

# Parks and Recreation Element 7



# 7 PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

*The Parks and Recreation Element addresses parks, open space, trails and recreational activities available to residents and visitors to San Carlos. This element provides information and policy guidance to ensure adequate provision of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of San Carlos.*

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## Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Element is closely related to the City's *Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, Buildings, and other Recreational Facilities*, adopted in August 2008. The Master Plan establishes a long-term vision for San Carlos' park facilities, identifies specific improvements to the existing park system and presents a strategy for funding capital improvements, operation and maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Element establishes a broad policy framework to support the Master Plan. The Master Plan also contains detailed existing conditions information that is the foundation for the goals and policies in this Element.

A Parks and Recreation Element is an optional element of the General Plan and is not required by State law. The decision by the City of San Carlos to include this Element in the General Plan shows the City's commitment to providing, protecting and enhancing San Carlos' public parks and recreational opportunities. The

City recognizes that parks and recreation are important amenities in San Carlos and contribute to a high quality of life for all city residents.

The information in this element is organized into three sub-sections:

- **Existing Setting:** Contains information on existing parks and recreational opportunities in the City of San Carlos.
- **Guiding Principles:** Establishes the key objectives that guide policies in the Parks and Recreation Element.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions:** Provides guidance to the City regarding parks and recreation decisions.

## Existing Setting

This section describes existing parks, open space, trails and recreation programs in San Carlos.

## City Parks

San Carlos residents enjoy a total of 16 public parks located throughout the city. Figure 7-1 and Figure 7-3 show park locations and Table 7-1 identifies their size and provides a description of each park. San Carlos parks occupy approximately 135 acres within the city limit. Park amenities include multi-use athletic fields, basketball and tennis courts, a dog park, playground equipment, jogging paths, hiking trails, children's play areas and passive recreation areas.



Ball Fields at Laureola Park

**TABLE 7-1 SAN CARLOS CITY PARKS**

Park Name	Acreage	Description
<b>Arguello Park</b>	21.0	Arguello Park is the largest and most diverse of the developed parks with a turfed play area, picnic locations, a running trail and unmarked hiking trails. The park was recently renovated in 2006. Tennis courts are located on adjacent school property. <sup>a</sup>
<b>Big Canyon Park</b>	16.0	Big Canyon Park is a beautiful and rustic open space area. The 1.2-mile trail in the park is rugged, hilly and narrow with great views of the City and the East Bay.
<b>Burton Park</b>	10.3	Burton Park is the oldest and best known of the developed parks. It currently contains Madsen softball diamond, used by adult softball leagues, little leagues, soccer teams and other baseball teams; a large soccer field; three lighted tennis courts, two full basketball courts; two horseshoe pits; the Kiwanis Recreation Building; two children's play areas; park benches; picnic tables; barbecue pits and a turfed play area. The park playground was recently renovated and other renovations are planned in the future.
<b>Cedar Park</b>	0.6	Cedar Park has a small turf area, children's play area, asphalt basketball court/multi-use section, park benches, picnic table and barbecue pit.
<b>Chilton Avenue/ Sequoia Court</b>	1.6	Chilton Avenue/Sequoia Court is an undeveloped hill area. There is an excellent view of the canyon and surrounding area from the western boundary and another great view of San Carlos and the East Bay from the middle of the property. Children enjoy climbing on a major rock outcropping located on the slope leading down to Bay View. No park improvements have yet been developed on this site.
<b>City Hall Park</b>	1.3	City Hall Park is centrally located in the downtown area. It attracts mainly passive forms of recreation, but contains a turf area large enough for active games and play.
<b>Crestview Park</b>	7.0	Crestview is one of the newest City parks and it is frequently used by soccer players, neighboring families and jogging and walking enthusiasts. The park facilities include a soccer field, basketball courts, children's play area, paved area with stanchions making it accessible for volleyball play and a jogging/walking path.
<b>Eaton Park</b>	57.6	Eaton Park is a beautiful, natural open space with meandering trails, natural vegetation and varied wildlife. It is undeveloped except for a trail, which winds its way up the hillside toward Loma Lane and a 4H facility. A fire access road winds its way to the top of the park as well.
<b>Heather Dog Exercise Area</b>	1.5	The park is used by dog owners and their pets. There is also a trail in the southern part of the park with a great view through the canyon.
<b>Highlands Park</b>	11.2	The complex is used for year-round athletic events, including baseball, soccer, softball, tennis and sports camps, as well as for neighborhood recreational activities including a children's play area.

**TABLE 7-1 SAN CARLOS CITY PARKS (CONTINUED)**

Park Name	Acreage	Description
<b>Hillcrest Circle Park</b>	0.2	The park contains a children's play area, half-court basketball court, picnic bench, barbecue pit and drinking fountain. The park attracts neighborhood youth that frequent the play areas, the basketball court and other "free play" sections of the asphalt. The park was recently renovated.
<b>Laurel Street Park</b>	0.3	The park is utilized by shoppers as a resting spot before further shopping and by customers of adjacent restaurants. The park is used annually for a portion of the Chamber of Commerce Art and Wine Festival, the Sister City Committee's "Taste of Italy," concerts in the park and the Kiwanis Club's annual toy drive.
<b>Laureola Park</b>	2.6	This neighborhood park gets a variety of uses throughout the year. Little League baseball uses the field area in the spring and the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) makes use of the entire turf area in the fall. In addition, residents utilize the turf, basketball court and the children's play area regularly. The Special Needs Program is the main tenant of the recreation building year-round, but the building is also used for other special interest classes and community groups.
<b>North Crestview</b>	4.3	This is currently an undeveloped park site, located across the street from Vista Park. It was originally acquired by the City for development of a vehicular connection between Highway 280 and Crestview Drive, which was never constructed. The site is steeply sloping up from the street, thus making access difficult. The site offers magnificent views eastward across the Bay. It borders the open space area owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Opportunities exist to connect to adjacent trail systems via the North Crestview site.
<b>Rosek Park</b>	0.2	This triangular-shaped parcel is primarily a turf area with a large oak tree. The park is occasionally used by neighborhood children for free play and by adults as a picnic or resting area.
<b>San Carlos Avenue Neighborhood Park</b>	0.3	The park is a reasonably-utilized facility, primarily attracting neighborhood children and adult chaperones. It currently contains a swing set, park benches, barbecue pit, small turf area, drinking fountain and climbing apparatus.
<b>Vista Park</b>	3.8	Vista Park, landscaped with native vegetation, has walking paths, park benches, trash receptacles and picnic tables. The park has a magnificent view to the east. It is presently used by local resident walkers, pet owners and passive users.

<sup>1</sup> Parks Master Plan will complete future Arguello Park improvements.  
Source: City of San Carlos, 2007.



The City has identified the need to acquire land to expand existing parks and to develop new City parks. The acquisition of new parkland has been considered for the areas east of El Camino Real, Devonshire Canyon and the Civic Center area. Additionally, an off-leash dog exercise area and a skate park have also been considered. There are also planned expansions and improvements for many City parks, including Arguello, Burton and Highland parks.

Figure 7-1 provides information to facilitate future decisions about park and open space land acquisition. This map identifies the following categories of land: City parks and open spaces, publicly-owned vacant land, privately-owned vacant land and privately-owned designated open space.

#### ***Service Standards***

It is the City's goal to provide 2.5 acres of developed/active parks for every 1,000 residents in San Carlos. This service standard is stated as Policy 1.1 of this Element. Currently the City provides 2.3 acres of developed/active parks for every 1,000 residents.

#### ***Walkability Policy***

A goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to locate a park or recreational facility within ½-mile of every resident. This goal is stated as Policy 1.2 of the General Plan. Residences that are more than ½-mile from a City park are shown on Figure 7-2. Approximately 90 percent of existing residential parcels in San Carlos are within ½-mile of a park or recreational facility.

#### **Open Space**

San Carlos residents have access to a variety of open space areas. Open space areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space and public education. Open space areas provide for passive recreation with trails, views, natural vegetation, wildlife and environmental educational facilities. Open space areas in the vicinity of San Carlos are listed in Table 7-2. These areas are owned and operated by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MPROSD), San Mateo County and the State Department of Fish and Game.

FIGURE 7-1

# Parks, Open Space Sites, and Vacant Land

- City Limit
- Sphere of Influence Areas
- Regional Open Space
- Existing City Park
- City Owned Land Designated as Open Space
- Private Land Designated as Open Space
- Vacant City Owned Parcels
- Vacant Private Owned Parcels

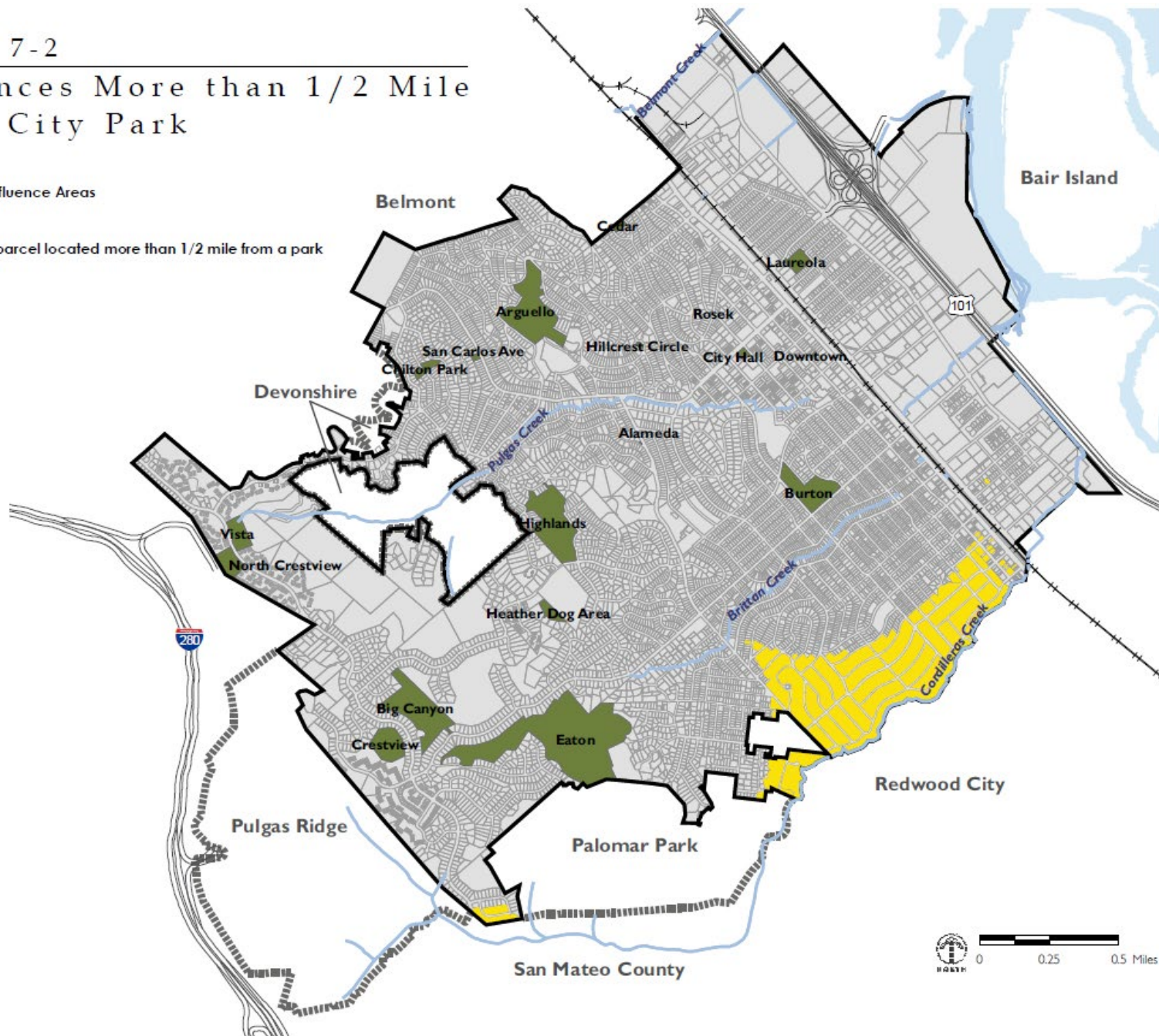




FIGURE 7-2

Residences More than 1/2 Mile  
from a City Park

-  City Limit
-  Sphere of Influence Areas
-  City Park
-  Residential parcel located more than 1/2 mile from a park





**TABLE 7-2 OPEN SPACE AREAS**

Open Space	Acreage	Description
<b>Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MPROSD)</b>		
Pulgas Ridge	366	6 miles of developed trails, various trails and one wheelchair accessible trail and an off-leash dog area.
Purisima Creek Redwoods	3,360	24 miles of trails, features Purisima Creek Canyon, views of the coast and Half Moon Bay.
Teague Hill	626	One developed trail takes hikers or equestrians through a small portion of the northwest corner of Teague Hill, into the Santa Cruz Mountains.
<b>San Mateo County</b>		
Edgewood Park	467	8.49 miles of trails, features serpentine grasslands that are famous for their magnificent displays of wildflowers each spring.
<b>State Department of Fish and Game</b>		
Bair Island Ecological Reserve	1,985	Former salt ponds that have been restored to tidal wetlands.
<b>San Francisco Public Utilities Commission</b>		
Peninsula Watershed	19,000 4,000	Scenic Easement Scenic and Recreation Easement.

MPROSD manages 26 open space preserves totaling over 57,000 acres. The three closest MPROSD preserves are Pulgas Ridge, Purisima Creek Redwoods and Teague Hill, with Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve located within San Carlos' SOI. San Mateo County manages five regional parks, the largest being 467-acre Edgewood Preserve, located approximately 3 miles south of San Carlos. The State Department of Fish and Game runs Bair Island, a 1,985-acre Ecological Preserve within the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, located adjacent to San Carlos in the wetlands of San Francisco Bay. The Peninsula Watershed owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission lies west of and adjacent to the Pulgas Ridge SOI. A 19,000-acre Scenic Easement and a 4,000-acre Scenic and Recreation Easement overlay the Peninsula Water shed. Open space within San Carlos includes Big Can yon Park, Eaton Park and land designated as open space in this General Plan. The open space facilities controlled or operated by the City are essentially unimproved or in their natural state with minimal or no aboveground improvements provided by the City, other than trails and trail heads.



Hiking Trail at Big Canyon Park

Figure 7-1 shows the locations of open space within and surrounding the city. Figure 7-3 shows the location of the Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, Peninsula Watershed, Edgewood Park and Bair Island regional open spaces surrounding San Carlos.

### Trails

Highlands, Arguello, Big Canyon, Eaton and Heather Dog Area are the five city parks with hiking trails within the city limit. Among these parks, the City

owns and maintains 8.7 miles of recreational trails which are shown in Figure 7-4. The longest trail within San Carlos' trail system is the Eaton-Big Canyon Trail, which runs through both Eaton and Big Canyon Parks and connects the two parks together. The City does not maintain equestrian facilities or mountain biking trails at this time. Information on pathways through the city for bicycling and jogging are discussed in the Circulation and Scenic Highways Element of this General Plan.

The City has plans to expand the system of public trails in San Carlos. In February of 2007 the City Council approved a Trails Connections Plan that identifies 14 possible new connections to existing trails in San Carlos and surrounding areas. Existing trails and planned connections are shown in Figure 7-4 and listed in Table 7-3. Of the 14 connections, six connect trails within San Carlos and the remaining eight are regional connections. The first priority trails, as identified in the plan, are scheduled to be implemented before the second priority trails. In addition to implementing the Trails Connections Plan, the City's planned improvements to the trail system include extending existing trails and addressing soil erosion and trail drainage issues.

FIGURE 7-3  
Parks and Open Space

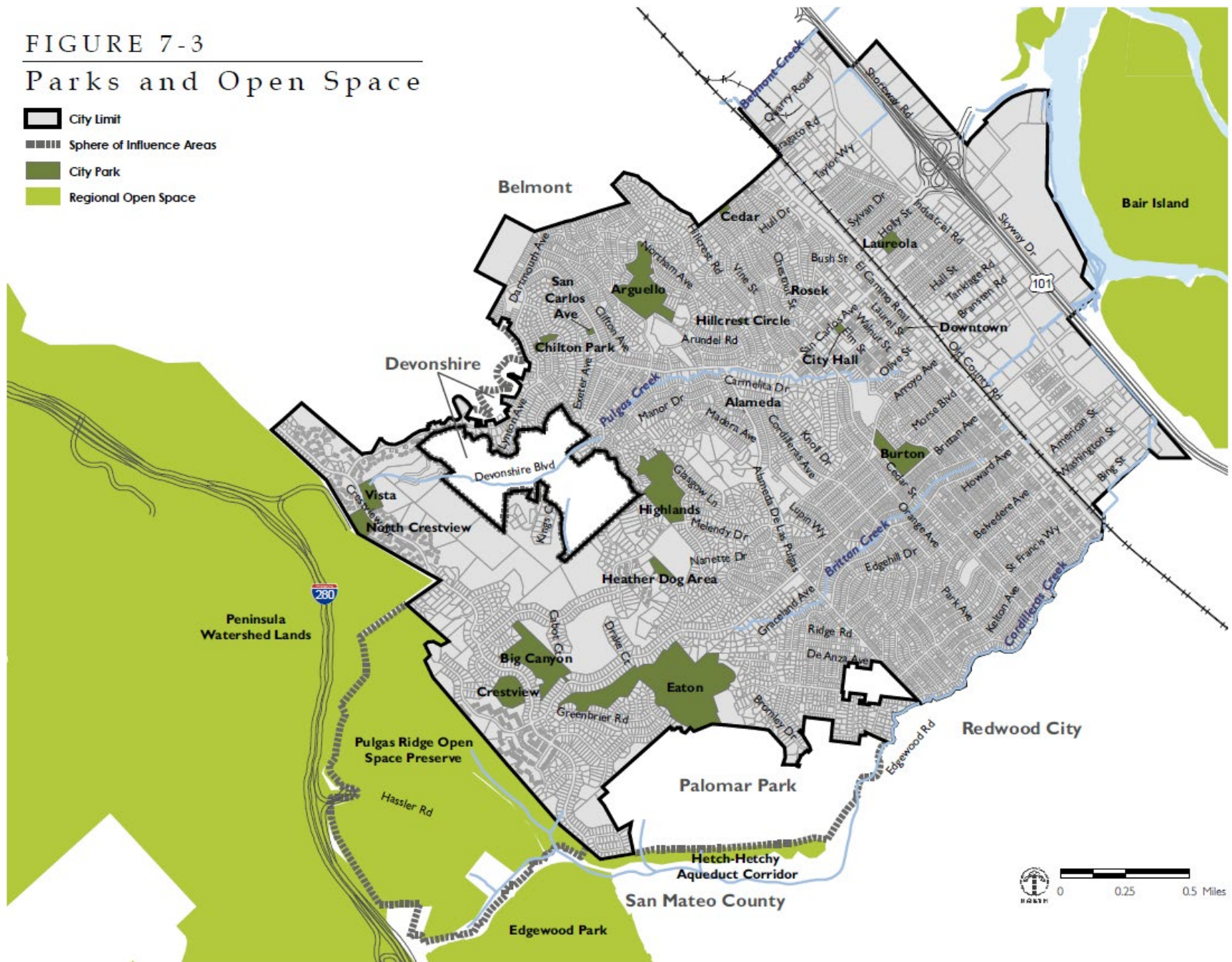









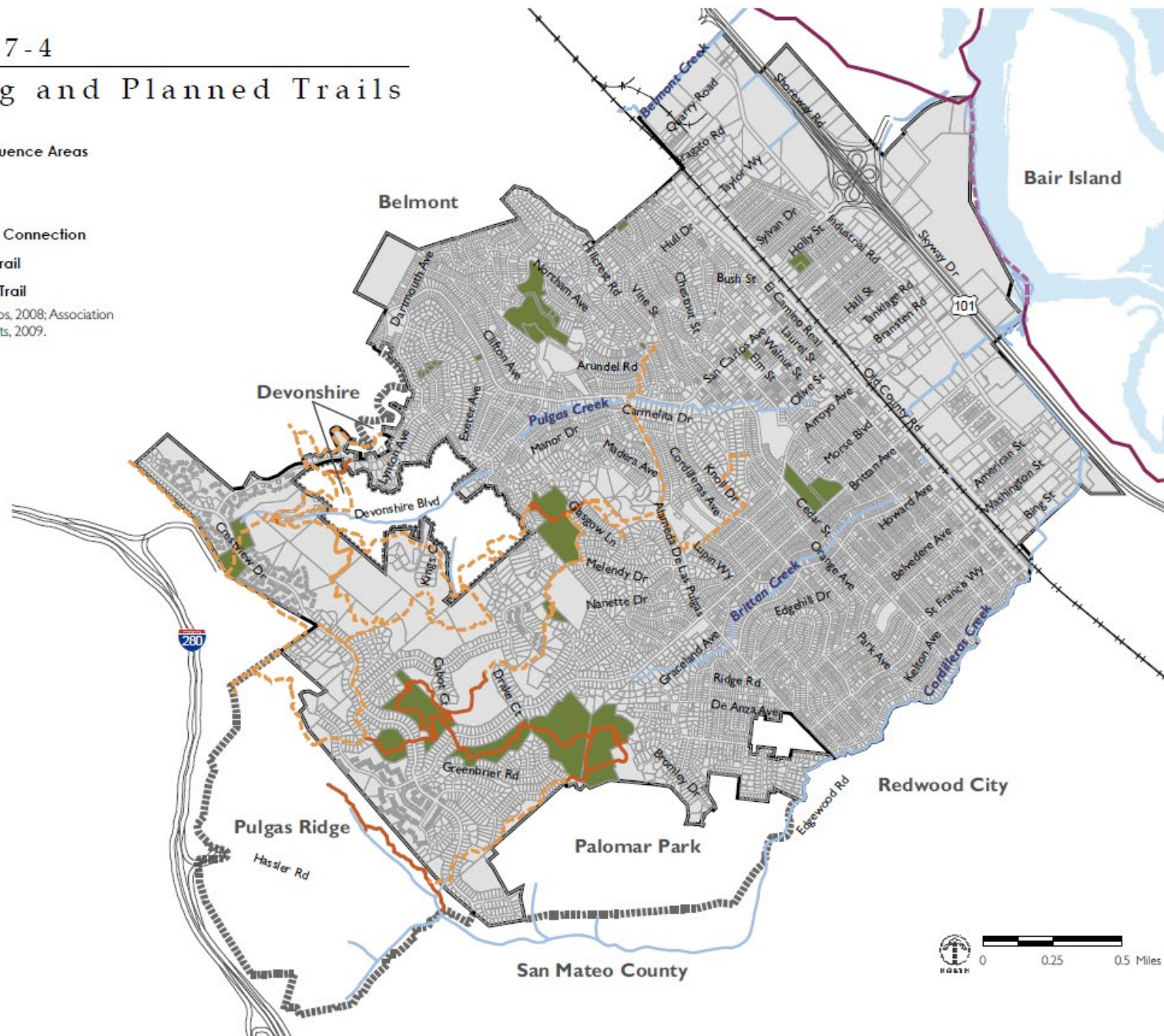


FIGURE 7-4

## Existing and Planned Trails

-  City Limit
-  Sphere of Influence Areas
-  City Park
-  Existing Trail
-  Potential Trail Connection
-  Existing Bay Trail
-  Planned Bay Trail

Source: City of San Carlos, 2008; Association of Bay Area Governments, 2009.





**TABLE 7-3 POTENTIAL SAN CARLOS TRAIL CONNECTIONS**

**First Priority**

1	Crestview to Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve and San Francisco Watershed Lands
2	Unimproved City-Owned Parcel on Crestview (Across Crestview Drive from Vista Park) to San Francisco Watershed Lands
3	Devonshire Trail System to Crestview
4	Highland Area/Heather Park to Big Canyon/Eaton Trail System
5	Lynton/Oakley Avenue to Club Drive to Witheridge Road to Belmont Trail System
6	End of Brittan to Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve
7	Cranfield Avenue to Club Drive to Witheridge in Belmont
8	Eaton Park to City-Owned Parcel Off La Mesa Drive Via Loma Road to Edgewood Park

**Second Priority**

9	Oakley/Devonshire to Crestview Drive and Vista Park
10	Lands of Rosa Flores Via Chesham to Proposed Devonshire Trail System
11	Land of Rosa Flores Via Winding Way to Proposed Devonshire Trail System
12	Existing Trail from Highlands Park to Winding Way
13	Alameda to Dundee and Highland Park Across Black Mountain Property to Bell/Lupin Avenue
14	Lower Crestview Drive to Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Source: City of San Carlos, 2007, *Trails Connections Plan*.

As previously noted, the City does not currently meet its standard of 1 mile of hiking trail per 1,000 residents. To do so, the City would need a total of 27 miles of trails (at the city's current population). Additional trail miles would be provided with implementation of the Council approved Trail \ Connections Plan

and identified during development of the upcoming Open Space Management Plan. The Action Plan of the Parks Master Plan schedules the Open Space Management Plan for development during Fiscal Year 2008/09 to 2011/12.

## Recreational Programs

The Parks and Recreation Department provides recreational services and programs for all residents of San Carlos including youth, adults, senior citizens and people with disabilities. Services and programs are primarily provided at the Adult Community Center,

### Sustainability and the Parks and Recreation Department



The Parks and Recreation Department is contributing to the advancement of sustainability practices within the city. The Department uses a small electric truck for park maintenance, has a strong recycling program, and implements an Integrated Pest Management plan which strives to reduce the amount of chemicals used for park maintenance. The Department uses 100 percent of all downed trees for mulch and utilizes an irrigation system that regulates the amount of water used based on atmospheric conditions.

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the Burton Park buildings and the Laureola Park Special Needs Building. The Adult Community Center serves residents over 50, offering a number of classes and activities. Meeting and dining spaces for special events are available at the Adult Community Center. At Burton Park is the Youth Center, which targets pre-teen and young teen youth and has a full-size gymnasium, activities room, TV lounge, learning kitchen, dance studio and computer-equipped homework center. The Laureola Park Special Needs Building offers pre-school programs and serves special-needs residents, offering recreation and socialization activities



Youth Center at Burton Park

## Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, Buildings and other Recreational Facilities

The Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, Buildings and other Recreational Facilities was adopted in August, 2008. The purpose of the plan is to provide the city with a long-term vision for its park system by identifying improvements to existing parks and targeting opportunities for new park facilities. The implementation strategy, a component of the Master Plan, prioritizes and schedules park system improvements and discusses funding for capital improvements and ongoing operation costs and maintenance. Specific recommendations in the Master Plan will be supported by broader policies regarding parks and recreational facilities in the 2030 General Plan.

for children, teenagers and adults with physical, social, or learning limitations.

To enhance the recreational programming available to San Carlos residents, the City has identified the need for new recreational facilities and improvements to existing ones. The City has planned new recreational facilities including an aquatics center, a performing arts center, a new community center and a gymnasium for adult recreation. The City has planned improvements for existing facilities such as the Adult

Community Center, the Laureola Park Building and the San Carlos Museum of History.

### **Funding Sources**

Many California cities experience fiscal pressure to provide recreational facilities and programs for their residents. Despite funding cuts, the City remains committed to providing a high level of service for residents. The City is considering a wide variety of funding mechanisms to maintain prior funding levels. The City has a Quimby Act Ordinance in place. The Quimby Act authorizes cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. The City will also consider additional funding sources including other development-related financing mechanisms, voter approved taxes and assessments, private sector funding and grant resources.



### **Guiding Principles**

The Guiding Principles are a set of key objectives that articulate San Carlos' core values relating to parks and recreation. The Guiding Principles of the Parks and Recreation Element are:

- **Strengthen a sense of place and community image in San Carlos through parks and recreational programs.**
- **Provide facilities and recreational opportunities for all residents of all ages and abilities.**
- **Maintain a diversity of passive and active facilities and recreational uses in San Carlos.**
- **Support a sustainable way of life through parks and recreation.**
- **Facilitate and support community problem solving.**
- **Support urban trails to enhance pedestrian mobility and interconnectivity.**

## Goals, Policies and Actions



**GOAL PR-1**

Increase the amount of City-owned park and open space land.

### POLICIES

- POLICY PR-1.1** Actively pursue land acquisitions to provide additional recreational opportunities, especially in underserved areas, which will help the City achieve the goal of increased park land.
- POLICY PR-1.2** Maintain a balance of athletic fields, active parks and passive open space that supports a variety of recreational uses.

### ACTIONS

- ACTION PR-1.1** Explore opportunity sites for the development of new parks facilities, focusing on providing recreation opportunities to underserved areas based on the City's Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, Buildings and other Recreational Facilities.
- ACTION PR-1.2** Work to fund land acquisition for parks and open space including all available mechanisms both public and private.
- ACTION PR-1.3** Continue to monitor possibilities for acquisition of land to expand the Adult Community Center and/or City Hall Park.
- ACTION PR-1.4** Strive to provide a minimum of 2.5 acres of traditional parkland for every 1,000 residents.
- ACTION PR-1.5** Strive to provide a park facility within ½-mile of every resident.




- ACTION PR-1.6** Provide the opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department during the development review process to assess on-site open space and recreational amenities.
- ACTION PR-1.7** Investigate acquisition of open space lands or easements to expand trail network, especially in areas adjacent to existing open space.
- ACTION PR-1.8** Explore purchase or easement encumbrance of land in the Devonshire Canyon area.
- ACTION PR-1.9** Update the City's park development impact fee to address residential renovations, remodels and additions that potentially increase the number of residents living in a dwelling unit.
- ACTION PR-1.10** Identify parcels that may be suitable for acquisition; for example, parcels in underserved areas of the city and parcels adjacent to parks and public facilities.

- ACTION PR-1.11** Consider adoption of an ordinance requiring the maximum allowable park land dedication fee.
- ACTION PR-1.12** All City-owned Park Facilities and Open Space Park Facilities, as defined by the Municipal Code, should be re-zoned to allow such uses. The City Council may change the zoning to allow other uses if it finds that it is a change in use that will meet the goals of the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan.



Dog exercise area at Crestview Park








**GOAL PR-2**

Provide cultural, historical, environmental education and recreational facilities that support a diversity of needs and interests.

## POLICIES

- POLICY PR-2.1** Consider the recreational needs and interests of all segments of the San Carlos community when evaluating decisions relating to parks facilities.
- POLICY PR-2.2** Consider establishing a new facility for the visual and performing arts.
- POLICY PR-2.3** Continue to support implementation of trail connections as identified in the City’s Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, Buildings and other Recreation Facilities.

 Denotes synergy with Climate Action Plan

- POLICY PR-2.4**  Continue to maintain City owned open space trails and connections to regional trails.
- POLICY PR-2.5**  Promote the development of publicly accessible urban trails throughout the city to provide access to the natural environment and facilitate non-motorized transportation options.
- POLICY PR-2.6**  Complete the Bay Trail alignment in San Carlos.
- POLICY PR-2.7**  Encourage new development to provide trails and trail connection easements or dedications where feasible and appropriate.
- POLICY PR-2.8** Address any multi-use trail conflicts with enforced policy and posted signage.
- POLICY PR-2.9** Continue building and renovating playgrounds to universal accessibility standards.

**POLICY PR-2.10** Improve the availability and quality of athletic fields in San Carlos.

## ACTIONS


**ACTION PR-2.1** Study the feasibility of acquiring additional parkland to construct a new community center and outdoor aquatics facility.


**ACTION PR-2.2** Consider constructing an outdoor theater.

**ACTION PR-2.3** Continue joint-use agreements with the San Carlos Elementary School District for additional use of school facilities and fields.

**ACTION PR-2.4** Continue and enhance alternative funding strategies for providing additional facilities, including naming rights and sponsorships, grants and endowments.

**ACTION PR-2.5** Coordinate with relevant agencies and organizations to support development of the Bay Trail Network and to provide a safe and convenient route in the vicinity of the San Carlos Airport.

**ACTION PR-2.6**  Prepare an Open Space Management and Trails Master Plan to further identify trail connectivity and future trail development for public benefit.

**ACTION PR-2.7**  Maintain a current map of trails that is available to the public and update as necessary to define trails as multi-use or single-use.

**ACTION PR-2.8** Extend and improve trails in Big Canyon, Eaton Park and Arguello Park.

**ACTION PR-2.9** Consider providing space, whether in new or existing parks, for off-leash dog areas, a skate park, bocce courts, Frisbee golf, BMX bicycling and other alternative sports.

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**ACTION PR-2.10** Study feasibility and desirability of reopening and/or expanding pedestrian and bicycle pathways.



Oak tree at Burton Park



## GOAL PR-3

Provide recreational programs to meet the needs of all residents.

## POLICIES

- POLICY PR-3.1** Ensure that recreational programs are available for all ages and abilities.
- POLICY PR-3.2** Support recreational programs that encourage the interaction of different segments of the San Carlos population.
- POLICY PR-3.3** Expand the availability of aquatics facilities and programming.
- POLICY PR-3.4** Promote visual and performing arts programs.



**POLICY PR-3.5** Ensure that parks facilities and usage will only be expanded with a commensurate expansion in maintenance resources, including future staff and equipment.

**POLICY PR-3.6** Partner with adjacent agencies including San Mateo County, Belmont Parks and Recreation, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to provide expanded parks and open space amenities for San Carlos residents.

**POLICY PR-3.7** Protect the Youth Center as a valuable venue exclusively for youth activities and programs.

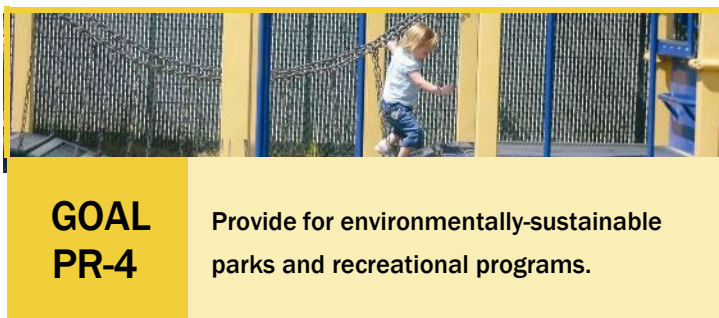
## ACTIONS

**ACTION PR-3.1** Seek to establish a joint use agreement with the Sequoia Union High School District to increase access to pools, gymnasiums, theaters, athletic fields and other facilities.

**ACTION PR-3.2** Seek to improve existing fields through the City/San Carlos Elementary School District joint use agreement.



City Hall Park



## POLICIES

**POLICY PR-4.1** Preserve and protect sensitive species and habitats in City parks and open space, as identified by the Environmental Management Element of this Plan or state and federal guidelines.

**POLICY PR-4.2** Maintain and enhance ecological diversity in City parks and open space.

**POLICY PR-4.3** Incorporate sustainable practices into the on-going maintenance of City parks and recreational facilities.



**POLICY PR-4.4** Design new park and community facilities with environmentally-friendly features, incorporating formalized Bay-Friendly Landscaping practices and to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified or equivalent.



**POLICY PR-4.5** Consider transit, bicycle and pedestrian accessibility when evaluating locations for new or substantially renovated parks facilities.



**POLICY PR-4.6** Use sustainable materials reused, renewable, locally sourced and/or recycled to the greatest extent possible.




**POLICY PR-4.7** Continue to employ integrated pest management policy and practices as part of parks maintenance and recreation services programs.


**POLICY PR-4.8** Replant, when necessary, with native species and/or climate appropriate plants.




**POLICY PR-4.9** Design and maintain trails with appropriate drainage standards and to prevent soil erosion.

**POLICY PR-4.10** Integrate stormwater management onsite to the greatest extent possible for all parks facilities.

**POLICY PR-4.11**  Maintain or plant trees where appropriate to provide shade, absorb carbon, reduce the heat island effect and reduce cooling loads in shaded buildings.

**POLICY PR-4.12**  Study the feasibility of reducing or eliminating City department use of gasoline powered landscape maintenance equipment.


## ACTIONS

**ACTION PR-4.1**  Based on recommendations for increased energy efficiency, develop an implementation program for efficiency modifications to Department- maintained facilities.

**ACTION PR-4.2** Adopt Bay-Friendly Landscaping Principles or current best practices as part of the City's parks maintenance program.

**ACTION PR-4.3** Continue and enhance the grass-cycling and plant debris compost program.

**ACTION PR-4.4** Develop a program to replace sheared hedges in City parks with plants that can grow to their natural shape and size within the space allotted to them.

**ACTION PR-4.5**  Continue and enhance smart irrigation with climate-based controllers in City parks.

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**ACTION PR-4.6** Study the feasibility of minimizing the use of new lawns in City parks and the replacement of some existing lawns with meadows or no-mow turf alternatives.



**ACTION PR-4.7** Continue department policy of not purchasing or providing water in plastic bottles.



Park bench at Vista Park



## GOAL PR-5

Promote civic engagement in parks and recreation.

**POLICY PR-5.1** Continue to use the Parks and Recreation Commission as a forum for resident involvement in decision making relating to parks and recreation.

**POLICY PR-5.2** Provide regular outreach to the public about City parks and recreational programs.

**POLICY PR-5.3** Support community efforts to use parks and recreation as an expression of civic pride.



- POLICY PR-5.4** Work with the Parks and Recreation Foundation and other civic or private organizations to raise private funds for prioritized projects.
- POLICY PR-5.5** Continue to support community events, volunteers and non-profits.
- POLICY PR-5.6** Continue to support and partner with other City departments to meet City and department goals.
- POLICY PR-5.7** Continue to support and recognize the role of community groups.

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