	Bike Park	Bocce Courts	Community Gardens	Disc Golf	Exercise Equipment	Horseshoe Pits	Off-leash Dog Run	Pickleball Court	Playground/Play Equipment	Pump Track	Reservable Picnic Areas	Roller Hockey	Sand Volleyball Court	Skate Park	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis Court	Tot Lot Playground
Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove	2 softball			2				2			1		7 (5 > 50 capacity)		1					
Main Beach															16					
Mimi De Marta Park									1 (fenced)											
Mitchells Cove									1 (hour limitations on beach)											
Neary Lagoon Park											1								2	
Ocean View Park		0.5							1 (open, non-fenced)		1									1
Pacheco Dog Park									1 (fenced)											
Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden					2 (32 plots)						1									
Westside Pump Track												1								
Riverside Gardens					1 (11 plots)		1				1									
San Lorenzo Park						9 holes					1	1 (fiberglass)								1
Santa Cruz Riverwalk							2													
Sgt. Derby Park						3 holes				6 (painted on tennis courts)	1					1			2	
Trescony Park					1 (54 plots)						1									1



Table 2.4-1 Recreational Facilities by Location

General Recreational Facilities by Location	Baseball/Softball Field	Basketball Court	Bike Park	Bocce Courts	Community Gardens	Disc Golf	Exercise Equipment	Horseshoe Pits	Off-leash Dog Run	Pickleball Court	Playground/Play Equipment	Pump Track	Reservable Picnic Areas	Roller Hockey	Sand Volleyball Court	Skate Park	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis Court	Tot Lot Playground
Tyrrell Park																				
University Terrace Park		1							1 (Fenced-in)		1								2	
Westlake Park											1									1
West Cliff							1													
Total	8	5.5	1	5	5 (115 plots)	2	6	4	8	10	21	3	16	1	21	3	3	3	6	11



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are designed to serve the entire community. They are generally larger than neighborhood parks and offer unique facilities such as larger picnic areas, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, and recreation centers. They also host larger community events and recreation facilities. The City's standard for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people, with a service radius of 1.5 miles. The City currently has six community parks (181 acres).

- DeLaveaga Park - Lower DeLaveaga Park, George Washington Park, Audrey Stanley Grove, DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course, and DeLaveaga Archery Range (100 acres)
- Depot Park, Bicycle Trip Bike Park, & Scott Kennedy Fields (9 acres)
- Harvey West Park (44.77 acres)
- Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park (1.25 acres)
- San Lorenzo Park (11.12 acres)
- West Cliff (14.64 acres)



San Lorenzo Park

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks serve the recreational needs of a regional population and are 150 acres in size or larger. They offer active and passive recreation with activities and amenities not found in neighborhood and community parks, such as large areas of open space, large picnic facilities, golf courses, lake boating, ball fields, and multi-use trails. An accepted national standard for regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 people.

DeLaveaga Park could be categorized as a Regional Park because it is greater than 150 acres in size and includes active and passive recreation activities that serve the region. However, many of the activities that are provided can also be described under Community Parks because they serve the entire community and are similar in scale to other community park uses. Additionally, much of the area within DeLaveaga Park is wilderness area with steep slopes and sensitive habitat which will not be developed with regional serving facilities. Therefore, DeLaveaga Park has multiple functions that are reflected in the inventory in different categories. At 151 acres, the Golf Course has been categorized under Regional Park. Lower DeLaveaga Park, George Washington Park, Audrey Stanley Grove, DeLaveaga Archery Range, and DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course have been categorized under Community Park space. The remainder of land in DeLaveaga Park is listed under Open Space.



DeLaveaga Golf Course



OPEN SPACES

Open spaces are natural areas that provide valuable wildlife habitats, scenic and recreational enjoyment, and an escape from the built environment. Open space lands are essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of natural resource preservation, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety. The beauty of these areas compels resident and visitor uses such as walking, jogging, hiking, bird watching, and relaxing. Multi-use trails also provide mountain biking and horseback riding opportunities in DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area and Pogonip Open Space, and a paved multi-use path enables bicyclists to access and pass through Arana Gulch Open Space. The City's parks system includes seven open spaces (1,315 acres):

- Arana Gulch Open Space (67.7 acres)
- Arroyo Seco Canyon (33.94 acres)
- DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area (269 acres)
- Jessie Street Marsh (3.2 acres)
- Moore Creek Preserve (263.75 acres)
- Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge (37 acres)
- Pogonip Open Space (640 acres)



Moore Creek Preserve

BEACHES

The parks system includes four primary beaches (33 acres):

- Its Beach (approximately 1.5 acre portion, the remainder is owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Cowell Beach (5 acres)
- Mitchell's Cove (0.4 acres)
- Main Beach (26 acres)



Its Beach



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

COMMUNITY, RECREATIONAL, AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facilities are buildings and other, larger facilities that serve the specific recreational needs and interests of individuals, neighborhoods, groups, and the community. Recreational facilities are located throughout the park system and differ in scale, function, operations, and primary use. Some facilities (like the Civic Auditorium) are freestanding; others are located in parks. Community, Recreational and Cultural Facilities are shown in Table 2.4-2.



Louden Nelson Community Center



Harvey West Clubhouse



Table 2.4-2 Community, Recreational & Cultural Facilities

Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facilities	Address	Operations of City-Owned Community Recreational Facilities	Features
Beach Flats Community Center	131 Leibrandt St	The facility is operated by Community Bridges.	2,742 sq. ft. community center with a community room, computer lab, classroom, and kitchen.
Carmelita Cottages	321 Main St	Leased to Santa Cruz Hostel Society until 2021.	Youth Hostel.
Civic Auditorium	307 Church St	Operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.	Multi-purpose auditorium (34,739 sq. ft.) with stage and seating for total capacity of 2,021. Used for concerts, sporting events, expos, theatrical performances, movie screenings, conferences, and receptions.
DeLaveaga Park - Audrey Stanley Grove	501 Upper Park Rd	Leased to SC Shakespeare for summer performances during July and August. Contract needs to be extended in 2018. Rented for private use in September and October.	Outdoor amphitheater, tech booth, ticket office, parking area for performances. 496 seats.
DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Archery Range	DeLaveaga Park -- Access from Brookwood Dr entrance	Operated by the Santa Cruz Archery Club. Membership is necessary to use facilities.	Indoor and outdoor archery range.
DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course	Accessed from Upper Park Rd.	Operated by the DeLaveaga Disc Golf Club	29 hole disc golf course.
DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Golf Course	401 Upper Park Rd	Maintained by the city. The Pro Shop, Golf Course, Driving Range, and Golf Course Lodge are operated by GSL, Inc.	18 hole golf course w/ double-deck driving range and clubhouse (5,500 sq. ft.). Disc golf basket sleeves have been added to facilitate disc golf play during certain times of the week.
Depot Park Freight Building	119 Center St	The Parks and Recreation Department rents the facility for private use and hosts programming.	Community Room (3,000 sq. ft.).
Harvey West Park - Kids Kottage and Wagner Cottage	275 Harvey West Blvd	Kids Kottage is leased to County Office of Education for an alternative education program during the school year. The Parks and Recreation Department operates camp programs during the remainder of the year. The department also operates summer camp programs in Wagner Cottage.	Kids Kottage (1,500 sq. ft.) Wagner Cottage (1,000 sq. ft.)
Harvey West Park - Harvey West Pool	275 Harvey West Blvd	The pool is leased to a concessionaire to run the facility. The concessionaire teaches swim lessons in the small pool from March through October. The large pool is open from June through August for open swim.	Pool house (3,450 sq. ft.), 25 meter long lap pool and a wading pool.



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-2 Community, Recreational & Cultural Facilities

Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facilities	Address	Operations of City-Owned Community Recreational Facilities	Features
Harvey West Park - Harvey West Scout and Clubhouse	326 Evergreen St	The Parks and Recreation Department rents the facility for private use.	Clubhouse (3,500 sq. ft.).
Louden Nelson Community Center	301 Center St	Staffed and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department and used for programming and private rentals.	Community Center (20,085 sq. ft.). Includes Teen Center, meeting and dance rooms, and an auditorium with theater seating and stage.
Museum of Natural History	1305 East Cliff Dr	Leased to Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History to provide services.	Natural History Museum (3,500 sq. ft.).
Pogonip Clubhouse	Pogonip Open Space	Currently closed.	Historic clubhouse currently closed due to poor condition of building (8,000 sq. ft.).
Santa Cruz Wharf	21 Municipal Wharf	Wharf operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Retail and restaurant space leased to private businesses by the Economic Development Department.	Municipal wharf. Restaurants, retail, restaurants, fishing, boat rentals, and tours.
San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling	137 Dakota St	Operated by the Santa Cruz Lawn Bowling Club.	18,000 sq. ft. outdoor artificial turf lawn bowling area and 1,500 sq. ft. clubhouse.
Senior Citizen's Opportunity	222 Market St	Leased to Senior Citizens Opportunity to provide services.	Senior Center (5,437 sq. ft.).
Surfing Museum	701 W. Cliff Dr	Operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.	Surfing Museum (630 sq. ft.).



TRAILS

Trails allow for a variety of forms of recreation. Not only are they located within parks and open spaces, but they also can serve as important links between parks, recreation facilities, and natural and urban areas. In total, the City provides nearly 35 miles of trails and more are planned. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network is a paved multi-use trail project which will connect from Davenport to Monterey along the existing rail right-of-way. The Public Works Department is overseeing the segment through the city which will add 2.1 miles of paved, multi-use trails. The Public Works Department also recently oversaw the completion of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing Branciforte Creek, which is the last segment along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk. Table 2.4-3 below lists the trails within the parks system.



Pogonip Open Space



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-3 City of Santa Cruz Trails

Location	Existing Trail Name/Segment	Hiking (Miles)	Hiking, Biking, and Horses - Non-Paved (Miles)	Hiking and Biking - Paved (Miles)
Arana Gulch	Coastal Prairie Loop Trail	0.84		
	Marsh Vista Trail	0.12		
	Multi-Use Path from Arana Creek to Agnes Street and Broadway			0.73
Arroyo Seco	Arroyo Seco from Grandview to paved path		0.37	
	Paved path from bottom to Meder St			0.63
DeLaveaga Park	Branciforte Creek Trail		0.6	
	La Corona Trail		1	
	Park Way		0.3	
	Redwood Lower Loop		1	
	Upper DeLaveaga Loop Trail		1.5	
	Enchanted Trail		1	
	Old Vineyard Trail		0.7	
	Brookwood Trail			1
Harvey West	Dos Fuentes	0.18		
	Harvey West Trail	0.33		
	Stage Coach	0.22		
	Wagner Grove to Meadow Rd	0.24		
Jessie Street Marsh	Between E. Cliff St and Lemos Ave	0.15		
Moore Creek Preserve	Prairie View Trail	1.1		
	Costa Vista Trail	0.3		
	Terrace Loop Trail	0.4		
	Vernal Ridge Trail	0.3		
	East Meadow Trail	0.25		
	Moore Creek Trail	0.5		
Neary Lagoon	Trails and boardwalks	0.85		



Table 2.4-3 City of Santa Cruz Trails

Location	Existing Trail Name/Segment	Hiking (Miles)	Hiking, Biking, and Horses - Non-Paved (Miles)	Hiking and Biking - Paved (Miles)
Pogonip Open Space	Brayshaw Trail	0.5		
	Fern Trail	0.8		
	Limekiln Trail	0.3		
	Lower Meadow	0.4		
	Ohlone Trail	0.3		
	Prairie Trail	0.3		
	Rincon Trail	0.7		
	Spring Trail	1.6		
	Spring Box Trail	0.2		
	Harvey West Trail	0.3		
	Lookout Trail	0.5		
	Pognip Creek Nature Trail	1.2		
	Emma McCrary		1.93	
	Rincon Trail		0.2	
	Rincon Connector Trail		0.2	
	U-Con Trail		0.5	
Santa Cruz Riverwalk				3.56
West Cliff Dr. to E. Cliff Dr	Natural Bridges to E. Cliff Drive			3.5
Wharf	Walkway	1		
Other Key Connections:	Bay Street Walkway			0.33
	Branciforte Creek Path			1.21
	Evergreen to Potrero Street			0.36
	Mission Street Ext.			0.18
	West Cliff to Depot Park			0.25
Total Miles of Trails per Type		13.88	9.3	11.75
Total Miles of Trails All Types				34.93



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

SCHOOL FACILITIES

School facilities provide recreational opportunities during the school's non-programming times. The City has an overarching reciprocal joint-use agreement with Santa Cruz City schools as well as joint-use agreements for specific facilities. The facilities are primarily used by the Parks and Recreation Department to facilitate specific recreation and sports programming. Santa Cruz City Schools also has facilities available for rent for public use. These include multi-purpose rooms, gyms, locker rooms, swimming pools, stadiums, practice fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, and theaters:

- Bayview Elementary
- Branciforte (B40) Middle School
- Branciforte Small Schools
- DeLaveaga Elementary School
- Harbor High School
- Gault Elementary
- Mission Hill Middle School
- Formerly Natural Bridges Elementary (Not currently in use)
- Santa Cruz High School
- Westlake Elementary School



Santa Cruz High School

OTHER CITY RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES

Other major City recreation destinations and facilities include:

- The San Lorenzo River is a major watercourse through the City and a major physical feature. The lower 2.5 miles are channelized for flood control. The Santa Cruz Riverwalk is a paved multi-use pathway along the levee. Many parks and facilities are located along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk, and, when considered together, they comprise a larger recreational corridor that provides access to a wide range of natural and developed recreational areas. This corridor contains San Lorenzo Park, Riverside Gardens Park, Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park, Mimi De Marta Dog Park, Jessie Street Marsh, Ocean View Park, Main Beach, Kaiser Permanente Arena, and the Tannery Arts Center. The Riverwalk also connects to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail and Branciforte Creek Trail. Most importantly, the river and surrounding vegetation provide natural habitat for wildlife. The San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003) guides future improvements and restoration efforts along the river. The plan recognizes that the river is a habitat area and a recreational area for the City.
- The Del Mar Theatre is located in Downtown Santa Cruz and is available for community use through the Economic Development Department during certain times of the year. The theater contains the 495-seat Grand Auditorium, and two smaller 140-seat theaters, and is equipped with state-of-the-art sound and projection facilities.
- The Tannery Arts Center was developed through a partnership between the City and Artspace Project. It is a world-class arts campus with 100 affordable housing live/work spaces. The campus includes the 200-seat indoor Colligan Theater which is run by the Jewel Theatre Company.
- Kaiser Permanente Arena is a temporary 2,500 seat indoor arena which is home to the Santa Cruz Warriors Development League basketball team. During their off-season, the facility can be used for tradeshows, conventions, meetings, and large scale events.



The Economic Development Department is conducting an Arena Market and Financial Feasibility Study to analyze market, location, size, operations, management, economic development benefits, and other factors for locating a permanent arena.

- The City's Water Department operates the Loch Lomond Recreation Area (LLRA) in Felton. Loch Lomond Reservoir's primary function is water storage for Santa Cruz residents. The LLRA provides a range of recreational opportunities including boat rentals, picnicking, fishing, hiking, and natural resources interpretive programming.
- Downtown Santa Cruz is the business and commercial center in Santa Cruz and has a semi-mall concept. The promenade contains benches, outdoor patio areas, and landscaping treatments. Abbott Square is an outdoor plaza, and the City, under the administration of the Economic Development Department, partnered with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History to create the inviting and interactive community gathering space.
- The City Hall Complex includes a rose garden and other landscaping treatments. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the landscaping.
- The East Cliff Accent is a walkway connecting Seabright Avenue to 4th Avenue along the coastal bluff above Seabright State Beach. A stairway at 3rd Avenue provides access down to the beach. The Parks and Recreation Department primarily maintains the site furnishings, trash, and weeds. The Public Works Department recently completed a cliff stabilization project at Mariner Park Way.
- The City partnered with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA leased City land for the construction of the 12,000 square foot Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center. One of the goals of the center is to educate visitors about the unique and fascinating coastal and marine environment. The center is located across Beach Street from the

Santa Cruz Wharf which is the Gateway to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

- The City's paved pedestrian and trail network is primarily maintained by the Public Works Department. The Active Transportation Plan (2017) plans to further integrate the walkways and bikeways that connect the City's communities to employment, education, and recreation destinations.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center

OTHER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ASSETS

In order to maintain and administer the many parks, open spaces, beaches, and community recreational facilities in the City, the Parks and Recreation Department has a variety of other administrative, maintenance, and storage facilities. These facilities primarily include the following:

- Parks and Recreation Administrative Building
- Wharf Headquarters
- Wharf Maintenance Yard (leased)
- Golf Course Maintenance Yard
- Parks Maintenance Yard
- Lower DeLaveaga Park Office
- Ranger Station at Harvey West Park
- Junior Lifeguard Storage Building at Cowell Beach



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS



Park and Recreation Administration Building

B. OTHER COMMUNITY RECREATION AND FACILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Besides the various parks and facilities maintained by the City, there are numerous resource providers within the City and region. This section focuses on land and water used for recreation which is open or planned to be open for public access.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ

The university is a 2,020 acre campus, and approximately half of the campus is located within the city limits. The campus offers amenities for active and passive recreation on the main campus, while the north and upper campuses currently are undeveloped open space. The main campus and recreational facilities are open to the public during daylight hours for walking, bicycling and visiting campus facilities, such as the Arboretum and Chadwick Gardens. Trails are located throughout the campus and provide connections to Wilder Ranch State Park, Pogonip Open Space, and Henry Cowell State Park.

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a federally protected marine area off of the California Central Coast. The shoreline length of 276 miles spans from Marin to the north, to Cambria to the south, and covers more than 6,094 miles of ocean. The sanctuary is very popular for kayaking, paddle boarding, boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other ocean-oriented recreational activities.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- Antonelli Pond: 13.7 acre park adjacent to Moore Creek on the Westside of Santa Cruz; comprised of a large man-made pond, riparian habitat, and grasslands; managed by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
- Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve: 552 acre natural preserve in the Santa Cruz Mountains protecting several rare and endangered plant and animal species
- Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument: Nearly 6,000 acres near Davenport that were recently designated a national monument in 2017
- Santa Cruz Harbor: The Santa Cruz Harbor offers scenic and wildlife viewing walks, kayaking and boating opportunities, and important connections between recreational destinations

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ PARKS NEAR SANTA CRUZ

- Hestwood Park
- Old Jail/ Octagon
- Santa Cruz Gardens Park
- Simpkins Family Swim Center
- Veterans Memorial Building
- Winkle Farm Park
- Brommer Street Park
- Coffee Lane Park
- Chanticleer Park
- Felt Street Park
- Floral Park



- Jose Avenue Park
- Moran Lake Park
- Twin Lakes Park



Simpkins Family Swim Center

STATE PARKS & BEACHES

- Big Basin Redwoods State Park: More than 18,000 acre park featuring 81 miles of trails, old-growth forest of coast redwoods, and the majority of the Waddell Creek watershed; California's oldest State Park, established in 1902
- Castle Rock State Park: 5,242 acre, largely forested park with 32 miles of trails and popular with rock climbers because of its steep canyons and unusual rock formations
- Castro Adobe State Historic Park: Historic building standing as one of the best examples of a preserved rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay
- The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park: 10,223 acre park with 40 miles of trails through secondary growth redwood forest
- Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park: 4,623 acre park with 15 miles of trails through a variety of forested areas

- Lighthouse Field State Beach: 38 acre site within the City of Santa Cruz and overlooking the ocean and popular Steamer Lane surfing hotspot
- Manresa State Beach: 138 acre beach near Aptos
- Natural Bridges State Beach: 65 acre park which is very popular for its Monarch Butterfly Natural Preserve
- New Brighton State Beach: 95 acre park near Capitola and consisting of a beach and campgrounds
- Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park: Located near Santa Cruz's Mission Plaza and featuring the only building remaining of the original mission, which now houses a museum
- Seacliff State Beach: Beach in Aptos, known primarily for the fishing pier and the concrete ship, the *SS Palo Alto*, located at the pier's end
- Sunset State Beach: 1.5 mile long beach near Watsonville and just south of Manresa State Beach
- Twin Lakes and Seabright State Beaches: Long stretches of sandy beaches on either side of the Santa Cruz Harbor
- Wilder Ranch State Park: Around 7,000 acre park with 34 miles of trails through coastal terraces and valleys



Seacliff and Rio del Mar State Beaches



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

C. LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

The supply of the City's parkland and recreational facilities was assessed considering how the City's existing park acreage compares with the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030's level of service goals as well as how the City's provision of recreation facilities compares to other California Central Coast cities. The Level of Service Assessment only considers parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities that each City owns.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 established level of service (LOS) goals for the City's neighborhood parks and community parks to ensure parkland is equitably distributed, accessible, and adequately supplied. The acreage per population goal is a common standard to help plan for the amount of park space a community aspires to meet. It can also be used to assess if parkland is equitably distributed by population and geography. The service radius goal helps ensure that parkland is accessible from where people live and work. The City's standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people, with a service radius of ½ mile. The City's goal for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people, with a service radius of 1.5 miles. LOS goals were not established for regional parks, open spaces, beaches, and facilities.

PARK ACREAGE

The City is currently underserved for neighborhood and community park space. To meet existing goals, a total of 67 acres of parks would need to be created to meet the forecasted population growth associated with the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 growth estimates.

Table 2.4-4 Park Acreage per Population

Population and Level of Service Targets	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Combined
Existing Population	63,364		
General Plan's Forecasted Population	65,884		
Existing Park Acreage	48.76	180.78	229.54
General Plan LOS Target	2 acres per 1,000 residents	2.5 acres per 1,000 residents	4.5 per 1,000 residents
2017 LOS Acreage Goal	126.73	158.41	285.14
2017 Acreage Deficiency (-) or Surplus (+)	-77.97	22.37	-55.60
2030 LOS Acreage Goal	131.77	164.71	296.48
2030 Acreage Deficiency (-) or Surplus (+)	-83.01	16.07	-66.94

PARK ACCESS

Most areas of the City have access to neighborhood park and community park space; however, there are still areas that are not as comprehensively served by all types of assets. Even if an area appears to be covered according to the radius thrown by a nearby park, some neighborhoods have limited access to parks because of barriers such as topography, waterways, or highways. Additionally, proximity of Community Parks needs to be considered, because they provide recreational amenities that serve the surrounding neighborhoods.

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030's neighborhood park definition does not distinguish size. The City's standard in the General Plan 2030 is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. Neighborhood parks are commonly considered greater than 1-2 acres in size. Parks less than 1-2 acres in size are often categorized as pocket parks or mini-parks. Due to the smaller size and often more limited recreational opportunity, mini-parks commonly have a ¼ mile service radius for access compared to the ½ mile in the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 for neighborhood parks. This evaluation assumes that all neighborhood parks acreage serves the corresponding neighborhoods



regardless of size but will apply a ¼ mile service radius for neighborhood parks less than one acre in size.

Community Parks provide recreational opportunities to surrounding neighborhoods. Applying a 1.5 mile radius from Community Parks shows that all neighborhoods in the City have access to Community Park space. Community Parks contain amenities that serve the surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, to identify areas of the City that are underserved for access to any park space at a neighborhood-level, it is also important to consider areas that are neither located within a half-mile of a neighborhood park nor a community park, as these areas have less access to recreational amenities within a comfortable walking distance.



Harvey West Playground

Additionally, some neighborhood parks function as single-use facilities and do not provide a variety of recreational opportunities to serve the general population. Moore Creek Overlook, Westside Pump Track, Round Tree Park, Mission Plaza Park, Scope Park, Town Clock Park, Rincon Park, El Portal Park, Branciforte Dog Park, and Pacheco Dog Park serve very important roles in the parks system. However, they have not been included in the service mile radius due to their limited or

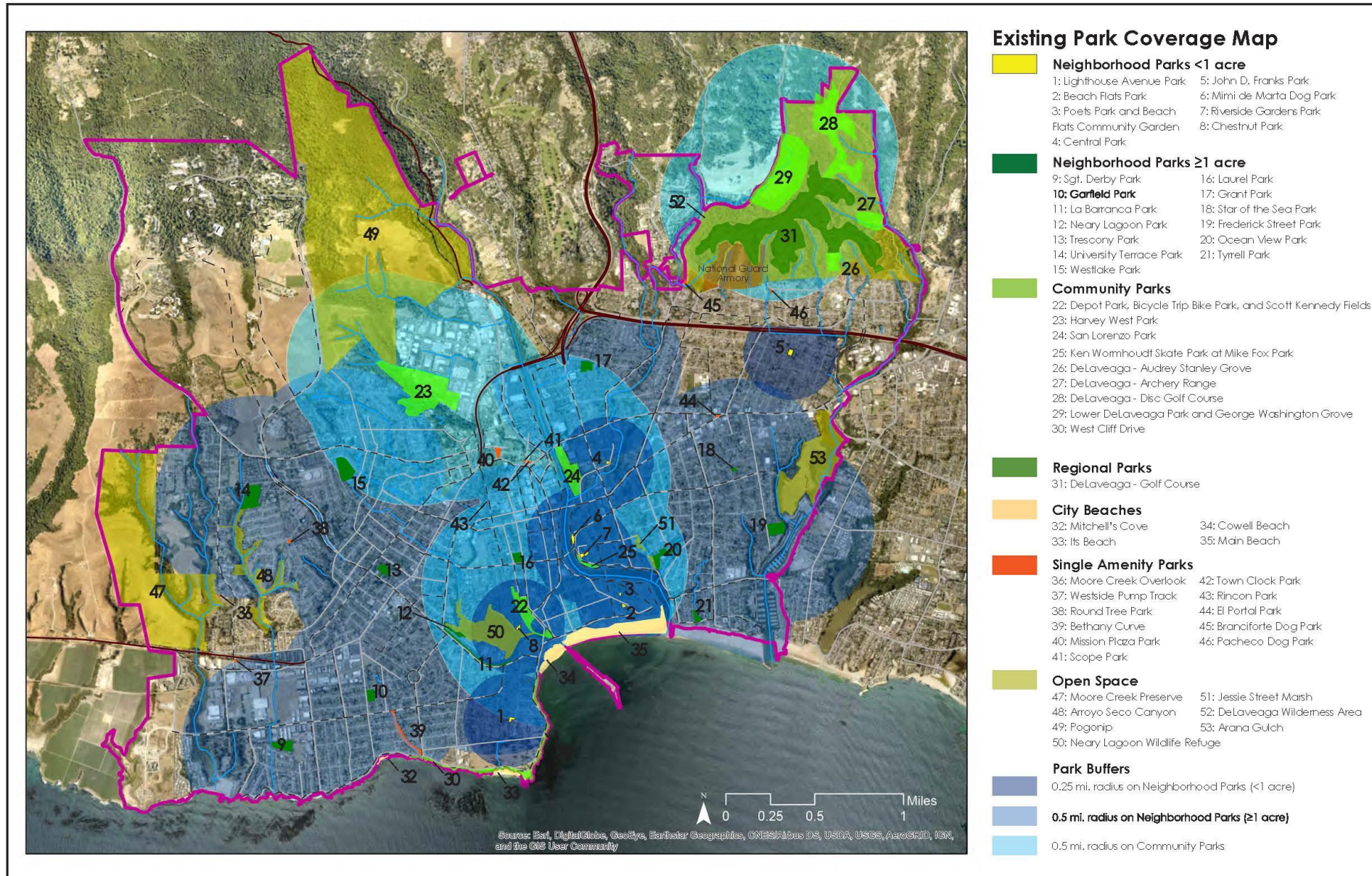
specialized facilities. On the other hand, some single-use facilities are grouped with other nearby park assets and have been included in the service radius analysis. La Barranca Park and Mimi De Marta Dog Park are not considered single-use facilities because they are located within close proximity to other parks and serve a specific role in a broader mix of available uses.

The following exhibit, *Map A, Existing Park Coverage Map*, shows the access of residents to the parks, open spaces, and beaches owned by the City of Santa Cruz. The radii indicating walkable distances stop at major barriers such as freeways and rivers, when no pedestrian access across them is currently available. As shown in Map A, the areas with the most limited access opportunities include the portions of the Upper Eastside neighborhoods north of Soquel Avenue, the Carbonera Sphere neighborhood, and the areas on the west side near Shaffer Road and Grand View Street. Potential opportunities to improve access for the Upper Eastside include improving Joint Use Agreements with Santa Cruz City Schools and creating a small pocket park at the previous zoo site in DeLaveaga Park along Upper Park Road near the Pacheco Dog Park. For the west side areas near Shaffer Road and Grandview Street, the General Plan 2030 Goal LU1.1.4 describes that neighborhood parkland shall be considered on the 11-acre Swenson parcel during the planning process. The Carbonera Sphere neighborhood is more challenging given the lack of available land. Improvements could be explored to connect the neighborhood to Lower DeLaveaga Park if opportunities arise to work with adjacent property owners.

As Santa Cruz continues to grow, it will be necessary to evaluate park access and the corresponding wear and tear on existing facilities. If there is substantial growth in a specific neighborhood with limited park acreage or facilities, consideration should be given to providing additional neighborhood park amenities, either through expansion or rehabilitation of existing parks, or through purchase of new property.



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS





D. BENCHMARKING COMPARISON OF SIMILAR CITIES

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends benchmarking to similar communities to help assess existing conditions in the evaluation of recreation goal setting for a community. There are currently no nationally accepted standards for determining levels of service for the variety of services that every parks system provides. Given that geography, climate, culture, demographics, and other characteristics vary widely nationally, a community must determine its own standards that are appropriate to meet their own local needs. Each community must establish standards that are relevant to its community. Benchmarking is useful because communities with similar characteristics can be compared to help evaluate how the City is performing in relation to them.

The Santa Cruz Parks System is unique for a number of factors and no City offers a perfect comparison. Watsonville, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura were chosen for comparison because they are located in the California Central Coast region. All have favorable cool-summer or warm-summer Mediterranean climates for recreation. Santa Cruz, Watsonville and Monterey are located in the Monterey Bay region. Like Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara's and San Luis Obispo's top employers are universities. Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura are also similar to Santa Cruz in that they are the county seat. San Luis Obispo has a large number of open spaces, while Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Ventura manage larger coastlines in addition to open spaces. There is no doubt that there are many differences between the communities. However, when considered together, Santa Cruz is near the average level of population size, median income, age demographics, square miles of City, population density per square miles, and funds allocated to provide Parks and Recreation Department services. That said, the cities' park systems offer a good comparison for the type, level, and provision of recreation services. The following comparison was completed in 2016 and uses budget data from FY 2016-17.

Table 2.4-5 Population Characteristics

Characteristics	Average of Comparable Cities	City of Santa Cruz
Population	64,833	63,364
<18	20%	16%
>65	13%	9%
Square Miles	14	13
Population Density Per Square Mile	4,860	4,974
Median Household Income	\$57,752	\$61,533
Park & Rec Department Operating Expense	\$13,193,319	\$14,997,297 (Includes the operating budget for the Santa Cruz Wharf)

COMPARISON OF PARK ACREAGE

As seen in the table below, the Santa Cruz Parks System currently supplies slightly more park acreage (excluding beaches) per resident, approximately the same developed park acreage per resident, and slightly more open space per resident than the average of the other communities.

Table 2.4-6 Park Acreage per Population

Park Acreage (Excluding Beaches)	Average of Comparable Cities	City of Santa Cruz
Population	64,833	63,364
Total Park Acreage (Acres)	1,493	1,696
Total Park Acreage (Acres)/1,000 Population	23	27
Developed Park Acreage	236	239
Developed Park (Acres)/1,000 Population	4	4
Open Space Acreage	1,161	1,315
Open Space Acreage (Acres)/1,000 Population	18	21



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

SPORTS FIELDS

The comparative analysis also considers the number of sports fields provided. The table below provides information on the number of fields that are lighted, grass or synthetic, and whether or not the baseball outfields are also used for soccer. It is important to note that there can be conflicts with sports programming, primarily in the spring, when the end of the baseball season conflicts with the beginning of the soccer season. For baseball, the majority of fields remain grass.

Comparison of the selected communities revealed that, for soccer, on average, half of the fields are synthetic turf and half are lighted. Seventy-five percent of the City of San Luis Obispo's fields are synthetic. All of San Luis Obispo's soccer fields are synthetic. Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Ventura have soccer fields located in the outfields of the diamond fields. Santa Cruz has the highest number of lighted fields.

Despite the number of ball fields reported, many of the communities are planning for additional field space. The City is particularly impacted in field space for soccer, and the overlap of baseball and soccer seasons has created difficult programming challenges to meet growing demand on shared fields. Harvey West and Scott Kennedy fields cannot accommodate additional needs for sports programming. As sports trends in soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey grow as seen at the State-level, there will be an even greater need for new field space.



Scott Kennedy Fields at Depot Park

Table 2.4-7 Sports Fields Comparison

Sports Fields (Excluding Joint Use Agreements with School Districts)		avg.	Average LOS for Comparable Communities	City of Santa Cruz	LOS for City of Santa Cruz
Diamond fields	Total	8	1 per 8,104	8	1 per 8,000
	#Grass	6	N/A	8	N/A
	#Synthetic	2	N/A	0	N/A
	#Lighted	4	N/A	8	N/A
Soccer Fields	Total	4	1 per 16,208	3	1 per 21,121
	#Grass	2	N/A	2	N/A
	#Synthetic	2	N/A	1	N/A
	#Lighted	1	N/A	2	N/A
	#Located in outfield	1	N/A	2	N/A



OUTDOOR FACILITIES

In terms of outdoor facilities, as seen in the following tables, Santa Cruz provides a high number of community garden plots, dog park areas, playgrounds, tot-lots, sand volleyball courts, skate parks, disc golf, baskets, and reservable picnic areas. Santa Cruz is also the only City to provide a BMX bike park and pump tracks.



Westside Pump Track

Santa Cruz provides less tennis courts than the other communities. Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey provide a tennis center with at least six courts. Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara have striped pickleball courts but nets are not currently provided.

In terms of swimming pools, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo offer 50 meter long pools that are part of a larger swim center and allow for the possibility of competitions. Santa Cruz seasonally offers 25 meter lap lanes; however, the County of Santa Cruz provides a larger pool complex and 50 meter long lap lanes at Simpkins Family Swim Center. The more populated City of Ventura's Aquatic Center includes a recreation pool, water playground pool, two water slides, a 50 meter competition pool with two one-meter and two three-meter diving

boards, locker rooms, and picnic areas. The less populated City of Monterey has a very large indoor swim center which is described under Indoor Facilities.

Santa Cruz offers a high number of playground facilities. Santa Cruz does not currently provide larger playground destinations such as Monterey's renowned Dennis the Menace Park.

Santa Cruz's Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park, Santa Barbara's Skaters Point, and San Luis Obispo's SLO Skate Park are the largest facilities at greater than 14,000 square feet in size and offer concrete bowls and street features.



Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-8 Comparison of Outdoor Facilities in Comparable Communities

Common Outdoor Facilities	Average of Comparable Communities	Average LOS For Comparable Communities	City of Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz LOS
Basketball Courts	6	1 per 10,130	5.5	1 per 11,521
Playground	18	1 per 3,684	21	1 per 3,017
Sand Volleyball	8	1 per 7,906	21	1 per 3,017
Tennis Courts (Outdoor only)	12	1 per 5,403	6	1 per 10,561
Skate Park	1	1 per 46,309	3	1 per 21,121
Reservable Group Picnic Area	14	1 per 4,767	16	1 per 3,960

Table 2.4-9 Comparison of Less Common Outdoor Facilities in Comparable Communities

Less Common Outdoor Facilities	Median of Comparable Communities	Median LOS for Comparable Communities	City of Santa Cruz	City of Santa Cruz LOS
Community Garden Plots	117	1 per 555	115	1 per 551
Dog Park	1	1 per 64,883	8	1 per 7,921
Wading Pool	1	1 per 64,883	1	1 per 63,364
Swimming Pool	1	1 per 64,883	1	1 per 63,364
Disc Golf Course Baskets	0	N/A	59	1 per 1,074
BMX Park	0	N/A	1	1 per 63,364
Pump Track	0	N/A	3	1 per 21,121
Pickleball Courts (Painted/ no permanent nets)	0	N/A	10	1 per 6,336
Tot-Lot	5	1 per 12,967	11	1 per 5,760
Golf Course	0.5	1 per 129,766	1	1 per 63,364

INDOOR FACILITIES

The Cities compared provide a range of indoor recreation facilities. Not all the Cities provide each type of facility. Each City provides a community center and community rooms. Each City also provides teen and/or senior services out of the community center or has a separate facility to provide those services. Santa Cruz's Louden Nelson Community Center is the largest community center. Santa Cruz's Civic Auditorium is the largest auditorium. Santa Barbara and Monterey provide fitness centers. Monterey's Sports Center is one of a kind and offers two heated indoor pools, a water slide, sauna, a three court gymnasium, group exercise studios, and weight and cardio training areas. Santa Barbara has a large recreation center and a large gym. The City of Watsonville provides a high proportion of community facility space to the youth and seniors and provides a childcare center. Santa Barbara has a large number of facilities that can be rented out for weddings and private events.



Cabrillo Festival at the Civic Auditorium



Table 2.4-10 Comparison of Indoor Recreation Facilities in Comparable Communities

Indoor Recreation Facilities by City	Size (sq. ft.)	Community Center/ Meeting Rooms	Event Rental	Fitness Center	Gymnasium	Auditorium	Senior Center	Youth Center	Recreation Center	Pool
<i>City of Monterey</i>										
Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center	5,110	X								
Hilltop Park Center	18,400	X								
Monterey Sports Center	71,255			X	X				X	X
Monterey Youth Center	14,000							X		
Scholze Park Center	9,437	X					X			
<i>City of Santa Barbara</i>										
Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center	15,000	X	X							
Carrillo Street Gym	10,000			X						
Carrillo Recreation Center	20,000	X	X							
Casa Las Palmas	2,000	X	X							
Chase Palm Park Center	3,200	X	X							
Chase Palm Arts and Crafts Center	1,000	X								
Franklin Neighborhood Center	12,000	X								
Louise Lowry Davis Center	4,000	X								
MacKenzi Park Adult Building	2,000	X								
Twelve 35 Teen Center	3,500							X		
Westside Community Center	2,000	X				X				
<i>City of San Luis Obispo</i>										
Ludwick Community Center	14,000	X			X					
Meadow Park Building	3,400	X								
SLO Senior Citizens Center	6000						X			
Historic Jack House and Gardens	3,000		X							
<i>City of Watsonville</i>										
Callaghan Park Cultural Center	3,400							X		
Gene Hourlaris and Waldo Rodriguez Youth Center	11,000							X		
Marinovich Community Center	10,000	X								



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-10 Comparison of Indoor Recreation Facilities in Comparable Communities

Indoor Recreation Facilities by City	Size (sq. ft.)	Community Center/ Meeting Rooms	Event Rental	Fitness Center	Gymnasium	Auditorium	Senior Center	Youth Center	Recreation Center	Pool
Ramsay Park Family Center	2,800	X								
Senior Center	10000						X			
Childcare Center	2,670							X		
Veteran Memorial Building	6,000		X		X	X				
Muzzio Park Community Center	2,800	X						X		
<i>City of Ventura</i>										
Ventura Ave Adult Center	10,000						X			
Barranca Vista Center	3,500	X								
Westpark Community Center	11,000	X								
<i>City of Santa Cruz</i>										
Beach Flats Community Center	2,742	X								
Civic Auditorium	34,739	X	X		X	X				
Depot Freight Building	3,000	X	X							
Harvey West Kids Kottage and Wagner Cottage	2,500	X								
Harvey West Scout and Clubhouse	3,500	X	X							
Louden Nelson Community Center	20,085	X	X			X	X	X		
Senior Citizens Opportunity	5,437	X				X	X			



E. CONDITION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Numerous studies have been conducted in recent years to study the condition of the larger recreational facilities in the parks system.

FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT (2013)

The Public Works Department hired a consultant to conduct a Facility Condition Assessment (2013) which included the study of building system needs including foundations, superstructures, exterior enclosure, interior construction, interior finishes, conveying systems, plumbing, HVAC, and fire protection and electrical. The following recreation facilities were identified as in need of building system improvements and needs were projected to 2018, as indicated in the table below:

Table 2.4-11 Facility Condition Assessment Costs

Parks and Recreation Buildings	Total Needs in 2018
Civic Auditorium	\$4,745,316
Harvey West Clubhouse	\$337,397
Harvey West Poolhouse	\$196,464
Harvey West Ranger Station	\$63,829
Wagner Cottage	\$69,333
Golf Course Cart Storage	\$447,309
Golf Course Clubhouse	\$499,399
Louden Nelson Community Center	\$2,774,057
Senior Citizen's Opportunity	\$548,795
Parks Yard Maintenance Garage	\$140,350
Parks Yard Office	\$161,645
DeLaveaga Park Office	\$14,696
Wharf Headquarters	\$285,423
Parks and Recreation Admin Building	\$424,033
Total	\$10,708,048

SANTA CRUZ WHARF ENGINEERING REPORT (2014)

The Santa Cruz Wharf Engineering Report (2014) evaluated the Santa Cruz Wharf and found that it is generally in good condition but there is a need for pile replacements, general improvements to the pavement and substrate, and improvements to increase public safety, weight bearing capacity, sewer, fire protection, and landings. The estimated costs of the improvements are \$16,000,000.



Santa Cruz Wharf

POGONIP CLUBHOUSE REHABILITATION PLAN (2000)

The Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2000) includes interior, exterior, structural, mechanical, and electrical evaluations. Costs to complete the plan are currently estimated at \$7,000,000.

PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

The City's park playgrounds and tot lots were visited and inspected for compliance with California playground safety regulations, per the California Department of Public Health, on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014 and Sunday, March 29th, 2015. These were not full inspections with formal testing, but visual inspections for apparent problems.



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment is generally new and well maintained in all of the parks.



Riverside Gardens Playground

FALL PROTECTION

Engineered wood fibar is used extensively in Santa Cruz playgrounds for fall protection. This fibar meets the criteria for fall protection for most playground heights if of sufficient depth and maintained. Engineered wood fibar is wood shredded to specific dimensions to increase its fall protection. The depth of fibar was not determined in the site visits as that would have required digging. In the play areas that use rubber matting, the matting needs to be annually tested for retention of fall attenuation properties. As matting ages, it loses its softness and ability to absorb impacts.

ACCESSIBILITY

For surfacing, most playgrounds had rubber matting extending to the transfer deck but engineered wood fibar elsewhere. Engineered wood

fibar is considered an accessible surface, but must meet the requirement of no more than ½" change in level from surface to surface to be considered accessible. To maintain this grade difference, ramps must be installed extending from the adjacent walks into the engineered wood fibar. As the fibar settles, the ramp becomes more exposed but maintains an accessible route into the playground. Of note for future playground renovation and construction, accessibility of engineered wood fibar is being challenged in courts, though no resolution has been reached to date.

Play equipment met the criteria for accessibility for the apparent dates of installation. Going forward, Santa Cruz should be aware of new criteria that require all equipment reachable from a transfer station or ramp to be accessible upon exit- i.e. must be on accessible surfacing. Existing criteria includes:

- One of each type of play equipment to be accessible by transfer or ramping,
- A percentage, based on number of components, of accessible by transfer or ramping.
- A percentage, based on number of components, of ground level play.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SITE FURNISHING CONDITIONS

Staff inspected the site furnishings and recreational facilities at each park, ranking each site furnishing or recreational facility from very good to very poor based on conditions relating to cosmetic defects, rusting and warping, and noted known structural and functional issues. Tables are provided for each park in Chapter 4, Section 4.2. In general, most site furnishings are in the good to very good condition. Harvey West Park Ball Fields is notable because the facilities have extensive issues with a high cost of repair.

F. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Illegal camping, drug-use, gang activities, and criminal misconduct stem from challenging social, mental health, economic, and moral issues. The impacts from these and other illegal activities on the City's parks system



are prevalent and often pose environmental and safety issues and consume many City resources to mitigate them. The City has recently begun fencing and locking some of its parks and open spaces to deter illegal activities. For example, a temporary curfew limiting access to Cowell Beach is currently in effect. Other steps have included installing security cameras, increasing volunteer and staff clean-up days, imposing temporary closures of restrooms and park areas, developing maintenance protocols to find discarded hypodermic needles, and changes to park policies and programs to try to increase legal use in order to deter illegal activities.

G. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES

The Parks and Recreation Department's three divisions help oversee parks system assets. The Recreation Division manages sports and beach programming and events, class, and teen and senior programming as well as the Civic Auditorium, Loudon Nelson Community Center, and facility rentals and maintenance. The Administration Division supports programs and reservation rentals and creates policies and plans. The Parks Division oversees the maintenance and operation of the DeLaveaga Golf Course, Urban Landscaped Medians, Arana Gulch, the Santa Cruz Wharf and Cowell and Main Beaches, and the Park Rangers unit. Additionally, parks and open spaces are grouped under three management zones: the east, west, and central zone.

Though the recommendations from this Parks Master Plan 2030 focus primarily on core areas of the Parks and Recreation Department, it is important to note that the provision of recreation facilities is a multi-departmental effort. The following lists just some of the major roles other departments play:

- City Manager's Office:
 - Administers larger scale temporary and special use permits in parks, beaches, and open spaces.
 - Oversees important community studies and projects.
 - Coordinates GreenWharf projects and relationships with UCSC academic partners.

- Economic Development Department:
 - Administers contracts with businesses on the Santa Cruz Wharf and assists drafting leases with new vendors and concessionaires.
 - Manages the development of the Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan and the Kaiser Permanente Siting Feasibility Study.
- Planning:
 - Planning and Community Development:
 - Often takes the lead on major planning efforts
 - Reviews new parks development applications to ensure code compliance.
- Public Works:
 - Oversees water quality efforts such as the tule removal and water quality testing at the Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge and along the San Lorenzo River and Main and Cowell Beaches
 - Removes vegetation from the San Lorenzo River corridor.
 - Manages the construction and maintains multi-use pathways such as the construction of the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail, the Santa Cruz Riverwalk, and the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Scenic Trail segment through Santa Cruz.
 - Assesses condition of buildings and funds improvements.
 - Assesses cliff erosion and stabilization along West Cliff and East Cliff Drives.
 - Maintains the parking area at Depot Park.
 - Reviews engineering plans and makes recommendations for new development projects.
- Police Department:
 - The Parks Unit was created in 2006 following a voter-approved sales tax initiative in the city of Santa Cruz known as Measure H. The unit works closely with the Park Rangers to maintain a safe environment in neighborhood parks, open spaces and waterways.



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

H. EXISTING PARKS MASTER PLANS

The City has many master or management plans that help guide future uses and corresponding management actions for specific parks, open spaces, and beaches. Not all park assets have management plans. Some of the Management Plans could be updated to accommodate new facilities and activities to meet current needs and desires.

- Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006): The plan guided the development of the multi-use trail project which was completed in 2014. It also guides natural restoration of the property.
- Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014): Guides beach maintenance operations, safety operations, recreation programming, commercial uses, and flood and drainage discharge operations for Cowell and Main Beaches.
- DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960): The plan includes ambitious recreational projects, many of which have been implemented. Projects include campgrounds, a small train track, a fishing lake, golf course, softball fields, a children's wading pond, tennis courts, a natural science center, a rifle and archery range, among others.
- DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002): The plan recommends a variety of improvements, including constructing a new clubhouse to accommodate larger events, installing a new irrigation system to conserve water, adding solar to the upper deck of the golf course to provide shade and conserve energy, performing tree management work to reduce dead and diseased trees, redesigning and updating the sand traps, leveling the tees, grading the fairways, increasing the parking areas, and improving the maintenance yard.
- Depot Park Master Plan (2001): The plan guided uses and improvements to Depot Park were completed in 2005.
- Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998): The plan aims to restore the marsh and improve access. A major component of the plan would be creating a tidal exchange between the fresh water marsh and the San Lorenzo Urban River. An interpretive trail would connect from East Cliff Drive to Lemos Avenue.
- Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan (2002): Guides natural restoration activities and trail alignments, design, and use.
- Neary Lagoon Management Plan (1992): Guides activities to manage hydrology, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, mosquitoes, cultural resources, public use and safety, infrastructure, and aesthetics.
- Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2002): The plan guides the rehabilitation of the historic Pogonip Clubhouse.
- Pogonip Master Plan (1998): The plan envisions the restoration of the historic clubhouse, a Homeless Garden farming operation and support facilities, an outdoor education camp, improvements to trails, interpretive programs, parking improvements, and natural restoration activities.
- San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003): The San Lorenzo Urban River Plan provides a number of recommendations for the locations and designs of plazas, unpaved nature loops, native planting treatments, interpretive signage, bird watching platforms, and art. The plan recommends that restoring the river is the top priority.
- Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan (under review): The Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan guides future restoration and expansion including the development of a landmark building, an events pavilion, a gateway entrance sign, a welcome center, a small boat landing area, and increased pedestrian and bicycle access.



I. NATURAL RESOURCES

EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES

The City's parks and open spaces contain several diverse, native plant and wildlife communities/habitats. Habitats include freshwater marsh, redwood forest, mixed evergreen forest, coastal scrub, grassland/coastal prairie, oak woodland, and riparian woodlands/corridors. Some of these habitats are considered sensitive because they are vulnerable to disturbance or do not recover easily once disturbed. Sensitive areas also include springs and seeps, nesting and breeding sites such as standing dead trees, riverbanks, movement and migration corridors, pathways to perennial streams, overwintering sites (i.e., Monarch butterfly), and foraging areas.

Riparian (streamside), and other wetland habitats (brackish and freshwater marshes), with their wide variety of plants and readily available water, are vital for wildlife such as waterfowl, fish, and amphibians. These habitats provide a drinking source and dense, green foliage for protection, shelter, and food. Perennial or seasonal water bodies are breeding areas for some amphibian and other wildlife species. Most wildlife species depend on external sources of water and will often travel long distances to reach it. Excessive human use in these areas can result in trampling, soil compaction, erosion, destruction of vegetation, alteration of water quality and temperature, introduction of non-native and invasive plant species, and frequent disturbances to wildlife.

Some of these habitats are protected by federal and state laws and require special permits for new improvements. City parks and open spaces containing rare, threatened, or endangered species as listed by Federal and/or State agencies are shown on the following tables. More information on sensitive habitats and species can be found in the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030, individual park master plans, and past studies.

Table 2.4-12 Native Habitats within City Open Spaces

Open Space	Brackish or Freshwater Marsh ²	Redwood Forest	Mixed Evergreen Forest	Coastal Scrub	Grassland Coastal Prairie ²	Riparian Woodland	Oak Woodland ²	Eucalyptus Groves ¹
Pogonip Open Space		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Moore Creek Preserve		X	X	X	X	X	X	
DeLaveaga Wilderness Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge	X					X		
Jessie Street Marsh	X				X	X	X	X
Arana Gulch Open Space	X				X	X	X	X
Arroyo Seco Canyon			X			X		X
San Lorenzo River	X					X		X

¹ Eucalyptus is a non-native tree species, but some eucalyptus groves in the City provide overwintering habitat for the Monarch butterfly.

² Sensitive habitat, as identified under City, State, and/or Federal policies.



2.4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4-13 Special Status Plants and Animals Known within City Open Spaces

Open Space	San Francisco Popcorn Flower	Santa Cruz Tarplant	Gairdner's Yampah	Santa Cruz Clover	Robust Spineflower	CA Red-legged Frog	Southwestern Pond Turtle	Ohlone Tiger Beetle	Dusky-footed Woodrat	Monarch Butterfly ²	Steelhead/Coho Salmon and Tidewater Goby
Pogonip Open Space	X		X	X	X	X	X	X ¹	X		
Moore Creek Preserve	X					X	X	X	X	X	
DeLaveaga Wilderness Area									X	X	
Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge							X		X		
Jessie Street Marsh											
Arana Gulch Open Space		X							X	X	
Arroyo Seco Canyon									X	X	
San Lorenzo River											X

¹Ohlone Tiger Beetle last observed in 2004.

²Overwintering site.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Selecting effective management strategies requires understanding natural ecological processes at a specific site. Management measures often include eliminating or restricting activities that destroy vegetation, restoring grasslands and meadows that were formerly maintained by natural processes, managing vegetation to benefit aquatic species, conservation grazing, perimeter fire management/fuel reduction, and controlling/ removing invasive, non-native vegetation. The City is also

currently updating its Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan which provide guidance for incorporating conservation and resiliency into management policy and actions.

Table 2.4-14 Resource Assessments, Guidance Documents, and Open Space Restoration Activities

Open Space	Natural Resource Assessments	Current Management Activities
Pogonip Open Space	Park-wide biotic assessment, 1996 Pogonip Master Plan, 1998 Various focused work area assessments, 1999 to 2017	Prairie management (mowing and invasive plant control). Rare plant survey and habitat management. Ohlone Tiger Beetle survey.
Moore Creek Preserve	Property-wide baseline environmental assessment, 1995 Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan, 2001	Prairie management (grazing and invasive plant control). Rare plant survey and habitat management. Ohlone Tiger Beetle survey.
DeLaveaga Wilderness Area	Focused work area assessments from 2010 to 2017. No comprehensive biotic assessment has been performed.	Coastal prairie mowing.
Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge	Neary Lagoon Management Plan, 1990 Focused work area assessments	Marsh vegetation management.
Jessie Street Marsh	Jessie Street Marsh Management plan, 1998	Marsh vegetation management.
Arana Gulch Open Space	Biotic assessment, 1996 Arana Gulch Master Plan, 2006 Habitat management plan, 2013 Invasive Weed Work Plan, 2015	Prairie management (grazing, invasive plant control, revegetation planting). Rare plant survey and habitat management.
San Lorenzo River Corridor	San Lorenzo Urban River Plan, 2003	Riparian management.



CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WHAT WE NEED & WANT

3.1 Community Outreach

3.2 Emerging Trends





SECTION 3.1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- A. Introduction
- B. Quantitative vs. Qualitative Data
- C. Community Telephone Survey 2015
- D. Community Meetings
- E. Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups
- F. Internal Department-Wide Meeting
- G. Public Input Questionnaire and Email Correspondence
- H. 1st Joint Study Session with Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council
- I. Parks Master Plan Subcommittee Meetings
- J. Community Email Survey 2016
- K. 2nd Joint Study Session with Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council
- L. Community Outreach Summary

A. INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation services play a critical role in the quality of life for residents and visitors. The *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) will help guide future improvements to the parks system to improve the overall experience for park users. The Parks Master Plan 2030 outreach process provided an opportunity to engage community members and solicit their feedback to help inform the recommendations. Community input not only helps the City evaluate existing conditions and current and future needs, but also identify opportunities from the perspectives of park users.

Community input was gathered through a variety of methods, including a community telephone survey, community meetings, focus groups, questionnaires, stakeholder interviews, department-wide meetings, public meetings, and a supplemental quantitative email survey to receive representative input from the general community on topics where specific interests conflict.

B. QUANTITATIVE VS. QUALITATIVE DATA

Collection of data is provided in two forms as part of this outreach process: quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative data provides usable statistics through the generation of numerical data, formulating facts and uncovering patterns in research. Qualitative research reveals trends and opinions through non-statistical data analysis that provides explorative findings which inform further decision making.

The Parks Master Plan 2030 planning process provides quantitative data through statistically valid, random telephone and email surveys that utilized a prepared questionnaire. Qualitative data was collected through information gathered from interviews, community and departmental open houses, and questionnaires that were distributed at City parks, community events, and online. The qualitative data provides subjective information with additional detail in user interests. It was provided by respondents who chose to engage in the outreach process, rather than from a random sampling.

Comparing the quantitative and qualitative data collected through community outreach enables the planning process to identify emerging patterns and consistent themes and issues regarding park system use in Santa Cruz.

C. COMMUNITY TELEPHONE SURVEY 2015

In 2015, the City of Santa Cruz commissioned Godbe Research to conduct a telephone survey of residents to inform the Parks Master Plan 2030. The 2015 survey was conducted with the following research objectives:

- Gauge satisfaction with the overall quality of life in Santa Cruz
- Understand leisure time activity and sports preferences
- Assess the usage and importance of parks, trails, and recreation facilities
- Gauge satisfaction with specific services and facilities
- Determine attitudes towards DeLaveaga Municipal Golf Course and Harvey West Swimming Pool



3.1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Understand resident support for financial funding of programs and facilities
- Identify any differences in opinion due to demographic and/or voter behavioral characteristics.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

- Data Collection: Telephone Interviewing
- Universe: Adults 18 years of age or older
- Fielding Dates: January 6 – January 11, 2015
- Interview Length: 15.7 minutes
- Interview Language: English and Spanish
- Sample Size: 304
- Margin of Error: $\pm 5.06\%$

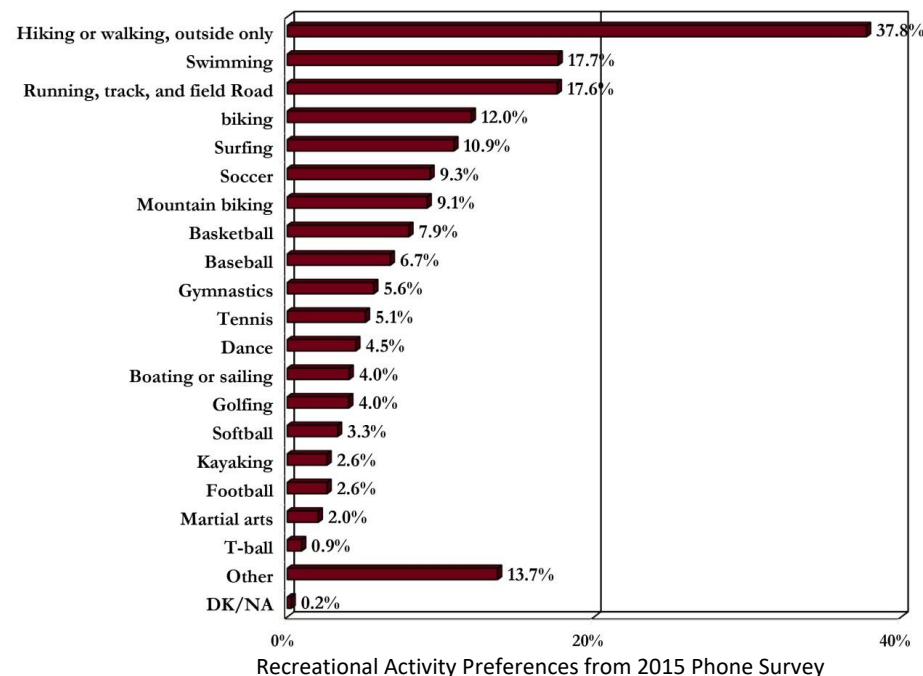
KEY FINDINGS

Quality of Life

- Santa Cruz residents enjoy their quality of life. More than 9 out of 10 respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the quality of life in Santa Cruz (92.4%).

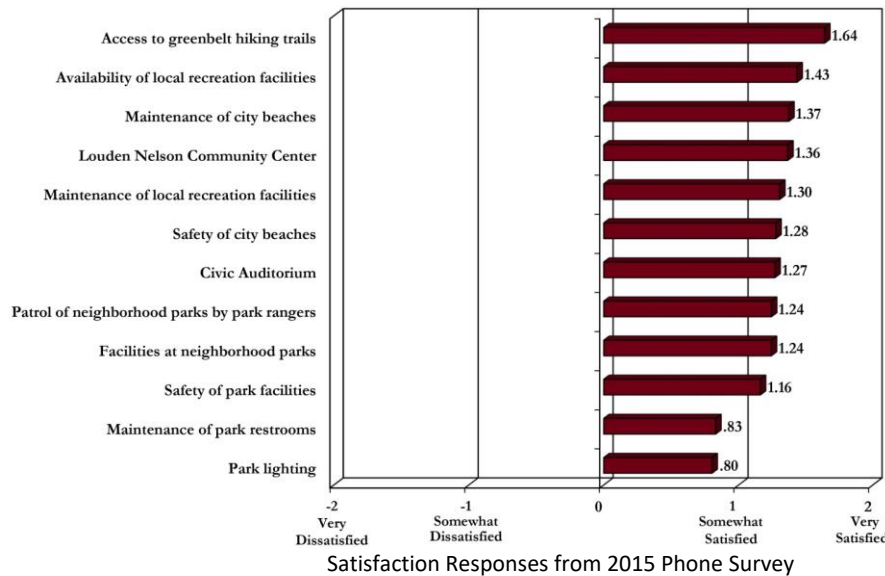
Sports and Recreational Activities

- Santa Cruz is a very active community. Respondents indicated that the top two preferences for leisure time activities include going to the beach and outdoor sports or athletic activities.
- More than three quarters of respondents indicated that a member of their household participates in an outdoor activity. The top preference for an outdoor recreation activity is hiking or walking outside.
- Respondents with children in their household tended to indicate at higher levels that they enjoyed “Basketball,” “Baseball,” “Surfing,” “Swimming,” and “T-ball” when compared to those residents without children in the household.



Parks and Recreation Facilities

- A vast majority of respondents have visited City parks, trails, or recreation facilities in the past 12 months. About 46% of the households had used a walking or hiking trail in the past 12 months, 45% had used the beaches, and 43% had used a city park.
- Santa Cruz residents are highly satisfied with the parks and recreation services provided by the City of Santa Cruz. Of the services listed, park lighting and maintenance of park restrooms were the only services that fell below the somewhat satisfied ranking.



- The availability of recreational activities such as walking, hiking, jogging, swimming, surfing, road cycling, and mountain biking are relatively more important to Santa Cruz residents than organized sports such as basketball, baseball, softball, football, and volleyball.
- The variety of recreation options is important to Santa Cruz residents.
 - All but one of the 18 sites and facilities reached or exceeded the level of somewhat important.
 - Two-thirds of the residents or more rated 8 of the 14 sports and recreational activities tested in the survey as at least “somewhat important.”
 - More than 90% of respondents indicated importance for “City beaches,” “Outdoor sports fields,” “Open space parks,” and “Trails.”
 - More than 80% of residents placed importance on “Swimming pool,” “Civic auditorium,” “Children’s play areas,” and “Community gardens.”

- More than 70% of survey respondents stated they felt “Gymnasium,” “Reservable picnic areas or Harvey West Clubhouse,” “Senior Center,” “Teen center,” “Louden Nelson Community Center,” and “Dog parks” were important.
- A significant plurality of respondents (47.3%) preferred continuing to subsidize the DeLaveaga Golf Course, while a quarter (25.7%) preferred leasing the course to a private golf management company.
- Just over half of the respondents (50.9%) indicated that the Harvey West Swimming Pool should be open year round, while about a quarter (26.7%) felt the current schedule was adequate.
- A significant plurality of respondents (48.4%) believe that the parks should not be locked at night, while 38% believe they should be locked.

The Godbe report is available in Appendix 5.2 with a link to the report’s appendices.

D. COMMUNITY MEETINGS



March 29th Community Meeting

Two open house meetings were held on March 26 and 29, of 2015, at the Louden Nelson Community Center. Approximately 60 community members attended the meetings. Community members were invited to review 12 exhibit posters and provide input by placing sticky notes onto



3.1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

the exhibits or completing a questionnaire if they had more lengthy comments or suggestions. Staff, public officials, and the consultant were available to discuss topics and ideas. Spanish translators were available for Spanish translation. Appendices 5.3 and 5.5 contain presentation materials and a complete list of comments received during the community outreach process. Comments followed by a (C) were received during the community meetings.



Two of twelve exhibit posters with sticky note comments from meetings

E. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS

From January 2015 to April 2015, staff and the consultant met with a variety of key staff members who manage the parks and recreation facilities as well as interested community members to hear perspectives on parks and recreation topics. Focus group discussions were held with organized sports field users, Friends of Parks and Recreation, and other interested community members. Appendix 5.6 includes comments received from stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings.

F. INTERNAL DEPARTMENT-WIDE MEETING

An internal open house meeting was held with parks maintenance and recreation personnel. Parks and Recreation staff have a unique perspective on the parks system. Not only are they park users, but they are also the day-to-day face of the Parks and Recreation Department. They hear feedback from park users regarding the parks and recreation facilities during their maintenance and recreation programming activities.

G. PUBLIC INPUT QUESTIONNAIRE AND EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Staff and the consultant created an English and Spanish version of a public input questionnaire. Community members were asked about their ideas and observations regarding parks and recreation facilities in Santa Cruz. The questionnaire was distributed by staff at parks and facilities. An online version was created and signs were posted at parks to inform park users of the opportunity to provide feedback. Staff had booths at six community events to answer questions and collect input through the questionnaires. Nearly 500 questionnaires and emails were received. Appendices 5.4 and 5.5 contain the general city-wide and park-specific questionnaires and the comments received during the outreach process. Comments followed by a (Q) are specifically from the questionnaire while comments followed by an (L) are from email and letter correspondence.



City staffed booth at the Santa Cruz Mountain Biking Festival on April 11, 2015

KEY FINDINGS

- Many community members describe a favorable impression of the upkeep of the parks system. Some expressed concern that maintenance should be a higher priority than expansion.
- A very high number of comments expressed concerns regarding illegal activity, safety, and cleanliness in the parks system and the desire for more enforcement.
- Sports field user groups and other community members expressed the need for more field space to accommodate off-season play and to limit use conflicts between baseball and soccer. Programs would expand if there were more fields to play-on. Harvey West fields could use renovation. Lacrosse is growing in demand and it would be difficult to accommodate the sport with the existing field space.
- Off-leash dog use is a popular activity in Santa Cruz and there is a desire for more opportunities. Some respondents expressed concerns about off-leash dog use at beaches and open spaces.
- There is a general desire for more recreational amenities and facilities throughout the parks system and more interesting playground features.
- The San Lorenzo River Corridor/Santa Cruz Riverwalk is a very important resource for community members. Many preferred more environmental restoration and learning activities; however, others requested more activities for recreation.
- Pickleball is a rapidly growing recreational activity and there is demand for more courts.
- Many expressed a desire to clean-up and add more amenities and events to San Lorenzo Park.
- Respondents shared that the Beach Flats Neighborhood area needs a permanent community garden facility.
- Mountain biking is a popular activity and there is a need for skill building areas and separated trails with obstacles. Concerns were raised regarding conflicts between bike riders and hikers, and impacts to the environment.
- Pump track bike riding is a growing recreational activity in the area and there is a desire to see more opportunities.
- Many expressed the need for more restrooms or the renovation of existing restrooms.
- Preservation and restoration of the City's greenbelts are important to the community.
- Harvey West Pool remains an important facility to teach kids how to swim and there is a need to expand the duration of the season.
- The Pogonip Clubhouse remains an important resource and there is a desire to see it restored.
- The City's beaches should remain clean and free from loose litter and debris, especially during the tourist season. Respondents noted that water quality at Main and Cowell Beaches needs to be improved.
- Jessie Street Marsh remains a challenging site and is in need of improvement.
- Parks and recreation facilities should be accessible for all users.
- More art and interpretive displays should be added to the parks.



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H. 1ST JOINT STUDY SESSION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

On October 13, 2015, a Joint Study Session was held to provide staff with direction on topics where contrasting opinions were received during the outreach process. The high-level topics within the presentation included Safety and Illegal Activity, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Open Space, Existing Facilities, and New Facilities. As part of the outcome of the meeting, a general recommendation was to continue to work through the topics with a subcommittee comprised of two Parks and Recreation Commission members and two City Council members. Below is a summary of the discussion that followed the presentation.

KEY DIRECTION

Parks Management

- Parks services must have resiliency regardless of the economy. Parks need to be funded to provide benefits to residents and visitors. Consider capacity issues in relation to staffing when seeking new development. Update the existing parks system before expanding the system further. There should be a strategic funding component of the Parks Master Plan 2030. Seek funding endowments.
- Parks and Recreation management should allow parks to evolve and be flexibly responsive to changing demands in recreation.
- Continue to seek ways to improve recreation on existing lands instead of purchasing new land. Utilize edges of existing open spaces to create more recreational opportunities rather than acquiring new land.
- Ensure that underserved communities are provided enough resources, parks, and facilities.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Use some of the greenbelt open space for active use. Land was originally designated for both open space and active use but the active use element has not been implemented successfully.
- Fully utilize existing parks.
- Increase the provision of sports fields. Continue the shared use of parks and sports fields. Seek creative uses of new and existing infrastructure such as locating sports fields on top of parking structures. Provide practice space throughout the City for sports teams.
- Increase mountain biking opportunities and partner with the industry to hold events. Protect hiking trails and reduce conflicts.
- Differences in opinion were expressed regarding acquiring Antonelli Pond and Lighthouse Field for the City's park system. Consider a partnership to improve maintenance of Lighthouse Field.
- Add more restrooms to parks. Some prefer the use of porta-potties for cost savings.
- Improve coordination for litter pick-up on beaches and expand the ranger program to patrol them.
- Support pickleball expansion and create dedicated courts.
- Create City-owned community gardens in every neighborhood, especially the Beach Flats Neighborhood. Consider roof-top gardens.
- Prioritize revisiting the Jesse Street Marsh Master Plan. Hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss options.
- More pump tracks including the Benchlands at San Lorenzo Park.
- Improve playgrounds.
 - Replace the wood chips with sand or rubber matting at playgrounds.
 - Build a themed 'Dennis the Menace' playground at San Lorenzo Park.
- Create a legal, supervised campground for the homeless to sleep to deter sleeping in parks.
- Civic Auditorium is not a high priority.
- Golf Course is highly subsidized and should be phased out unless it can bring in more revenue in the next five years.



- Use the Fire Department Training Structure as some kind of joint facility that can be used for recreation. For example, creating a ropes course.
- Expand the Harvey West pool use by adding times when the Simpkins Family Swim Center is not open for recreational swimming.
- Restore the Pogonip Clubhouse. Explore public-private partnerships. Release a request for proposal to explore options.
- Create more off-leash dog use areas.
- Create a Coastal Recreation Zone to showcase the natural resources and coastline and improve the coordination between multiple agencies.
- Support the Riverwalk project and activate the entire length of the river with art and lighting.
- Renovate Harvey West Park as it is currently underutilized.
- Establish better connectivity between existing parks by identifying gaps to close them.
- Recognize that natural areas are valued and are utilized through their preservation.
- Consider all users in design and expansion of system (ADA, seniors, etc.).

Safety and Security

- Safety and security are paramount. Increasing ranger patrols, lighting, activating parks with new amenities (low cost if possible), and park hosts should be explored as a way to help address safety issues. Park hosts could be tied to new restrooms to keep them clean and safe.

Appendix 5.7 contains the presentation from the Joint Study Session.

I. PARKS MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation subcommittee meetings were held on January 13, March 28, and April 4, of 2016, to provide staff direction on contentious issues and help develop policies and actions for the plan. The following feedback was received during the meetings:

KEY DIRECTION

Visioning

- Parks and Recreation enhances the quality of life of residents and visitors. Connectivity is important as the City moves in a sustainable direction. The City's natural heritage should be preserved and protected while providing experiences for a diverse community.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

- New off-leash areas should be fenced-in. A target for off-leash dog use areas should be created for each area of the City.
- DeLaveaga Park needs improved connectivity.
- Consider adding lights to Depot Field to optimize field space. More opportunities are needed for organized sports groups.
- Harvey West Park needs renovation.
- Renovate San Lorenzo Park and create a variety of opportunities, especially for families and youth. Create a safer environment. Increase programming, such as yoga in the park, and hold more events to draw people.
- Moore Creek Open Space Preserve needs improved access to the open space. Explore creating a parking area off of Highway 1.
- Pogonip is an open space and should not be used to locate sports fields. Restore the clubhouse. Minimize conflicts between hikers and bikers.
- The Santa Cruz Riverwalk is an important community asset and needs continued efforts to improve the area.
- The coastal area needs a more cohesive, consistent identity and needs a vision and plan to improve the long-term management and coordination between multiple agencies.
- The beach areas need to remain free of litter and debris and safe from illegal activity. Availability of bike parking should be increased and cyclists should feel confident they can park their bikes without fear of theft.



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- The Louden Nelson Community Center is an important resource that needs some renovation. The park does not always feel safe for families.
- Need to use the plan to help fund improvements to facilities.

Safety and Security

- Park hosts could be a great program to help care for parks and could potentially create workforce housing opportunities. Avoid landlord tenant situations and instead provide hook-ups for an RV/Trailer.
- Volunteer docents could help monitor and care for parks.

Appendix 5.8 contains the agendas and presentations made at the March 28th and April 4th meetings.

J. COMMUNITY EMAIL SURVEY 2016

The outreach process identified several issues that needed more feedback from a representative sample of the community to inform the recommendations in the plan, resulting in a second survey being conducted in 2016. The first set of questions followed the same general format as the initial survey. The second set of questions allowed for more detailed feedback on specific areas and topics.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

- Data Collection: Online interviews from email invitation
- Universe: Adults 18 years of age or older
- Fielding Dates: September 29 to October 12, 2016
- Interview Language: English and Spanish
- Sample Size: 314
- Margin of Error: $\pm 5.06\%$

KEY FINDINGS

Quality of Life

- At 72.4%, the reported satisfaction level of respondents in the 2016 survey was lower than the 2015 survey rate of 92.4%, though still quite high.

Sports and Recreational Activities

- Santa Cruz continues to be a very active community with 89.5% reporting that their household participates in fitness, athletic or sports activities in the 2016 survey compared to 77.5% in 2015.
- Comparing both surveys, the activities that respondents or members of their household participate in were very similar. Hiking or walking was the highest ranked. Swimming, running, road biking, mountain biking, surfing, and soccer scored in the medium tier.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

- As in 2015, a vast majority of respondents have visited City parks, trails, or recreation facilities in the past 12 months with only 0.8% using facilities less than once a year and 2.8% unsure of usage.
- The 2016 survey allowed for a more detailed response on park usage, with 78.4% of respondents indicating they visit a park, trail, beach and recreational facility at least a few times a month, and nearly 50% indicating a few times a week.
- Beaches had the highest percentage of usage at 82.7% followed by walking and hiking trails at 80.5%, parks at 75.6% and bike paths or lanes at 46.2%.

Parks and Recreation Satisfaction & Preferences

- Respondents were generally satisfied with the maintenance of local recreation facilities, with 62% being either very or somewhat satisfied, though restroom maintenance satisfaction was lower at 42.3%



- Regarding safety of facilities, only 52.5% replied satisfied with park safety, though 65.5% were satisfied with safety at City beaches. Park lighting satisfaction was less positive, with a total satisfaction rate of 50.5%. Patrol of neighborhood parks by park rangers also received a lower rating at 44.9%.
- The availability of local recreational facilities received a high satisfaction rating of 72.5%.
- 66.2% of respondents were satisfied with facilities at neighborhood parks.
- Satisfaction for access to greenbelt hiking trails was high at 70.3%, though satisfaction ratings on mountain bike trails was lower at 44.4%.

Importance of Recreational Activities & Frequency

- In line with usage responses, walking, hiking and jogging were extremely important activities for survey participants with 99.4 % of respondents ranking this as very important or somewhat important. Other sports ranking greater than 50% in importance were mountain biking and soccer.
- Facilities ranking highest in importance in descending order were open spaces with park amenities, undisturbed open spaces, paved trails, unpaved trails, children's play areas, outdoor sports fields, community gardens, mountain bike trails, and fenced and unfenced off-leash dog areas.

Park Planning Preferences

Survey results were very mixed on park planning preferences.

- For sports fields, there was more support than other activities with 52.3% of respondents favoring an increased number of sports fields. When asked where these fields should be built, contributors split evenly between using Pogonip, buying industrial land, and partnering with the school district for joint-use of its facilities.

- Three questions addressed the use of greenbelts as future resources for park planning. Responses on the question of building sports fields, trails, playgrounds and park amenities in the greenbelts were 52.3% in favor with 30.9% opposed. Regarding trail use in these spaces, 75.7% of respondents supported creating additional trails. When asked what type of trails, 49.2% were in favor of multi-use trails; 26.1%, hiking only; and 11.1%, downhill mountain biking, separating mountain bikers from hikers. 0% indicated downhill trails with berms and obstacles.
- Respondents were asked for their opinions on the use of San Lorenzo Park in a series of seven questions. Only 16.3% wanted to keep the park as is. All questions regarding changes in events or features received favorable responses with the strongest support for hosting more events and programs, expanding facilities and activities, creating a food truck court and renovating the playground. Improved San Lorenzo River access was supported by 62.9% of respondents.
- Other survey responses included:
 - Respondents were neutral on the question of striping tennis courts to accommodate pickleball with 21.1% favoring and 25.9% opposing.
 - There was strong support for more restrooms (79.1%).
 - Many respondents (42.2%) felt that they have sufficient off-leash dog areas near their neighborhood compared to 21.6% who felt they do not.
 - Responses on fencing and locking parks at night were inconclusive with 42.1% having mixed opinions.
- When asked if they would be willing to contribute financially to supporting programs and facilities, 80.2% of the respondents responded favorably.

The Godbe Report can be referenced in Appendix 5.2.



3.1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

K. 2ND JOINT STUDY SESSION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

On February 7, 2017, a study session was held to receive feedback on the draft Parks Master Plan 2030. Feedback was received prior to the meeting that there were concerns regarding some of the draft recommendations and priorities. The Joint City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission approved a motion to work through identified issues, refine and establish priorities, clarify recommendations through a series of Parks and Recreation Commission meetings and return to Council with the revised plan and action plan for final review and adoption by the summer 2017. Policies would be added to the plan to increase fruit tree plantings. Councilmembers and Commissioners provided feedback on the draft and process.

KEY DIRECTION

CEQA Process

- Review the environmental review process so that there is clarity for the public, City Council, and Commission.
- Place more attention on separating the recreation and open space sections of the plan.
- Environmental review should be done for new trails. Need to ensure that the trails neither restrict wildlife movement across corridors nor degrade habitats.

Implementation Chapter

- Improve the link between the recommendations section and the funding strategies in the PMP. Both chapters should have more continuity to findings and data from the PMP process. Need to map community's future.
- Implementation strategy needs improvement.
- More discussion on how to reach the standards for acreage per capita for parks since SC is short in acreage.
- Important that the long-term plan can change with time.

- Remove cycling from active recreation and place in passive recreation.
- Consider hiring a grant writer for the department.
- Explore an endowment fund.
- Happy to see the Wharf and Civic are separate projects outside of the Parks Master Plan.
- Parks are underfunded. Need to partner with more stakeholders and look at the State's funding models.
- Need to have a firewall between Ranger's budget and the Parks and Recreation Department budget to ensure that programmatic cuts do not affect park services because of an increase in overall spending on the Ranger's budget.
- More strategic about how we seek State funding.
- Look at multiple locations for pickleball. Do not focus on a tournament facility. Concern for converting tennis courts to pickleball courts.
- Teach more youth skateboarding.
- Clarify the goal for Harvey West Pool.
- Create equal access for the public for recreational activities.
- Support for mountain biking in Pogonip but not at the Spring Trail (which is not being recommended in the draft). Supportive of providing more connectivity, such as from Harvey West Park to Pogonip Open Space.
- Off-leash areas near hiking trails help dogs release energy before a hike and the B-40 off-leash dog use area works well and could be considered near the Golf Club Drive to Spring Trail connection in Pogonip Open Space.
- Bike valet for special events.
- Supports community fruit gardens and orchards.
- Look further into the trade-offs and environmental effects of synthetic turf fields.
- Improve the tie-in of the Santa Cruz Riverwalk recommendations.
- More attention needs to be given to Lighthouse Field and the City's intentions.
- Public spaces need to be a shared-use to include all people.
- Interested in linear park to connect East and West Cliff Drives - stretches across the City.



- Focus on health equity and be purposeful. Don't only think about an aging population but also consider our youth. Do the people who access the programs reflect our population?
- Public safety is important. When increasing the Ranger's monitoring, where are populations displaced to?
- Partnerships are an important theme and one could be envisioned for the Pogonip Clubhouse.
- Use existing facilities in a more robust way.
- Mountain biking access will require careful consideration.
- Mountain biking is welcome but not everywhere.
- More money needs to be set aside for restrooms and the purchase of the Beach Flats Community Center.
- Extend the hours of the Harvey West Pool.
- Offer valet bike parking Downtown.
- Consider a linear park on Pacific Avenue with moveable street furniture.
- Improve the relationship between existing master plans and the recommendations.
- Protect our precious resources. New trails may inspire future generations of stewardship but there are also real concerns for erosion and damage to the environment. Biking community needs more self- policing.
- Incorporate comments from the River Summit into the plan.

Conservation and Stewardship Chapter

- Seek more native plant restoration throughout the parks system.
- More natural restoration.
- Find more balance between the community and environment.
- Work with UCSC to improve policies and actions.
- The plan represents the commercialization of the parks system and does not discuss natural restoration sufficiently.

L. COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

The community outreach process produced a sampling of information and feedback for the City of Santa Cruz. It created an opportunity for residents to be heard and to offer their views, input, and desires. Staff estimates that more than 1,600 members of the public participated in the process. The information received from both the quantitative data and qualitative input informed the Parks Master Plan 2030 "Recommendations, Goals, Policies and Actions" which will ultimately help meet the needs and wants identified during the process. Additional information was collected after the draft Parks Master Plan 2030 was released to the public.



3.1: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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SECTION 3.2: EMERGING TRENDS

- A. Introduction
- B. Demographic Trends
- C. Recreation Trends
- D. Programming Trends
- E. Additional Park & Recreation Trends

A. INTRODUCTION

In order to set goals and make appropriate recommendations for the future development and maintenance of Santa Cruz's parks, open spaces, beaches and facilities, it is critical to understand emerging trends amongst local user groups as well as national trends in parks and recreation.

A variety of resources were referenced to more fully understand the trends in parks and recreation. These include reports from the National Recreation and Park Association, California State Parks, Learning Resources Network, Outdoor Resources Review Group, Outdoor Industry Association, Recreation & Tourism Initiative, relevant online journals, and Roper ASW.

B. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

As discussed in section 2.3 Community Profile, Santa Cruz has a diverse population. Though there is a large percentage of residents aged 18 to 64, there are significant populations in other age groups as well. By anticipating the needs of each age group, resources and efforts can be focused to ensure there are minimal gaps in service to the community.

ADULTS & YOUNG ADULTS

Adults and young adults are actively participating in newer recreational experiences, including extreme sports and adventure sports. They are generally waiting longer to marry and start families, so recreational activities are more friend- and group-oriented than in past generations, where they have been more family-oriented.



Cowell Beach



3.2: EMERGING TRENDS

UNDER 18

The younger generation is becoming more sedentary and solitary due to technology.¹ For future generations, it is important to encourage outdoor recreation for social and health benefits.



Junior Lifeguard Program at Cowell Beach

BABY BOOMER GENERATION

As the Baby Boomer generation retires, they continue to be very active and are especially looking for amenity-rich and meaningful recreation experiences. In particular, they are drawn to conservation and heritage initiatives.²



Touring Pogonip Open Space through the Walking Adventure Group Program

SENIORS

Adults aged 65 and older comprise nearly ten percent of the City's population. This population is growing and it will be important to tailor facilities and programs to meet their needs and interests. Seniors are increasingly active, with a particular desire for both pedestrian and bicycle trails. An increase in active seniors may require a necessary expansion in therapeutic recreation and exercise programs.



Line dancing class for seniors at Loudon Nelson Community Center



C. RECREATION TRENDS

HEALTH, FITNESS, & LIFE-LONG SPORTS

According to the National Park & Recreation Association, walking, running, biking, and swimming continue to dominate the list of top ten recreational activities. This is in part due to an increased concern for health and fitness. Rather than joining a gym, many are participating in these low-cost individual activities that can start in childhood and continue into adulthood with little financial commitment. These activities are key in the effort to combat childhood obesity as well. Parks and Recreation departments are creating programs and events for both children and adults to provide incentives for exercising.



Pick-up basketball game at Laurel Park

TEAM SPORTS

Another continuing trend is participation in team sports, which also provides an excellent outlet for increased health and fitness. In particular, there is a participation increase in soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby, while there has been a decrease in participation in softball and baseball.



Scott Kennedy Fields, Depot Park

ADVENTURE SPORTS AND RECREATION

As previously mentioned regarding trends amongst adults and young adults, adventure sports are becoming very popular. In particular, there is a new trend towards extreme and adventure sports. The Outdoor Industry Association noted an increase in the popularity of adventure racing, traditional and off-road triathlons, stand-up paddling, kayak fishing, trail running, kayaking, and mountain biking. To accommodate these new sports, facilities and appropriate programming within existing parks and facilities should be considered. Santa Cruz has been a leader in many of these trends.



Emma McCrary Trail, Pogonip Open Space



3.2: EMERGING TRENDS

D. PROGRAMMING TRENDS

MULTI-GENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

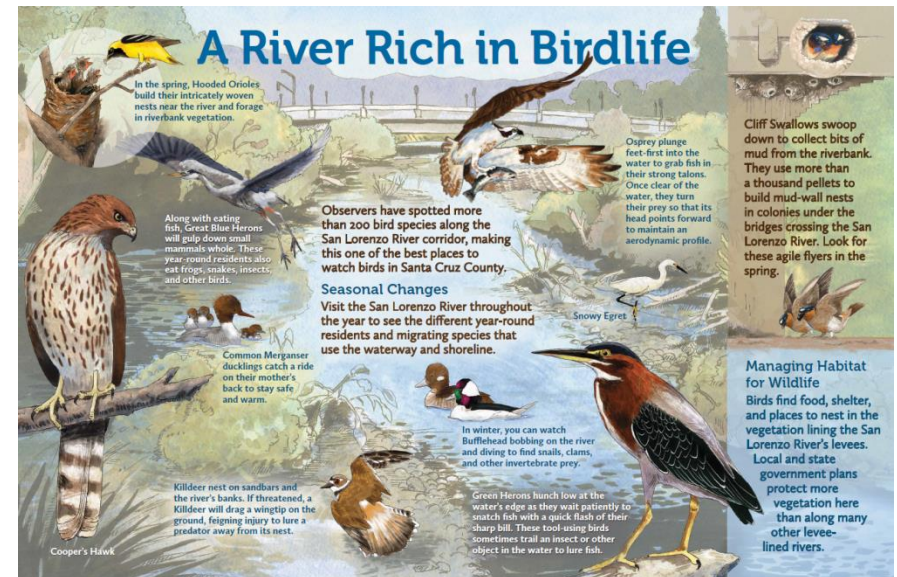
In the past, parks and recreation programming has often been geared towards younger children. Now there is an emerging trend toward programs and events for all age groups. This includes multi-generational programs and events for families to enjoy collectively as well as more targeted niche programs specifically aimed at teens, adults, and the elderly.³



Ping-pong at the Depot Park Freight Building

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

Santa Cruz has been at the forefront of environmental responsibility. And now, with recent droughts and concerns regarding climate change, there continues to be a strong desire for environmental programs and education as well as ensuring that any changes and developments to new and existing parks consider environmental implications. One element of environmental education is the installation of interpretive signage for flora, fauna, and natural processes along trails and waterways – a request that was persistently reiterated by community members and key stakeholders during the outreach process.



Interpretive panel at the Santa Cruz Riverwalk



SPECIAL OUTDOOR EVENTS FACILITIES

The National Recreation and Park Association noted a growing attendance in major special events, such as concerts, festivals, fairs, and parties. To accommodate these events, it is important to have enough group picnic areas, outdoor stages and amphitheatres, and indoor auditoriums with up-to-date equipment that are accessible to all user groups.



Food Truck Event at San Lorenzo Park Benchlands

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Along with the trend towards health and fitness recreation, there is also a trend towards activities with a learning or educational component. From the environmental standpoint, this corresponds with the previously mentioned interpretive signage. From the recreational perspective, as emerging sports gain popularity, new park and facility users can be recruited by offering instruction and skills classes.



Example of an outdoor classroom for educational programs

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMING

In order to attract participants, cooperative, consortium based programs should be offered, which allow several communities or organizations to form partnerships to jointly offer programs. These programs can utilize and share the best resources that the communities or organizations can collectively offer. This can eliminate duplicate programming and attract a larger group of participants to each program.

ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Outdoor and adventure programming for persons with disabilities is a growing trend amongst recreation providers. Along with programs tailored towards those with disabilities, programs designed for inclusive participation provide opportunities for those with and without disabilities to recreate side by side. People without disabilities tend to have more positive impressions and greater acceptance of people with disabilities after engaging in inclusive outdoor recreation programs.⁴



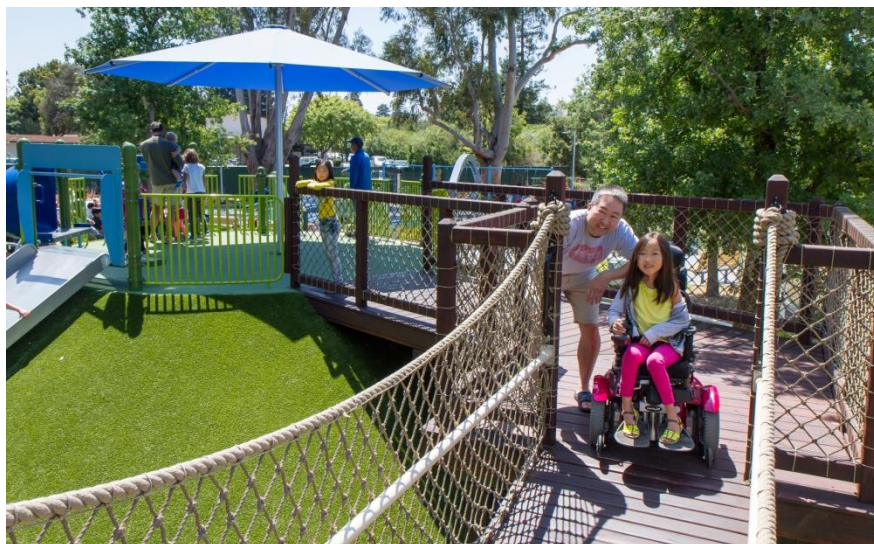
3.2: EMERGING TRENDS

E. ADDITIONAL PARK & RECREATION TRENDS

ACCESS

With an increasingly urban population that relies on public transportation and alternative means of transit, such as bicycles, as a primary mode of transport, the development of comprehensive transportation and bicycle trail networks is crucial. Creating direct linkages between parks and facilities will help to maintain and encourage their usage as well.

There is a continuing trend to provide increased park and facility access for those with disabilities. At the most fundamental level, this involves removing existing physical barriers at parks and facilities. But this trend also incorporates increasing opportunities for inclusive participation in recreational activities by providing equipment that is accessible to those of all mental and physical abilities.⁵ For instance, playgrounds can integrate play equipment with features that appeal to and are accessible to those with and without disabilities, allowing for inclusive play.



Magical Bridge Playground Palo Alto

MARKETING

The trend in marketing and information distribution is towards utilization of technology, which has become the primary means by which most people gather information about use of parks and facilities as well as programming and special events.⁶ This includes having an easily navigable and comprehensive website with maps, brochures, and online registration. Potential park, facility, and program users can be reached by utilizing email newsletters and social media as well.

MANAGEMENT

There are also trends in the management of parks and recreation departments towards smooth, cost efficient operation and streamlined interaction with the public. According to the Learning Resources Network, there is a trend in registration patterns towards people registering in-person and on the day of events.⁷ With so many competing options for recreation, people often do not sign up in advance, wanting to leave themselves open to possible alternative opportunities. This inundation of day-of registrants needs to be accommodated with better customer service so that the parks and recreation department's programs can successfully compete for participants.

¹ California State Parks Planning Division (see reference 1).

² California State Parks Planning Division (see reference 1).

³ Learning Resources Network. (2015). *Top Trends in Recreation Programming, Marketing and Management*. Retrieved from <http://www.lern.org/blog/2014/07/07/top-trends-in-recreation-programming-marketing-and-management/>

⁴ Williams, R., Vogelsong, H., Green, G., and Cordell, K (2004). Outdoor Recreation Participation of People with Mobility Disabilities: Selected Results of the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 22:2, 85-101. Retrieved from <http://srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/pdf/ORDisabilities04.pdf>

⁵ Williams et al (see reference 6).

⁶ Learning Resources Network (see reference 5).

⁷ Learning Resources Network (see reference 5).



CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

WHERE WE'RE GOING & HOW WE'RE GETTING THERE

- 4.1 Goals, Policies & Actions
- 4.2 Asset Inventory & Specific Recommendations
- 4.3 Funding Strategies
- 4.4 Ongoing Planning & Updates



Bird's Eye View of Depot Park, Bicycle Trip Bike Park, and Scott Kennedy Fields



SECTION 4.1: GOALS, POLICIES & ACTIONS

- A. Vision
- B. Goals from the Santa Cruz General Plan 2030
- C. Theme Framework
- D. Goals, Policies, & Actions
- E. Summary

A. VISION

The Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030 (Parks Master Plan 2030) envisions a quality park system that connects the surrounding greenbelts to the Pacific Ocean, preserves and protects its natural heritage, enhances its cultural and recreational environments, and provides a diversity of experiences that enrich lives and support a healthy community.

B. GOALS FROM THE SANTA CRUZ GENERAL PLAN 2030

The goals from the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space chapter of the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 were referenced continuously during the development of the goals, policies, and actions for the Parks Master Plan 2030 in order to ensure compatibility and comprehensive coverage. Concurrently, the Parks Master Plan 2030 expands upon the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 goals in order to more fully support the Vision statement above. The General Plan 2030 goals are included here for reference:

- **Goal PR1:** Ample, accessible, safe, and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreational facilities
- **Goal PR2:** High-quality, affordable recreational programs, activities, events, and services for all
- **Goal PR3:** Well managed, clean, and convenient public access to open space lands and coastline
- **Goal PR4:** An integrated system of citywide and regional trails

C. THEME FRAMEWORK

The City developed a framework of six themes for the Parks Master Plan 2030 that act as indicators of a healthy, balanced, and functional parks system.



Grant Park



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

These themes are used as both a filter and framework for synthesizing the information gathered during the outreach phase into the goals, policies, and actions of the Parks Master Plan 2030. In short, they provide the context for developing goals that align with the City's vision.



THEME 1: DESIGN EXCELLENCE

The City will set a standard of design excellence with the aim of creating an engaging, long-lasting, safe, comfortable, and sustainable park system. By holding the design of the City's parks and facilities to a high standard, assets will attract and retain more users from the community.



THEME 2: PLAY, COMMUNITY HEALTH, & INTERACTION

Parks and public spaces will encourage and support play, health, and interaction. The City will provide places to engage in a multitude of recreational activities, including supporting new trends in recreation. The physical infrastructure of parks and facilities will support and promote public health. Parks will provide opportunities for people to engage in activities together as well as to be active independently.



THEME 3: STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

The City will protect and conserve natural resources while providing opportunities for the community to both support and learn from the

natural environment. Impacts from recreational use will be minimized and additional efforts will be undertaken to restore and expand natural habitats.



THEME 4: CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS

The City's network of parks, open spaces, beaches and public spaces will continue to make all assets accessible to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. A trail system will link the various destinations. Access will be maintained to the open spaces and beaches, and efforts will continue to ensure that use of these areas neither diminishes the quality of the experience nor degrades the environment. The City will continue to seek new opportunities to provide and enhance connections and access for recreation, supporting an active and healthy lifestyle and encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation across the city.



THEME 5: PARTNERSHIPS

The City will strive to partner with schools, the university, other public agencies, and private service providers to provide recreation and natural restoration services to improve efficiency and coverage. Partnerships will help reduce redundancies within the existing parks system, freeing up resources that can be directed towards assessing and meeting unmet needs.



THEME 6: GOOD GOVERNANCE

In order to practice good governance, the City will be transparent and accountable in its decision-making process, while being responsive to the community's needs and open to community participation. Good governance will aid in promoting the community's confidence in the City to not only expand the parks system, but to also manage, maintain, and improve the existing resources and programs.



D. GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

The following seven goals were developed during the Parks Master Plan 2030 process to guide the future development and maintenance of the City of Santa Cruz's parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. These goals are based on community input, direction from the City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission, and an understanding of current needs as well as emerging trends in recreation. The goals also serve to comprehensively address each of the themes detailed above, and the icon for the applicable theme or themes will be noted in relation to each goal. Ultimately, the implementation of these goals will be achieved through the identified policies and actions enumerated below.

PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030 GOALS

GOAL I. Design

- Provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City.

GOAL II. Distribution

- Provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City.

GOAL III. Facilities

- Provide parks and facilities to meet the existing and emerging needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

GOAL IV. Conservation & Stewardship

- Protect the City's natural resources, wildlife habitat, and environment.

GOAL V. Safety

- Maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for all park users.

GOAL VI. Connectivity and Access

- Provide an integrated park system with clean, convenient access to parks, open spaces, and the coastline.

GOAL VII. Administration & Management

- Establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community in a manner that maximizes involvement and support.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

GOAL I. DESIGN

Provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City.

Well-designed and engaging parks and facilities attract users and foster community involvement and interaction. Throughout the outreach process, the Santa Cruz community has indicated a desire for improvements in quality, maintenance, and amenities at existing parks and facilities. Some of these improvements are more focused on sustainability, such as conserving resources, creating habitat, and reducing erosion and sedimentation. Other desires focused on creating attractive and interesting parks, facilities, and programs that offer unique and egalitarian access. National trends suggest that park users are looking for more unique experiences and programming is becoming more multi-generational. Feedback received during the outreach process supports these trends.



POLICY A. Design, upgrade, and maintain parks and facilities with sustainable features and green building best management practices.



Use native, drought-tolerant planting that enhances biodiversity

- ACTION 1.** Use sustainable landscaping design and maintenance practices to conserve water, prevent erosion and run-off, and provide habitat and food sources.
- Investigate and implement the use of recycled water for irrigation.
 - Update irrigation systems to be weather-based, monitored, and controlled remotely.
 - Continue to conduct landscape audits for all parks, and incorporate results into budgetary decisions for upgrading systems and scheduling irrigation.
 - Replace turf in non-recreational areas with water-conserving landscapes, native plantings, and demonstration gardens. Include educational displays describing the environmental benefits.
 - Select materials and native plants to enhance biodiversity and attract pollinators and birds in parks.
 - Increase the number of trees and tree canopy to increase carbon sequestration, reduce heat island effect, and provide habitat.
 - Expand the dedication planting program to plant more trees.



Solar panels can be installed on facilities



Drinking fountains with water bottle fill

- h. Increase the number of bioswales and continue to implement stormwater erosion best management practices to reduce runoff, erosion, and sedimentation.
- i. Incorporate edible and medicinal landscaping treatments within parks and establish community gardens and orchards.

ACTION 2. Employ energy conserving practices to reduce energy use and produce clean energy.

- a. Install computer controlled, energy-efficient lighting in parks and facilities. Minimize light spillover and wildlife impacts.
- b. Install solar products or panels to provide clean energy for lights, new shade structures, or on larger facilities such as Harvey West Pool, the Golf Course Driving Range's deck, and/or the Louden Nelson Community Center.
- c. Implement the Climate Action Plan's short-term and long-term projects.

ACTION 3. Use water conserving practices to reduce potable water use.

- a. Install additional waterless urinals and low flow fixtures in parks and facilities.
- b. Investigate water capture and reuse for large water users such as the DeLaveaga Golf Course.
- c. Consider installing composting toilets in remote restrooms.
- d. Install recycled water systems in facilities for watering adjacent landscapes.
- e. Increase the number of drinking fountains with water bottle fill station features.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY B. Design, renovate, and maintain parks to be attractive and functional, increase longer-term use, optimize space, and enhance the unique identity for each park.



Picnic shelter at San Mateo Shoreline Park



Custom fence and gate at Riverside Gardens

- ACTION 1. Enhance man-made and natural settings when renovating parks through the use of complementary materials, colors, and features and the compatible placement, size, and layout for site furnishings, landscaping, pathways, plazas, artwork, and architectural features. Highlight key natural features in the design.
- ACTION 2. Consider design features and site furnishings that add character and are not replicated in every other community.
- ACTION 3. When feasible, replace asphalt pathways with decorative, permeable, hardscaped pathway surfaces.
- ACTION 4. Create colorful and artistic expressions of landscape and garden design.
- ACTION 5. Consider the function of landscaping in relation to the surrounding setting.
 - a. Install native plants in areas abutting open spaces, waterways, or other natural surroundings.
 - b. Install ornamental plantings along streets, at entrances, along primary pathways, around plazas, or other architectural features.
- ACTION 6. Ensure that new parks have at least one street frontage for increased visibility, safety, and access.
- ACTION 7. Work with the Arts Commission to incorporate interactive art and interpretive signage to highlight cultural, art, and historic elements within parks. Consider developing an Art in the Parks program.
- ACTION 8. Carefully coordinate the site furnishings, plazas, pathways, passive and active recreational features and spaces, and landscaping to create meaningful experiences, minimize conflicts between new and existing uses, and optimize use.



Bench at San Lorenzo Park incorporates art with a function

- ACTION 9. Increase the number of bike parking spaces throughout the parks system.
- ACTION 10. Provide an adequate level of service of restroom facilities and renovate existing restrooms to maintain a clean, safe, inviting appearance. Place restrooms at larger or more extensively used neighborhood parks.
- ACTION 11. Develop and periodically update a site materials, colors, and site furnishings list to ensure continuity in overall park style and design.
- ACTION 12. Maintain a signage program and other features that help maintain a united identity for the parks system as a whole.
- ACTION 13. Increase the replacement of the deteriorating concrete garbage cans with decorative or BearSaver cans to improve appearance and increase recycling.
- ACTION 14. Invest in quality materials and newer designs, technologies, and products that will use less resources over time and ensure that preventative maintenance schedules are followed to maintain their appearance and function.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY C. Improve accessibility for all users to all parks and facilities.



Access ramp to beach

- ACTION 1. Improve access for disabled users.
- Consider improvements to increase beach and open space access for disabled users.
 - Increase accessible parking near facility and park entrances and trailheads.
 - Consider Universal Design principles when locating new recreational facilities to accommodate use by all users.
- ACTION 2. Consider the needs of seniors in circulation and park design and expand recreational facilities for seniors.
- ACTION 3. Provide fitness facilities for all users and encourage multi-generational play spaces.
- ACTION 4. Seek additional community garden space in higher density or lower income areas.
- ACTION 5. Increase bilingual services, programs, and signage, especially in areas where English may not be the primary language for larger populations of residents.



GOAL II. DISTRIBUTION

Provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City.

All neighborhoods and residents in the City should have equal access to quality parks and facilities. During the outreach process, some residents expressed concern about a lack of parks or facilities within close proximity to their neighborhood. Therefore, as new opportunities arise, the City will look at the distribution of existing parks and facilities. As the following policies and actions illustrate, the City will purchase or lease new property where it is most needed, and explore partnerships to improve opportunities for recreation. National trends indicate an increase in health and fitness sports that are easy and inexpensive to participate in, while the Godbe surveys conducted in the Santa Cruz community showed that walking, hiking, and jogging are three of the most popular activities amongst residents. Additionally, studies find that children under 18 are becoming more sedentary and solitary because of technology, so it is important to encourage outdoor recreation for social and health benefits. To support the national trend and findings of the Godbe surveys as well as empower children to recreate outdoors, it is crucial to provide easy access to nearby parks and facilities.



POLICY A. Distribute recreation amenities evenly throughout the community.



Opportunity to add amenities and furnishings at Round Tree Park

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| ACTION 1. | Continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional parkland: 1) in areas that lack existing parks and amenities in close proximity, 2) larger properties that can accommodate a variety of recreational facilities, 3) underutilized land, 4) higher density growth areas, 5) or properties with significant cultural heritage. |
| ACTION 2. | Explore opportunities for partnerships to use land within or adjacent to the City to help provide facilities to meet unmet needs. Examples include improving the joint-use agreements with the school district to allow public use of outdoor recreational areas during non-school hours, working with UCSC to provide pickleball striping at the tennis courts at 207 Natural Bridges Drive, and partnering with the County to provide recreational facilities on the vacant, adjacent parcel near the lawn bowling facility at San Lorenzo Park. |
| ACTION 3. | Evaluate all lands, regardless of size, for the development of small parks and facilities. |
| ACTION 4. | Improve the Joint Use Agreements with the School District to improve access and more clearly define roles and responsibilities, funding, enforcement, and repair to ensure facilities and play areas remain open and in good condition during agreed upon public use times. |



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

GOAL III. FACILITIES

Provide parks and facilities to meet the existing and emerging needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Of equal importance to the quantity and distribution of parks and facilities is the quality of their amenities. These amenities should meet residents' current and anticipated needs, while also providing unique and interesting experiences that encourage repeated use. The following policies reflect feedback from the community outreach process as well as unmet needs identified by the City. Both suggest a need for more sports fields, bike amenities, indoor recreational space, and off-leash dog areas. The City also plans to develop diverse and iconic playgrounds that serve users of all abilities. National studies suggest that adults and young adults are creating new alternative recreational experiences faster than ever before, so it is crucial for parks and facilities to have the flexibility to meet these new and emerging trends in order to best serve the community as a whole. Additionally, the number of seniors will continue to grow, creating an increased desire for facilities and programs that cater to their needs.



POLICY A. When adding new uses to neighborhood parks, consider how the use meets unmet needs of the community in addition to meeting needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

POLICY B. Scale recreational facilities to neighborhood parks that are compatible with the neighborhood character.



Playground at Trescony Park

ACTION 1. Continue to hold neighborhood meetings to help inform the addition, modification, or removal of recreational facilities.

ACTION 1. Provide neighborhood park uses including, but not limited to, off-leash dog use areas, ball fields, skateboard parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, ping-pong tables, playgrounds and tot-lots, climbing and exercise equipment, slack-lining, pickleball courts, community gardens, pump tracks, bocce courts, disc golf courses, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, sand volleyball courts, when designed to minimize impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.

ACTION 2. Considerations in design should include minimizing potential impacts of light spillover, attenuating noise, and providing appropriate tree screening.



POLICY C. Consider increasing the scale and uniqueness of each type of recreational facility located in a community park setting. Provide uses and experiences that are not common in neighborhood parks in order to draw use from the whole community.

POLICY D. Accommodate the need for more active sports fields for club, league, and casual play.



Youth club baseball game at Lower DeLaveaga Park

POLICY E. Develop playgrounds that meet a broad range of physical, creative, and social needs for all demographics.



Magical Bridge Playground in Palo Alto is designed and built for children of all abilities

ACTION 1. Conduct an athletic field feasibility study to explore locations and options for additional multi-use field space (i.e. can accommodate soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, baseball, softball, etc.) and the use of synthetic turf to increase the duration of play.

ACTION 2. Explore or expand more cooperative agreements with the Santa Cruz City School district and UC Santa Cruz for the use of sports fields.

ACTION 3. Ensure sports fields have adequate drainage and lighting to increase the duration of play. Carefully consider health, environmental, and long-term costs when determining whether or not to convert grass to synthetic turf fields.

ACTION 4. Expand opportunities for informal sports play.

ACTION 1. Renovate and maintain playgrounds to create more unique and interesting play experiences. Incorporate:

- a. Universal Design principles so parks and facilities are more inclusive and available to all users.
- b. Natural playgrounds (water, rocks, trees, etc.).
- c. Interactive playgrounds.
- d. Multi-dimensional playgrounds.
- e. Themed playgrounds.
- f. Sand and water play.
- g. Play structures that offer more than one type of play and allow children of varying abilities to play together.
- h. Complementary facilities for adults, such as adult play/exercise equipment near playgrounds.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



Sensory harp at Magical Bridge Playground



Natural willow branch play structures at Mission Bay Playground in San Francisco

- ACTION 2. Assure accessibility and safety on all City playgrounds.
- Use playground surfacing that meets criteria of accessibility and safety.
 - Consider fencing playgrounds.
 - Provide signage about play equipment and safety rules.
 - Separate tot and school-age play areas.



POLICY F. Enhance trail programs, trails, and infrastructure.



Bridge building and trail maintenance



Emma McCrary Trail



Moore Creek Preserve

- ACTION 1.** Develop, improve, and enhance trails to provide for a range of uses.
- a. Evaluate new trail uses through a public process to determine if they are appropriate for a specific open space, and help the City provide for a range of trail uses. Collect usage data on existing trails and study impacts to wildlife and habitat to inform the decision-making process.
 - b. Expand the trail network and connections.
 - c. Seek partnerships with UCSC, State Parks, non-profits, and private property owners to improve network connectivity, signage and trail designations.
 - d. Rate and sign trails with the difficulty level, rules, and etiquette and provide wayfinding markers with accurate mileage.
 - e. Incorporate natural features such as fallen trees or rocks for seating and to block ad-hoc trails.
 - f. Realign trails or perform design improvements to address run-off, erosion, steepness of grade, and/or use conflict issues.
 - g. Provide access to areas with scenic views or historical significance.
 - h. Conduct trail assessments that will inform and help plan for future maintenance projects, grant applications, volunteer efforts. Increase the number of partnerships to help maintain the trails.
 - i. Create and maintain sustainable design guidelines and maintenance standards for existing trails.
 - j. Consider creating spurs from multi-use trails to enable mountain bikers to reach more advanced features and terrain to accommodate a variety of skill levels. Consider adding a technical downhill trail with jumps and obstacles for mountain bikers and adequately sign the trailhead with maps and signage indicating features and the difficulty level.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's Nature Ranger Program

- ACTION 2. Provide opportunities for classes, tours, and practice space.
- a. Seek programming and locations to host children's classes to learn "bike smarts".
 - b. Increase skills clinics for advanced riders.
 - c. Consider working with an outside provider to hold horseback riding classes within an appropriate open space during the summer months.
 - d. Hold more natural and historical interpretive tours and volunteer days.



POLICY G. Accommodate new and emerging trends and satisfy unmet needs.



Outdoor chess and table tennis tables at Louden Nelson Community Center



Seasonal pump track in the San Lorenzo Park benchlands

- ACTION 1.** Provide activities that improve physical activity and mental health for all ages, abilities, and interests.
- Provide outdoor game tables such as chess, checkers, table tennis, or foosball.
 - Continue to promote outdoor fitness and health initiatives and increase the distribution and number of outdoor exercise facilities.
 - Seek opportunities for community garden space, particularly on the east side of San Lorenzo River and in the Beach Area.
 - Seek opportunities and partnerships for the use of a walking track.
 - Consider locations for adding climbing wall and slack-lining facilities to be placed in equally distributed locations.
 - Consider adding a tennis court facility on the east side of the San Lorenzo River.
 - Identify a location for a pickleball facility with 6 to 10 courts and/or smaller facilities that can be located in different areas of the City.
 - Increase the number of wildlife interpretive signage and viewing areas.
 - Seek opportunities for the installation of a ropes course in a natural or urban setting.
 - Consider establishing a drone course only after further study demonstrates use of the facility would not result in significant impacts to sensitive habitat areas and wildlife including disturbance or harm to nesting birds. Prohibit recreational use of drones and/or establishment of a recreational drone course within sensitive habitat areas or near wildlife nesting areas that could cause disturbance or harm to breeding or nesting wildlife.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



- k. Provide spaces for intergenerational programming and activities to increase the interactions between older and younger generations.
- l. Develop more bike parks, pump tracks, and jump facilities with features and amenities to meet a variety of skill levels.

ACTION 2.

Expand concessions in parks and recreational facilities.

- a. Continue to evaluate and monitor locations for mobile food vendors and determine if site furnishings or other amenities can be added to support successful locations.



POLICY H. Upgrade, acquire and develop new community recreational facility buildings to accommodate new and emerging recreational trends and satisfy unmet needs.



Roller derby bout at Kaiser Permanente Arena

- ACTION 1. Prioritize upgrading and optimizing existing community recreational facilities.
- ACTION 2. Capitalize on opportunities for partnerships and joint-use agreements to develop new community recreational facilities when rare opportunities are presented.
- ACTION 3. Expand partnerships and concessionaire agreements to allow for outside providers to provide a recreational service on City land.
- ACTION 4. Continue to seek community recreational facilities to host community events and programming. Continue to provide large gathering areas for family celebrations and group functions.
- ACTION 5. Consider partnerships to allow for public recreational uses in the permanent Kaiser Permanente Arena during the Santa Cruz Warriors off-season.
 - a. Evaluate potential Parks and Recreation programming uses, events, designs, and costs during the planning phases of the arena.
 - b. Explore mechanisms to facilitate Parks and Recreation Department programming to facilitate multi-purpose sports and events throughout the year.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY I. Seek opportunities to enhance off-leash dog use experiences while minimizing conflicts with other park uses and wildlife.



Example of fenced off-leash dog area with separate areas for smaller and larger dogs

- ACTION 1. New formal off-leash dog use areas in parks will be completely fenced and located in an underutilized area.
- ACTION 2. Identify a location for a fenced off-leash dog use area for the Lower Westside neighborhood.
- ACTION 3. Provide amenities and features that enhance the experience for dogs and their owners such as drinking fountains, shade structures, seating, picnic tables, and play features.
- ACTION 4. Consider creating separate, smaller facilities for smaller dogs or for dog training to reduce dog conflicts.
- ACTION 5. Increase enforcement of off-leash and dog access laws.
- ACTION 6. Clearly sign rules and etiquette to minimize conflicts. Educate users of the importance of cleaning-up waste to reduce odor impacts to the park and surrounding property owners. Work with the County Animal Shelter to provide animal behavior classes at dog parks.
- ACTION 7. Review the existing day-use access areas for domestic animals onto beaches and open spaces. Consider creating a licensing program to manage off-leash dog use.
- ACTION 8. Consider locations for off-leash dog use near open spaces to allow dogs to release energy before embarking on designated hiking trails.



GOAL IV. CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP

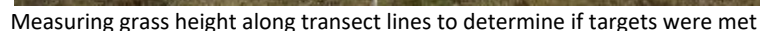
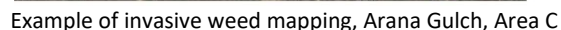
Protect the City's natural resources, native wildlife habitats and plant communities, and environment.

Santa Cruz has an incredible wealth of open space and natural resources to manage and protect. During the outreach process, community members expressed a strong desire to preserve existing open spaces. Though the City's natural areas provide the majority of habitat within the City's park system, urban parks can also serve an important role in providing habitat and connectivity across the greater landscape. Many urban parks are located adjacent to open spaces, riparian areas, water bodies, or the coastline. Some species have adapted to human influences and development and find habitat at an urban park or facility, such as a bird nesting under a bridge. Other species may make use of urban parks as migratory habitat or for passage to other habitat areas. A park's location may be important in terms of greater connectivity, enabling wildlife to cross, shelter, drink, and/or feed. It is important to consider the role of urban parks for increasing biodiversity. Restoration plans will help identify, prioritize and implement long-term projects. The provision of recreational facilities within open spaces requires additional consideration to minimize impacts to the environment. National trends suggest an increased interest in environmental programs and education, which will help engender environmental stewardship in current and future generations. As the baby boomer generation retires, they continue to be active and are drawn to conservation causes, so they can be enlisted to help with volunteer and educational efforts.



POLICY A. Maintain and enhance natural habitats to increase biodiversity and sustain long-term ecological function.

- ACTION 1.** Understand and maintain the diversity of native plant communities.
- Map and describe plant communities; analyze successional trends; and formulate site-specific vegetation management goals, targets, restoration methods, and monitoring protocols for parks and open spaces.
 - Periodically update the inventory of invasive plants and input data into Cal-Mapper, Cal-Flora to help track the spread of invasive plants at a regional level.
- ACTION 2.** Understand and maintain the diversity of native wildlife.
- Identify wildlife usage, movement patterns, and habitat features with high value to wildlife and formulate site-specific management goals for parks and open spaces.



- b. Inventory critical and sensitive wildlife habitats and develop management strategies for their protection.
- c. Collect data to identify how urban parks can be landscaped and contain features to help improve habitat and connectivity across the City for specific species.
- d. Consider programs and partnerships to increase the documentation of local wildlife such as through eBird, iNaturalist, Bio Scan, and other wildlife data collection sources to increase the amount of data available for informing management decisions.

Develop and implement restoration work plans to restore natural processes and control invasive species.

- a. Identify habitat specific restoration actions to be implemented within each park/open space, including a yearly schedule and long-term timeline based on existing Master Plan policies and actions. Utilize an adaptive management approach to guide and prioritize specific restoration activities with the goal being the establishment of functional ecosystems. Use SMART principles (specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused, and time-bound) as a framework. Prioritize restoration objectives with the number one priority being the conservation of rare, threatened, or endangered species and their supporting habitats. Undertake projects in areas that would increase public exposure and education. Develop a condensed work plan for each site that is practical to use in the field for maintenance staff and volunteers. Create clear guidelines for City personnel, contractors, and volunteers that reflect the conditions of specific projects and sites to ensure that sensitive resources are not mistakenly damaged during restoration activities.



Cattle grazing at Moore Creek Preserve to restore the coastal terrace prairie and improve habitat for the endangered Ohlone tiger beetle



Partnering with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's Earth Stewards Program to teach students job skills in the natural restoration field

- b. Conduct periodic training sessions for City personnel, contractors, and volunteers on best management practices to prevent the entry of invasive plants and maintenance of existing native plants.
- c. Seek partnerships with agencies, schools, universities, organizations, and community groups to help learn, fund, perform, or study restoration activities.
- d. Maintain an adopt-a-park program and engage and support community members who wish to commit to a longer-term undertaking. Provide guidance and assistance to ensure work is performed in accordance with a restoration plan.
- e. During future organizational reviews and strategic planning, consider the creation of an Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Division.
- f. Increase the number of large clean-up days to remove waste from illegal camping activities. Continue to provide training to participants to reduce the risk from public hazards. Provide ongoing, steady, monitored maintenance to prevent the large scale build-up of trash. Ensure that clean-up efforts avoid damaging bird nests.
- g. Develop a funding strategy for the long-term implementation of the work plans.
- h. Seek partnerships to study, enhance, and expand wildlife corridors, increase habitat value, control invasive plant species, and educate the public whenever possible.
- i. Work with county, state, and federal agencies to identify and control feral or pest populations that have a negative impact on plants and/or wildlife.

ACTION 4.

- Improve habitat within urban parks and facilities.
 - a. Identify and convert non-usable turf fields to native gardens. Base landscaping treatments on appropriate native communities, taking into account geology and other microsite conditions. Create park specific planting lists and incorporate Xerces Society planting recommendations to increase habitat for pollinators.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



Community members team-up to remove invasive species at Tyrrell Park



Native planting along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk

- b. Consider certifying landscaping through the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife Program and post signs to increase awareness of the importance of gardens for butterflies, bees, birds, and other wildlife.
- c. Increase the tree canopy and/or provide plants and features that provide habitat value in public right-of-ways, drainage areas, or on other lands managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- d. Inventory trees and increase the tree canopy to increase bird nesting opportunities, improve air quality, decrease heat island effect, and increase carbon sequestration.
- e. Explore the installation of habitat enhancement structures in parks, such as owl boxes near turf fields to help control gophers.

ACTION 5. Use native species occurring naturally on similar sites in ecological restoration projects when feasible.

- a. Use seed and cuttings collected from the same geographic area to revegetate or enhance degraded areas.
- b. Prevent the spread of *Phytophthora* in city parks and open spaces.
- c. Use fill, mulch, plants, and seed mixtures that are free of non-native plants and disease in ecological restoration projects.
- d. Work with nurseries to grow native plants needed for ecological restoration projects.
- e. Use site appropriate native or sterile plants for erosion control. Do not use invasive, non-native plant species.
- f. Use plant material that is ecologically and visually appropriate to the surrounding wild landscape and appropriate to the stage of plant community development at the site.



Downtown Tree Walk

- ACTION 6.** Maintain and expand tree canopy coverage and manage forest diseases, when necessary, to protect native biological diversity and critical ecosystem functions.
- a. Assess impacts and determine strategies to address areas if infested by high priority insects and diseases; utilize best phytosanitary management practices to control the spread of disease and infestations; support research to guide land management decisions; utilize nursery stock from nurseries that implement best management practices and test for *Phytophthora*; and pursue partnerships with public agencies to implement treatments.
 - b. Complete an inventory to quantify the number of trees on public lands including streets, parks, and open spaces. Increase the City's urban tree canopy by 10% between 2008 and 2020.
 - c. Promote the Urban Forestry Program to provide new trees for public property, celebrate Arbor Day, and increase the number of neighborhood tree plantings. Coordinate the preservation of trees whenever possible. Expand the Heritage Tree Grant Program.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY B. Manage greenbelt and open spaces for conservation and to minimize recreational use impacts.



The endangered Ohlone tiger beetle



Livestock grazing to control invasive plant species at Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge

- ACTION 1.** Protect and enhance the habitat and populations of special status plant and animal species.
- Monitor locations and conditions of special status plants and wildlife and their habitats within a park or open space.
 - Conduct surveys for special status plants and wildlife during the appropriate season before significant site-specific development or any unusual anticipated increase in use. Modify the project or use to avoid impacting such plants or wildlife.
 - Ensure resource conservation and environmental sensitivity in project design and construction.
 - Evaluate new uses for potential impacts to watershed, riverine, stream, and riparian environments.
 - Protect areas with special status species from negative human activities and other impacts such as erosion, trampling, and litter. Examples of protective measures include trail rerouting, educational signs, and fencing.
 - Give priority to protection of special status species.
 - Continue to partner with wildlife agencies in managing special status species.

- ACTION 2.** Protect, maintain and enhance habitat features that are important to native wildlife and native plant communities.
- Avoid, minimize, or off-set impacts on wildlife and native vegetation when planning trails and other facilities.
 - Revegetate plants native to the specific habitat in buffer/setback areas adjacent to creeks and wetlands.
 - Minimize potential erosion from new trails using sustainable design features and improve existing eroding trails.
 - Monitor the impacts from new improvements to identify remediation solutions and to inform future decision-making.



Volunteers repair erosion on the U-Con Trail, Pogonip Open Space

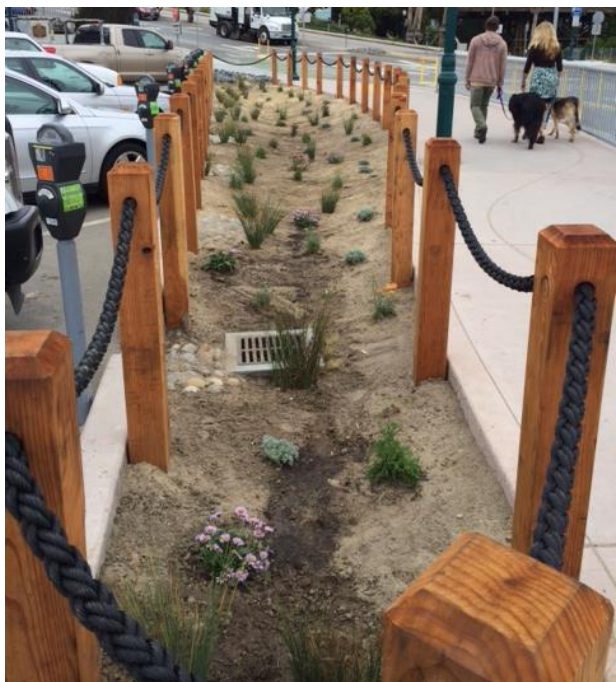


Youth Trail Crew repairing a puncheon crossing

- e. Leave snags and fallen trees in areas where they do not pose a fire or physical hazard, to provide cover and nesting sites for animals, and nursery conditions for forest seedlings.
- f. Evaluate the wildlife habitat value associated with human-made structures before altering or removing them and avoid or mitigate any impacts.
- g. Discourage human intrusion into sensitive wildlife habitats by appropriate placement of facilities and trails.
- h. Identify and eliminate barriers (e.g. remove unnecessary fences, old barbed wire, and other barriers) and provide safe crossings (e.g. protect existing and promote additional wildlife crossings and use wildlife friendly fencing) to enhance wildlife movement.
- i. Reduce conflicts between wildlife and humans through notification and education, control of human access and, as a last resort, control of wildlife presence or movement in concert with State and/or Federal agencies.
- j. Where consistent with riparian and wetland protection, provide views or low impact access.
- k. Evaluate new uses for potential impacts to watershed, riverine, stream, and riparian environments.
- l. Work with local and regional agencies to implement strategies to reduce or mitigate impacts of uses and development on the City's watershed lands.
- m. Conserve creek, riparian, and wetland resources in accordance with the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan, San Lorenzo Urban River Plan, Moore Creek Interim Management Plan, Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan, and the Neary Lagoon Management Plan.
- n. In the CEQA review process for new projects, evaluate and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive habitat (including special-status species and nesting birds) for sites located within or adjacent to these areas.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



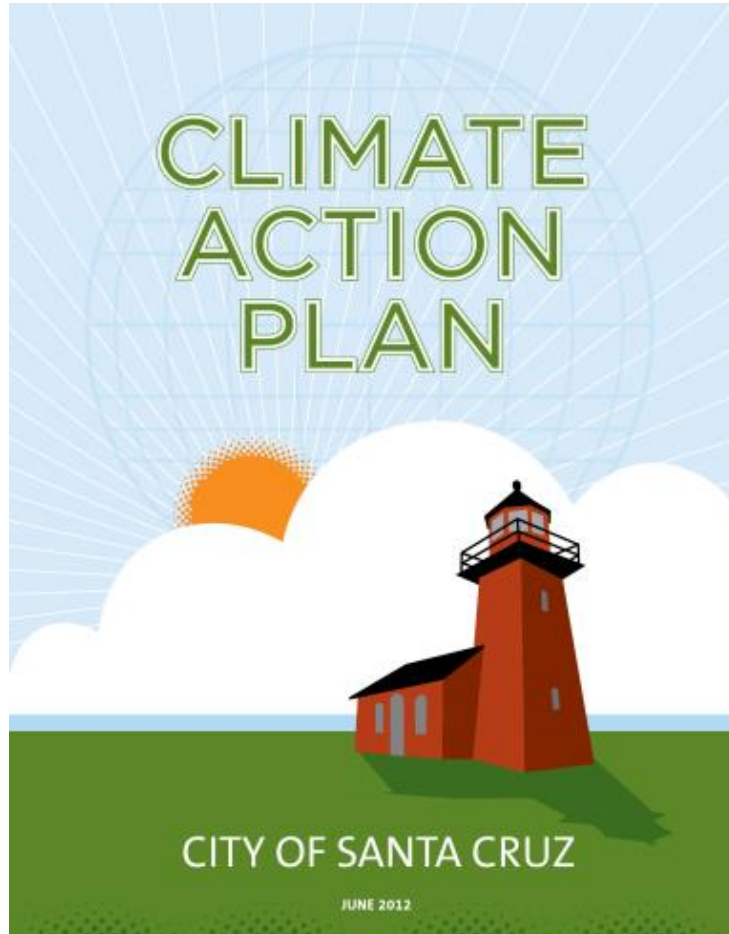
Bioswale near the Cowell Beach parking lot

- o. Maintain a trash management policy and continue to install new receptacles designed to prevent trash from subsidizing predator and pest populations (corvids, gulls, rats, raccoons).
- p. Continue to conform to the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- q. Protect coastal roosts and rookeries in the course of activities that could disturb or disrupt breeding or result in loss of habitat, such as construction activities, recreational activities, or special events.
- r. Implement site design and erosion control measures for new trails and other facilities in areas subject to high erosion hazards or adjacent to streams and wetlands.

- ACTION 3. Protect waterbodies, including creek systems, riparian environments, and wetlands from uses that would degrade their value to native species.
- a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from roads and trails.
 - b. Increase the number of bioswales to increase percolation, entrap and filter sediments, and reduce stormwater runoff from developed areas.
 - c. Decrease illegal camping and access to non-designated areas.



POLICY C. Support and seek funding for long-term projects.



- ACTION 1. Continue to partner with the Resources Conservation District to reduce stormwater run-off, sedimentation, and erosion.
- ACTION 2. Pursue reclaimed water, water capture, and water recharge projects to decrease erosion and sedimentation and conserve water.
- ACTION 3. Continue to implement the Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan.
- ACTION 4. Continue to improve partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations to help address regional challenges such as habitat fragmentation, connectivity, global warming, invasive species control, fishery management, and water pollution.
- ACTION 5. Seek grant funding opportunities for specific projects but ensure funding is available to maintain restored areas to prevent issues from reemerging after the project is complete.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY D. Provide more environmental education to the public.



Parks & Recreation's Camp Spot Rocks in Neary Lagoon

- ACTION 1.** Provide youth with environmental education programs.
- Collaborate with City schools and others on outdoor classroom programs. Special emphasis should be provided in engaging youth in meaningful ways to learn and appreciate the local plants and wildlife. Build wild elements into parks and open spaces, formal and informal play areas, with materials that encourage inquiry and dialogue with nature.
- ACTION 2.** Provide interpretive programs for the public.
- Provide more interpretive signage in parks and open spaces and along waterways.
 - Continue the downtown tree walk tour.
 - Consider the development of park docent program.
 - Provide interpretive education programs led by park rangers and/or docents. Partner with organizations and hold classes and interpretive walks.
 - Continue to partner with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History to provide interpretive tours within the City's open spaces.



GOAL V. SAFETY

Maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for all park users.

For the community to enjoy the City's parks and utilize their amenities, park users need to feel safe and comfortable. Throughout the outreach process, residents repeatedly provided feedback concerning a perceived lack of safety and cleanliness in the parks and open spaces, which has affected usage of parks and playgrounds. Therefore, the City proposes to improve the safety and cleanliness in the parks by mitigating the impacts of illegal activities through design treatments to help create more visible, navigable, and activated parks. At the same time, increased enforcement of rules and presence of rangers, police, park hosts, and mental health services in parks will help to deter illegal activities.



POLICY A. Mitigate impacts of illegal activities on park use.



Camp clean-up with Rangers



Levee damage caused by illegal camping

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| ACTION 1. | Use defensible space design treatments to deter illegal behaviors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase lighting and visibility in parks and on trails. b. Increase visibility into parks by maintaining clear lines of site and eliminating hidden nooks and enclaves. c. Activate underutilized spaces by providing additional programming and facilities to encourage lawful uses. d. Make parks easily navigable with way-finding elements. e. Explore fencing, locking, and temporary closures of areas of concern. |
| ACTION 2. | Explore rules and policies regarding park uses (drones, off-leash dogs, camping, and closures). |
| ACTION 3. | Develop a caretaker or park host program to help care for open spaces and community parks. |
| ACTION 4. | Explore partnerships and programs to provide information and referrals about mental health, drug abuse, and homeless services. |
| ACTION 5. | Increase resources to remove trash and debris from illegal camping. |



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

POLICY B. Increase patrols and enforcement.



Increased park ranger presence in downtown Santa Cruz

- ACTION 1.** Increase park ranger/police presence and interaction.
- a. More patrolling earlier in the morning and later in the evening.
 - b. More alternative methods of patrol (bikes, motorcycles, etc.).
- ACTION 2.** Increase enforcement of park rules.



GOAL VI. CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS

Provide an integrated park system with clean, convenient public access to parks, open spaces, and the coastline.

The network of parks, open spaces, beaches, and trails provide access and connectivity across the City. They provide opportunities for recreation, a buffer from the more urban environment, a means for alternative transportation, and critical natural resources. The beaches and open spaces embody the City's unique sense of place and identity. In many areas of the City, trails provide nearly continuous links between parks, open spaces, and the beaches. National trends indicate a move towards more interconnected park systems through trails, connector parks, and greenways, allowing easier park and facility access to residents of all ages and abilities. A greater emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle pathways also aligns with national trends indicating an increase in the popularity of health and fitness recreation. The City will continue to resolve gaps in the park system through partnerships and land acquisition. Some neighborhoods are disconnected and it is important that all neighborhoods have access to quality parks and facilities as described under Goal II. Distribution.

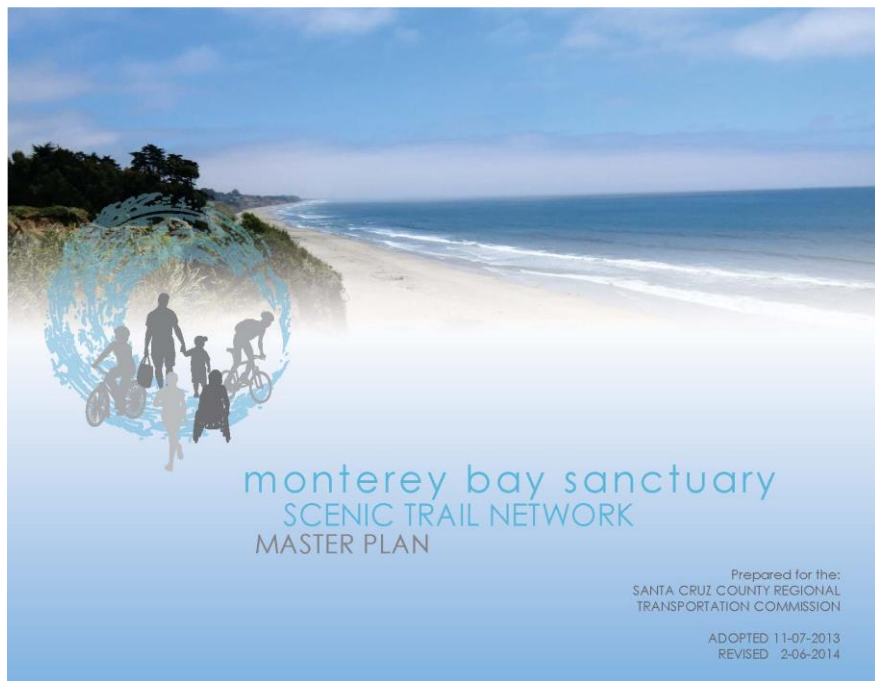


POLICY A. Continue to integrate, expand, and improve the connective and accessible network of parks, open spaces, and trails.

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| ACTION 1. | Continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional land to enhance recreational corridors and extend network connectivity. Seek properties and improvements that fill gaps within the trail system, expand recreational opportunities along existing corridors, or provide important habitat and wildlife connections. |
| ACTION 2. | Implement the San Lorenzo Urban River Plan and enhance and maintain the recreational value of the riverfront. |
| ACTION 3. | Help develop and implement an integrated design, land-use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public safety, access, connectivity, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline. |



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan

- ACTION 4. Support and help implement and maintain the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail multi-use path. Seek opportunities for additional parkland along the corridor. Consider adding complementary features and design treatments at existing parks along the trail such as by placing wayfinding signage and maps, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, picnic areas, shade structures, artwork, or plazas adjacent to the trail.
- ACTION 5. Acquire new open space when there are opportunities to increase access and improve public safety and management. If the opportunity presents itself, support the acquisition and management of Lighthouse Field.
- ACTION 6. Work with the Public Works Department to help implement the Active Transportation Plan and connect major parks throughout the City with smaller loop options and spur trails that connect to the bike and pedestrian system through the City and to the regional network.
- ACTION 7. Support a Felton-Santa Cruz recreational trail and transportation/commuter corridor.
- ACTION 8. Provide and maintain trails within parks and appropriate open space areas.
- ACTION 9. Develop trailhead locations.
 - a. Provide well signed trails with maps.
 - b. Provide parking.



POLICY B. Protect, maintain, and enhance publicly accessible coastal, riverfront, and open space areas to ensure they maintain a safe, quality appearance. Provide recreational and educational experiences that reflect the unique sense of place and identity of Santa Cruz.



Multi-use trail project at Arana Gulch Open Space

- ACTION 1.** Ensure staffing-levels are adequate to patrol, maintain, and clean the coastal, riverfront, and open space areas.
- ACTION 2.** Evaluate existing and develop new rules, policies, and programs to ensure they promote a safe and clean environment.
- ACTION 3.** Ensure existing facilities and site furnishing are updated and new ones are added in a manner that ensures a quality appearance that maintains continuity over time as projects are phased-in.
- ACTION 4.** Continue to partner with agencies, organizations, and community members to keep the coastal, riverfront, and open space areas pristine and attractive.
- ACTION 5.** Maintain and improve access and the recreational value of the coastal, river front, and open space areas while ensuring that new uses, facilities, or site furnishings do not diminish their intrinsic qualities and natural resources.



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

GOAL VII. ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community to maximize involvement and support.

Well-managed parks, facilities, and programs attract more use and participation from residents, which helps to generate community support for the parks system. During the outreach process, key stakeholders suggested the need to increase both maintenance staff and park rangers to provide a better experience for park users. In order to increase staffing and accomplish many of the improvements outlined in this Parks Master Plan 2030, a sustainable funding mechanism must be developed. National trends indicate an increase in the use of technology for promoting and registering for programs and events as well as providing basic information to park visitors, so utilizing the City's website and email lists is critical in communicating efficiently and cost-effectively with the public. Technology can help to reduce administrative costs to allow more funds for improvements to parks, facilities, programs, and staffing.



POLICY A. Administer parks and recreation facilities to continue to deliver quality parks and recreation services.



Youth Trail Crew Program and Park rangers

- ACTION 1.** Develop maintenance and safety standards for parks and facilities and evaluate staffing levels to achieve goals.
- When acquiring new facilities, consider long-term staffing and maintenance costs.
 - Increase full-time staff to improve park maintenance
 - Increase the number of park rangers to allow more focus on natural resource management, park maintenance, and interpretation in addition to law enforcement and illegal camp clean-ups.
 - Hire a grant writer.
- ACTION 2.** Work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to establish and maintain annual short-term and long-term priorities for capital improvement projects that are proposed to the City Council. Develop and maintain conditions assessments to help inform the review process which include information on year of installation, maintenance costs and issues, replacement costs or alternatives, safety concerns, and other relevant data.
- ACTION 3.** Coordinate efforts with CA State Park and other recreation providers to ensure public use areas are adequately maintained.



POLICY B. Continue to improve community outreach and communication.



WebTrac, on the City of Santa Cruz website, allows for online registration

POLICY C. Develop a sustainable funding mechanism for the maintenance and operation of City parks, open space, beaches and facilities.



Friends of Parks & Recreation homepage

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| ACTION 1. | Publicize park programs and facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to utilize website for marketing events, programs, and classes. b. Utilize emerging technologies to publicize events, programs, classes, and park and facility improvements. c. Consider developing an outdoor tour cell phone application where park users can take tours and learn about the history, environment, and things to do and see when they visit each park and open space. |
| | |
| ACTION 1. | Increase funding for parks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consider a ballot initiative or other alternative financing options to augment Parks and Recreation Department funding. b. Expand partnerships with private organizations. c. Develop maintenance agreements with other entities. |
| ACTION 2. | Develop, implement and adopt a parks program and increase volunteer efforts. |
| ACTION 3. | Consider the establishment of a parks endowment fund. |
| ACTION 4. | Consider prioritizing projects which are economic generators and draw use from residents and visitors. |
| ACTION 5. | Utilize and support Friends of Parks and Recreation (FOPAR) to help in their fundraising, scholarship, and funding of smaller special projects to improve the parks system. |
| ACTION 6. | Evaluate fees and use rates to reflect the current costs to provide services. During the fee study, consider the viability of use passes to help offset maintenance costs. |



4.1: GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS

E. SUMMARY

The goals, policies, and action items developed during the Parks Master Plan 2030 process will guide the future development of the City of Santa Cruz’s parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. Many reflect long-standing goals and others are based on community input, direction from the City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission, and an understanding of current needs as well as emerging trends in recreation, the action items represent the broad spectrum of values, needs, and desires of the Santa Cruz community.

In addition to the overarching goals, policies, and actions just presented, specific recommendations for individual parks, open spaces, beaches and facilities evolved out of the outreach process. The following section, 4.2 Asset Inventory and Specific Facility Recommendations, outlines the recommendations for each park, open space, beaches, or facility in the park system. The general policies and actions in the previous sections would also apply to each of these facilities.



SECTION 4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to broader goals for the park system, the *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) has specific recommendations for each location. These recommendations are based on the input received during the community outreach process, input from City staff on current usages and condition of the facility, and opportunities to meet unmet needs of the community.

The following pages contain detailed descriptions of each of the City's assets. Each assessment includes recommendations, location or access point, proposed classification, size, master plan where applicable, a general description, photos and maps, and a table describing and assessing the condition of the asset's features.

For ease of use, the facilities are shown in alphabetical order:

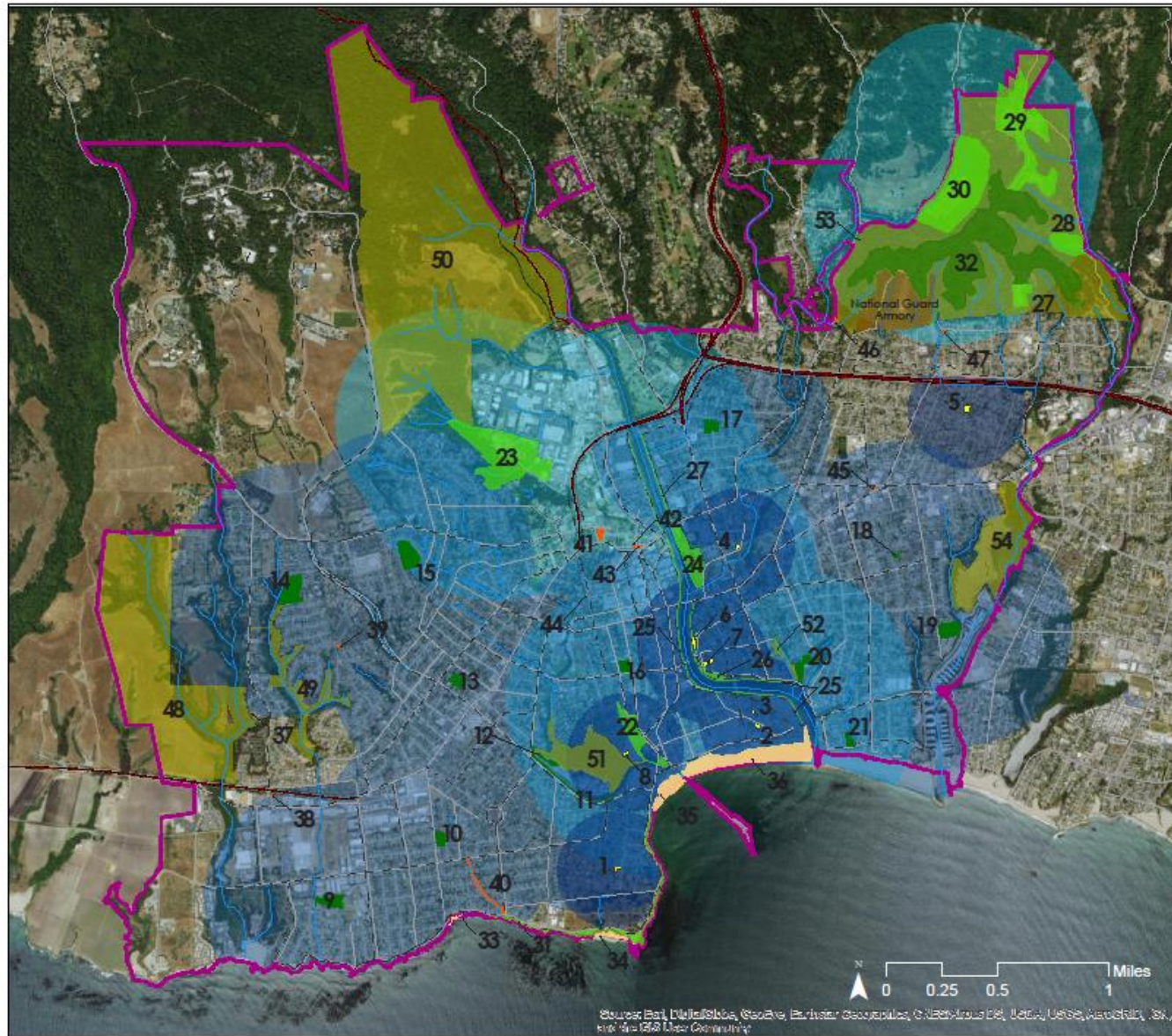
- Arana Gulch Open Space
- Arroyo Seco
- Beach Flats Community Center
- Beach Flats Park
- Bethany Curve
- Branciforte Dog Park
- Carmelita Cottages
- Central Park
- Chestnut Park
- City Hall Complex
- Civic Auditorium
- Cowell & Main Beaches
- DeLaveaga Park – Audrey Stanley Grove
- DeLaveaga Park – DeLaveaga Archery Range
- DeLaveaga Park – DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course
- DeLaveaga Park – DeLaveaga Golf Course and Maintenance Yard
- DeLaveaga Park – DeLaveaga Wilderness Area
- DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove
- DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park Office
- Depot Freight Building
- Depot Park, Bicycle Trip Bike Park, and Scott Kennedy Fields
- Downtown Santa Cruz
- East Cliff Accent
- El Portal Park
- Frederick Street Park
- Garfield Park
- Grant Park
- Harvey West Park
- Harvey West Park – Harvey West Pool
- Harvey West Park – Kids Kottage and Wagner Cottage
- Harvey West Park – Ranger Station
- Harvey West Park – Scout and Clubhouse
- Its Beach
- Jessie Street Marsh
- John D. Franks Park
- Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park
- La Barranca Park



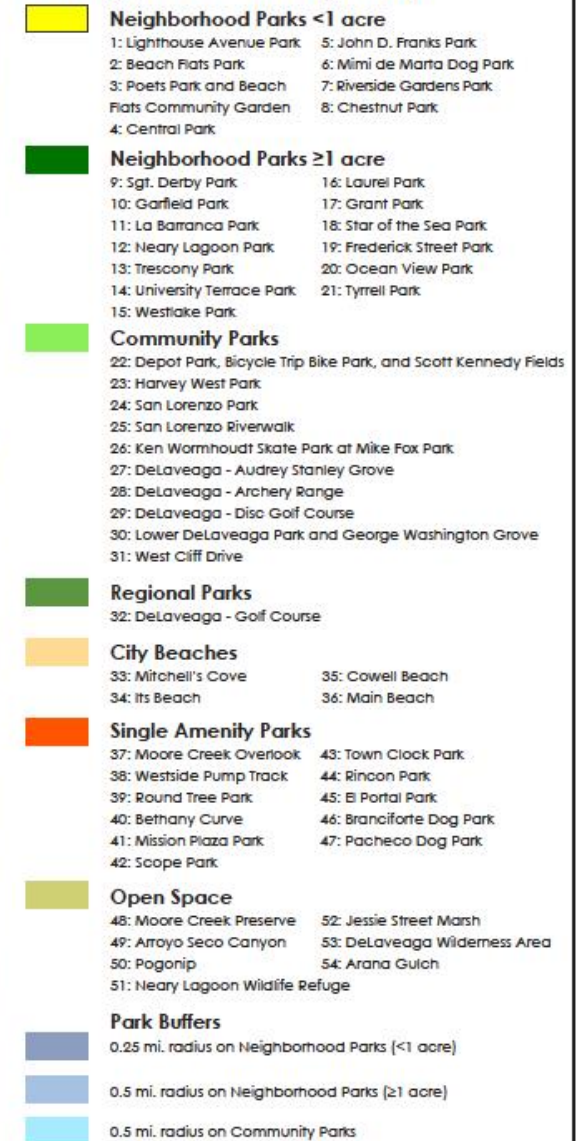
4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Laurel Park
- Lighthouse Avenue Park
- Louden Nelson Community Center
- Mimi de Marta Dog Park
- Mission Plaza Park
- Mitchell's Cove
- Moore Creek Overlook
- Moore Creek Preserve
- Museum of Natural History
- Neary Lagoon Park
- Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge
- Ocean View Park
- Pacheco Dog Park
- Parks and Recreation Administration Building
- Parks Maintenance Yard
- Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden
- Pogonip Clubhouse
- Pogonip Open Space
- Rincon Park
- Riverside Gardens Park
- Round Tree Park
- San Lorenzo Park
- San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling
- Santa Cruz Riverwalk
- Santa Cruz Wharf, Wharf Headquarters, and Maintenance Yard
- Scope Park
- Senior Citizens Opportunity (222 Market Street)
- Sgt. Derby Park
- Star of the Sea Park
- Surfing Museum
- Town Clock
- Trescony Park
- Tyrrell Park
- University Terrace Park
- West Cliff
- Westlake Park
- Westside Pump Track

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Existing Park Coverage Map





4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Arana Gulch Open Space



Location: Mentel Ave. @ Agnes St., Brommer St. @ 7th Ave., and Broadway @ Frederick St.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 67.7 acres

Master Plan: Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006)

Arana Gulch Open Space was developed to include a multi-use path which connects Brommer Street, Broadway, and Agnes Street. The multi-use path was constructed to be ADA compliant, allowing for members of the public with mobility difficulties to access an open space. Bridges cross Arana Creek and Hagemann Gulch, offering elevated and unique perspectives of the open space. The open space also includes roughly a mile of hiking trails. Interpretive signage was installed to educate visitors about the unique habitat and history of the property. Grazing is conducted onsite to help restore the SC tarplant and coastal prairie. Many visitors enjoy watching the cattle graze. The open space also overlooks the Santa Cruz Harbor. The City has adopted a Habitat Management Plan and works with a technical advisory group to help guide restoration efforts.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to implement the Habitat Management Plan and restore the Santa Cruz tarplant population and coastal prairie, woodland, and riparian areas.
2. Explore the Joint Use Agreement with the Santa Cruz Port District to allow for the public use of the restroom facility near the harbor yard, or explore opportunities to add a porta-potty on the west side of the Hagemann Bridge entrance.
3. Provide educational tours to improve awareness and seek scientific partnerships to inform restoration efforts.

Feature		Condition	Description
Site Access	Parking	Very Good	Off-street parking is provided at the intersection of Broadway and Frederick Street.
	Entrance Sign	Very Good	Three large trailhead signs with trail map.
	Trail	Very Good	Multi-use trail is pervious concrete and hiking trails are bare ground.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Very Good	Two wood, nine recycled plastic.
	Bike Parking	Very Good	Four U racks.
	Combined Garbage & Recycling	Very Good	Three metal BearSaver cans.
	Interpretive Signs	Very Good	Seven interpretive signs, six steel frames, one large wooden sign.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Arroyo Seco



Location: Access at University Terrace Park and Grandview St. near Escalona Dr.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 33.94 acres

Master Plan: Meder Canyon Management Plan (1999)

Arroyo Seco Canyon is a natural ravine with an approximately one mile long multi-use path (bike-pedestrian)/maintenance road connecting University Terrace Park to Grandview Street. The top section is paved. Public Works maintains the majority of the property. Parks and Recreation primarily performs vegetation and trail maintenance activities along the lower trail section. In 1980, a concept plan which included rest stops and access improvements was approved. Implementing the plan did not receive support during future neighborhood meetings and the project was not pursued. The Meder Creek Management Plan was developed by Public Works and provides recommendations for maintenance and restoration activities. Recreational improvements could include the removal of invasive plants, formalizing the ad-hoc trail connections from the neighborhoods to the east which connect down to the trail, and providing exercise equipment, benches, and interpretive and park signage. Additional neighborhood input is needed before moving forward.

Recommendations:

Improve connections to lower and adjacent neighborhoods and consider installing benches, exercise equipment, interpretive and park signage, and other small amenities at key locations.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Beach Flats Community Center



Location: 133 Leibrandt Ave.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 2,742 sq. ft.

The community center has a community room, computer lab, classroom, and kitchen. It is operated by the non-profit organization Community Bridges who provides programs and services for summer recreation, environmental education, application assistance, after school programs, advocacy, parent education, and food and nutrition.

Recommendations:

None.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Beach Flats Park



Location: 122 Raymond St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.22 acres

Beach Flats Park is one of two small parks serving the Beach Area neighborhood. It is a well-used park located adjacent to the Beach Flats Community Center. The small stage is used for events and parties.

Recommendations:

1. An outdoor table game such as table tennis or foosball could be incorporated into the park. The proximity to the Beach Flats Community Center could allow for ball check-outs. An outdoor table tennis game is popular with community members at Laurel Park, which is adjacent to the Loudon Nelson Community Center, and at Garfield Park.
2. Add bicycle parking racks as the park currently has none.
3. The matting of the playground area will require replacement in the 1-2 year timeframe.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Playground	Good	One metal structure with slide and swing set with fibar fill.
	Tot-lot	Fair	One structure with swings and bucket swings. Fenced-in with rubber matting (in need of replacement in the 1-2 year timeframe).
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Five light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Concrete.
	Entrance sign	Very good	One metal.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	Mural.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Five metal.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal.
	Event electrical hook-ups	Very good	Two hook-ups.
	Garbage	Good	One concrete.
	Recycle	N/A	One toter.
	Picnic tables	Fair	Four wood tables.
	Stage	Good	Small wood stage.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Bethany Curve



Location: Delaware Ave. to West Cliff Dr.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.4 acres

Bethany Curve is a passive creekside walking trail connecting Delaware Avenue to West Cliff Drive. It contains benches, artwork, and dog play features. The vegetation includes non-native weeds and ice plant. Native, drought tolerant landscaping could be planted along the trail to both beautify the park as well as provide nectar-producing plants for Monarch butterflies which overwinter in the surrounding area. Increasing native habitat could also benefit migrating birds that visit the park. The Parks and Recreation Department can solicit volunteers to help plant and maintain the garden areas. Bethany Curve should be included in the analysis of a West Cliff Drive Master Plan. It is located along West Cliff Drive and midway between the restroom facilities at the State's Lighthouse Field and Natural Bridges State Park and could be evaluated as a potential location for a low-profile restroom facility. Special attention would need to be given to design and the view corridor.

Recommendations:

Include the park in the planning analysis of a West Cliff Drive Master Plan. The park could be beautified by planting native gardens which could improve habitat for migrating birds and Monarch butterflies. The pathways could be renovated. The dog play features could be relocated to an off-leash dog use area.

Feature		Condition	Description
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	Pathway extends from Delaware Ave to West Cliff Dr.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	One metal structure.
	Benches/Seating	Fair	Sixteen wooden benches. Most benches are in good condition. Some need refinishing.
	Dog features	Good	One set of steps, one ramp and bridge, and one set of hoops.
	Garbage	Fair	Four small metal cans. Two concrete cans show rust and warping of metal.
	Interpretive signs	Good	One interpretive sign near West Cliff Dr.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Branciforte Dog Park



Location: Creekside Ln. @ Branciforte Dr.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.22 acres

Branciforte Dog Park is a fenced-in dog park which is next to the Carbonera Sphere and Upper Eastside neighborhoods. The off-leash dog use area is located at the trail head to the Enchanted Trail, DeLaveaga Park, which allows off-leash dog use on the trail below the sand pit area. It is very hot during the summer months and there is full exposure to sunlight.

Recommendations:

Dog play features, shade structures, and seating could be added to enhance the experience for dogs and/or owners.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Off-leash dog use	Very good	A fenced off-leash dog use with two tunnel features. Wood chips are used for the surface. No shade structures or trees.
Site Access	Parking	Fair	Dirt parking area.
	Entrance sign	Very good	One metal sign on a wood post.
Site Furnishings	Garbage	N/A	One plastic garbage can.
	Picnic tables	Good	One picnic table.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Carmelita Cottages



Location: 321 Main St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: N/A

Carmelita Cottages is currently leased to the non-profit organization Santa Cruz Hostel Society. Up to 45 guests can stay in five of the renovated Victorian cottages. More than 10,000 guests stay in the hostel each year. The current lease expires in 2021 and will need to be renewed prior to expiration.

Recommendations:

None.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Central Park



Location: 301 Dakota St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.16 acres

Central Park's small size and street frontage limits the type of recreational facilities that can be located there. The park currently has a small landscaped area that is often saturated and prone to flooding during the rainy season due to poor drainage. There is a small playground area with relatively limited features. It could be expanded into the grassy area. Picnic tables, exercise equipment, or other small features could be added to create more opportunities for recreation.

Recommendation:

Improve the playground area and add picnic tables.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Playground	Fair	Swings, roundabout, spring toys, small climbing rock feature.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Very good	Two recycled plastic benches.
	Garbage	Fair	One concrete garbage bin.
	Recycle	N/A	One toter.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chestnut Park



Location: Southern terminus of Chestnut St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.28 acres

Chestnut Park is located at the southeastern edge of Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. The park was upgraded to include new playground equipment, picnic tables, BBQ pits, and a new half-court basketball facility in 2016.

Recommendations:
Add signage.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Very good	Half court.
	Playground	Very good	Play structure with slides and fibar fill.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Decomposed granite surface.
Site Furnishings	BBQ pits	Very good	Two metal bbq pits.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Six recycled plastic benches.
	Bike parking	Very good	Nine U racks.
	Drinking fountain	Very good	One metal drinking fountain.
	Garbage & Recycle	Very good	One BearSaver can.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Two recycled plastic tables.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



City Hall Complex



Location: 809 Center St.

Proposed Classification: Other

Size: N/A

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the gardens and water fountains for the City Hall complex. Recent improvements have included replacing turf with garden areas and the installation of decomposed granite pathways and decorative rock features.

Recommendations:

None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Civic Auditorium



Location: 307 Church St.

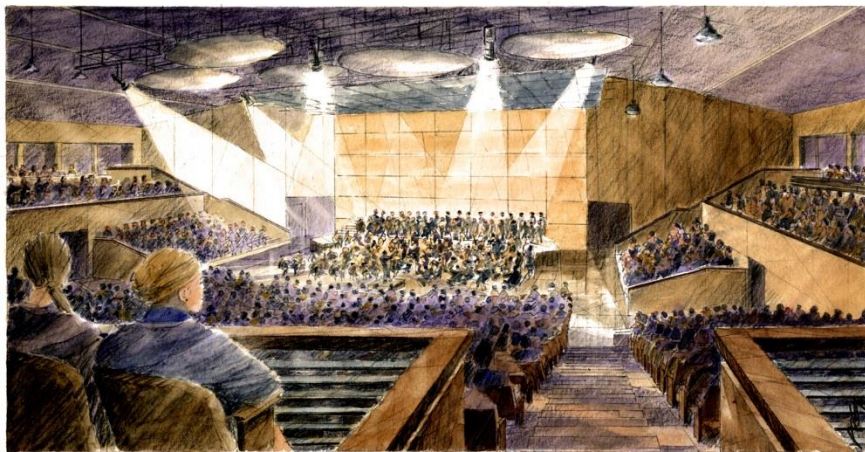
Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

The Civic Auditorium was opened in 1940 and is a multi-purpose auditorium (34,739 sq. ft.) with a stage and seating for total capacity of 2,021. It is configured with a large flat floor space with 1,105 fixed seats surrounding the floor in a u-shape layout with a stage at one end. Additional seating can be placed on the floor. The facility is used for concerts, sporting events, expos, theatrical performances, movie screenings, conferences, and receptions. It has five primary tenants which include the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, the Santa Cruz Symphony, the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker, the Santa Cruz Follies, and the Santa Cruz Derby Girls. The City conducted a Concept Design Study in 2014 and a Business Planning Study in 2015 which recommended improvements to the building systems and modifications to improve the facility as an arts, cultural, and entertainment venue.

Size: 34,000 sq. ft.

Recommendations:

1. Move forward with the studies recommendations and renovate and operate the facility as an arts, cultural, and entertainment venue.
2. Explore the possibility of setting-up an indoor pickleball league until the Civic Auditorium is renovated.



Conceptual rendering of the Civic Auditorium as an arts, cultural, and entertainment venue

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Cowell & Main Beaches



Location: Beaches to the east and west of the Santa Cruz Wharf

Proposed Classification: Beach

Size: 31 acres

Management Plan: Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014)

Cowell and Main Beaches are popular local and tourist destinations. The proximity to the Santa Cruz Wharf and Santa Cruz Boardwalk create a wide range of recreational activities for visitors to explore. A number of hotels and restaurants support locals and tourism. A small parking area, a Jr. Lifeguard storage building, and restrooms are located at the east end of Cowell Beach. A ramp, stairs, and an ADA accessible walkway provide access down to the beach from the parking area. The Santa Cruz Wharf is located between Cowell and Main Beaches. The Santa Cruz Boardwalk is located along the northern edge of Main Beach and a walkway extends along Beach Street from the Santa Cruz Wharf to the Boardwalk. Restrooms are located next to Ideal Bar and Grill near the entrance to the Wharf. The City's Junior Lifeguard Program uses Cowell Beach and a surf equipment rental concessionaire rents beach recreational items

daily during the summer months. Two volleyball courts are located below the Dream Inn on Cowell Beach. Sixteen public volleyball courts are located on Main Beach. The Santa Cruz Seaside Company maintains an additional two volleyball courts on Main Beach. Beach areas are rented for private events. Illegal behavior and safety issues at Cowell Beach prompted the City to implement a beach curfew which limits access from midnight until one hour before sunrise to crossing the dry sand portion of the beach to reach the wet sand portion of the beach and water. The curfew is in effect until 2019. No curfew exists for Main Beach. The high use of the beach during the summer months necessitates the need for the City to operate beach clean-up and grooming on a regular basis. The City continues to study and improve the poor water quality issues at Cowell and Main Beaches.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to improve beach clean-up efforts and create guidelines to direct volunteer efforts.
2. Continue to form partnerships, support volunteer efforts, provide signage, enforce litter laws, invest in equipment, and work on projects that clean-up the beach area, improve water quality, and help provide a safe environment.
3. Improve ADA access to the beach area.
4. Maintain a curfew on Cowell Beach until risk issues for beach goers have been resolved.
5. Consider improving the Junior Lifeguard Headquarters and storage area at Cowell Beach to accommodate growth, improve programming, and store equipment.
6. Consider installing a seasonal tot-lot on Cowell Beach or Main Beach.
7. Renovate the Beach Street restrooms.
8. Consider utilizing the parking area near Cowell Beach for more bike parking and recreational amenities. Seek opportunities for bike valet during the summer to deter theft.
9. Consider improving the layout of the volleyball courts at Main Beach to increase the number of courts and explore seasonally lighting the courts, taking into account light spillover and bird and wildlife concerns in the design recommendations.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

DeLaveaga Park – Audrey Stanley Grove



Location: 501 Upper Park Rd.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 5 acres

Audrey Stanley Grove is a 496 seat outdoor amphitheater with a sound booth, ticket booth, and parking area that is located in Upper DeLaveaga Park. Santa Cruz Shakespeare developed the amphitheater in 2016 and leases the space from the City, holding summer performances during June, July, and August. During the off-season, the Parks and Recreation Department will use the space for programming or private rentals during September and October. As part of the project approvals, a trail from the lower neighborhood to Upper DeLaveaga Park near the entrance to the Audrey Stanley Grove was improved in 2017.

Recommendations:

1. Expand the use of the amphitheater for private and public events during the Santa Cruz Shakespeare off-season. Seek opportunities to coordinate receptions and other public events with the Golf Course restaurant.
2. Renegotiate lease before the 2018 season.
3. Explore future opportunities to enhance the utility and comfort as a performance and community space such as by adding permanent restroom facilities, dressing rooms, and small concession areas.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Archery Range



Location: Accessed from the Brookwood Dr. entrance to DeLaveaga Park

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 5 acres

The Santa Cruz Archery Club maintains the indoor/outdoor archery range at DeLaveaga Park. A membership to the club is necessary to use the facilities. The outdoor range area includes practice and picnic areas with 28 targets. Target areas offer a variety of skill challenges which are not limited to variations of shooting lines, angles, and distance.

Recommendations:

None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course



Location: Access from Upper Park Rd.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 40 acres

DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course is a world famous 29-hole disc golf course located in DeLaveaga Park. It is maintained by the Disc Golf Club and tournaments are often held. Erosion control and tree protection need to be improved at this site. Discussions with staff and the club have included the possibility of charging players a fee to play in order to help fund improvements.

Recommendations:

Consider a pay-for-play facility to help improve maintenance and care of the facility, including tree protection and replacement, erosion control, poison oak abatement, invasive weed removal, native plant restoration, and other improvements.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



DeLaveaga Park – DeLaveaga Golf Course and Maintenance Yard



Location: 401 Upper Park Rd.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 151 acres

Master Plan: DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002)

DeLaveaga Golf Course is an 18-hole golf course. Golf Course facilities include a double-decked driving range with lighting, a BBQ group picnic area, a clubhouse with a banquet facility, and practice greens for putting and chipping. The operations of the golf course, driving range, and restaurant are leased to a concessionaire. The City maintains the golf course and a maintenance yard is located onsite. The City adopted the DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan in 2002 which recommends a variety of improvements, including constructing a new clubhouse to accommodate larger events, installing a new irrigation system to conserve water, adding solar to the upper deck of the golf course to provide shade and conserve energy, performing tree management work to reduce dead and diseased trees, redesigning and updating the sand traps, leveling the tees, grading the fairways, increasing the parking areas, and improving the maintenance yard.

Recommendations:

Implement the DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

DeLaveaga Park - DeLaveaga Wilderness Area



Location: Access from Upper Park Rd., Branciforte Dr., Prospect Hts., and Brookwood Dr.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 269 acres

Master Plan: DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)

The DeLaveaga Park Wilderness area contains the undeveloped portions of DeLaveaga Park. The area contains multi-use trails that connect the various facilities located within the George Washington Grove, Lower DeLaveaga Park, and the Upper DeLaveaga Park areas. Trail connectivity should be improved throughout the park, and trail linkages will need to avoid crossing the Golf Course which is a large barrier. Improvements could be pursued to link the ad-hoc trails north of Prospect Heights to the Sandpit trail head off of Branciforte Drive to improve connectivity around the park. Easements may need to be granted by the National Guard Armory depending on the trail alignment. A new trail could link to the historic zoo site to the west of Prospect Heights along DeLaveaga Park Drive. A portion of the area is level and is currently fenced. Remnants of the zoo are found in the surrounding hillside. The site could be developed to be a play area with unique features that blend recreation with history, serve the surrounding neighborhood. It could also be a stop along a new multi-use trail. The Wilderness area may also have potential for adding a separate mountain biking trail or skill building area. Arana Creek deposits sediment into the lower portion of the watershed. The City works with the Resource Conservation District to seek grant opportunities for watershed enhancement projects and should continue to pursue these projects.

Recommendations:

1. Consider expanding the multi-use trail network and improve connectivity throughout the park, utilizing existing fire roads and ad-hoc trails.
2. Consider a separate downhill mountain biking facility or skill building area.
3. Consider locating a play area or other recreational use and interpretive signage in the historic zoo area. Link the area to a multi-use trail.
4. Continue to work with Resource Conservation District and implement the Arana Gulch Creek Stormwater Watershed improvement projects.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove



Location: Entrances are located on Branciforte Dr. north of Mill Rd.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 50 acres

Management Plan: DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)

George Washington Grove is located across Branciforte Creek to the north of Lower DeLaveaga Park. George Washington Grove contains a seasonally-opened group picnic area, two bocce ball courts, and restrooms. The restrooms at George Washington Grove are in a poor condition. Parking is sometimes limited for the park and an additional parking area could be located to the north of George Washing Grove. A trail could connect the parking area to the picnic area. Seven reservable picnic areas are located at these parks. Lower DeLaveaga Park has restrooms, two softball fields, a large grass field, a sand volleyball court, two horseshoe pits, and a playground. There is currently no access between the parks, therefore a pedestrian bridge across the creek could allow for more recreational opportunities for park users. Trail improvements and access improvements should be sought to link the Upper Eastside Neighborhood to this park.

Recommendations:

1. Create spillover parking area and construct a pedestrian bridge across Branciforte Creek to connect George Washington Grove to Lower DeLaveaga Park, possibly a replica of the covered bridge. Add interpretive signage describing the unique history of the property and covered bridge which used to be located onsite.
2. Renovate the restrooms at George Washington Grove.
3. Larger scale renovations to the ballfield should evaluate the potential redesign of the dugout, fencing, bleachers, and field goal posts layout and configuration to potentially accommodate more field space within the park. Considerations could also include the meadow area.
4. Consider artificial turf and energy-efficient lighting improvements to conserve resources.
5. Consider as a potential location for pickleball courts.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Baseball or softball field	Good	Two softball fields with grass outfields and lighting. Metal bleachers. No scoreboards. Three porta-potties are provided. Small dugouts.
	Bocce ball	Good	Two bocce ball courts are located in George Washington Grove area.
	Horseshoe pits	Good	Two horseshoe pits with backstops next to picnic areas in Lower DeLaveaga Park.
	Large, grass field	Good	Large multi-use field in Lower DeLaveaga Park is relatively level with some gopher holes and bare spots.
	Playground	Good	Includes a couple of climbing structures, slides, and a tire swing. Fibar is used for the playground surfacing.
	Reservable picnic areas	Good	The seven combined picnic areas include 51 large, wooden picnic tables; ten large BBQ pits with a masonry exterior, 16 serving tables. Two include wet bar areas. Drinking fountains are located in or around most of the picnic areas, and most include electric hook-ups. Plastic garbage bins and recyclable totes are placed for trash pick-up.
	Sand volleyball court	Fair	Some of the surrounding edges are taller and limit play for loose balls.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Fair	Lighting is provided in the parking lot at Lower George Washington and next to the group picnic areas. A light is provided at Forty Thieves picnic area.
	Gate and locked at night	Good	Vehicle access gates are located at both park entrances.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	The pathway around the meadow and ball fields is concrete and is in a very good condition. The pathway between the softball fields is decomposed granite and is in a good condition.
	Parking	Fair	Off-street.
	Entrance sign	Good	One wood sign at each entrance.
Site Furnishings	Art	Good	Logger arch historical artifact.
	BBQ pits	Good	Twelve located along the meadow area of Lower DeLaveaga Park, one located in George Washington Grove.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Two benches near meadow area. Two wood benches and one recycled plastic in grove area.
	Drinking fountain	Fair	Four drinking fountains (not including reservable picnic areas).
	Garbage	Fair	Fourteen combined concrete, six metal, and two plastic trash bins (not including reservable picnic areas).
	Recycle	N/A	Five recyclable totes (not including reservable picnic areas).
	Both	Very good	Twelve BearSaver cans.
	Picnic tables	Fair	A combined four wood and 20 concrete (not including reservable picnic areas).
	Restroom	Poor	The restrooms (one dual facility) in Lower DeLaveaga are in fair condition. The restrooms (one dual facility) at the George Washington grove are in poor condition. Porta-potties are provided at the softball fields.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park Office



Location: Lower DeLaveaga Park

Proposed Classification: Other

Size: 440 sq. ft.

A park office and maintenance shed is located within Lower DeLaveaga Park to help staff maintain the park facilities.

Recommendations:

Additional covered space is needed to protect park tools and equipment.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Depot Freight Building



Location: 119 Center St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 3,000 ft.

The Depot Freight Building is a historic building that is used for City programming and private rentals. The historic freight building used to be a transportation hub. It is now a large, open room with renovated hardwood floors. The restrooms are only accessible from the outside of the building and serve all of Depot Park. The maximum occupancy of the main room is 100 persons. There is room outside at the rear of the building to place a shed or storage unit to help maintain Depot Park and store items that could help programming of the facility. Table Tennis has become a popular programming activity. Technological upgrades could help to facilitate meetings and trainings. Interior access to the restrooms could improve the use of the facility as a rental space.

Recommendations:

1. Explore the ability to add exterior storage.
2. Upgrade technological capabilities and interior space to help facilitate meetings and trainings.
3. Explore adding interior access to the restrooms.
4. Explore the addition of a kitchenette to improve programming opportunities.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Depot Park, Bicycle Trip Bike Park, & Scott Kennedy Fields



Location: 115 Center St

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 9 acres

Master Plan: Depot Park Master Plan (2001)

The park has an adult soccer field and practice area which can be used as two practice or youth fields. The soccer field receives a lot of use due to the lack of field space in Santa Cruz and the surrounding region. Lights would extend play. The lights would need to be designed to ensure there is minimal spillover to the surrounding homes. Outreach with the surrounding neighborhood should be conducted to discuss any new proposal. The Depot Freight Building contains restrooms which are open to park visitors. The park also contains the only ramped, wooden bicycle park in the area. Bicycle Trip Bike Park's wooden ramps are deteriorating and will need revamping and replacement in the near future. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working with a consultant on the design and replacement of the wooden ramps with metal which will require less maintenance over time. One metal ramp has been installed as a pilot project to test durability. The park contains a large plaza area, picnic tables, artwork, parking, and a small play features. A pathway connects the southern end to Beach Street towards Cowell Beach. The park includes the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center and adjacent parking area. An approximately half acre site at 101 Washington Street (former location of Lighthouse Liquors) was purchased for incorporation into the park and is currently being leased. The City will explore opportunities for the future use of the site.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to revamp the bike park with more durable ramps that require less maintenance.
2. The playground area could be improved to include additional play equipment facilities such as a swing-set.
3. Explore lighting the field to increase usage.
4. Explore new uses for the ½ acre parcel at 101 Washington Street.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Bike park	Very poor	Large variety of wooden ramps and technical features.
	Playground	Very good	Variety of small features including teeter totter and a roundabout.
	Soccer field	Very good	One adult artificial turf soccer field w/ small practice area. Field can also be played as two smaller practice or youth fields.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Very good	Lights in park and parking area.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Concrete.
	Parking	Very good	Paid parking lots.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Large archway sign at entrance to parking lot.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	Metal sculpture of grass.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Seven recycled plastic benches.
	Bike parking	Very good	Twenty-three u-shaped spaces.
	Drinking fountain	Very good	Two metal drinking fountains. One has a refillable bottle feature.
	Garbage	Very good	Seven garbage cans.
	Recycle	N/A	Toters placed next to each garbage can.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Four picnic tables.
	Plaza	Very good	Concrete plaza with trees, art, benches, and picnic tables incorporated into design.
	Restroom	Poor	Restrooms are located in the Depot Freight Building.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Downtown Santa Cruz



Location: Pacific Ave. and side streets between Mission Ave. and Laurel St.

Size: N/A

Proposed Classification: Other

Downtown is the business and commercial center in Santa Cruz. The Parks and Recreation Department helps maintain the benches, outdoor patio areas, landscaping treatments, drinking fountains, and trees along Pacific Avenue and side streets. The Downtown Recovery Plan recommends the creation of a park on the existing parking lot at 1100 Cedar Street, near the intersection of Union Street and Cedar Street and adjacent to Plaza Lane. The San Lorenzo Urban River Plan and Downtown Recovery Plan include additional recommendations for improving the connection between Downtown to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk. In 2017, a Downtown Ranger Unit was created and helps monitor and address safety concerns while assisting downtown visitors with directions and interpretive information.

Recommendations:

1. Seek opportunities to build parklets, plazas, and mini-parks and improve the connections between Downtown and the Santa Cruz Riverwalk. If opportunities arise, consider the top of parking garages as potential space for locating recreational facilities.
2. Continue to install tree protection fencing.
3. Continue to address public safety concerns.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

East Cliff Accent



Location: Southern terminus of Seabright Ave., 1st Ave., 2nd Ave., 3rd Ave., 4th Ave., and Mariner Park Wy.

Size: N/A

Proposed Classification: Other

East Cliff Accent overlooks Seabright Beach. A walkway extends from Seabright Avenue to 4th Avenue along the bluff. Small parking areas are provided at the southern terminus of 1st and 3rd Avenues, and stairway access to the beach is provided at 3rd Avenue. A small overlook is also provided at the terminus of Mariner Park Way, but it is not connected to the walkway. Erosion has caused issues with the railings and walkways. In 2017, the Public Works Department completed a cliff stabilization project at Mariner Park Way. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the site furnishings, picks-up trash, monitors the condition of the stairs, and performs minor landscaping maintenance. The coastline is a recreational, natural, and scenic treasure that embodies the City's unique sense of place and identity. A master plan could be created to guide future improvements; help maintain a more cohesive, consistent identity; and improve the long-term coordination and management.

Recommendations:

Partner with other stakeholder departments to develop and implement an integrated design, land-use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public access, safety, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline.

Feature		Condition	Description
Site Furnishings	Benches	Fair	Two recycled plastic benches in a very good condition. Five wood benches that are in a fair condition with some minor cracking and/or engraving vandalism.
	Bike parking	Good	Two t-posts. Paint is fading.
	Garbage	Fair	Three BearSaver cans in very good condition. Three concrete in poor condition with warping and rusting metal.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



El Portal Park



Location: Soquel Ave. @ Water St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.21 acres

El Portal Park is located at the intersection of Water Street and Soquel Avenue. It is not suitable for more active recreational uses but offers a brief reprieve from the streets that surround the park. The location is optimal for landscaping treatments, wayfinding signage, and small gateway features such as art, monuments, or interpretive elements.

Recommendations:

Consider installing artwork or interpretive elements.

Feature		Condition	Description
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Decomposed granite.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Two metal.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	Concrete monument with library plaque.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Frederick Street Park



Location: 168 Frederick St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.97 acres

Frederick Street Park is located on a bluff overlooking the Santa Cruz Harbor and Arana Gulch Open Space. It is an extremely popular destination for the Lower Eastside Neighborhood and the overall community. A wooden staircase descends from the park to the harbor. An asphalt pathway connects from Frederick Street to the staircase. The park contains restrooms, a volleyball court, a fenced off-leash dog use area, a playground, a tot-lot, and one of the first skate parks. Picnic tables with BBQ pits are located on the bluff on the eastern side of the park and are popular for small parties and gatherings. The off-leash dog use area was fenced and is one of the largest off-leash dog use areas in the parks system. An obelisk art piece is located near Frederick Street at the southwestern section of the park. Erosion concerns exist along the eastern side of the park and retaining wall improvements will be necessary in the near future. The volleyball court needs some minor improvements.

Recommendations:

1. Drinking fountains need repair.
2. Improvements to the off-leash dog use area could include shade structures, benches, drinking fountains, and pathways.
3. The playground could be expanded and new equipment could be added.
4. The volleyball court could be renovated or replaced. A fence may need to be installed around it to prevent animal waste from entering the sand and make game play more enticing. The area could accommodate one pickleball court with low fencing or a half-court basketball court.
5. Improve the stairs to the harbor by exploring different, more durable options and improving the retaining wall.
6. Install drainage and erosion control in the picnic areas to control erosion and grading issues on the hillside.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Large, grass field	Fair	Uneven surfaces, gophers, and sand patches.
	Off-leash dog use	Very good	Large, fenced off-leash dog use area with grass surface. Water spout for dogs.
	Playground	Poor	One large playground with swing and tower/slide features. Fibar fill.
	Sand volleyball court	Poor	Uneven court, Bermuda grass encroaching on sand.
	Skate park	Good	Popular for young kids. Asphalt was recently resurfaced.
	Tot-lot	Very good	Small structure with slide, bucket swing, and sand box.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Six light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	The new permeable paving and the concrete pathway are very good. The asphalt will need to be resurfaced soon. The d.g. in the front will need to be compacted.
	Entrance sign	Good	One wooden and two metal signs.
Site Furnishings	Art	Poor	The top of the obelisk sculpture has been vandalized and broken off.
	BBQ pits	Fair	One is missing a bottom and needs to be replaced.
	Benches/Seating	Good	One recycled plastic, 18 wood.
	Bike parking	Good	Two bike parking posts.
	Drinking fountain	Poor	Two (one on restroom exterior).
	Garbage	Good	Twelve concrete, one plastic, one metal.
	Recycle	Fair	One toter, two w/slat screen.
	Picnic tables	Poor	Eight wood, one concrete. Wood picnic tables show some damage from rot and bugs.
	Restroom	Good	One dual facility.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Garfield Park



Location: 624 Almar Ave.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.78 acres

Garfield Park is a very popular park for the lower Westside Neighborhood. It offers a variety of recreational activities including a grass field, picnic tables and BBQ pits, a playground and tot-lot, two table tennis tables, and a full-size basketball court. It is the only park on the Westside of town with BBQ pits, and the picnic areas often host birthdays and other small gatherings.

Recommendations:

1. Drinking fountains need repair.
2. Playgrounds could be upgraded or expanded.
3. A shed could help to improve maintenance of the park.
4. Several trees are causing damage and root pruning or other treatments may be necessary to limit damage.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Good	One full-size basketball court.
	Large, grass field	Fair	Grass field has some minor dips.
	Table tennis	Very good	Two concrete table tennis tables were recently installed.
	Playground	Good	One structure with slides. One swing set. One tire swing. Sand fill.
	Tot-lot	Good	One structure with slides. One bucket swing set. Sand fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Fair	Lights poles are rusting and need some touch-up work.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	The decomposed granite path needs trim in some areas. Concrete pathway around playground is good.
	Entrance sign	Very good	One wooden engraved sign and four metal signs.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	One decorative, painted concrete bench.
	BBQ pits	Good	Three BBQ pits.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Twelve wood, one recycled plastic, and one concrete.
	Bike parking	Very good	One U bike rack.
	Drinking fountain	Poor	One metal.
	Garbage	Fair	Six concrete garbage bins.
	Recycle	Fair	Two recycle bins with slat screens and three toters.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Four concrete tables.
	Restroom	Fair	One dual facility.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Grant Park



Location: 150 Grant St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.36 acres

Grant Park provides a variety of recreational activities onsite and is very popular for the Upper Eastside Neighborhood. The park is fenced and locked at night. A small baseball field is sometimes used for youth league practices. A full-size basketball court is used frequently. A bocce ball court is adjacent to a small fenced off-leash dog use area. The restrooms were renovated in 2017. Picnic tables with BBQ pits are located adjacent to the playground and tot-lot areas and are popular on the weekends. A bucket swing for tots could be added as the park receives a lot of use from this age group.

Recommendations:

1. Replace the restrooms with modern facilities in 5-10 years.
2. Add a tot-lot swing.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Baseball or softball field	Good	Small baseball field is used for neighborhood play and occasionally for youth league practice.
	Basketball court	Very good	One full-size court.
	Bocce ball	Very good	One bocce ball court.
	Off-leash dog use	Very good	One small fenced off-leash dog use area with grass surface.
	Playground	Very good	One climbing rock, two climbing roundabouts, two swings, one teeter totter. Fibar fill.
	Tot-lot	Very good	One structure with slide, two climbing structures, one small spring toy. Fibar fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Seven light poles.
	Gate and locked at night	Very good	Black aluminum wrought iron style fence panels.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	D.G. is in good condition. Concrete in very good condition.
	Entrance sign	Very good	One wood with rock masonry support structures. Three metal.
Site Furnishings	BBQ pits	Good	Three metal.
	Benches/Seating	Good	One artistic bench is very good. One wood bench is very poor w/ major cracking. Three recycled plastic benches are in very good condition.
	Bike parking	Fair	One six-foot rack locked. Should install a more permanent rack.
	Recycle	N/A	Two toters.
	Picnic tables	Good	Ten concrete tables.
	Restroom	Good	One dual facility.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Harvey West Park



Location: 324 Harvey West Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 44.77 acres

Harvey West Park is a large community park that is used for a variety of recreational activities, including recreation programming and summer camps, events, sports, and large gatherings. It contains a pump track, athletic fields, reservable picnic areas, a playground and tot-lot, exercise equipment, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and bocce ball courts. The park hosts large community events. It also contains Community Recreational Facilities which include the Harvey West Pool, Wagner Cottage, Kids Kottage, and Scout and Clubhouse. The Ranger Station and Parks Maintenance Yard are also located on the grounds. Hiking trails connect to the Upper Westside Neighborhood and Pogonip Open Space. A bus stop is located on Harvey West Blvd. Harvey West Park contains six ballfields. The outfield areas are used for soccer and football during the baseball off-season. The overlap between baseball and soccer causes conflicts for practice and overall use. Additionally, wear and tear is a continual issue on the fields as they are extensively used. The ballfield facilities are aging and will require extensive upgrades to bring them up to date.

Recommendations:

1. Harvey West Park is the major sports field complex for the City. Future upgrades should include improvements to drainage, installation of artificial turf to improve the playing time and reduce maintenance costs, renovation and installation of additional bleachers, and upgrades to pitching mounds, scoreboards, lighting, and concession stands. Additionally, movable/collapsible soccer goals would improve the efficiency of setup and use for soccer play.
2. The playground at Harvey West Park serves the general public and youth camps and could be expanded to accommodate more features.
3. A small amphitheater could be added to Wagner Grove to host wedding ceremonies and kids camp activities.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Bocce ball	Very good	Two bocce ball courts.
	Exercise equipment	Very good	Four pieces.
	Horseshoe pits	Good	Two horseshoe pits.
	Playground	Good	One large structure w/ slides, swings, tire swing. Sand and rubber matting fill.
	Pump track	Very good	One dirt pump track.
	Reservable picnic areas	Good	Eight reservable picnic areas. Some have sinks and power hook-ups.
	Sand volleyball court	Fair	One volleyball court.
	Tot-lot	Very good	One structure w/ slide and bucket swings. Sand and rubber matting fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Parking lot lighting and lighting in Friendship gardens.
	Gate and locked at night	Very good	Vehicle access gates.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Most of the pathways are in a good condition. Some have some lifting issues.
	Parking	Fair	Off-street parking lot will need to be resurfaced soon.
	Entrance sign	Good	One large wooden
	Trail	Good	Three trails.
Site Furnishings	Art	Poor	One train.
	BBQ pits	Good	Eleven metal and five w/ rock masonry structure.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Six wood and two recycled plastic.
	Bike parking	Good	Two t-posts and five u racks.
	Drinking fountain	Fair	One metal and two concrete.
	Flag pole	Good	One flag pole.
	Garbage	Fair	Six metal, twenty-six concrete.
	Recycle	N/A	Eight totes.
	Both	Very good	Two BearSaver cans.
	Picnic tables	Good	Twenty-one concrete, 55 large wood, and 10 recycled plastic.
	Restrooms	Very good	One main restroom (one dual facility) for all of park. Located next to Field 1.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ballfield Features	Field(s)	Condition	Description
Backstop	1	Poor	Chainlink.
	2 & 3	Poor and Fair	Chainlink. Field 3 is not tall enough to provide sufficient protection.
	4	Poor	Chainlink backstop showing warping and rust.
	5 & 6	Fair	Wood and chainlink.
Bleachers/Seating	1	Poor	Stepped concrete with wooden planking. Concrete is cracking.
	2 & 3	Fair	Stepped concrete with wooden planking.
	4	Fair	Stepped concrete with wooden planking.
	5 & 6	Fair to poor	Metal bleachers. Opportunity to utilize hillside on Field 6 to create amphitheater seating.
Concessions stand	1	Fair	Concessions stand.
	2 & 3	Fair	Concessions stand.
	4	Poor	Concessions stand. Rotting of wood and needs interior upgrades.
	5 & 6	Very poor	Wood concessions stand. Rotting wood.
Drinking fountain	1	Very poor	Two stand pipe drinking fountains.
	2 & 3	Fair	Two standpipe drinking fountains.
	4	Very poor	Two stand pipe drinking fountains.
	5 & 6	Very poor	Two stand pipe drinking fountains.
Dugouts	1	Very poor	Partially undergrounded dugouts take in water and need to be pumped during rainy season.
	2 & 3	Fair	Caged, chainlink dugouts.
	4	Fair	Masonry block dugouts with chainlink fencing.
	5 & 6	Fair	Masonry block dugouts with chainlink fencing.
Lights	1	Fair	Metal poles with metal halide lights.
	2 & 3	Poor	Combination of wood and metal posts with metal halide lights. The lighting does not provide complete coverage and there are dark spots on the baseball fields.
	4	Good	Metal poles with metal halide lights.
	5 & 6	Fair	Wood poles with halide lights. The light does not cover soccer field and there are dark spots on the baseball fields.
Restroom/Porta-potty	1	N/A	Use main park restroom.
	2 & 3	Very good	Harvey West Park's restrooms (one dual facility) are provided between Fields 2 & 3 and Field 1.
	4	N/A	Use main park restroom.
	5 & 6	Poor	Two porta-potties. Restrooms at this side of the park are highly desirable.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Scoreboard	1	Very good	Recently upgraded scoreboard.
	2 &3	Poor	Scoreboard is small and outdated.
	4	Poor	Small and outdated scoreboard.
	5 & 6	Poor	Small and outdated scoreboards.
Scorers Booth	1	Fair	Scorers booth.
	2 &3	Fair	Scorers booth.
	4	Fair	Scorers booth.
	5 & 6	Very poor	Poor lighting, portions of siding and framing needs replacement, and shingles are worn-out.
Trash and Recycle	1	Fair	Two concrete and three metal bins. Two toters.
	2 &3	Poor	Three concrete and five metal garbage bins. Four recycle toters.
	4	Fair	Three concrete and two metal garbage cans. Two recycle toters.
	5 & 6	Poor	Two concrete and two metal bins. One plastic toter.
Turf	1	Poor	Field is worn from overuse.
	2 &3	Very poor	Irrigation and overuse issues.
	4	Fair to poor	Root intrusion. Irrigation system uses different heads than designed for because the heads are no longer manufactured. New heads do not allow for an optimal head-to-head ratio.
	5 & 6	Fair	Irrigation system uses different heads than designed for because the heads are no longer manufactured. New heads do not allow for an optimal head-to-head ratio.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Harvey West Park - Harvey West Pool



Location: 275 Harvey West Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 3,500 sq. ft. pool house, lap pool with diving area, wading pool

The small pool is leased to a concessionaire. The large pool is open from June through August for open swim. The concessionaire teaches swim lessons in the small pool from March through October. The large pool is available for lap swim, water fitness, and recreational swimming during the summer, and swimming is one of the many activities provided during youth summer camps. The large pool is most often used by families during the summer weekends. The pool does not open until 11 a.m. which does not accommodate morning lap swimming. Pool maintenance and funding are necessary year-round and should the City seek opportunities to increase use and access to the pool. Future studies to increase usage could consider complementary uses such as a fitness center or larger picnic area. Partnerships and cost-sharing opportunities to fund the project should be explored.

Recommendations:

Consider conducting a use and business plan study to improve operations and funding opportunities, identify more comprehensive renovations, and increase community use and continue to seek funding to expand the hours and duration of time the pool remains open for public use during the year.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Harvey West Park – Kids Kottage and Wagner Cottage



Location: 275 Harvey West Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: Kids Kottage (1,500 sq. ft.) Wagner Cottage (1,000 sq. ft.)

The Kids Kottage is leased to the County Office of Education for an alternative education program during the school year. The City operates summer camp programs in the Kids Kottage during the remainder of the year. Wagner Cottage is used for summer camp programs. Both cottages could use improvements to the restroom facilities. Wagner Cottage has some visible foundation issues. The Kids Kottage has termite issues.

Recommendations:

Improve the restrooms and address the structural issues.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Harvey West Park – Ranger Station



Location: 275 Harvey West Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Other

Size: 1,000 sq. ft.

The Ranger Station houses the Parks Ranger unit. The Ranger Station is not located in a very visible location and the unit has outgrown the small building. Consideration should be given to relocating the Ranger Station to a larger, more visible space. The Ranger Station could be an important informational resource for park visitors. If a more suitable location is found, consideration should be given to relocating the summer camps from Wagner Cottage to the building so that program participants are closer to the program activities and other camp uses.

Recommendations:

Consider relocating the Rangers to a larger, more visible location.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Harvey West Park – Scout and Clubhouse



Location: 326 Evergreen St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 5,000 sq. ft.

The Harvey West Park Scout and Clubhouse is rented for private use such as weddings, gatherings, and meetings. It is also used for City programming. The clubhouses have seating indoors and outdoors, a deck area, a full kitchen, two barbecue pits, two wet bars, an indoor fireplace, and restrooms. The entryway, kitchen, and patio area could be improved to be more functional and attractive.

Recommendations:

Consider minor renovations to approve the function and appearance, such as by enhancing the entry and patio areas.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Its Beach



Location: Accessed from a stairway to the north of Lighthouse Point

Proposed Classification: Beach

Size: 1.5 acres (City owned)

Its Beach is a popular beach for a variety of beach and ocean oriented recreational purposes. A stairway is provided down to the beach from West Cliff pathway to the north of Lighthouse Point. The City owns approximately 1.5 acres of the beach area and the remainder is owned by the State of California.

Recommendations:

Improve coordination with the State to maintain rules and enforcement.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Jessie Street Marsh



Location: Access from E. Cliff Dr., path from Ocean View Park, and the terminus of Lemos Ave.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 3.2 acres

Master Plan: Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998)

Jessie Street Marsh is adjacent to Ocean View Park and E. Cliff Drive and currently has an ad-hoc trail that extends from E. Cliff Drive to Lemos Ave. In 1998, the City created the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan. The plan aims to restore the marsh and improve access. A major component of the plan would be creating a tidal exchange between the fresh water marsh and the San Lorenzo Urban River. The tidal exchange aspect of the plan was determined to be “unbuildable” during plan review by the City’s Engineers. The marsh area has been vulnerable to criminal activity. City staff hired an engineering consultant to help redesign the plan to address community desires and concerns about the area. Additional outreach and study will need to be conducted through a public process.

Recommendations:

Improve the connection from the marsh to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk. Hire an engineering consultant to work through design issues and public concerns with the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan. Discuss potential modifications to the plan through a public process.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

John D Franks Park



Location: Marnell Ave. @ Fairmont Ave.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.48 acres

John D Franks Park is a small but important park because it is the only neighborhood park for the surrounding area. The park contains a grass field, picnic tables, an elliptical piece of exercise equipment, and a playground.

Recommendations:

Consider adding additional picnic tables, play equipment, and fitness equipment.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Large, grass field	Fair	Grass field for multi-use. Redwood roots and some minor mounding and dipping.
	Playground	Very good	Recently installed play structure with slides and toddler swings. Fibar surface material.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Two light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Decomposed granite surface.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Engraved wood. Paint is in good shape.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Good	Two wooden benches.
	Drinking Fountain	Good	One metal.
	Exercise Equipment	Very good	One elliptical.
	Garbage	Good	One concrete.
	Picnic tables	Good	Two concrete tables.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park



Location: 225 San Lorenzo Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 1.25 acres

Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park is located along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk and is across the street from Riverside Gardens Park. The skate park is very popular and contains bowls and a street course. Bleachers are located outside of the fencing for spectating. The skate bowl's concrete pool coping is preferred by skaters but also requires continual upkeep and repairs. To the east of the skate park, the park has a multi-use, shared area which includes three painted pickleball courts, a roller hockey practice rink, and a basketball hoop. Fruit trees were planted to the east of the shared-use area as part of a community orchard project. The orchard utilizes an area with limited recreational opportunity and increases access to food while providing opportunities to learn about resource conservation and sustainable growing practices in a public setting. A porta-potty is placed onsite. Lighting could be explored to increase use of the skate park.

Recommendations:

1. Improve pool coping and perform general repairs to the skate park.
2. Consider adding lighting.
3. Increase programming to teach skateboarding.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Very good	Half court with asphalt surface.
	Pickleball court	Very good	Three painted courts. Nets need to be installed before play.
	Roller hockey	Very good	One fenced roller hockey practice area w/ plastic dasher boards.
	Skate park	Fair	Concrete pool coping needs repair.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	Minor cracking near entrance to skate park.
	Parking	N/A	Off-street parking.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Two wood framed with plastic panels.
Site Furnishings	Art	Fair	Photographs of skateboarders in a metal frame with plastic encasement. There is some wear and tear from vandalism remediation. There is also a wave mural on the full pipe.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Aluminum bleachers.
	Bike parking	Very good	Six low profile racks.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal drinking fountain.
	Garbage	Fair	One metal with screen.
	Recycle	N/A	One toter.
	Both	Good	Two BearSaver cans.
	Restroom	N/A	Porta-potty with wood screen.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



La Barranca Park



Location: California St. to Laguna St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.26 acres

La Barranca Park, a linear park with a decomposed granite pathway along Bay Street, offers an opportunity for a casual stroll off of Bay Street. It is primarily landscaped with lawn. Its proximity to the Wastewater Treatment Plant makes it a prime location for a demonstration garden using recycled water.

Recommendations:

Convert the turf areas to a demonstration garden using recycled water.

Feature		Condition	Description
Site Access	Bus stop	N/A	Yes.
	Pathway	Fair	Decomposed granite pathway along Bay St connecting California St to Laguna St.
Site Amenities	Art	Good	Two rocks w/ commemorative plaque and one small rowing sculpture.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Fourteen recycled plastic benches. Most are in good condition. Some show fading and cracking.
	Garbage	Fair	Five concrete cans.
	Interpretive signs	Fair	Five interpretive signs. Most are in good condition.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Laurel Park



Location: 301 Center St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.77 acres

Laurel Park is located adjacent to the Louden Nelson Community Center and offers a variety of recreational activities for general use and for recreational programming and events. The park contains a grass field, a chess table, a table tennis table, a playground, and a full-size basketball court painted to accommodate pickleball. Issues with illegal activities have led to a Ranger being posted at the site, and discussions with the neighborhood about whether or not the park should be fenced. Consensus with the neighborhood is necessary before moving forward with a fencing project. The Louden Nelson Community Center has restrooms which are available during open hours. The park is heavily used by teens, seniors, and other groups using the center. It is also an extension of the Louden Nelson Community Center for events put on by Parks and Recreation.

Recommendations:

1. Fencing or decorative gardening displays could provide a barrier between other park uses and the playground area.
2. Parcourse equipment could be installed and incorporated into the senior center or other health-related programming at the Louden Nelson Community Center.
3. Underground electrical connections could be installed to accommodate community events.
4. Volleyball insert sleeves could be installed in the lawn and the community center could check-out nets and balls to allow for volleyball play.
5. Improvements to the garden area could allow for potential senior and teen based gardening programs.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Very good	Full-size court is painted to allow for pickleball play.
	Chess table	Good	One outdoor chess table.
	Large, grass field	Good	One grass field for multi-use play and events.
	Pickleball court	Good	Striping on basketball court.
	Table tennis	Very good	Concrete table tennis table.
	Playground	Very good	One bucket seat, one swing set, one structure w/ slide, one large webbed climbing structure. Fibar fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Four light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Concrete pathway.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	The mural on the back of Loudon Nelson was recently refurbished.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Concrete bench along b-ball court and playground. Seven wood.
	Bike parking	Good	Two large metal, cork screwed structures.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal.
	Garbage	Good	Two concrete.
	Recycle	N/A	Toters are placed near garbage cans.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Lighthouse Avenue Park



Location: Lighthouse Ave. near Oregon St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.35 acres

Lighthouse Avenue Park offers a small playground area and eighteen community garden plots. Vandalism and theft has been an issue for the gardeners.

Recommendations:

The playground area could be expanded to offer more features.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Community gardens	Poor	Eighteen garden plots. The raised garden beds will need to be updated soon. The decomposed granite surrounding the beds can be weeded and a new layer can be added.
	Playground	Fair	Small structure with slides and rubber matting and a small sand area with digging features.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Concrete and brick tiles. Decomposed granite around garden area can be resurfaced.
	Entrance sign	Very Good	Three metal signs. One arbor near Lighthouse Avenue as entrance feature.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Very good	Three recycled plastic near playground.
	Bike parking	Very good	Three metal bike posts.
	Garbage	Good	One concrete can near playground. Toters are provided in a screened area for the community garden.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Louden Nelson Community Center



Location: 301 Center St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 20,000 sq. ft.

The Louden Nelson Community Center hosts senior and teen programs and services, recreation classes and programming, rentable rooms, and an auditorium with theater seating and a stage. Programs and classes make use of the adjacent Laurel Park. The Louden Nelson Community Center offers a wide selection of spaces available for rent, including a dance studio, meeting rooms, a banquet room, a kitchen, and an auditorium with a stage and retractable seating.

In 2015, the City received more than \$500,000 dollars of grant funding to improve the facility. The grant funded general building improvements such as new boilers, roof repairs, refinished hardwood floors, updated technology, carpeting, fans, and paint. New office space and a conference room were configured in the layout. Appliances and storage space were upgraded in the kitchen. The auditorium was renovated with new seating, refinished hardwood floors, and new media technology and stage lighting.

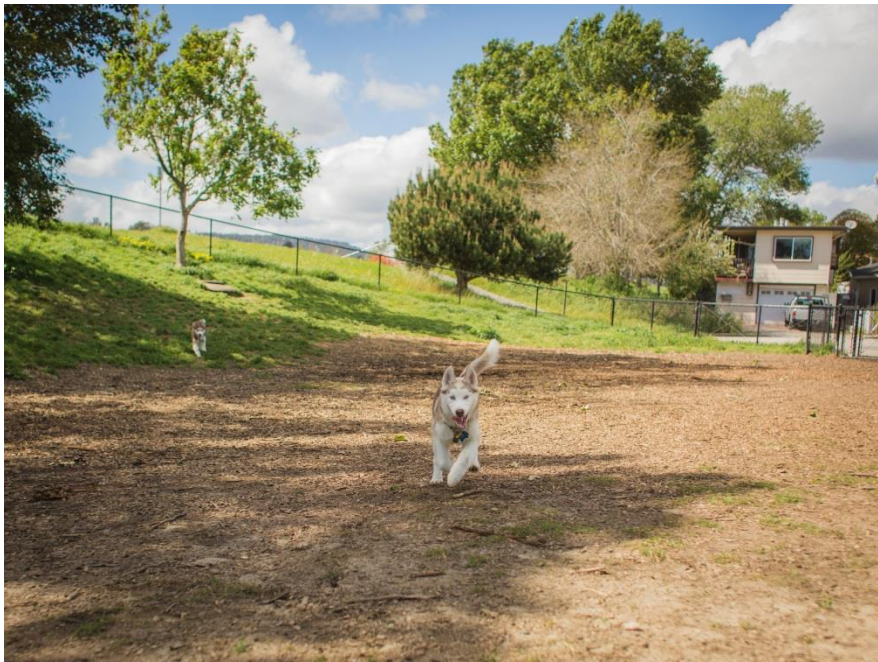
Recommendations:

Seek additional funds to continue to renovate and update the Louden Nelson Community Center. Examples include remodeling the restrooms and café/kitchen area; installing sound absorbing panels in the classrooms, replacing the hallway doors, installing new window blinds, and updating the marquis, and redesigning the Teen Center exterior yard area.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mimi De Marta Dog Park



Location: Broadway near Dakota Ave.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.5 acres

Mimi de Marta Park is a fenced off-leash dog use area with a picnic table adjacent to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk.

Recommendations:

Dog play features and additional seating could be added to enhance the experience for dogs and/or owners.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Off-leash dog use	Good	One fenced off-leash dog use area with dirt surface.
Site Furnishings	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal drinking fountain with dog bowl feature.
	Picnic tables	Good	One concrete, one wooden.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Mission Plaza Park



Location: 103 Emmet St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.94 acres

Mission Plaza Park is located across the street from the State's Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. It contains a plaza with a water fountain, drinking fountain, and benches and the design complements the surrounding setting of the Mission, Holy Cross Catholic Church and School, and Neary-Rodriguez Adobe and State Park. The plaza is used for community events, parties, weddings, and smaller gatherings. Large storm events cause some minor erosion of the decomposed granite pathways. The setting and history do not lend itself to the installation of more active recreational features.

Recommendations:

Interpretive signage should be added to describe the history of the site and surrounding area. The decomposed granite could be updated to a less erosive pathway material. Maintain a clean and safe environment.

Feature		Condition	Description
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Two lights near plaza area.
Site Access	Bus stop	N/A	Located on Mission St.
	Pathway	Good	Decomposed paved pathways providing access from street to plaza area. Erosion occurs during large storm events.
	Entrance sign	Good	Three metal signs and one large wood sign with masonry structures.
Site Furnishings	Art	Good	Masonry rock structure with metal plaque to commemorate the Mission.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Seven wooden. Some show minor weathering and paint ware.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One.
	Flag pole	Good	Three flag poles.
	Garbage	Good	One.
	Recycle	N/A	One plastic toter.
	Plaza	Very good	Rose bushes, palm tree, water fountain and benches encircle water fountain.
	Event electrical hook-ups	Very good	Located in multiple locations in park.
	Water fountain	Very good	Masonry rim w/ concrete fountain head



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mitchell's Cove



Location: Beach area accessed from stairwell on West Cliff at the intersection of Sunset Ave. and West Cliff Dr.

Proposed Classification: Beach

Size: 0.4 acres

A stairway from West Cliff path provides access to the beach. Off-leash dog use is allowed before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. The beach is popular for beach and surf activities. This beach is the only legal off-leash dog use opportunity on a beach within the City limits. It is also the only off-leash dog use opportunity for the Lower Westside neighborhood. Consideration could be given to this off-leash dog use area if a future program is developed for moderate intensity and to reduce conflicts with general beach usage. Additional enforcement should be pursued to ensure beach goers on this small beach are not inundated with off-leash dog use during times when dog use is not allowed.

Recommendations:

Consider programs and enforcement to ensure that off-leash dog use does not overwhelm the small beach area.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Moore Creek Overlook



Location: Cypress St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.12 acres

Moore Creek Overlook offers a scenic overlook of the Moore Creek Preserve and canyon. A concrete pathway encircles a small grass area and three benches overlook the scenic vista.

Recommendations:

None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Moore Creek Preserve



Location: Accessed from Highway 1 near Shaffer Rd. and the terminus of Meder St. No parking is provided.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 263.75 acres

Master Plan: Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan

Moore Creek Preserve has nearly three miles of hiking trails (no dogs are allowed) that wind through canyon, forest, and grassland natural settings. Many of the trails overlook the Pacific Ocean. Cattle graze the coastal prairie areas to help restore native plants and the Ohlone Tiger Beetle. Access to the site is limited. Visitors can park on Shaffer Road and cross Highway 1 to enter the southern entrance or park east of Western Drive to walk down Meter Street to enter the northeastern entrance. Highway 1 does not have a crosswalk and a mid-block crossing would likely not be supported by Caltrans at the location. A parking area could be established off of Highway 1 but would likely include retaining walls and other costly improvements. Park signage is worn-out and needs replacement. The signs are not highly visible from the public right-of way at either entrance. Large interpretive signs could help educate visitors on the unique resources and restoration effort. A small metal interpretive sign and four bike posts are located at each entrance.

Recommendations:

1. Consider developing a parking area off of Highway 1 to improve access to the property.
2. Provide more prominent entry signs and install new trail and interpretive signage.
3. Improve cattle grazing fencing.
4. Continue efforts to protect rare and endangered species.
5. Explore opportunities to enhance access and connectivity.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Museum of Natural History



Location: 1305 E. Cliff Dr.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 3,500 sq. ft.

The Museum of Natural History is located at Tyrrell Park. The museum is leased to the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History which provides services, events, programs, exhibits, and other educational tools to inspire stewardship and connect people to nature and history.

Recommendations:

See Tyrrell Park.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Neary Lagoon Park



Location: 100 California St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.27 acres

Neary Lagoon Park is located adjacent to the Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, La Barranca Park, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It has two tennis courts, picnic tables, a playground, off-street parking, and restrooms. It is located at one of the three entrances to the Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. The Monterey Bay Scenic Trail is planned on the railway right-of-way that separates Neary Lagoon Park from La Barranca Park.

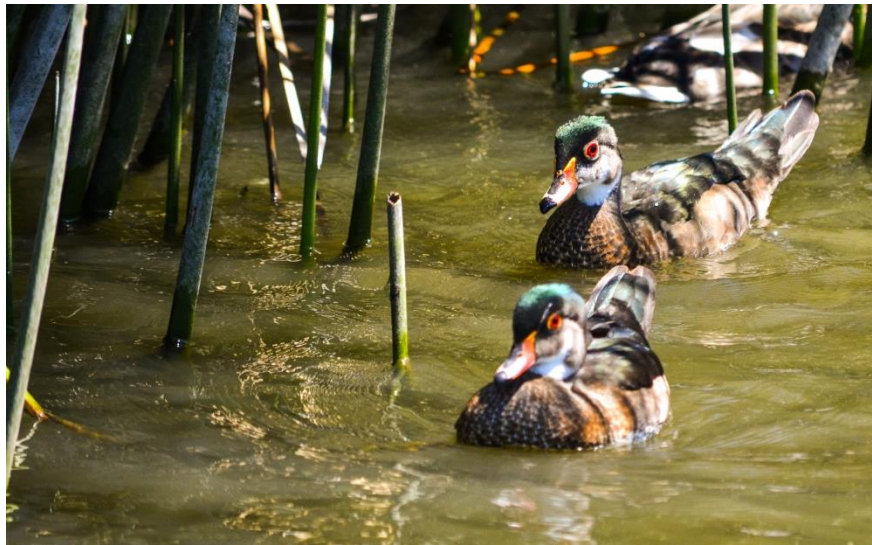
Recommendations:

Consider lighting the tennis courts.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Playground	Very good	One large playground with a variety of features and sand play. Combination of rubber matting and sand surfacing
	Tennis court	Very good	Two tennis courts
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Concrete
	Parking	Fair	Off-street parking.
	Entrance sign	Good	One entrance sign. It could be moved closer to street for improved visibility.
Site Furnishings	Art	Good	One mural.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Eight benches.
	Bike parking	Very good	Three u-shaped.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal drinking fountain.
	Garbage	Good	Three garbage cans.
	Recycle	Good	One recycle container.
	Combination of garbage and recycling	Very good	One BearSaver saver can.
	Interpretive signs	Good	One panel.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Two picnic tables.
	Restroom	Fair	One restroom (one dual facility).



Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge



Location: Access at Neary Lagoon Park, the terminus of Chestnut St, and the terminus of Blackburn St.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 37 acres

Master Plan: Neary Lagoon Management Plan (1992)

Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge offers a boardwalk loop trail where visitors can bird watch and explore a variety of natural habitats such as riparian forest, freshwater marsh, mixed oak woodland, and open water. The floating walkway offers a truly unique experience within the City and region. Interpretive signs provide information about some of the wildlife that inhabit the refuge. An interpretive kiosk and group education area is located at the Chestnut Street entrance. The walkway is also a good connection between the Lower Westside and Downtown neighborhoods. A portion of the floating walkways was renovated in 2016, but there remains much more walkway in need of renovation. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History leads educational tours funded by Public Works. A new biological assessment should be conducted to evaluate the invasive species and provide recommendations for parks maintenance activities which consider timing and approach to limit disturbances to wildlife.

Recommendations:

1. Fund the replacement of the floating walkways.
2. Hire a biologist to evaluate parks maintenance activities and timing, and develop recommendations for natural restoration activities.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Safety and Security	Gated and locked at night	Good	Gated at all entrances.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	The new floating walkways are very good. The remaining wooden walkways will need to be replaced in the near future. The asphalt pathways are in need of resurfacing.
	Entrance sign	Good	Three wood signs. Entrance sign on Blackburn Street is small and weathered.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Very good	Twelve benches/seating areas.
	Bike parking	Very good	Three u-shaped at Blackburn St.
	Garbage	Good	Six garbage cans and one BearSaver can with garbage and recycling.
	Interpretive signs	Fair	Twelve interpretive panels. Some show defacing and fading and need panel replacement.
	Interpretive kiosk	Good	Six more interpretive panels under a shelter structure and seven benches form a group education area.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Ocean View Park



Location: 102 Ocean View Ave.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.06 acres

Ocean View Park is a popular family park with picnic tables, playgrounds, long slides and restrooms. Other facilities include a half-court basketball court as well as a grass field which accommodates legal, unfenced off-leash dog use when not being used for other recreational purposes. The proximity of the off-leash dog use area to the picnic, basketball, and playground areas is not optimal and uncontrolled dogs frequently create issues with other park users. Fencing the off-leash dog use area could help improve the situation, but it would also segment the park and limit the amount of activities that can take place. The playground equipment will need to be upgraded soon. Many of the pathways are comprised of decomposed granite. The site has poor drainage and the pathways often become difficult to pass. Replacing the decomposed granite with asphalt or a more decorative material could improve the walkability during the winter months. There is an overlook on the southern side of the park with an impressive view of the Boardwalk and San Lorenzo River. A pathway connects from S. Branciforte Avenue to Ocean View Avenue to E. Cliff Drive and Jessie Street Marsh. The closest crosswalk across E. Cliff Drive to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk is located at Jessie Street.

Recommendations:

1. Consider fencing-in the off-leash dog use area or relocating the off-leash dog use area to another location.
2. Upgrade the playground equipment and surfacing.
3. Create a paved surface road from S. Branciforte Avenue.
4. Add native gardens and more ornamental plantings.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Very good	Half court.
	Off-leash dog use	Fair	One off-leash dog use area w/ no fence. Grass field is saturated during winter.
	Playground	Good	One swing set, one large climbing structure, seven long slides. Rubber and fibar fill surfacing. Metal slides will need replacement soon.
	Tot-lot	Good	One structure with slides, bucket swing, and rubber and fibar fill.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Dirt pathway towards S. Branciforte Ave can be improved. Asphalt is very good. Decomposed granite is in fair condition. Improvements to stairs down to E. Cliff from bluff should be pursued.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Three metal and one wood.
Site Furnishings	Art	Fair	Rock monument. Vandalism needs to be removed.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Thirteen wood benches, three recycled plastic, and five concrete formed benches.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal and one on restroom.
	Garbage	Very poor	Seven concrete. Showing rust and warping. Two plastic.
	Recycle	N/A	One toter.
	Picnic tables	Fair	Four concrete.
	Restroom	Good	One dual facility.



Pacheco Dog Park



Location: Pacheco Hts. @ Pacheco Ave.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.45 acres

Pacheco Dog Park is a popular fenced off-leash dog use area with wood chips as the surface. Wood benches and a picnic table are provided for seating. The park receives a lot of sun exposure and a small oak tree is not mature enough to provide adequate shading. A water spigot is also provided.

Recommendations:

Dog play features, shade structures, seating, or tables could be added to enhance the experience for dogs and/or owners.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Parks and Recreation Administration Building



Location: 323 Church St.

Size: 4,546 sq. ft.

Proposed Classification: Other

The Parks and Recreation Administrative Building is located within City Hall and currently houses the administrative staff for the Parks and Recreation Department. An ADA assessment was recently completed.

Recommendations:

Complete improvements identified within the ADA assessment.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Parks Maintenance Yard



Location: 300 Evergreen St.

Proposed Classification: Other

Size: 2,100 sq. ft. maintenance garage, 2,700 sq. ft. office, a 2,000 sq. ft. open equipment bay, and approximately 1,800 sq. ft. of sheds

The Parks Maintenance Yard is located at 300 Evergreen Street and includes offices and equipment storage and bays for parks maintenance operations.

Recommendations:
None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden



Location: 200 Raymond St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.13 acres

Poets Park is a small park which includes picnic tables, a drinking fountain, benches, play equipment, community garden plots, and artwork. It is adjacent to the Beach Flats Community Garden which is located on property which is leased by the City from the Santa Cruz Seaside Company. The City is currently searching for a permanent community garden space in the Beach Area neighborhood. A total of thirty-two combined plots are currently located at Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden.

Recommendations:

The City will continue to pursue a permanent community garden space for the Beach Area neighborhood.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational facilities	Community gardens	Good	Thirty-two combined total garden plots.
	Playground	Very good	Seesaw and climbing roundabout.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Concrete.
Site Amenities	Art	Very good	Concrete decorative balls and metal tree sculpture.
	Benches/Seating	Fair	Concrete formed bench shows minor wear and tear from skateboard grinding.
	Garbage	Fair	One concrete.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Two recycled plastic tables.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Pogonip Clubhouse



Location: Accessed from Golf Club Dr.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 8,000 sq. ft.

Master Plan: Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2000) and Pogonip Master Plan (1998)

The Pogonip Clubhouse was built in 1911 and was designed as a two-story Craftsman style clubhouse for the Casa del Rey Golf Course. In 1935, it was converted into a Polo Club. After World War II, the club remained a private social club until the 1980s when it was condemned. In 1988, the City acquired Pogonip and initiated efforts to mothball the building. The clubhouse is currently in a dilapidated state and remains closed to public access. The Pogonip Master Plan plans to restore the clubhouse and use it as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center, and a site for special events.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct an assessment of the structure's current state and fund short-term mothballing improvements if necessary.
2. Restore and renovate the clubhouse for various uses (events, weddings, community center, winery, etc.).



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pogonip Open Space



Location: Accessed from Harvey West Park, the terminus of Golf Club Dr., Highway 9, Glen Coolidge Dr., and Spring St.

Proposed Classification: Open Space

Size: 640 acres

Master Plan: Pogonip Master Plan (1998)

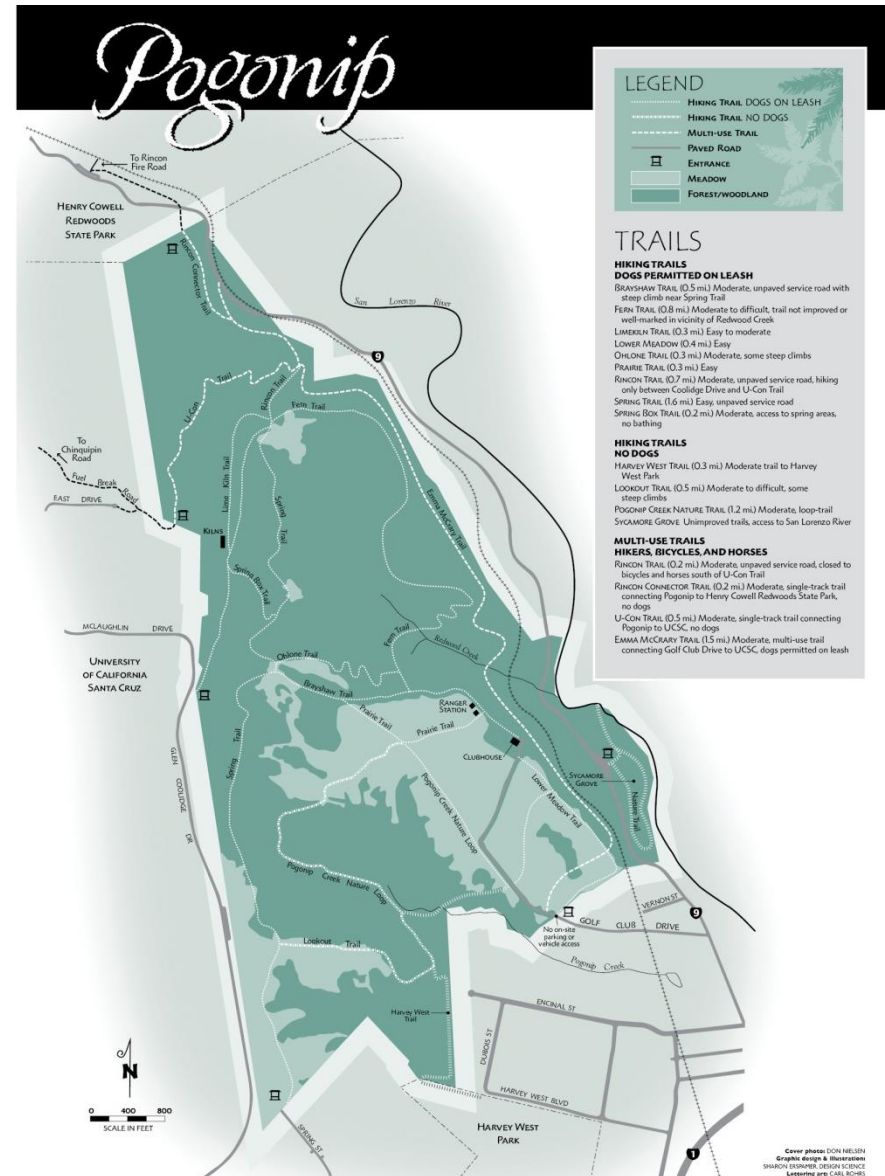
Pogonip Open Space contains approximately eight miles of hiking trails and three miles of multi-use (hiking, biking, and horseback riding) trails that weave through a variety of natural and historic sceneries. The open space is located adjacent to Harvey West Park, UCSC (which includes trails that connect to Wilder Ranch State Park), and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. The Emma McCrary Trail was constructed in 2013 with the help of volunteers and has become a very popular trail, especially for mountain biking. The Pogonip Master Plan envisioned a variety of recreational and educational activities for the open space. The Homeless Garden Project will be relocating in Pogonip. The Homeless Garden Project is a non-profit organization that provides programs and training to people who are or have previously been homeless. A 1,500 sq. ft. office/classroom building, parking area and an approximately 9 acre farm will be located in the Lower Main Meadow. The property includes the historic Pogonip Clubhouse which was constructed in 1911 as the Casa del Rey Golf and Country Clubhouse. The clubhouse is currently in a dilapidated condition and is closed-off from public access. The existing Pogonip Master Plan envisioned the restoration of the Pogonip Clubhouse as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center, and a site for special events. The former tennis courts are also closed and the swimming pool has been filled-in. The Master Plan recommends replacing the tennis and pool area with event grounds and parking. The Master Plan also planned for an outdoor education camp across Golf Club Drive from the Homeless Garden Project and an interpretive trail through Sycamore Grove. The Sycamore Grove area is located to the east of Highway 9 along the San Lorenzo River and is currently closed as a result of illegal camping issues. No parking is currently provided onsite.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendations:

- Continue to implement the existing master plan.
 - Restore the Pogonip Clubhouse and use for events. Seek partnerships and grant opportunities to fund renovation.
 - Implement the Sycamore Grove interpretive trail.
 - Consider a caretaker residence or park host onsite.
 - Enhance restoration efforts. Renovate cattle grazing infrastructure and begin grazing. Develop and implement a work plan for invasive species removal and native plant restoration.
 - Install interpretive signage.
 - Construct road, parking lot, infrastructure, and other site improvements.
- Explore modifications to the existing master plan:
 - Conduct a trails assessment to evaluate existing trail conditions and use issues and identify ways to improve access, recreational enjoyment, and connectivity. The assessment will help inform the determination of whether or not future trail modifications or improvements are appropriate and provide for a range of uses (hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking). As part of the process, the City would create clearer maintenance standards, identify use conflicts and solutions, develop a signage and educational program, assess long-term maintenance costs associated with any future improvements, and evaluate potential environmental impacts and mitigations through the CEQA process.
 - Consider adding a parking area near the Emma McCrary trail on Golf Club Dr. in the meadow immediately to the northwest of the vehicle access gate.





4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Rincon Park



Location: 601 Chestnut St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.06 acres

Rincon Park is a small demonstration garden with pathways.

Recommendations:
None.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Riverside Gardens Park

Location: 258 San Lorenzo Blvd.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.52 acres



Riverside Gardens Park is the newest park in the system and was opened in 2014. A granitecrete pathway connects from Riverside Avenue to San Lorenzo Boulevard. Along the pathway there are picnic tables, benches, a playground, community garden plots, a small grass field, an arbor, and one piece of exercise equipment. A steel panel fence was specifically designed for the park and each panel was cut with a different floral design pattern. Fruit trees were planted as part of a community orchard project. The orchard is located in an area with limited recreational opportunity and will increase access to food. In addition, it will provide opportunities to learn about resource conservation and sustainable growing practices in a public setting.

Recommendations:

None.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Community gardens	Very good	Eleven plots.
	Exercise equipment	Very good	One piece (stairs).
	Playground	Very good	One wooden structure with plastic slides, swings, and bucket swings. Fibar fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Very good	Three light poles.
	Gate and locked at night	Very good	Steel panels.
	Security cameras	Very good	One security camera.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Granitecrete pathway.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Two diecast cut metal signs and two metal park signs.
Site Furnishings	Arbor	Very good	Wooden arbor.
	Benches/Seating	Very good	Five recycled plastic.
	Bike parking	Very good	Two artistic metal bike racks.
	Garbage	Very good	Two metal cans.
	Both	Very good	Two BearSaver cans.
	Picnic tables	Very good	Six concrete tables.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Round Tree Park



Location: 305 Nobel Dr.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.28 acres

Round Tree Park is a small grass field that is infrequently used. The small size, coupled with public streets bordering three sides of the park, limits the type of recreational facilities that can be located there. There is currently no park signage or site furnishings. Smaller, well-designed recreational opportunities could be added such as an outdoor exercise area, swing set, gazebo, tot-lot, or community garden.

Recommendations:

1. Add park signage.
2. Consider additional recreational opportunities such as an outdoor exercise area, swing set, gazebo, tot-lot, or community garden.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



San Lorenzo Park



Location: 137 Dakota Ave.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 11.12 acres

San Lorenzo Park is located along the eastern edge of the San Lorenzo River and is bordered by Water Street to the north; the Santa Cruz County Government Center, a hotel, and an apartment complex to the east; and Branciforte Creek to the south. The park is connected to downtown by a pedestrian bridge over San Lorenzo River. Public Works recently completed the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Branciforte Creek, linking the park to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk to the South. The benchlands area of the park is located within a flood plain for the river and any development is heavily regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers. San Lorenzo Park hosts multiple events throughout the year and parking is often provided at the County Government Center and in the benchlands area for the events. The park has a playground, a tot-lot, a portable pump track, nine disc golf baskets, the San Lorenzo Lawn Bowling facility, and a pond with a small stage. The play area has been

completely fenced-in. The pond is a popular destination to bird watch. However, the pond does not recirculate water and needs to be upgraded. The stage is not frequently incorporated into events at the park. The restrooms are periodically closed as a result of illegal activity which is prevalent at the park. Cameras were installed in the park to create a safer environment and a Ranger is generally stationed at the park.

The park is located adjacent to the river and is in need of renovations and enhancements to create more use and deter misconduct. Consideration should be given to creating a larger draw for additional community use of the park when events are not being held. Future renovations of the park could focus on architectural elements, attractions, event infrastructure, and other improvements that separate the park from other destinations. Future renovation of the park should also consider how to increase usage of the Santa Cruz Riverwalk from neighborhoods along the river and Downtown.

Recommendations:

1. Consider a comprehensive renovation of the park. Examples include upgrading the playground, renovating or removing the pond, adding more colorful gardening displays, providing art, renovating or relocating the restrooms, expanding the number of recreational facilities, installing hidden infrastructure to support events, and constructing functional architectural elements such as entrances, plazas, art, stages, and arbors.
2. Increase programming of the park.
3. Hold more events and concerts in the park.
4. Consider as a location for a permanent or seasonal food truck court.
5. Partner with the County to provide recreational facilities on the parcel of County-owned land immediately to the north of the lawn bowling facility. Recreational facilities could include pickleball courts, exercise equipment, and/or amenities or features that could be incorporated into weddings or events.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Disc golf course	Very Good	Nine hole disc golf practice course.
	Large, grass field	Poor	Benchlands has no irrigation.
	Playground	Good	One structure w/ slides, climbing structure, and tire swing with sand and rubber matting. Concrete serpent.
	Pump track	Very good	One fiberglass and wood portable pump track course.
	Tot-lot	Good	Fenced-in with a structure with slides and bucket swings and sand and rubber fills.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Good	Twelve light poles.
	Security cameras	Very Good	Three security cameras on poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	Asphalt and decomposed granite are in fair condition.
	Entrance sign	Good	Nine metal and one wooden entry sign.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Fair	Five wooden benches in poor condition. Four recycled plastic benches in good condition. One artistically painted concrete bench in a very good condition.
	Bike parking	Very good	Two U racks and eight metal bike posts.
	Drinking fountain	Good	Three metal.
	Flag pole	Very good	One flag pole.
	Garbage	Poor	Eight concrete garbage cans. Rusting and warping.
	Recycle	Fair	One can with slatted screen.
	Both	Very good	Three BearSaver cans.
	Pond and Stage	Poor	Pond does not recirculate water and is prone to pipes breaking. Stage is dated.
	Restroom	Fair	One dual facility.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling



Location: 137 Dakota St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 18,000 sq. ft. outdoor lawn bowling area and 1,500 sq. ft. clubhouse

The San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling facility is located in San Lorenzo Park and operated by the Santa Cruz Lawn Bowling Club. The world class green was constructed with a well-drained, compacted substrate layer leveled to within 1/8" level for every ten foot of surface where the ball, when rolled upon the surface, travels at a specific speed to meet world standards for tournament play. Reservations or club memberships are required to use the facility. Used by the Santa Cruz Lawn Bowling Club, the clubhouse contains a kitchen and restrooms in addition to meeting space.

Recommendations:

None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Santa Cruz Riverwalk



Location: Multi-use trail along the San Lorenzo River

Proposed Classification: Other

Size: N/A

Master Plan: San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003)

The Santa Cruz Riverwalk is a multi-use trail that encircles the San Lorenzo River south of Highway 1. On the west side of the river, the trail continues under Highway 1 to the Tannery Arts Center. The San Lorenzo Urban River Plan provides a number of recommendations for the locations and designs of plazas, unpaved nature loops, native planting treatments, interpretive signage, bird watching platforms, and art. The plan recognizes that the river is a habitat area for fish and wildlife and a passive recreational area for the enjoyment of the community. The Public Works Department recently added additional lighting along the Riverwalk, as well as exercise equipment on the west side of the river and south of Laurel Street. Exercise equipment is also located on the west side of the river south of Highway 1. Illegal activity, protecting the river and bird habitat, and increasing positive use of the area have been ongoing concerns along the river corridor.

Recommendations:

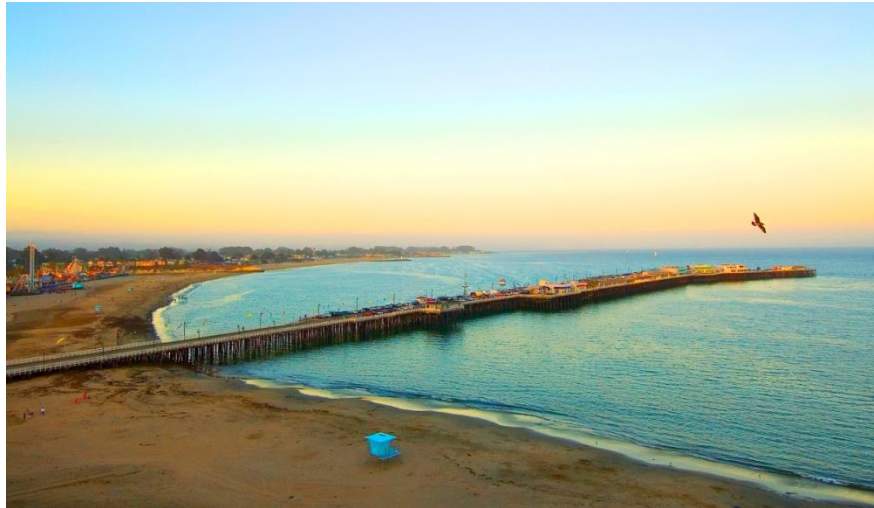
1. Implement the San Lorenzo Urban River Plan as well as stakeholder recommendations developed through the Santa Cruz Riverwalk Summit and subsequent discussions.
2. Integrate multi-departmental and agency partnerships while enhancing the department's programming and safety efforts.
3. Install or coordinate improvements which include but are not limited to the installation of artwork, site furnishings, infrastructure and recreational amenities.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Exercise equipment	Very good	Two locations, nine pieces total.
Safety and Security	Lighting	N/A	Lighting along majority of pathway.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	The majority is asphalt. Some sections concrete and permeable concrete.
	Entrance sign	Good	Fourteen metal signs.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Fair	One set of concrete blocks.
	Garbage	Good	Five garbage only BearSaver cans.
	Both	Fair	Twenty BearSaver cans. The majority are in good condition. A few are in fair condition due to wear and tear and continual remediation of vandalism.
	Interpretive Signs	Very good	Three signs.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Santa Cruz Wharf



Rendering from the Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan Report (2014) of potential improvements and activities at the Bayward end of the Wharf.

Location: Entrance located at the intersection of Beach St. and Pacific Ave.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 8 acres

Master Plan: Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan (2014)

The Santa Cruz Wharf was constructed in 1914 and, at one-half mile in length, is the longest timber pile-supported pier structure in the United States. The Wharf is a major tourist destination and is popular for wildlife viewing, fishing, boat tours, dining, and shopping. The Parks and Recreation Department operates the Wharf. The Economic Development Department is managing the Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan process which is currently in the CEQA review process. The Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan will guide the future restoration and expansion of the facility, and includes policies that recognize the importance of the visual and historic landmark and significance as a recreational, commercial, and open space resource. Among the many recommendations, the plan includes a landmark building, an events pavilion, a gateway entrance, a welcome center, a small boat landing area, and pedestrian and bicycle access along the western side. The Wharf Headquarters is located on the Wharf and the Maintenance Yard is leased from the Regional Transportation Commission and is located near Depot Park. In 2014, the Santa Cruz Green Wharf Project, a partnership between the City, UCSC, and other organizations and community members dedicated to reducing the environmental footprint of the wharf, received the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

Recommendations:

Work with the Planning and Community Development and Economic Development Departments to implement the Wharf Master Plan. Renew the lease for the Wharf Yard and consider facility improvements such as a workshop and storage structure.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Scope Park



Location: Pacific Ave. @ Mission St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.1 acres

Scope Park is located across the street from the Town Clock and contains a mural. Scope Park and the Town Clock are gateways to downtown.

Recommendations:

Coordinate with the Arts Commission to restore or paint a new mural.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Senior Citizens Opportunity (222 Market Street)



Location: 222 Market St.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 5,400 square feet

The community center is leased to Senior Citizens Opportunity to provide senior arts and cultural services. The building has a large multi-use room with a stage at one end along with an adjoining kitchen and another small multi-use room. The City maintains the landscaping and exterior of the building.

Recommendations:
None.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Sgt. Derby Park



Location: 509 Woodland Wy.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.65 acres

Sgt. Derby Park has a large grass field, one of the first skate parks in California, two tennis courts (six pickleball courts are painted), three disc golf baskets, picnic tables, and a playground. The park does not contain frontage along a public street and is hidden from view behind residences from the public right-of-way on Woodland Avenue to the south. Park access is provided from the street by two narrow unpaved paths located between private residences. A fence was installed by the Santa Cruz City Schools District between Sgt. Derby Park and Natural Bridges School along the eastern property line. Industrial properties are located to the north. Residential properties are located along the west and south. Fence cutting has occurred along the fence-line between the industrial properties and the park for access to the park. There may be an opportunity for a joint-use agreement with the Santa Cruz City Schools District to construct a turf soccer field on their property. The proximity of

the park to the recreational facilities is a great opportunity to explore a more detailed joint-use partnership to allow for public use during off-hours. Adjacent to the skate park, the remnants of a volleyball court exist. This court could be converted to another skateboarding area, possibly tailored for less experienced riders or incorporated into the existing skate park. The asphalt pathways are deteriorating and need resurfacing. There is room for expansion next to the adjacent playground to offer more variety for varying age groups. The tennis/pickleball court area could be expanded. A parcourse used to be located at the park and could be reestablished. The park is currently serviced by a porta-potty. Additional use related to more courts or a joint-use partnership for a turf field may necessitate the need for a permanent restroom. The drainage is poor for most of the site. A fenced off-leash dog use area could be located at the site. However, consensus with the surrounding neighbors has not been reached. Many residents do not want the open field segmented with fencing and prefer hours of off-leash dog use to be pursued. Many others have expressed concern that allowing off-leash dog use without a fenced area would create safety and cleanliness issues.

Recommendations:

1. The entrances could be improved to be more inviting, such as with the installation of awnings, landscaping, or other entry features.
2. Improved parking and access could occur through mutual parking agreements with adjacent industrial property owners to create access from Delaware Avenue or the Armory property off of Swift Street.
3. A more defined joint-use agreement with the Santa Cruz City Schools District could be pursued for use of the existing school recreational equipment and the development of an artificial turf field.
4. There is opportunity to expand the skate park and tennis/pickleball facilities to accommodate additional skate and court space.
5. A parcourse could be established along the pathway.
6. The pathways should be resurfaced in the near future.
7. The playground could be expanded to offer more variations for skill and age level.
8. The evaluation of adding a restroom facility should be conducted if facilities are expanded and the park receives a higher level of use.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Disc golf	Very good	Three practice baskets.
	Large, grass field	Poor	Large multi-use field. Drainage is poor.
	Pickleball court	Very good	Six pickleball courts are painted on the tennis court for shared use. Requires nets to be brought to the site and installed.
	Playground	Good	One swing set. One playground structure w/ slides and a bucket seat swing set for smaller children. Fibar fill.
	Skate park	Very good	Concrete. Graffiti is prevalent.
	Tennis court	Very Good	Two courts. Painted for shared use with pickleball.
Site Access	Pathway	Very poor	Asphalt needs to be resurfaced.
	Entrance sign	Good	Two wood, four metal signs.
Site Furnishings	Art	Very good	One rock w/ metal plaque and one metal sculpture commemorating Sgt. Derby.
	Benches/Seating	Fair	One wood, four recycled plastic, and two metal.
	Bike parking	Good	One U rack.
	Drinking fountain	Fair	One regular, one with dog bowl.
	Garbage	Fair	Five concrete.
	Recycle	Poor	Two wood slatted shells.
	Picnic tables	Fair	One wood and five concrete.
	Restroom/Porta-Potty	Fair	Screened porta-potty.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Star of the Sea Park



Location: 418 Darwin St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.1 acres

Star of the Sea Park is approximately 2.1 acres. The City owns an approximately 1/3 acre parcel along Darwin Street and a joint-use agreement allows use of the adjacent field area which the City maintains. The properties contain very few amenities and the turf area needs enhancement. Additional facilities could be placed at this site. Consideration should be given to provide activities that are not provided at nearby Frederick Street Park. The Parks and Recreation Department could expand the joint use agreement to add signage and a walkway from Frederick Street to encourage more use of the site. Drainage is poor in the field area. The large grass field is large enough to accommodate a youth soccer field. However, this portion of the park is not owned by the City and the joint-use agreement would need to be expanded.

Recommendations:

Explore additional amenity opportunities with the surrounding neighborhood and Star of the Sea Church. The location has limited site furnishings and no recreational facilities. Consideration should be given to providing facilities which are not currently located at Frederick Street Park, which is a few blocks away. Some examples of what could be located there include a community garden and/or orchard, pickleball courts, a basketball court, a soccer field, exercise equipment, play equipment, or a small pump track.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Large, grass field	Very poor	Irrigation system needs work, gopher holes, uneven surfaces, and bare patches. Irrigation clock is located behind school's gate and could be relocated to be more accessible to City staff.
Site Access	Pathway	Poor	Decomposed granite, below level of grass and poor appearance.
	Entrance sign	Poor	One wooden near Church parking lot is in good condition. No sign on Darwin St.
Site Furnishings	Garbage	Very poor	Three concrete bins.
	Recycle	Very poor	One wooded w/ slat screening.
	Picnic tables	Very poor	Three (wooden).



Surfing Museum



Location: 701 W. Cliff Dr.

Proposed Classification: Community, Recreational, and Cultural Facility

Size: 630 sq. ft.

Located inside the iconic Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse on Lighthouse Point, the Surfing Museum overlooks the renowned surf break Steamer Lane and has a collection of photographs, surfboards, and other interesting artifacts tracing more than 100 years of surfing history in Santa Cruz. The museum shop specializes in surfing books and surfing related items.

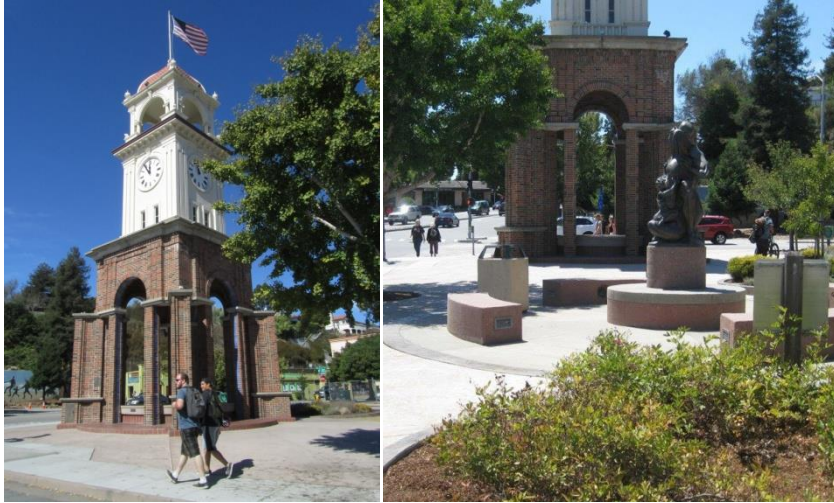
Recommendations:

Update the collections. Consider removing the turf and replacing with native plant displays and/or a plaza/gathering area at the rear of the Surfing Museum.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Town Clock



Location: 101 Water St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 0.19 acres

Town Clock is a plaza with benches, art, a water fountain, and is the site of a memorial plaque for the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The plaza is used as a gathering place and is home to the annual New Year's Eve countdown event.

Recommendations:

None.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Trescony Park



Location: Terminus of Trescony St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2 acres

Trescony Park has the largest community garden area in the City with fifty-four plots. The park also has a playground, tot-lot, and picnic tables. A pathway extends to Bay Street. A porta-potty could be provided.

Recommendations:

1. Provide a porta-potty.
2. Add signage along Bay Street.
3. Improve concrete pathway.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Community gardens	Good	Fifty-four plots.
	Playground	Good	One tower with slide. Fibar fill.
	Tot-lot	Good	One tower with slide. Fibar fill.
Safety and Security	Lighting	Fair	Four light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Poor	Concrete pathway is not level.
	Entrance sign	Good	One wooden entrance sign, one metal, one wood. No sign on Bay St.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Good	Four recycled plastic benches.
	Bike parking	Good	One U bike rack.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal.
	Garbage	Fair	Two concrete toters used for garden area.
	Recycle	Fair	One recycle bin with slat screening.
	Picnic tables	Fair	Two concrete and one wood.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Tyrrell Park



Location: 1305 E. Cliff Dr.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.2 acres

Tyrrell Park is a small neighborhood park which contains a small group educational area, a grass field, benches, and a life-size gray whale sculpture. The whale is a popular backdrop for photographs taken by visitors of the Museum of Natural History, which is located onsite. The park is located across E. Cliff Drive from Seabright State Beach, and the surrounding streets receive a high amount of traffic from beach goers. Community members help maintain Pilkington Creek which runs along the eastern edge of the site. Monarch butterfly habitat is located onsite. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History has requested minor improvements to create a better connection between the park and the museum's programming and educational classes, including a small trail emphasizing native plants from Santa Cruz; replacement of front lawn with native/drought resistant demonstration gardens; natural art and activity zones where art and play make use of natural materials and kids can search for insects; natural play areas making use of stumps, rocks, and tree trunks; bird boxes and other wildlife enhancements; dark sky lighting to allow for star gazing; bicycle parking, and ADA enhancements. The Parks and Recreation Department is generally supportive of these requests but will need to ensure that future programming and activity areas are complementary, neighborhood-serving, and do not deter park use from neighbors or cause other impacts to the neighborhood.

Recommendations:

Convert landscaping to demonstrative gardens, add habitat features, bike parking, and dark sky lighting, improve ADA access, and rewire and upgrade plaster whale. Work with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and surrounding neighbors to establish guidelines and locations for the outdoor activity and learning areas to ensure they are scaled appropriately for a neighborhood-serving park. The small amphitheater could be programmed with local events.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Safety and Security	Lighting	Fair	Two light poles.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Concrete, asphalt, and pervious concrete are good. Decomposed granite pathways are in fair condition.
Site Furnishings	Amphitheater	Fair	Small concrete amphitheater.
	Art	Fair	One whale.
	Benches/Seating	Good	Two wood showing minor cracking, three wood in very good condition, and one recycled plastic in very good condition.
	Bike parking	Good	Three bike posts.
	Flag pole	Very good	One flag pole.
	Trash and Recycling	Very good	Two BearSaver cans.
	Interpretive signs	Fair	Three plastic panels and one metal.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

University Terrace Park



Location: Meder St. @ Nobel Dr.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 8.7 acres

University Terrace Park has a playground, large grass field, two tennis courts, picnic tables, and fenced-in off-leash dog use areas (one area is dedicated to dogs less than 25 pounds in size). The park is connected to the Arroyo Seco trail which connects to Grandview Street. The basketball court is popular for pick-up games. Youth soccer leagues occasionally use the field as a practice area. The park is frequently used and currently has a porta-potty. A permanent restroom facility with an attached maintenance shed is a necessary addition. The playground equipment is limited given the size of the park, though the original design planned more play areas. Additional features could be added. A mini soccer field (synthetic) could be added to the large grass area to reduce water use and increase opportunities for pick-up games.

Recommendations:

1. Add a permanent restroom with an attached maintenance shed.
2. Upgrade/add playground equipment for more age groups.
3. Consider a mini soccer field (synthetic).

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Basketball court	Very good	One basketball court
	Large, grass field	Good	Very large multi-use grass field.
	Off-leash dog use	Good	Very large off-leash dog use area. Surface is dirt and becomes muddy during the rainy season.
	Playground	Good	One play structure with slides and a bucket swing set. Sand and rubber surfacing.
	Tennis court	Very good.	Two tennis courts.
Site Access	Pathway	Fair	Sections of asphalt are un-level from tree rooting and show dryness and crumbling and will need sealing and resurfacing.
	Entrance sign	Very good	Two wood and two metal.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Good	Seven recycled plastic, six wood, two concrete.
	Bike parking	Good	One four foot long bike rack near playground and two bike posts near Nobel Dr entrance.
	Drinking fountain	Good	Three drinking fountains. Two include a dog bowl feature. Paint chipping on drinking fountain in off-leash dog use area.
	Garbage	Good	Four concrete.
	Recycle	Good	One in recycled plastic, slatted shell.
	Picnic tables	Good	Three concrete, two recycled plastic, and one wood.
	Restroom/Porta-Potty	Fair	Porta-potty with wooden enclosure.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

West Cliff



Location: Swanton Blvd. to Bay St.

Proposed Classification: Community Park

Size: 14.64 acres

West Cliff pathway and accents are located on a coastal bluff along West Cliff Drive, a multi-use path that extends from Natural Bridges State Park to Cowell Beach. Stairs provide access to popular surfing breaks and beaches. Coastal recreation on and around the bluff is abundant and includes but is not limited to ocean and wildlife viewing, relaxing, surfing, swimming, rock fishing, wind surfing, biking, walking, and exercising. The park has benches, landscape accents, a statue, artwork, and one turf field. Surf contests are held at Steamer Lane and marathons are held along the pathway. Multiple surf breaks are located along this section of coastline. The Surfing Museum is located at Lighthouse Point. Lighthouse Point offers an un-paralleled viewing opportunity of surfing. It is sometimes booked for special events such as weddings or food truck events. The pathway has overlook areas that provide opportunities to view sea lions, otters, dolphins, migrating whales, and marine birds.

Natural Bridges State Park is located at the Western edge of West Cliff and Lighthouse Field State Park is located across the street from Lighthouse Point. The State Parks provide the only restroom facilities on West Cliff. The State also owns the western half of Its Beach. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the landscaping, railings, and dirt pathways along the pathway. The proximity to the ocean leads to challenges with erosion and deterioration of infrastructure. As improvements take place over time, the appearance of some of the areas lacks continuity. Ice plant is very aggressive. There are varying opinions about the types of facilities that should be included on West Cliff. Exercise equipment was added to Mitchells Cove and receives regular use. The City Council provided direction to staff to hold off on installing additional recreational facilities until a future plan was in place. The City's Local Coastal Program has a planning item to develop a West Cliff Plan. The coastline is a recreational, natural, and scenic treasure that embodies the City's unique sense of place and identity. A master plan could be created to guide future improvements; help maintain a more cohesive, consistent identity; and improve the long-term coordination and management.

Recommendations:

Partner with other stakeholder departments to develop and implement an integrated design, land-use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public access, safety, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

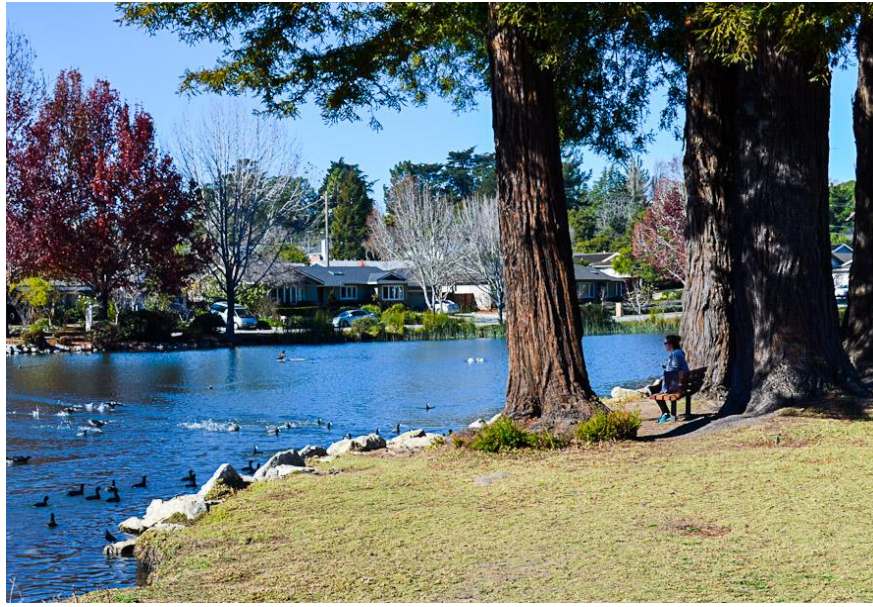


Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Exercise equipment	Very good	One dip and one sit-up station.
Safety and Security	Lighting	N/A	Street lights are along W. Cliff Dr.
	Gate and locked at night	N/A	Lighthouse Point Parking lot is gated.
Site Access	Pathway	Very Good to Poor	Asphalt was redone south of David Way. Pavement is eroding and cracking north of David St.
	Parking	N/A	Parking lots and spaces along W. Cliff.
Site Amenities	Art	Very good	One obelisk sculpture, one surfer statue.
	Benches/Seating	Fair	Fifty-nine wooden benches and two recycled plastic benches. Approximately 60 percent of the benches metal supports have deteriorated and will need replacement.
	Bike parking	Good	Ten ft. long bike structure and three U bike racks.
	Drinking fountain	Good	One metal and one metal with bottle feature. Needs to be painted.
	Flag pole	Good	Flag pole is in front of Surfing Museum.
	Garbage	Very good	19 Bearsaver cans for both trash and recycle and five metal cans.
	Recycle	Very good	Three recycle cans in addition to 19 Bearsaver cans for both trash and recycle.
	Both	Good	Eleven BearSaver cans. Some will need to be repainted due to weathering.
	Interpretive signs	Good	Four panels and one brick structure and metal plaque.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Westlake Park



Location: Bradley Dr. @ Spring St.

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.03 acres

Westlake Park is picturesque and offers great opportunities to relax and bird watch. It contains a large grass field, tot-lot and playground equipment, benches, and picnic tables adjacent to a drainage basin which visually looks like a small lake. The park is somewhat hidden within a residential neighborhood. Youth soccer league and UCSC students sometimes use the field for practice. Fishing is allowed for youth 16 years and younger and seniors 65 years and older. Tule growth and the aeration and circulation system require continual maintenance. The pathways currently do not accommodate access around the lake.

Recommendations:

1. This park is a larger neighborhood park within our parks system and a restroom could accommodate visitors who do not live within walking distance to the park which would encourage longer visits.
2. A small walking loop could be installed to allow for visitors to walk around the lake.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Fishing	N/A	Allowed for youth sixteen years and younger and seniors 65 years and older.
	Large, grass field	Good	Very large multi-use playing field on east side of park. Sometimes used by youth soccer groups as a practice area.
	Playground	Good	One tower structure w/slides and a swing set. A combination of sand and rubber fill.
Site Access	Pathway	Good	Decomposed granite pathways provide access along the western edge of the lake and to the play structure and picnic tables on the east side of the park.
	Entrance sign	Good	Large, engraved wooden sign and one metal.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Good	Seven wooden and six recycled plastic.
	Bike parking	Very good	Four metal bike posts.
	Drinking fountain	Good	Two.
	Garbage	Good	Three concrete garbage cans. No recycle.
	Interpretive signs	Good	One wooden and two recycled plastic.

4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Westside Pump Track



Location: Western Dr. @ Highway 1

Proposed Classification: Neighborhood Park (Leased)

Size: N/A

The Westside Pump Track is located on land the City has leased for a short-term basis. The land will be returned to the property owner when the lease is discontinued.

Recommendations:

Consider asphalt paving of pump track to reduce long-term maintenance needs.

Feature		Condition	Description
Recreational Facilities	Pump track	Very good	The pump track recently underwent a renovation to improve the pumps and berms.
Safety and Security	Gate and locked at night	Very good	New fencing.
Site Access	Pathway	Very good	Entrance to pump track is concrete.
	Entrance sign	Very good	One metal.
Site Furnishings	Benches/Seating	Very good	One metal bleacher.
	Bike parking	Very good	Two bike parking posts.
	Garbage	Very good	One concrete.
	Recycle	Fair	One plastic slatted screen.
	Restroom/Porta-potty	Poor	Unscreened and located in a visible location.



4.2: ASSET INVENTORY & SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

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SECTION 4.3: FUNDING STRATEGIES

- A. Introduction
- B. City Fiscal Setting
- C. Funding Strategies
- D. Costs for Future Projects

A. INTRODUCTION

The *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) identifies numerous goal, policies, actions, and recommendation items for implementation, relating not only to specific parks, facilities, open spaces and recreation areas, but also to citywide programs and administration. Full implementation of the Parks Master Plan 2030 will require significant staff and financial resources over the life of the Plan. Given the inherent limitations of the City's financial resources, many implementation projects will need to be prioritized and phased-in in ways that allow for existing staff and budgetary resources to address the projects over time. Furthermore, many of the recommendations are conceptual in detail, and future planning efforts will need to be pursued to flesh out the project-specific details and figure total costs. Finally, costs related to larger, community assets, such as the Santa Cruz Wharf and Civic Auditorium, will require larger funding sources beyond the Department's operating budget or developer fees that are currently collected. That said, this section provides a broader overview of the City's fiscal setting, existing funding strategies, and potential funding strategies that will or could be explored further to help implement components of the plan.

B. CITY FISCAL SETTING

For fiscal year 2017-2018 (FY 2018), the City's total budget is \$263.2 million, of which \$106.1 million is in the General Fund. The Parks and Recreation Department has a total budget of \$17.2 million, of which \$14.9 million is funded through the General Fund. In FY 2018, the City has appropriated \$47.1 million for capital projects, but unlike prior years,

none of these projects are supported with new General Fund monies. The City has identified \$299.4 million in unfunded capital projects.

The 2018 budget's fiscal projections anticipate budget shortfalls in the General Fund over the next several fiscal years with a modest recovery beginning in 2022. Despite strong revenue growth, pension, health care, and infrastructure maintenance/replacement costs are increasing. In order to avoid reactive cuts during the shortfall years, it is necessary to reserve revenue now to help the City offset the forecasted deficits.

C. FUNDING STRATEGIES

EXISTING SOURCES

The City has several existing sources of funds to pay for capital projects.

Park Land and Open Space Dedication.

The City requires new residential subdivisions to dedicate land, or pay an in-lieu fee, for parks and open space, as authorized by the Quimby Act (California Government Code Sec. 66477). For subdivisions greater than 50 units, the development is required to either dedicate 4.5 acres per 1,000 population or pay an in-lieu fee. For smaller subdivisions, only the fee is required. The 4.5 acre requirement is divided into two acres for neighborhood parks and 2.5 acres for community parks. The in-lieu fee is set at \$3.00/sq. ft. of building space or \$4,780 per undeveloped parcel. Use of the fee revenue is restricted to the development of new parks or the rehabilitation of existing parks. Santa Cruz allocates its Quimby Act fee revenue into separate funds representing four quadrants of the City. Fees collected from new residential development within each quadrant must be spent on parks within that quadrant. In the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, the four park fee funds are projected to have an ending balance of approximately \$800,000.

Park and Recreation Facilities Tax

While the Quimby Act fees are intended primarily to fund acquisition and development of park land, the City has also adopted an excise tax on residential construction to help fund parks and recreation facilities. The



4.3: FUNDING STRATEGIES

tax, which is paid at the issuance of a building permit, covers development or expansion of all types of residential units, including mobile homes. The tax is charged at the same level as the Quimby Act fees, \$3.00 per sq. ft. of new construction. The City has established a separate budgetary fund to account for the excise tax, but as a practical matter the City handles the expenditures of the funds in the same way as it does for the Quimby Act funds. The excise tax revenues are transferred into the four quadrant fee accounts for use on park projects within each of these service areas. Therefore, the fee balance of \$800,000 projected for the end of FY 2017-18 indicated above also includes revenues from the excise tax. Future in-lieu fee studies could assess if the quadrant areas could be updated to reflect trends in growth in specific areas of the City and the corresponding impacts on facility needs and demands.

Growth Impacts on Funding

These types of impact fees and taxes on new construction are intended to mitigate the impact of new population growth on the parks and recreation system, although the revenues can be used to upgrade or renovate existing parks to account for usage of those parks by new residents. It has been about ten years since the City established the fee level for the Quimby fees, based on a nexus study completed at that time. With the adoption of the new Parks Master Plan 2030, it would be appropriate to conduct a new nexus study to incorporate current costs for park land acquisition and development. Similarly, the level of the residential tax should be evaluated to determine if the current tax rate adequately addresses the impacts of new development on park facilities.

The level of future revenues from these sources will also depend on the rate of growth Santa Cruz experiences during the life of the Parks Master Plan 2030. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Santa Cruz region and has prepared growth projections for each jurisdiction to aid in regional transportation and land use planning. AMBAG's most recent projections were adopted in 2014 and cover the 2010 to 2035 time period. These projections show the City of Santa Cruz gaining 6,039 new residential units between 2010 and 2035, of which 4,231 units would occur by 2020. However, as of December 2016, Santa Cruz had

added 437 new units since 2010. It is likely the recovery in the housing market from the recession has been much slower than anticipated.

In order to estimate potential future funding available from these City sources, consultant Applied Development Economics (ADE) has prepared a low and high residential growth projection based on the AMBAG data but calibrated to the actual dwelling unit count in Santa Cruz in 2016 (Table 4.3-1). The low projection assumes that the pace of development in the City between 2010 and 2016 continues until 2020 and then follows the AMBAG projections for each of the subsequent five year periods out to 2035. Under this scenario, Santa Cruz would add 2,684 units between 2016 and 2035 but fall short of the total 29,335 units originally projected by AMBAG for 2035. The high projection assumes development activity accelerates and the City does achieve the original AMBAG projection, adding 5,720 new units between 2016 and 2035.

Table 4.3-1 shows both the Quimby Act fees and the residential tax potentially generated in each future five year period. The residential tax would also be levied on residential remodels if they add square footage to the home, but this is not estimated in Table 4.3-1. The low growth scenario would generate about \$25.7 million over the 20 year period, while the higher growth scenario would generate \$54.8 million. If the City resets the fee and tax levels to account for new costs identified in the Parks Master Plan 2030, the revenues would likely be higher than shown. As such, it appears that these revenues could fund many of the projects. It is important to note that construction costs will escalate each year, so the further out in time projects are completed, the higher the total cost will be. The City's fee and tax levels are not currently set up to escalate each year automatically, so the revenues could fall short of costs over time.



Table 4.3-1 Projected Residential Development and Related Quimby Act Fees and Park and Recreation Tax Revenues

	2016	2020	2025	2030	2035
Projected Housing					
Low – Total Units	23,635	23,954	24,611	25,261	26,319
5- Yr. Growth		319	657	650	1,058
High – Total Units	23,635	25,422	26,515	27,596	29,355
5-Yr Growth		1,787	1,093	1,081	1,759
Low Growth Revenues					
Quimby Fees		\$1,524,820	\$3,140,460	\$3,107,000	\$5,057,240
Cumulative		\$1,524,820	\$4,665,280	\$7,772,280	\$12,829,520
Residential Tax		\$1,531,200	\$3,153,600	\$3,120,000	\$5,078,400
Cumulative		\$1,531,200	\$4,684,800	\$7,804,800	\$12,883,200
Combined Total		\$3,056,020	\$9,350,080	\$15,577,080	\$25,712,720
High Growth Revenues					
Quimby Fees		\$8,541,860	\$5,222,592	\$5,166,948	\$8,410,201
Cumulative		\$8,541,860	\$13,764,452	\$18,931,399	\$27,341,600
Residential Tax		\$8,577,600	\$5,244,443	\$5,188,567	\$8,445,390
Cumulative		\$8,577,600	\$13,822,043	\$19,010,610	\$27,456,000
Combined Total		\$17,119,460	\$27,586,495	\$37,942,009	\$54,797,600

ADDITIONAL FUNDING STRATEGIES

Grant Funding

Similar to most cities, Santa Cruz accesses state and federal grant programs when available to help fund parks and recreation facilities. Periodically, voters of the state have approved park, water and natural resources bonds that the State Department of Parks and Recreation has used to grant funds to local agencies through its Office of Grants and Local Assistance (OGALS). Most recently, a statewide park bond was passed in 2006. Additionally, OGALS administers annual Land & Water

Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds from the National Park Service, the Habitat Conservation Fund (\$2 million/yr) and the Recreational Trails Program (up to \$4 million, depending on Congressional action). The City may also access funds and technical assistance directly from the Federal Government. For example, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service offers a Coastal Program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to coastal communities and land owners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

The City receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds directly from the Federal Government, which may be used for a variety of purposes such as affordable housing, community facilities or economic development. In the past several years, the City has received between \$500,000 and \$900,000 per year and has used the funds for the operation of the teen center as well as other capital improvement projects. For large projects it is frequently necessary to assemble several grants from sources which may have different purposes but which can contribute to portions of a larger project. In addition to state and federal grant sources, there are a number of private foundations, major corporations and non-profit groups that offer funding for specific purposes appropriate to the types of projects in the Parks Master Plan 2030. Appendix 9 provides a selected list of such grant programs that have offered funds in the past year. In some cases these programs are offered on an annually recurring basis and sometimes they are one time opportunities, or offered on a less frequent basis. If not already, the City may consider subscribing to a service such as Grantstation Insider (www.grantstation.com) in order to monitor upcoming grant opportunities. However, in general grant funds are limited and usually allocated on a competitive basis, which makes it difficult to incorporate them in specific ways into long-term capital improvement programs.

Potential Additional Funding Sources

The City may consider a variety of other financing mechanisms and funding sources to help close the gap on parks and recreation facilities costs and ongoing operations and maintenance. Some of these programs are most appropriate in relation to major new development projects and others are designed to increase funding from existing



4.3: FUNDING STRATEGIES

residents and property owners. This latter category usually requires voter approval, but may also include efforts to promote corporate sponsorships and community donations for specific community facilities.

Community Benefits Program

In addition to impact fees, another potential approach to developer funding for recreation facilities would be to establish a community benefits program, in which development bonuses are offered in exchange for developer contributions to desired community facilities, which may include recreation related improvements. This approach would need to be coordinated with the City overall land use and development policies. Typically, allowable community benefits are defined broadly and may include a range of improvements from transportation to affordable housing to specific community facilities. A key aspect of the program is that the City would need to be prepared to offer higher development intensities under certain circumstances than are otherwise allowed by zoning in order to create workable incentives that would induce developers to make community benefit contributions. Such programs are gaining wide acceptance in a number of the areas within the San Francisco Bay Area, but their success depends on a vibrant real estate market where development demand is sufficient to support the higher costs associated with the developer exactions.

Bonds

The City may also consider financing programs that include existing residents and development in the City. With approval of the voters, the City can levy bonds or impose parcel assessments that would raise money both for parks related capital improvements and also for operations and maintenance costs. In his budget message in the FY 2017-18 City Budget, the City Manager mentioned that considerations are underway to seek approval for a “Quality of Life” bond that could help fund improvements to the City’s economic, cultural, recreational, and public facilities.

New or Expanded Local Taxes

The City levies a number of local taxes that can be increased with approval of the voters. In the past ten years, voters in the City have approved increases to the sales and use tax, the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and the Utility Users tax. The voters have also approved establishment of water, sewer and refuse franchise taxes and a parcel tax dedicated to protecting public health and wildlife habitat in the San Lorenzo River, the bay and ocean. In addition to these taxes, Santa Cruz also levies an Admission Tax, a Cannabis Tax and a Property Transfer tax. Cities in California have used these types of local taxes to fund parks and recreation services, among other service costs. Taxes used for general purposes are subject to approval by a simple majority of voters while taxes levied for specific purposes require a two-thirds majority vote.

Land-Based Financing

In addition to general obligation or revenue bonds, cities also employ more limited land based financing programs such as Community Facilities Districts (Mello Roos), Landscape and Lighting Districts, special assessment districts, and maintenance assessment districts. These types of financing districts can be established citywide, but more typically are employed for major subdivisions where infrastructure or service costs for the new neighborhood cannot otherwise be funded by developer or city sources. While impact fees can be used only to build new public facilities CFDs and maintenance assessment districts can help fund operations and maintenance costs as well.

Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)

The State legislature recently approved major modifications to a long standing local financing program called an infrastructure financing district. Under the new program, cities may allocate their own property tax increment within an established district to help finance a wide range of public facilities and improvements, including parks and recreation. This is essentially a limited form of redevelopment tax increment financing, but only public agencies that agree to participate would allocate their tax increment to the EIFD. Multiple agencies can participate, however, so for projects of regional significance, such as the



San Lorenzo Riverwalk, the Santa Cruz Wharf and perhaps the Civic Auditorium, the County or other special districts could agree to participate. Establishing an EIFD, however, would mean that tax increment generated as new development occurs and property values rise would be diverted away from the City General Fund, so this mechanism would also need to be considered within the context of the City's overall long-term budget strategy.

Charitable Contributions and Donor Campaigns

The City maintains a budgetary fund for public contributions to the parks system. Citizens and businesses alike often recognize the vital importance of the City's parks and recreation system to the community's quality of life and wish to contribute financially. For major projects, cities often mount donor campaigns, which may include major corporate support, to fund high profile facilities, such as the Civic Auditorium. However, this approach can also be helpful for neighborhood projects as well where the community may be willing to conduct funding raising activities and donate volunteer efforts to provide or maintain a recreation, cultural, or open space amenity in their neighborhood.

D. COSTS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Decisions on priorities for spending will depend on many factors: need, public desires, new trends, safety, compliance with current regulations and codes, infrastructure required, environmental impact, personnel required and available funding. One major factor will be potential costs and funding available to meet that cost. Table 4.3-2 lists typical costs in 2017 dollars that can aid in decision-making as projects move forward. Variations in size, land constraints, permitting requirements, access or condition of existing infrastructure, design, and the need for consulting or contractor services are some of the factors that affect overall project costs. The costs are intended to give a general sense of scale per type of improvement.



4.3: FUNDING STRATEGIES

Table 4.3-2 Typical Project Costs Per Type of Improvement

Facility		Description	Construction Costs in 2017 per square foot or unit costs including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs	Approximate Area	Unit	Total Construction Costs in 2017 including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs
1	Basic small park Improvements per acre	Grading, drainage, utilities including connections, paving, planting & irrigation, site furnishings	\$650,000	1	acre	\$650,000
2	Basic large parks (over 1 acre) Improvements per acre	Grading, drainage, utilities including connections, paving, planting & irrigation, site furnishings	\$600,000	1	acre	\$600,000
3	Restrooms					
a.	<i>Small</i>	Prefabricated single restroom with sink and toilet. Water supply and sewer, limited storage. Assumes easy access to water and sewer	\$1,450	120	sf	\$174,000
b.	<i>Medium</i>	Prefabricated single stall women, single stall men with urinal. Water supply and sewer. Assumes easy access to water and sewer	\$765	600	sf	\$459,000
c.	<i>Large with concessions</i>	Prefabricated three stall women, one stall men with two urinal, level 3 concessions. Water supply and sewer. Assumes easy access to water and sewer	\$1,100	1,070	sf	\$1,177,000
4	Playground					
	<i>Large</i>					
a.	<i>Tot Structure</i>	Some custom structures, platform structure, double tot swing, 3 independent elements, rubberized matting, concrete perimeter curb, fencing, 2 benches	\$115	4,000	sf	\$460,000
b.	<i>School age</i>	Some custom features, large platform structure, 2 swings on single beam, five independent elements, surfacing- half rubberized/half engineered wood fiber, 2 benches, no fencing	\$110	6,000	sf	\$660,000



Table 4.3-2 Typical Project Costs Per Type of Improvement

Facility		Description	Construction Costs in 2017 per square foot or unit costs including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs	Approximate Area	Unit	Total Construction Costs in 2017 including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs
	Small					
a.	<i>Tot Structure</i>	Small platform structure, double tot swing, 2 independent elements, rubberized matting, concrete perimeter curb, fencing, 2 benches	\$110	1,500	sf	\$165,000
b.	<i>School age</i>	Large platform structure, 2 swings on single beam, five independent elements, surfacing- half rubberized/half engineered wood fiber, 2 benches, no fencing	\$102	2,000	sf	\$204,000
5	Multi- use small turf sports field	140' x 200' irrigated turf, soil prep, portable goals	\$2.25	28,000	sf	\$63,000
6	Artificial turf regulation soccer field	Artificial turf with Brock sub base, drainage, irrigation to cool fields, goals, buffer areas	\$40	72,000	sf	\$2,880,000
7	Lighting for soccer field	Sports field lighting similar to Musco fixtures including transformer, panel, wiring, fixtures	\$350,000	1	ea	\$350,000
8	Basketball court	Full size court including paving, striping, hoops, lighting. 2 benches	\$56,000	1	ea	\$56,000
9	Tennis Court	Double court, asphalt, fenced, net and posts, paving and striping, 2 benches	\$81,000	2	ea	\$162,000
10	Bocce Ball	Wood surround, crushed shell surfacing, 1 bench	\$10,000		ea	\$10,000
11	Bike pump track	concrete structures, fencing	\$47.50	8,000	sf	\$380,000
12	Dog Park	Surfacing- 1/2 decomposed granite paving and 1/2 turf, entry plaza, 6' high fencing, 2 benches, drinking fountain with dog bowl, trash with bag dispenser, shade trees	\$303,000	25,000	sf	\$303,000
13	Group Picnic Area	6 Tables, decomposed granite surfacing, 2 grills, trash, water spigot, (4) trees	\$175,000	2,000	sf	\$175,000
14	Picnic Shelter	20 x 20 prefabricated shelter	\$42,000	1	ea	\$42,000
15	Demonstration garden	Shrub and tree planting, irrigation, signage	\$11.20	4,000	sf	\$44,800



4.3: FUNDING STRATEGIES

Table 4.3-2 Typical Project Costs Per Type of Improvement

Facility		Description	Construction Costs in 2017 per square foot or unit costs including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs	Approximate Area	Unit	Total Construction Costs in 2017 including design fees, necessary prep work, contingencies and soft costs
16	Community Garden	30,000sf garden with raised beds, soil, irrigation, fencing, decomposed granite paths, 175 sf storage building	\$455,000	30,000	sf	\$455,000
17	Bicycle Trail Improvements	8' wide 2" depth asphalt path with 6" road base with 2' decomposed granite shoulders each side	\$10	1	lf	\$10
18	Pickleball					
a.	Net/court tape				1	\$300
b.	Court resurfacing				1	\$3,500 - \$5,000
c.	New court construction					
d.	Basic				1	\$10,000 - \$15,000
e.	Basic plus lighting/fencing				1	\$20,000 - \$35,000
f.	8 court community complex w/ fencing but no lighting				8	\$110,000 - \$150,000
g.	8 court community complex w/ fencing, lighting and stadium seating				8	\$300,000 +



SECTION 4.4: ONGOING PLANNING & UPDATES

- A. Implementation
- B. Summary & Conclusions

A. IMPLEMENTATION

The City of Santa Cruz recognizes park, recreational facilities, beaches, and open spaces are essential to the community's quality of life. The *Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030* (Parks Master Plan 2030) is a means to guide future park improvements and to accommodate emerging needs to continue to provide a quality parks system. It is envisioned as a living document that continues to evolve and progress over time. The community profile, existing conditions, emerging trends, and community input received has informed the recommendations in this plan.

As described in the previous chapter, the City is heading into a funding shortfall in the near term. It is necessary to reduce spending now in order to help offset the gap between revenues and expenditures which is projected to begin to close after 2022. The likelihood of funding becoming available for capital projects in the upcoming years is unknown.

It is necessary to set priorities for the implementation of the many action items that evolved out of the community outreach process. Many action items will be ongoing or can be accomplished in a shorter time frame with available resources. Others will require long-term planning. Given the uncertainty of funding streams, it is unnecessary to plot out the step-by-step framework to implement the plan, as the specific steps, costs, and funding allocation will need to change as conditions change.

ACTION PLAN

The guiding priorities need to remain focused to achieve results, and yet flexible enough to address new challenges and to capitalize on new opportunities. An Action Plan will be maintained to help guide broader priorities and actions and will be based on an assessment of the value of specific actions to the parks system, community, and environment. The

Action Plan will remain separate but complementary to the Parks Master Plan 2030. It will be updated and maintained with input from the Parks and Recreation Commission and direction from the City Council. The Action Plan will include actions that are the highest priority for the department to pursue. Staff will use the Action Plan to help guide future departmental decision-making, seeking projects and programs to implement components of the plan on an ongoing and incremental basis. One approach is for staff to meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the progress, needs, opportunities, and next steps on an annual basis in preparation for the City's annual budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Many policies and actions are aimed at improving environmental quality within the parks system. Other actions will require additional study of potential environmental impacts before being implemented. Many of the recommendations are conceptual in detail and additional efforts are necessary to determine if the projects should be pursued. During future processes, additional environmental review may be necessary to ensure that final designs do not create a significant impact to the environment. Additionally, some recommendations involve the consideration of additional recreational opportunities within an open space which has an existing master plan in place. The Parks Master Plan 2030 process identified needs which emerged through the process and opportunities to meet those needs at a community level. The Parks Master Plan 2030 neither replaces nor overrides the existing plans. If future projects are pursued to meet those needs that were not already identified within an existing park master plan, then the master plan for the specific park would need to be amended and CEQA review would be necessary.

MOVING LARGER PROJECTS FORWARD

Funding for actions will require strategic thinking. Many of the recommendations within the Parks Master Plan 2030 have the potential to be funded through grants. However, many grant awards required to be project ready, and efforts will need to be taken to work through project designs and permitting to ensure that the project is competitive. Also, larger projects may require long-term staffing levels and costs which need to be sustainable over time. These projects will likely need to



4.4: ONGOING PLANNING & UPDATES

be postponed until the City's funding levels are more sustainable. Some community assets, such as the Santa Cruz Wharf and Civic Auditorium, will require creative funding strategies which could involve multiple sources and project phasing over time.

RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

As the community continues to evolve and parks system improvements are made, it will be necessary to continually update the plan to remain current. The Parks Master Plan 2030 will need to be updated periodically in five-year intervals. These updates will be less comprehensive but should provide a meaningful opportunity to receive feedback from the community and reassess the condition of the parks. A larger, more comprehensive update should occur concurrently or shortly after the next General Plan update.

The long-term funding strategy will need to be updated to reflect changes in the conditions to ensure that priorities can be realigned and could include:

- Review of existing City financing and facility development
- Future demand and capital improvement costs
- Maintenance and operations costs
- Changes or adaptations to the City's approach to cost mitigation
- Funding alternatives
- Financing strategies
- Maintenance contracts and agreements
- Update Park-in – lieu Fee Schedule

B. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

This document should serve as a planning tool for decision-making regarding recreation in the City of Santa Cruz. Timely updates to the document and the process are necessary to reflect the community's changing needs and desires.

