

RESOLUTION NO. 25-9517

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, TO APPROVE A GENERAL PLAN TEXT AMENDMENT TO UPDATE THE CITY'S GENERAL PLAN OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW

WHEREAS, in 2022 the state adopted Senate Bill 1425, which requires local jurisdictions to update Open Space Elements of their General Plans to include policies that address climate resilience and other co-benefits of open space, consistent with the jurisdiction's safety element;

WHEREAS, SB 1425 also requires local jurisdictions to address the issue of access to open space for everyone and to preserve, enhance, and expand a network of open spaces;

WHEREAS, the City is currently drafting a Creek Trail Network Expansion Master Plan, and an update to the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, both of which are relevant to the update of the Open Space Element;

WHEREAS, the City has drafted updates to the General Plan Parks, Recreation and Open Space Diagram (Figure 5.9-1 of the General Plan) to reflect these planning efforts, and proposed edits to Chapter 5.9 of the General Plan to respond to SB 1425;

WHEREAS, Santa Clara City Charter Section 1007 requires that the Planning Commission provide input to the City Council on any proposed General Plan amendment;

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 65353 requires the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing prior to making a recommendation on the General Plan Amendment;

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2025, a notice of the public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the *Santa Clara Weekly*, for the Planning Commission Hearing to be conducted on November 12, 2025 and for the City council meeting on December 16, 2025;

WHEREAS, pursuant to SCCC Section 18.146.020, on October 15, 2025, notices of the public hearings of November 12, 2025 and December 16, 2025, were posted at City Hall, the Central Park Library, the Mission Branch Library, the Northside Branch Library, and on the City's website;

//

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2025, the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing to consider the Open Space Element Update, at the conclusion of which, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed General Plan Amendment (5-0-2, Bhatnagar and Cherukuru absent); and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2025, the City conducted a duly noticed public hearing to consider the Open Space Element Update, at which time all interested persons were given an opportunity to give testimony and provide evidence in support of and in opposition to the proposed amendments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council hereby finds that the above Recitals are true and correct and by this reference makes them a part hereof.
2. That the City Council hereby finds and determines that the proposed General Plan Amendment is in the interest of the public good for the following reasons:
 - A. The City's Open Space Element is consistent with SB 1425 in that the revised Open Space Element addresses climate resilience by incorporating policies from the City's Climate Action Plan;
 - B. The revised Open Space policies of the General Plan call out access for all as a goal;
 - C. The incorporation of proposed trails from the Creek Trail Network Expansion master plan help to create a network of linked open spaces; and
 - D. The proposed General Plan Amendment has been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in that an Addendum to the City of Santa Clara 2010-2035 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared.

//

//

//

3. That the City Council hereby amends the Open Space Element, as contained in Section 5.9.1 (Parks, Open Space and Recreation Goals and Policies) of the General Plan, by incorporating a revised version of Figure 5.9-1, the Parks Recreation and Open Space Diagram as shown in Attachment 1, and by incorporating the proposed text changes shown in Attachment 2 into Section 5.9.1.

4. Effective date. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:	COUNCILORS:	Chahal, Cox, Gonzalez, Hardy, Jain, and Park, and Mayor Gillmor
NOES:	COUNCILORS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILORS:	None
ABSTAINED:	COUNCILORS:	None

ATTEST:



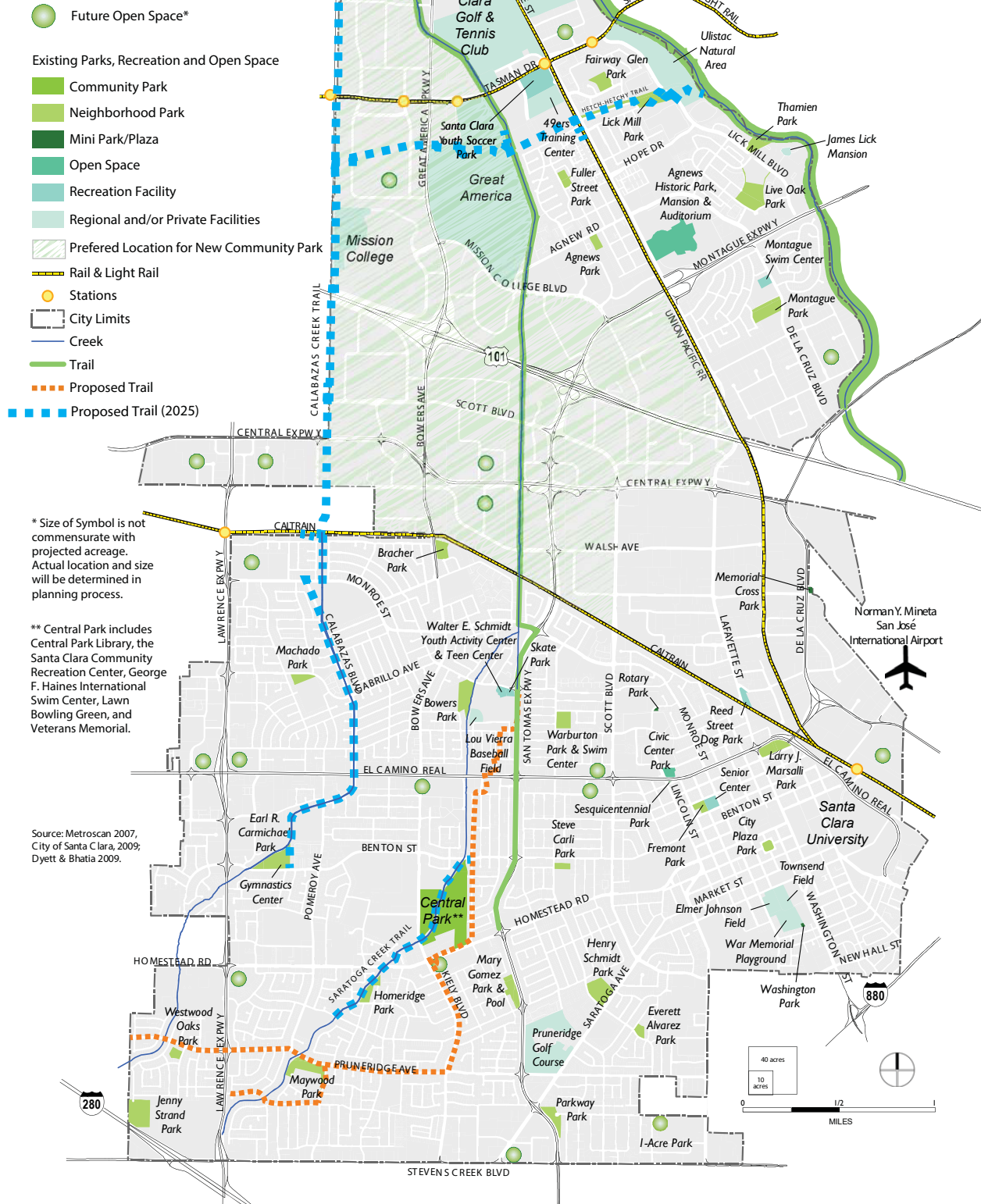
NORA PIMENTEL, MMC
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
CITY OF SANTA CLARA

Attachments incorporated by reference:

1. Figure 5.9-1, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Diagram
2. Proposed General Plan Open Space Goals and Policies Text Changes



Figure 5.9-1
**Parks, Recreation and
Open Space (2035)**



Attachment 2

(Proposed changes are shown as underlined)

New and Updated Open Space Goals and Policies

Goals

- 5.9.1-G2 Parks, trails and open space that are accessible to everyone by being located within a ten-minute walk to residential neighborhoods and employment centers.
- 5.9.1-G4 A comprehensive network of park, trail and open space facilities that are accessible to everyone and provide connections to destination points and activity centers within the City.

Policies

- 5.9.1-P3 Provide a network of trails along creeks and other rights-of-way to link parks, open spaces, bicycle facilities and transit services with residential neighborhoods and employment centers.
- 5.9.1-P6 Support construction of a network of trails within the City of Santa Clara that connect to the Bay Trail, the Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Creek and the Guadalupe River trails.
- 5.9.1-P22 Carbon farming on open space lands. Partner with resource conservation districts to increase carbon farming, creek restoration, wetland restoration, and local offset opportunities in open space lands within the city limits of Santa Clara.
- 5.9.1-P23 Sustainable planting guide. Support local organizations in developing a planting guide that prioritizes increasing available soil, carbon sequestration, resilience, and other equitably distributed co-benefits.