



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Parks & Recreation Commission

Monday, March 9, 2026

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting
Sparacino Conference Room -
City Hall East Wing
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

The City of Santa Clara is conducting the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in a hybrid manner (in-person and a method for the public to participate remotely).

Join Zoom meeting

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/86374316081>

Webinar ID: 863 7431 6081

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **26-265** [Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026](#)

Recommendation: Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This item is reserved for persons to address the body on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. The law does not permit action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. The governing body, or staff, may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, and appropriate body may request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. **26-93** [Approval of a Grant from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Amount of \\$3,550 to Reimburse Santa Clara Police Activities League for Eligible Scholarships from the 2025 Softball Season](#)

Recommendation: Approve a Grant in the Amount of \$3,550 from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund to Reimburse the Santa Clara Police Activities League for Eligible Expenses Related to the 2025 Softball Season.

3. **26-130** [Approval of a Grant from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Amount of \\$42,045 to Reimburse Santa Clara Youth Soccer League for Eligible Scholarships from the 2025 Soccer Season](#)

Recommendation: Approve a Grant in the Amount of \$42,045 from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund to Reimburse the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League for 59 Eligible Scholarships Related to the 2025 Soccer Season.

4. **26-216** [Review and Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the City Council for Adoption](#)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission review the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the accompanying presentation, provide comments on the Plan, and adopt a resolution recommending that the City Council approve the Plan.

5. **26-267** [Discuss the Progress Made on the FY 2025/26 Parks & Recreation Commission's Work Plan Goals and Activities](#)

Recommendation: Discuss and update Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY 2025/26.

STAFF REPORT

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting for the Parks & Recreation Commission is on Monday April 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City is governed by Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, unless a shorter limitation period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 1094.6, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred. If a person wishes to challenge the nature of the above section in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Clara, at or prior to the meeting. In addition, judicial challenge may be limited or barred where the interested party has not sought and exhausted all available administrative remedies.

If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Santa Clara will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities, and will ensure that all existing facilities will be made accessible to the maximum extent feasible. The City of Santa Clara will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities including those with speech, hearing, or vision impairments so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities. The City of Santa Clara will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

Agendas and other written materials distributed during a public meeting that are public record will be made available by the City in an appropriate alternative format. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 1 408-615-2220 with your request for an alternative format copy of the agenda or other written materials.

Individuals who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or any other disability-related modification of policies or procedures, or other accommodation, in order to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Santa Clara, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 408-615-3000 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.



City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
santaclaraca.gov
@SantaClaraCity

Agenda Report

26-265

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

REPORT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026

Prepared by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Commission

01/12/2026

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting
Sparacino Conference Room - City Hall East Wing
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Commissioner Vikas Gupta will be attending the meeting remotely from:
A6/10 Vasant Vihar
New Delhi, 110 057

The City of Santa Clara is conducting the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in a hybrid manner (in-person and a method for the public to participate remotely).

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/88066854956>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Chu called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present 6 - Commissioner Dana Caldwell, Chair Maureen Chu, Commissioner Derek DeMarco, Commissioner Eversley Forte, Vice Chair Vikas Gupta, and Commissioner Edward A. Souza

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A [26-33](#) Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the November 10, 2025, Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the November 10, 2025, Meeting.

Commissioner Forte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to recommend approval of the November 10, 2025, Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Caldwell, Chair Chu, Commissioner DeMarco, Commissioner Forte, Vice Chair Gupta, and Commissioner Souza

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [26-34](#) Status Update on the Progress Made on the FY 2025/26 Parks & Recreation Commission's Work Plan Goals

Recommendation: Discuss and update Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY 2025/26.

No motion made and no vote was taken. No action was taken on this item.

STAFF REPORT

Director Damon Sparacino

Parks & Recreation Department will check on the status of Art & Wine financials. There are currently no action items for the Art & Wine festival. The Director provided updates on construction projects that may impact 2026 Art & Wine Festival. He also provided an update on Central Park 4th of July fireworks.

Additionally, the Parks & Recreation Master plan will be brought to City Council in February or March. The Director also provided an update on Warburton construction. A contract may be awarded in early 2027.

Recreation Manager Castro

Staff undertook the website update for all the Parks and Park Project pages. Recreation Manager Castro suggested the Commissioners check out the updated page when they get the chance. She said a special event survey went live recently. She encouraged the Commissioners to forward the survey to friends and family.

Several items will be coming to the Commissioners in February including: Wade Brummal grant, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and a Charter Review presentation by the City Attorney. Recreation Manager Castro also thanked the Commissioners for attending the Tree Lighting event.

Recreation Manager Castro provided an update on ISC. The contract is being finalized for ISC. Construction is on track to begin in February. The bid results for Phase II should also arrive in February. Recreation Manager Castro also noted that Henry Schmidt park and restrooms will be open during construction.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT**Commissioner Caldwell**

Attended the Tree Lighting event. He was surprised with the amount of vendors in attendance. The Commissioner commented that "this was an upgrade to previous years' ". The Commissioner also reiterated his experience with a downed tree limb at Maywood park he was concerned about.

Commissioner Chu

Attended the Tree Lighting Event. Commented on the Nutcracker performance. "Well run!"

Commissioner DeMarco

The Commissioner did not attend the Tree Lighting event. His children started Acrobatics with the Recreation Department. Noted that Bowers Parks "Looks Great!"

Commissioner Forte

Attended the Veterans and Tree Lighting events. The Commissioner inquired if these events were good/ successful for the vendors?

Commissioner Gupta

The Commissioner spent a lot of the holiday season traveling. He was not in attendance at the Tree Lighting event. The Commissioner visited several landmarks on his journeys and noted how the local governments (of his destinations) invested so heavily into their parks systems. The Commissioner noted all the amenities and features and infrastructure of these park systems.

Commissioner Souza

The Commissioner enjoyed the Tree Lighting event and "Loves to see it grow year over year!" The Commissioner made note of the recent passing of Ray Gamma, who leaves behind a great legacy with the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell to adjourn the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at 7.59 PM until the next regular meeting on March 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Sparacino Conference Room at City Hall.

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Caldwell, Chair Chu, Commissioner DeMarco, Commissioner Forte, Vice Chair Gupta, and Commissioner Souza

MEETING DISCLOSURES

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Agenda Report

26-93

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

REPORT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Approval of a Grant from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Amount of \$3,550 to Reimburse Santa Clara Police Activities League for Eligible Scholarships from the 2025 Softball Season

COUNCIL PILLAR

Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

The Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program (Program) was established in 2015 in memory of Santa Clara resident and youth sports enthusiast Wade Brummal. Developed through an extensive outreach process (Attachment 1), the Program promotes youth participation in organized sports by providing scholarships and grants to Santa Clara youth who may not otherwise have the means to participate. It reimburses qualified youth sports organizations for athlete scholarships, uniforms, travel and competition fees, sports equipment, and other related expenses. The Program is administered in accordance with the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program and Grant Guidelines (Attachment 2), most recently updated in March 2025.

Overview of the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program

Any non-profit youth sports organization (YSO) that receives a permit to operate in a City of Santa Clara facility and allows for non-resident athlete participation is required to contribute to the Program. Participating YSOs must submit participant rosters to the Parks & Recreation Department (Department) annually. For each non-resident athlete listed, the YSO must contribute \$25 per sport. This fee will increase by \$10 (from \$25 to \$35) in FY 2026/27 and by an additional \$10 (from \$35 to \$45) in FY 2027/28.

In return, eligible YSOs may apply for grant funding from the Program to assist Santa Clara youth who need financial support. The organization must be a Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization serving youth under the age of 18. The YSO must be current in its contribution to the Program, and comply with Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding including in their athletics programs.

Priorities of Funding

The Guidelines establish the following priorities when considering grant requests:

1. Participant scholarships:
 - a. Reimbursement of a YSO direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged athletes in the sport. Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara
 - b. The YSO may qualify the athlete for a scholarship based on participation in a government support program (e.g., WIC, SNAP, reduced utility programs, or free and reduced-price lunch) or documented financial hardship.
2. Sport equipment and related expense:
 - a. Competition or tournament fees, uniforms, training equipment, or other expenses that enable the athlete to play.
 - b. Organizational expenses related to volunteer coach certifications or fingerprinting.

Applications up to \$2,500 may be approved by the Parks & Recreation Department. Applications exceeding \$2,500 are presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission for recommendation of approval. A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per year.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to present the grant request from the Santa Clara Police Activities League (SCPAL) for reimbursement of eligible player scholarships that were allocated during the 2025 softball season in the amount of \$3,550. Per the Program’s guidelines, this level of award is subject to the review and approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

SCPAL provides recreational softball, soccer, BMX, judo, wrestling, flag football, and cheerleading for youth and teens. The organization submitted a scholarship request totaling \$4,350 for 12 player scholarships associated with the 2025 softball season (Attachment 3). Upon review, the Department determined that only nine players met the Program’s Santa Clara residency requirement, resulting in a recommended award of \$3,550. The award calculation is as follows:

Number of Resident Players	Scholarship Award (per player)	Total Scholarship Award
1	\$200	\$200
2	\$250	\$500
3	\$300	\$900
3	\$650	\$1,950
Total: 9 Players		\$3,550

Department staff have reviewed the grant application and determined that it aligns with the Program’s priorities and meets all eligibility requirements. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the grant request in the amount of \$3,550.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 153778(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The SCPAL scholarship grant request is \$3,550. The current FY 2025/26 budget for the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund is \$42,152. Including additional program fees, donations and interest earnings received year to date this fiscal year, total available funding is \$62,949. A budget amendment to recognize and appropriate these additional funds will be brought forward as part of the December Monthly Financial Report and is scheduled for City Council consideration on March 10, 2026.

An additional grant request in the amount of \$42,045 for the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League is also being presented at the March 9 Commission meeting (RTC 26-130). If approved, the combined total grant requests under consideration, RTC 26-93 in the amount of \$3,550 and RTC 26-130 in the amount of \$42,045, would be \$45,595.

Pending approval of both scholarship grant requests, the remaining available program balance would be \$17,354.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Finance Department.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>>.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a Grant in the Amount of \$3,550 from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund to Reimburse the Santa Clara Police Activities League for Eligible Expenses Related to the 2025 Softball Season.

Prepared by: Angelique Wilson, Recreation Supervisor
Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager
Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Item 13, October 27, 2015 City Council Report
2. Item 6, March 11, 2025 City Council Report with Wade Brummal Guidelines
3. Wade Brummal Scholarship Application- SCPAL



AGENDA REPORT

Date: October 27, 2015
To: City Manager for Council Action
From: Director of Parks & Recreation
Subject: Unfinished Business—Parks & Recreation Commission Report on outreach to organizations regarding the \$25 non-resident participant fee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 21, 2015, Council considered the Parks & Recreation Commission's recommendation to establish a non-resident youth sports participation fee in the amount of \$25 per non-resident participant to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that use City parks and recreation facilities for their respective sports programs and that the fees collected be made available for consideration for disbursement according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program guidelines. The purpose of the Commission proposal was to establish a regular source of funds to support the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship that provides local non-profit youth sports organization with financial support for needs such as participant registration, equipment, and tournament entry fees. The Council referred the recommendation back to the Commission for further outreach to the non-profit youth sports organizations. On May 19, 2015, the Commission Chair reviewed the additional outreach efforts that included sending a copy of the proposal through the Parks & Recreation Department to all of the youth sports organizations and invitations to comment and/or attend the Commission meeting, follow up communication by the Chair with the Santa Clara Swim Club and Lions Football. On July 21, 2015 in response to the major concerns of the two groups, the Commission further refined the elements of the proposal including the definition of Santa Clara resident, removing the maximum grant per family and allowing additional opportunities for the leagues to request funding from the Scholarship Fund. On August 18, 2015, the Commission recommended that the revised proposal for Annual Non-Resident Sports Participant's Fee for Use of City of Santa Clara Athletic Facilities with Proceeds to Benefit City's "Wade Brummal—Youth Sports Scholarship Fund" be submitted to Council for approval.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE

Additional efforts to contact and receive input from youth athletic leagues was made by the commission including sending copies of the proposal to the leagues for comment and inviting comment at three additional Commission meetings. The proposal has been revised to include the comments and to address concerns. The schedule for implementation has also been revised to provide time for organizations to adjust and incorporate both the new fee and opportunities to request funding. Implementing an affordable non-resident fee would provide a stable source of funding for needs of local non-profit sports groups such as support for disadvantaged youth and program costs.

ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT

The proposal does not effect the City General Fund, but does provide a stable source of revenue for the City's Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Fund (084-1117-87800-(A)20412) that receives support primarily from donations from the public, and in the past, from charitable golf tournament proceeds. The estimated amount to be generated is \$15,000-\$20,000 per year, but would depend upon the actual number of non-resident participants in the community sports programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council establish a non-resident youth sports participation fee in the amount of \$25 per non-resident participant to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that use City parks and recreation facilities for their respective sports programs and that the fees collected be made available for consideration for disbursement according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program guidelines.



James Teixeira
Director of Parks & Recreation
Commission Liaison

APPROVED:



JJ Julio J. Fuentes
City Manager

Documents Related to this Report:

- 1) *Exhibit A-Parks & Recreation Commission Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Funding Proposal*

Exhibit A

WADE BRUMMAL YOUTH SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING PROPOSAL.

The City of Santa Clara Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Funding Proposal ("Proposal") will apply to all non-profit youth sports groups, organizations and athletic leagues located in the City of Santa Clara that use City of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation athletic facilities. The purpose of this proposal is to generate funds for the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Grant Program that provides financial assistance to Santa Clara youth residents who wish to participate in organized youth sports and may not have the financial means to pay the fees required to participate in youth sports leagues, and helps support sports league's facility and program needs. Fees will be collected from all youth non-profit sports organizations that allow "non-residents" to participate in their respective programs. Each organization will submit a roster that lists all residents (with proof of residency) and all "non-resident" participants to the Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department annually or prior to receiving a facility use permit. The number of non-resident participants provided on the roster will determine the total amount due for non-resident participation fees.

Policy and Procedures:

- 1) **Amount of Fee:** Each non-profit youth sports organization using a Santa Clara Parks & Recreation sports facility will pay a fee of \$25 per year, per non-resident participant.
 - a) **Non-Resident Definition:** A "non-resident" is any person who does not reside within the geographic boundaries of the City of Santa Clara or the boundaries of the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD).
 - b) **Resident Definition:** A resident is any person who resides within the City of Santa Clara or is enrolled in the SCUSD.
 - c) **Proof of Residency:** It will be the responsibility of the leagues to verify residency. Leagues will disclose non-residents on residency rosters submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 2) **Payment:** The total fee will be made payable to the City of Santa Clara—Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program, c/o Parks & Recreation Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.
- 3) **Schedule for Submitting Participant Roster and Fee.** Rosters should highlight a list of all non-resident participants in each eligible youth sports organization. Rosters and payment will be submitted by the last business day prior to the following dates:
 - Aquatic Sports—September 30
 - Swimming—Santa Clara Swim Club
 - Synchronized Swim—Aquamaids
 - Diving—Santa Clara Diving Club
 - Water Polo & Others
 - Softball—June 30
 - Baseball—June 30
 - SCPAL—June 30 for Summer/Fall sports; December 31 for Winter/Spring sports
 - Football—June 30
 - Soccer—September 30
 - Other Sports—prior to issuance of Athletic Facility Use Permit

4) Funding Requests.

- a) **Eligibility.** Any Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization that pays the non-resident, participation fee is eligible to apply for funding/request reimbursement for financial assistance granted to residents of the City of Santa Clara. Additionally, non-profit youth sports organizations that provide services to Santa Clara residents only, due to jurisdictional boundaries, are also eligible for reimbursement (i.e., Little League Baseball). Eligible organizations must comply with Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding — including in their athletics programs.
- b) **Application/Requests:** A written application (Request for Funds) by the board president or executive director of the youth sports organization will be submitted to the City of Santa Clara—Parks & Recreation Department on behalf of the sports organization.
- c) **Limit of Request(s):**
- i) An application (Request for funds) will be considered for approval for **up to \$500** (or less based on available funds) by the Parks and Recreation Department on a case-by-case basis.
 - ii) An application (Request for Funds) for **over \$500** (or less, based on total funds available in the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Fund) will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission for a recommendation of approval.
 - iii) A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per quarter.
- d) **Priorities of Funding.**
- i) Participant Scholarships. Reimbursement of a youth sports organization's direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged residents to participate in the sport (i.e. league registration fees, participation, etc.) Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara (as defined in Policy and Procedures 1.B)
 - ii) Relevant program costs. Reimbursement for new equipment, field repairs, capital projects, maintenance costs. (Only available if fund balance exceeds \$15,000 in a year.)
 - iii) Reimbursement of costs related to additional competition expenses (i.e., travel). Grants of this nature will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission on a case-by-case basis for a recommendation of approval.
 - iv) Requests from non-contributing Santa Clara based youth sports organizations and programs are also eligible to request funds based on fund availability. Requests must be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.
 - v) Contributions to the fund do not constitute a guarantee of funding.

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City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
santaclaraca.gov
@SantaClaraCity

Agenda Report

25-291

Agenda Date: 3/11/2025

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action to Adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines

COUNCIL PILLAR

Deliver and Enhance High-Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure
Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

In October 2015, the City Council established a \$25 fee for non-resident youth sports participants to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that reserve City Parks & Recreation facilities. The non-resident fees are collected in the City's Public Donations Fund and disbursed according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Guidelines (Attachment 1).

Since FY 2014/15, the program has collected approximately \$235,000 in the Public Donations Fund. Subsequently, the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program (Program) has approved grants in the amount of \$140,381 and spent \$52,098 on field equipment. The current balance of \$41,637 includes donations and interest collected.

Fiscal Year	Amount
2014-15	\$500
2015-16	\$500
2016-17	\$6,000
2017-18	\$2,000
2018-19	\$2,000
2019-20	\$1,000
2020-21	\$500
2021-22	\$2,420
2022-23	\$41,505
2023-24	\$42,962
2024-25	\$93,092
Total Distributions:	\$192,479

During the February 2023 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission (Commission) requested that an item be placed on an upcoming agenda to discuss the Program history, funds, and guidelines to review and/or update the Program.

During the March 2023 meeting, the Commission voted to continue the item to the April meeting and formed a subcommittee to review the Program. The primary focus areas considered by the subcommittee included:

- Increasing the amounts eligible for disbursement,
- New Program areas to be proposed for Program funding, and
- Input from non-profit youth sports organizations about the Program, guidelines and funding levels.

During the May 16, 2023, meeting, the subcommittee reported and recommended changes but took no action. In June and July, the subcommittee met to develop the recommended updates for the Commission to consider, and during the August 15, 2023, meeting, the Commission reviewed the revised program procedures (Attachment 2).

In March 2024, City staff convened a Youth Sports User Group (Group) meeting that consisted of representatives from eight organizations and engaged over 30 separate individuals. The Group met six times in 2024 and discussed various topics such as the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program, field use permit fees, and field allocation priorities. This report represents the first item brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration and recommendation.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief history of the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program, highlight its impact on local sports organizations (scholarships and equipment funding), and provide an update to the program guidelines for FY 2025/26.

After the Commission completed its review of the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program in August 2023, they requested staff to solicit feedback from the Group on how the program was working. The Group reviewed and discussed the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program over the past year and identified several goals and areas for program improvement.

The Group expressed an interest in continuing the program, as it ultimately benefits resident athletes and resident non-profit youth sports organizations. The Group described the existing Program guidelines and process as cumbersome. Over the year, staff and the Group worked together to develop updated guidelines and processes to clarify eligible organizations, expenses, and priorities. Additionally, an online form was developed to facilitate the application process, while further clarifying the required documentation. Program marketing was also discussed, and if approved, will be placed on an annual calendar developed by the Group. The updated Wade Brummal Draft Guidelines (Attachment 3) contains the details of the program.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission reviewed and discussed the updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines. Two members of the public representing the Groups attended the Commission meeting and spoke in favor of the updated program guidelines. The Commission made a unanimous recommendation for Council to adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Program Guidelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City for consideration of this item except staff time. Funding for this program is budgeted in the Public Donations Fund and does not impact the General Fund.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Parks & Recreation Department, Finance Department and the City Attorney's Office.

PUBLIC CONTACT

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RECOMMENDATION

Action to adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines.

Prepared by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager
Reviewed by: Damon Sparacino, Director Parks & Recreation
Approved by: Jovan Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. City Council Report Wade Brummal Oct 27, 2015
2. PRC Draft Revisions Wade Brummal Procedures 2023
3. Updated Wade Brummel Draft Guidelines 2025



CITY OF SANTA CLARA WADE BRUMMAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Background

The Wade Brummal Scholarship Program was established in 2015 after an extensive outreach process. The Program is named after Wade Brummal who taught at Santa Clara High School, was the founder of the Santa Clara Weekly, and as a Santa Clara resident has been supportive of “access for all” in youth sports. The Program’s objective is to provide financial assistance to Santa Clara youth who wish to play in organized youth sports programs but may not have the financial means to participate in these programs.

Since the Program was established, it has generated over \$262,000 to support youth sports organizations as they have provided scholarships for athletes, paid for player uniforms, travel and competition fees, and necessary equipment. Twenty-eight grants have been allocated from this Program.

Currently, the community desires to update the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program and Grant Guidelines to better reflect the needs of youth sports and the community. The update further defines eligible expenses and protocols for applying and awarding grants to youth sports organizations.

The Program is administered by the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Santa Clara.

Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Grant Process

1. Youth Sports Organization (YSO) submits rosters of non-resident participants and pays fee;
2. YSO may submit a scholarship reimbursement request and/or a grant request to the City once per year for eligible expense;
3. City processes the scholarship/grant request and determines the eligibility of the request;
4. City issues payment to YSO.

Who Participates

Any non-profit youth sports organization (YSO) that receives a permit to host their program in a City of Santa Clara facility; and that program allows non-resident athletes to participate in the sport; are required to participate in the Program.

Program Participation Process

YSOs utilizing City facilities for their program must submit annual participant rosters to the Parks & Recreation Department by April 15th. Rosters must cover the program year

(July 1-June 30) and include participant information: resident/non-resident status, address, zip code and school. YSOs must contribute \$25 per sport per year for each non-resident athlete on the roster. The City shall invoice the YSO for any monies owed to the Program. Invoices will be due within 30 days of receipt.

Fees and program guidelines are subject to change with review by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The following fees are recommended through Fiscal Year 2027/28.

Fiscal Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Wade Brummal Annual Fee	\$25	\$25	\$35	\$45

Payment

Fees shall be made payable to the City of Santa Clara-Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program and be sent or dropped off at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Program Definitions

1. Non-Resident: A "non-resident" is any player/athlete 18 and under who does not reside within the geographic boundaries of the City of Santa Clara or the boundaries of the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD).
2. Youth Resident: A resident is any player/athlete 18 and under who resides within the City of Santa Clara or is enrolled in the SCUSD or a private school located in the City of Santa Clara.
3. Non-profit Youth Sports Organization: A registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving Santa Clara youth, located in the City of Santa Clara, that is registered with the State of California, operating exclusively for the welfare and development of a youth sport rather than commercial.
4. Proof of Residency: It will be the responsibility of the leagues to verify residency. Leagues will disclose non-residents on rosters submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department. The roster shall include the following information: name/initials, address, zip code, and school attendance for each participant.

Scholarship/Grant Eligibility

YSO must be Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization, serving youth under the age of 18. YSO must contribute to the Program, be current in their payment to the Program, and comply with Title IX; the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding including in their athletics programs.

Scholarship/Grant Non-Eligibility

- School-based, youth athletic programs.
- Reimbursement of field permit fees.
- Reimbursement facility rental fees.
- Reimbursement of any fees for sports membership or associations related to certifications.
- Reimbursement for liability insurance.

Grant Application

Online forms for these grants are available on the City Parks & Recreation Department website, under the tab "Scholarships and Grants". (City of Santa Clara Wade Brummal Grant Application). Grant applications may be submitted as early as April 15 but will be due by July 1 of each year for the expenses related to the previous year.

Grant Submission

All scholarship and grant submissions must include:

1. A completed application;
2. Submission of all back up documentation such as rosters, receipts, and a spreadsheet summary;
3. Itemized receipts from purchases with the date of the purchase; and
4. Organizations have no more than 60 days to complete the application process and provide approved receipts or the application will be disqualified.

Priorities of Funding

1. Participant Scholarships
 - a. Reimbursement of a YSO direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged athletes in the sport. Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara.
 - b. YSO may qualify the athlete for a scholarship based on participation in a government support program such as WIC, SNAP, a reduced utility program, free and reduced lunch or other social service, or an expressed hardship.
2. Sports Equipment and Related Expenses
 - a. Competition/tournament fees, uniforms, training equipment, or other expenses that enable the scholarship athlete to play.
 - b. Organizational expenses related to volunteer coaches' certifications or volunteer fingerprinting.

Limit of Request(s)

1. An application will be considered for administrative approval for up to \$2,500 by the Parks & Recreation Department. Staff reserves the right to approve partial funding or to deny requests.
2. An application for over \$2,500 will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission for a recommendation of approval. The Commission reserves the right to approve partial funding of requests or to deny requests.
3. A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per year.
4. If the balance of available funds in the Wade Brummel Scholarship Program is greater than \$50,000 at the end of the fiscal year, the Parks & Recreation Commission may choose to:
 - a. Contribute funds towards activities that would benefit Santa Clara youth sports based on staff recommendation.
 - b. Consider requests from non-contributing Santa Clara-based YSOs and programs (i.e. groups who do not pay into the program for non-residents) for scholarships and grants related for qualifying players/athletes of the City of Santa Clara.

All Wade Brummel Scholarship Program Guidelines will be in effect for any funding allocations related to this program.

Disclaimer

Contributions to the Program do not constitute a guarantee of funding.

Spring

Last Name	First Name	Street Address 1	City	State / Province	Postal Code	School
Aken	Kalehua	691 Hillsdale Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Laurelwood Elementary
✓ Alcantar	Malina	2601 Cortez dr unit 3107	santa clara	CA	95051	N/A - Not in school
Alejo	Etzlani	440 N Winchester Blvd Apt. 95	Santa clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Anderson	Haley	2777 Donovan Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Pomeroy Elementary
Arechiga	Rosaline	444 Saratoga ave apt 27B	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Arias	Leilani	360 Macarthur Ave	San Jose	CA	95128	Holley Oak elementary school
Ayala	Ailani	3352 Villanova Ct	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Briarwood Elementary
Ballesteros	Jane	848 McKendrie St	San Jose	CA	95126	Trace Elementary
Banegas	Alexandria	591 Saratoga Ave.	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Buchser Middle School
Barkley	Ava	496 Birch Way	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Buchser Middle School
Blevin	Barbara		2355 Santa Clara	CA	95050	Haman Elementary
Brown	Ava	626 Malarin ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050	St. Justin
Buenrostro	Camila	1250 Pomeroy Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Pomeroy Elementary
Cahoon	Madison	2601 Cortez Dr.	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bracher Elementary
Calderon	Kiara	970 Kiely Blvd Unit G	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Central Park Elementary
Calderon	Sophia	729 Los Olivos Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Calderon	Olivia	729 Los Olivos Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Campbell	Cynthia	919 Tamarack Ave	San Jose	CA	95128	Trace
Castro	Sofia	1847 Wade Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Central Park Elementary
Castro	Isabella	1847 Wade Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Cabrillo Middle School
Christiansen	Flora	1176 Harrison Street	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Collins	Alyssa	2681 Webster Ct	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Cabrillo Middle School
Conner	Adelaide (Del)	321 Kohner Court	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Westwood Elementary
Cruz	Madelyn	814 Orkney Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95054	Washington Open Elementary
Cruz Batres	Susannah	631 Rebecca Way Apt A	San Jose	CA	95117	Easterbrook Discovery
Dailey	Darby	1455 Yosemite Ave. San Jose CA 95126	San Jose	CA	95126	Hoover Middle School
Dailey	Sloane	1455 Yosemite Ave. San Jose CA 95126	San Jose	CA	95126	Trace Elementary School
Ditto	Madeline	2081 Redbush Terrace	San Jose	CA	95128	St Martin of Tours
Djanikian	Elia	2879 Kaiser Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Scott Lane Elementary
Djanikian	Mila	2879 Kaiser Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Scott Lane Elementary
Doblack	Ellie	2273 Glenkirk Dr	San Jose	CA	95124	St. Justin School
Dominguez Burrell	Huitzi	1344 Davis St	San Jose	CA	95126	Homeschool
Dominguez Burrell	Xanath	1344 Davis St	San Jose	CA	95126	N/A - Not in school
Dyer	McKenzie	3004 Via Torino	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Cabrillo Middle School
✓ Espino	Aubrey	1505 Agnew Rd Apt 209	SANTA CLARA	CA	95054	O.S HUBBARD ELEMENTARY
Esposo	Leilah	4878 Avenida de los Arboles	Santa Clara	CA	95054	Huerta Middle School
Ferrarese	Valeria	630 Nicholson ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	St Joseph
Filbeck	Lilah	634 Clara Vista Ave.	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Washington Open Elementary
Fiore	Lauren	2367 Arlene Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Valley Christian Junior High
Fitzpatrick	Layla	1357 Harrison St	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Buchser Middle School
Flora	Mariella	3320 Benton St.	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Central Park Elementary
Flores	Melika	962 Di Giulio Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Wilson Preschool
Garcia	Brielle	519 CHAPMAN CT	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Live Oak Academy (homeschool)
Gardea	Marilyn	1863 woodland ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Scott Lane Elementary
Gargiulo	Samantha (Sami)	574 Saratoga Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Washington Open Elementary
Gaxiola	Unica	2766 donovan ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bowers Elementary
Gaxiola	Nea	2766 donovan ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Briarwood Elementary
Gianotti	Rita	1951 Nobili Ave.	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Scott Lane Elementary
Gil	Sabrina	550 Kiely Blvd	San Jose	CA	95117	Lynhaven Elementary school
Gomez	Isabella	2672 Wallace st	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Central Park Elementary
Gonzalez	Marytzel	2468 Borax Dr.	Santa clara	CA	95051	Cabrillo Middle School
Graham	Zoe	2624 Maplewood Ln	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Washington Open Elementary
Hammond	Natalie	1163 Carolyn Drive	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Haman Elementary
Henry	Frazier	843 Cascade Dr.	Sunnyvale	CA	94087	Westwood Elementary
Henry	Denni	843 Cascade Dr.	Sunnyvale	CA	94087	Westwood Elementary
Hernandez Bohn	Azalea	5560 Entrada Cedros	San Jose	CA	95123	kinderwood children center
Ho	Katherine	4394 Laird Circle	Santa Clara	CA	95054	Orion Montessori
Holleman	Karli	624 Benton St.	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Washington Open Elementary
Honarvar	Sophie	423 Calero Ave	San jose	CA	95123	St Clare
✓ Hubble	Maiya	2588 Robinson Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bowers Elementary
✓ Hubble	Lilah	2588 Robinson Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bowers Elementary
✓ Hubble	Neilani	2588 Robinson Ave.	Santa Clara	CA	95051	N/A - Not in school
Jaimes	Ava	2766 Donovan Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bowers Elementary
Kramer	Britton	616 Malarin Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Washington Open Elementary
Kwan	Lana	2029 Francis Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Bowers Elementary
LaManna	Avaya	3450 Granada Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Westwood Elementary
Lang	Jordan	20651 Forge Way #148	Cupertino	CA	95014	Casa di Mir Montessori
Lopez	Aubrey	676 Los Padres Blvd	Santa Clara	CA	95050	Queen of Apostles
Lucas	Lilly	3490 Benton St	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Briarwood Elementary
Luera	Sofia	1080 Santa Clara st	Santa clara	CA	95050	St clare
Luera	Olivia	1080 Santa Clara st	Santa clara	CA	95050	St clare
Luz-Gonzalez	Isabella	3538 Agate Dr Apt 11	Santa Clara	CA	95051	Millikin Elementary

Machado	Ellia	433 Juanita Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Machado	Addison	433 JUANITA DR	SANTA CLARA	CA	95050-5615 Westwood Elementary
Macri	Camilla	678 N 18th Street	San Jose	CA	95112 Galarza Elementary
Makwana	Iara	444 Saratoga Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Mandujano	Samara	2368 Karen Dr #4	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Cabrillo Middle School
Martinez	Adrianna	1293 Lewis St	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
McRobbie	Lila	315 Los Padres Blvd	Santa Clara	CA	95050-6417 Westwood Elementary
Medina	Sophie	2625 Painted Rock Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95051 St. Clare School
Melthratte	Mia	2237 Forbes Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Mendoza	Gabriela	3218 Parkhaven Dr	San Jose	CA	95132 King of Kings Academy
Mendoza	Adelina	2200 Monroe St	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Bowers Elementary
Meschon	Taliyah	2200 Monroe St	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Bowers Elementary
Montez	Jolise	2378 Dundee Drive	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Booksin
Mora	Aria	1993 Monroe st.	santa clara	CA	95050 Bracher Elementary
Moreno	Natalia	4260 Albany Dr	San Jose	CA	95126 St Clare
Moreno	Marianna	4260 Albany Dr	San Jose	CA	95129 Manuel De Vargas
Murillo	Alina	1766 Ravizza Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Bowers Elementary
Murillo	Aracelli	2172 San Antonio place	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Briarwood Elementary
Nocon	Sophia	1953 Murguia Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Washington Open Elementary
O'Brien	Alanna	950 San Saba Ct	Sunnyvale	CA	94085 Columbia Middle School
Ohmori	Sena	1507 Canal St	Milpitas	CA	95035 Mabel Mattos
Olvera	Alisa-Marie	3778 Inglewood Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95054 Montague Elementary
Ostrander	Rose	626 Los Padres Blvd	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Buchser Middle School
Pakatci	Gulsen	2385 Kay Drive	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Washington Open Elementary
Pitman	Mya	2679 Iversen Ct.	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Stratford
Porda	Jenna	2506 Kingwood Dr	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Scott Lane Elementary
Poythress	Valerie	957 Glenbar Ave	Sunnyvale	CA	94087 Laurelwood Elementary
Poythress	Kylie	957 Glenbar Ave	Sunnyvale	CA	94087 N/A - Not in school
Quillinan	Penelope	3458 Machado Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Cabrillo Middle School
Ramirez	Galilea	2629 Santa Clara agate ct	santa clara	CA	95051 Saint Lawrence
Ratliff	Mya	1243 PIERCE ST	SANTA CLARA	CA	95050 Haman Elementary
Ratliff	Ella	1243 PIERCE ST	SANTA CLARA	CA	95050 Haman Elementary
Reis	Elliana	2811 Barcells ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 St Simon
Reis	Emilia	2811 barcells ave	Santa clara	CA	95051 St Simon
Rius	Naomi Jade	4938 Avenida De Los Arboles	Santa Clara	CA	95054 Hughes Elementary
✓Rivera	Ava	2091 Bowers Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Piedmont
✓Rivera	Aila	2091 Bowers Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Toyon
Romero	Presley	1353 calabazas ct #1	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Campbell School of Innovation
Rosa	Maya	2300 Cimarron dr	Santa clara	CA	95051 Cabrillo Middle School
Rosales	Chenzie	3151 Dorcich St	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Calvary Christian Academy
✓Rubio	Aveah	926 Quince Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Pomeroy Elementary
Sager	Emily	2113 BOHANNON DR	SANTA CLARA	CA	95050-6308 Cabrillo Middle School
Salazar	Olive	3415 Flora Vista Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Callejon K-8
Sarracino	Lillian	2127 Laurel Drive	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Washington Open Elementary
Sheetz	Lorelei	459 N 19th Street	San Jose	CA	95112 Empire Gardens Elementary
Silva	Valentina	1820 Washington St.	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Cabrillo Middle School
Slusher	Annabelle	2245 Royal Dr Apt 1	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Scott Lane Elementary
Soto	Makenzie	1473 Jackson St	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Washington Open Elementary
Stevens-Defreitas	Faith	2374 Vargas place	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Callejon K-8
✓Suarez	Venessa (Vini)	2672 Wallace Street	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Bagby Elementary School
Suarez	Mya	2598 Moraine Dr.	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Bracher Elementary
Tapia	Stella	99 Vista Montana	San Jose	CA	95134 Agnew Elementary
Torres	MariaVictoria	1445 NEWHALL ST	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Torres	Angelina	1445 NEWHALL ST	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Valdez	Grace	3420 Princeton Way	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Sutter Elementary
Viegas	Devyn	1060 Highland Ct	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Viegas	Kylie	1060 Highland Ct	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Viegas	Luna	1060 Highland Ct	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Westwood Elementary
Villarreal	Kataleya	6981 rodling drive unit d	San jose	CA	95138 Bachrodt
Villarreal	Ariana	6981 rodling drive unit d	San Jose	CA	95138 Bachrodt
Wang	Joanna	668 Enright Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Haman Elementary
Warren	Devin	648 TRAMWAY DRIVE	MILPITAS	CA	95035 Randall Elementary
Webb	Esther	4780 Cheeney	Santa Clara	CA	95054 Hughes Elementary
Whittaker	Emma	1151 Doralee Way	San Jose	CA	95125 Schallenberger
Woo	Sarah	2287 Dolores Avenue	Santa Clara	CA	95050 Homeschooled
Woodward	Charlotte	2653 Kentworth Way	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Bracher Elementary
Woodward	Savanna	2653 Kentworth Way	Santa Clara	CA	95051 Bracher Elementary



Agenda Report

26-130

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

REPORT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Approval of a Grant from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Amount of \$42,045 to Reimburse Santa Clara Youth Soccer League for Eligible Scholarships from the 2025 Soccer Season

COUNCIL PILLAR

Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

The Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program (Program) was established in 2015 in memory of Santa Clara resident and youth sports enthusiast Wade Brummal. Developed through an extensive outreach process (Attachment 1), the Program promotes youth participation in organized sports by providing scholarships and grants to Santa Clara youth who may not otherwise have the means to participate. It reimburses qualified youth sports organizations for athlete scholarships, uniforms, travel and competition fees, sports equipment, and other related expenses. The Program is administered in accordance with the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program and Grant Guidelines (Attachment 2), most recently updated in March 2025.

Overview of Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program

Any non-profit youth sports organization (YSO) that receives a permit to operate in a City of Santa Clara facility and allows for non-resident athlete participation is required to contribute to the Program. Participating YSOs must submit participant rosters to the Parks & Recreation Department (Department) annually. For each non-resident athlete listed, the YSO must contribute \$25 per sport. This fee will increase by \$10 (from \$25 to \$35) in FY 2026/27 and by an additional \$10 (from \$35 to \$45) in FY 2027/28.

In return, eligible YSOs may apply for grant funding from the Program to assist Santa Clara youth who need financial support. The organization must be a Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization serving youth under the age of 18. The YSO must be current in its contribution to the Program, and comply with Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding including in their athletics programs.

Priorities of Funding

The Guidelines establish the following priorities when considering grant requests:

1. Participant scholarships:
 - a. Reimbursement of a YSO direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged athletes in the sport. Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara
 - b. The YSO may qualify the athlete for a scholarship based on participation in a government support program (e.g., WIC, SNAP, reduced utility programs, or free and reduced-price lunch) or documented financial hardship.
2. Sport equipment and related expense:
 - a. Competition or tournament fees, uniforms, training equipment, or other expenses that enable the athlete to play.
 - b. Organizational expenses related to volunteer coach certifications or fingerprinting.

Applications up to \$2,500 may be approved by the Department. Applications exceeding \$2,500 are presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission for recommendation of approval. A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per year.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to present the grant request from the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League (SCYSL) for reimbursement of eligible player scholarships that were allocated during the 2025 soccer season in the amount of \$42,045. Per the Program’s guidelines, this level of award is subject to the review and approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

SCYSL is a nonprofit organization founded in 1980 with a mission to provide a high-quality soccer experience for all players in the league. The league serves approximately 1,550 participants across its competitive and recreational leagues. Its primary purpose is to develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer while offering a healthy recreational outlet that fosters sportsmanship and discipline for youth ages six through eighteen.

The Department received a scholarship request from SCYSL in the amount of \$42,045 for 59 player scholarships (Attachment 3). Based on the Department’s review, all players met the Program’s Santa Clara residency requirement, resulting in a full recommended award of \$42,045. The award calculation is as follows:

Number of Resident Players	Division	Scholarship Award (per player)	Total Scholarship Award
2	Competitive	\$425	\$850
1	Competitive	\$450	\$450
3	Competitive	\$500	\$1,500
8	Competitive	\$950	\$7,600
2	Competitive	\$962.50	\$1,925
2	Competitive	\$975	\$1,950
17	Competitive	\$1,000	\$17,000
2	Competitive	\$1,500	\$3,000
2	Competitive	\$1,950	\$3,900
Total: 39			\$38,175
Number of Resident Players	Division	Scholarship Award (per player)	Total Scholarship Award
2	Recreational	\$152	\$304
2	Recreational	\$152.50	\$305
5	Recreational	\$175	\$875
4	Recreational	\$177.50	\$710
2	Recreational	\$178	\$356
1	Recreational	\$200	\$200
1	Recreational	\$255	\$255
3	Recreational	\$288.33	\$865
Total: 20			\$3,870

Grand Total: 59			\$42,045
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Department staff have reviewed the grant application and determined that it aligns with the Program's priorities and meets all eligibility requirements. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the grant request in the amount of \$42,405.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 153778(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The SCYSL scholarship grant request is \$42,045. The current FY 2025/26 budget for the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund is \$42,152. Including additional program fees, donations and interest earnings received year to date this fiscal year, total available funding is \$62,949. A budget amendment to recognize and appropriate these additional funds will be brought forward as part of the December Monthly Financial Report and is scheduled for City Council consideration on March 10, 2026.

An additional grant request in the amount of \$3,550 for the Santa Clara Police Activities League is also being presented at the March 9 Commission meeting (RTC 26-93). If approved, the combined total grant requests under consideration, RTC 26-130 in the amount of \$42,045 and RTC 26-93 in the amount of \$3,550, would be \$45,595.

Pending approval of both scholarship grant requests, the remaining available program balance would be \$17,354.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Finance Department.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a Grant in the Amount of \$42,045 from the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program in the Public Donations Fund to Reimburse the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League for 59 Eligible Scholarships Related to the 2025 Soccer Season.

Prepared by: Angelique Wilson, Recreation Supervisor
 Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager
 Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Item 13, October 27, 2015 City Council Report
2. Item 6, March 11, 2025 City Council Report with WB Guidelines
3. Wade Brummal Application-SCYSL



AGENDA REPORT

Date: October 27, 2015
To: City Manager for Council Action
From: Director of Parks & Recreation
Subject: Unfinished Business—Parks & Recreation Commission Report on outreach to organizations regarding the \$25 non-resident participant fee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 21, 2015, Council considered the Parks & Recreation Commission's recommendation to establish a non-resident youth sports participation fee in the amount of \$25 per non-resident participant to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that use City parks and recreation facilities for their respective sports programs and that the fees collected be made available for consideration for disbursement according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program guidelines. The purpose of the Commission proposal was to establish a regular source of funds to support the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship that provides local non-profit youth sports organization with financial support for needs such as participant registration, equipment, and tournament entry fees. The Council referred the recommendation back to the Commission for further outreach to the non-profit youth sports organizations. On May 19, 2015, the Commission Chair reviewed the additional outreach efforts that included sending a copy of the proposal through the Parks & Recreation Department to all of the youth sports organizations and invitations to comment and/or attend the Commission meeting, follow up communication by the Chair with the Santa Clara Swim Club and Lions Football. On July 21, 2015 in response to the major concerns of the two groups, the Commission further refined the elements of the proposal including the definition of Santa Clara resident, removing the maximum grant per family and allowing additional opportunities for the leagues to request funding from the Scholarship Fund. On August 18, 2015, the Commission recommended that the revised proposal for Annual Non-Resident Sports Participant's Fee for Use of City of Santa Clara Athletic Facilities with Proceeds to Benefit City's "Wade Brummal—Youth Sports Scholarship Fund" be submitted to Council for approval.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE

Additional efforts to contact and receive input from youth athletic leagues was made by the commission including sending copies of the proposal to the leagues for comment and inviting comment at three additional Commission meetings. The proposal has been revised to include the comments and to address concerns. The schedule for implementation has also been revised to provide time for organizations to adjust and incorporate both the new fee and opportunities to request funding. Implementing an affordable non-resident fee would provide a stable source of funding for needs of local non-profit sports groups such as support for disadvantaged youth and program costs.

ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT

The proposal does not effect the City General Fund, but does provide a stable source of revenue for the City's Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Fund (084-1117-87800-(A)20412) that receives support primarily from donations from the public, and in the past, from charitable golf tournament proceeds. The estimated amount to be generated is \$15,000-\$20,000 per year, but would depend upon the actual number of non-resident participants in the community sports programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council establish a non-resident youth sports participation fee in the amount of \$25 per non-resident participant to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that use City parks and recreation facilities for their respective sports programs and that the fees collected be made available for consideration for disbursement according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program guidelines.



James Teixeira
Director of Parks & Recreation
Commission Liaison

APPROVED:



JJ Julio J. Fuentes
City Manager

Documents Related to this Report:

- 1) *Exhibit A-Parks & Recreation Commission Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Funding Proposal*

Exhibit A

WADE BRUMMAL YOUTH SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING PROPOSAL.

The City of Santa Clara Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Funding Proposal ("Proposal") will apply to all non-profit youth sports groups, organizations and athletic leagues located in the City of Santa Clara that use City of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation athletic facilities. The purpose of this proposal is to generate funds for the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Grant Program that provides financial assistance to Santa Clara youth residents who wish to participate in organized youth sports and may not have the financial means to pay the fees required to participate in youth sports leagues, and helps support sports league's facility and program needs. Fees will be collected from all youth non-profit sports organizations that allow "non-residents" to participate in their respective programs. Each organization will submit a roster that lists all residents (with proof of residency) and all "non-resident" participants to the Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department annually or prior to receiving a facility use permit. The number of non-resident participants provided on the roster will determine the total amount due for non-resident participation fees.

Policy and Procedures:

- 1) **Amount of Fee:** Each non-profit youth sports organization using a Santa Clara Parks & Recreation sports facility will pay a fee of \$25 per year, per non-resident participant.
 - a) **Non-Resident Definition:** A "non-resident" is any person who does not reside within the geographic boundaries of the City of Santa Clara or the boundaries of the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD).
 - b) **Resident Definition:** A resident is any person who resides within the City of Santa Clara or is enrolled in the SCUSD.
 - c) **Proof of Residency:** It will be the responsibility of the leagues to verify residency. Leagues will disclose non-residents on residency rosters submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 2) **Payment:** The total fee will be made payable to the City of Santa Clara—Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program, c/o Parks & Recreation Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.
- 3) **Schedule for Submitting Participant Roster and Fee.** Rosters should highlight a list of all non-resident participants in each eligible youth sports organization. Rosters and payment will be submitted by the last business day prior to the following dates:
 - Aquatic Sports—September 30
 - Swimming—Santa Clara Swim Club
 - Synchronized Swim—Aquamaids
 - Diving—Santa Clara Diving Club
 - Water Polo & Others
 - Softball—June 30
 - Baseball—June 30
 - SCPAL—June 30 for Summer/Fall sports; December 31 for Winter/Spring sports
 - Football—June 30
 - Soccer—September 30
 - Other Sports—prior to issuance of Athletic Facility Use Permit

4) Funding Requests.

- a) **Eligibility.** Any Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization that pays the non-resident, participation fee is eligible to apply for funding/request reimbursement for financial assistance granted to residents of the City of Santa Clara. Additionally, non-profit youth sports organizations that provide services to Santa Clara residents only, due to jurisdictional boundaries, are also eligible for reimbursement (i.e., Little League Baseball). Eligible organizations must comply with Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding — including in their athletics programs.
- b) **Application/Requests:** A written application (Request for Funds) by the board president or executive director of the youth sports organization will be submitted to the City of Santa Clara—Parks & Recreation Department on behalf of the sports organization.
- c) **Limit of Request(s):**
- i) An application (Request for funds) will be considered for approval for **up to \$500** (or less based on available funds) by the Parks and Recreation Department on a case-by-case basis.
 - ii) An application (Request for Funds) for **over \$500** (or less, based on total funds available in the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Fund) will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission for a recommendation of approval.
 - iii) A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per quarter.
- d) **Priorities of Funding.**
- i) Participant Scholarships. Reimbursement of a youth sports organization's direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged residents to participate in the sport (i.e. league registration fees, participation, etc.) Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara (as defined in Policy and Procedures 1.B)
 - ii) Relevant program costs. Reimbursement for new equipment, field repairs, capital projects, maintenance costs. (Only available if fund balance exceeds \$15,000 in a year.)
 - iii) Reimbursement of costs related to additional competition expenses (i.e., travel). Grants of this nature will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission on a case-by-case basis for a recommendation of approval.
 - iv) Requests from non-contributing Santa Clara based youth sports organizations and programs are also eligible to request funds based on fund availability. Requests must be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.
 - v) Contributions to the fund do not constitute a guarantee of funding.

I:\Parks\Parks & Recreation Commission\Minutes\Minutes 2015\Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Grant Program-Funding Proposal Amended 08_08_15.doc



City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
santaclaraca.gov
@SantaClaraCity

Agenda Report

25-291

Agenda Date: 3/11/2025

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action to Adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines

COUNCIL PILLAR

Deliver and Enhance High-Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure
Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

BACKGROUND

In October 2015, the City Council established a \$25 fee for non-resident youth sports participants to be assessed on all non-profit youth sports organizations that reserve City Parks & Recreation facilities. The non-resident fees are collected in the City's Public Donations Fund and disbursed according to the Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program Guidelines (Attachment 1).

Since FY 2014/15, the program has collected approximately \$235,000 in the Public Donations Fund. Subsequently, the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program (Program) has approved grants in the amount of \$140,381 and spent \$52,098 on field equipment. The current balance of \$41,637 includes donations and interest collected.

Fiscal Year	Amount
2014-15	\$500
2015-16	\$500
2016-17	\$6,000
2017-18	\$2,000
2018-19	\$2,000
2019-20	\$1,000
2020-21	\$500
2021-22	\$2,420
2022-23	\$41,505
2023-24	\$42,962
2024-25	\$93,092
Total Distributions:	\$192,479

During the February 2023 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission (Commission) requested that an item be placed on an upcoming agenda to discuss the Program history, funds, and guidelines to review and/or update the Program.

During the March 2023 meeting, the Commission voted to continue the item to the April meeting and formed a subcommittee to review the Program. The primary focus areas considered by the subcommittee included:

- Increasing the amounts eligible for disbursement,
- New Program areas to be proposed for Program funding, and
- Input from non-profit youth sports organizations about the Program, guidelines and funding levels.

During the May 16, 2023, meeting, the subcommittee reported and recommended changes but took no action. In June and July, the subcommittee met to develop the recommended updates for the Commission to consider, and during the August 15, 2023, meeting, the Commission reviewed the revised program procedures (Attachment 2).

In March 2024, City staff convened a Youth Sports User Group (Group) meeting that consisted of representatives from eight organizations and engaged over 30 separate individuals. The Group met six times in 2024 and discussed various topics such as the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program, field use permit fees, and field allocation priorities. This report represents the first item brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration and recommendation.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief history of the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program, highlight its impact on local sports organizations (scholarships and equipment funding), and provide an update to the program guidelines for FY 2025/26.

After the Commission completed its review of the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program in August 2023, they requested staff to solicit feedback from the Group on how the program was working. The Group reviewed and discussed the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program over the past year and identified several goals and areas for program improvement.

The Group expressed an interest in continuing the program, as it ultimately benefits resident athletes and resident non-profit youth sports organizations. The Group described the existing Program guidelines and process as cumbersome. Over the year, staff and the Group worked together to develop updated guidelines and processes to clarify eligible organizations, expenses, and priorities. Additionally, an online form was developed to facilitate the application process, while further clarifying the required documentation. Program marketing was also discussed, and if approved, will be placed on an annual calendar developed by the Group. The updated Wade Brummal Draft Guidelines (Attachment 3) contains the details of the program.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission reviewed and discussed the updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines. Two members of the public representing the Groups attended the Commission meeting and spoke in favor of the updated program guidelines. The Commission made a unanimous recommendation for Council to adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Program Guidelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City for consideration of this item except staff time. Funding for this program is budgeted in the Public Donations Fund and does not impact the General Fund.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Parks & Recreation Department, Finance Department and the City Attorney's Office.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Action to adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines.

Prepared by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager
Reviewed by: Damon Sparacino, Director Parks & Recreation
Approved by: Jovan Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. City Council Report Wade Brummal Oct 27, 2015
2. PRC Draft Revisions Wade Brummal Procedures 2023
3. Updated Wade Brummel Draft Guidelines 2025



CITY OF SANTA CLARA WADE BRUMMAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Background

The Wade Brummal Scholarship Program was established in 2015 after an extensive outreach process. The Program is named after Wade Brummal who taught at Santa Clara High School, was the founder of the Santa Clara Weekly, and as a Santa Clara resident has been supportive of “access for all” in youth sports. The Program’s objective is to provide financial assistance to Santa Clara youth who wish to play in organized youth sports programs but may not have the financial means to participate in these programs.

Since the Program was established, it has generated over \$262,000 to support youth sports organizations as they have provided scholarships for athletes, paid for player uniforms, travel and competition fees, and necessary equipment. Twenty-eight grants have been allocated from this Program.

Currently, the community desires to update the Wade Brummal Scholarship Program and Grant Guidelines to better reflect the needs of youth sports and the community. The update further defines eligible expenses and protocols for applying and awarding grants to youth sports organizations.

The Program is administered by the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Santa Clara.

Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Grant Process

1. Youth Sports Organization (YSO) submits rosters of non-resident participants and pays fee;
2. YSO may submit a scholarship reimbursement request and/or a grant request to the City once per year for eligible expense;
3. City processes the scholarship/grant request and determines the eligibility of the request;
4. City issues payment to YSO.

Who Participates

Any non-profit youth sports organization (YSO) that receives a permit to host their program in a City of Santa Clara facility; and that program allows non-resident athletes to participate in the sport; are required to participate in the Program.

Program Participation Process

YSOs utilizing City facilities for their program must submit annual participant rosters to the Parks & Recreation Department by April 15th. Rosters must cover the program year

(July 1-June 30) and include participant information: resident/non-resident status, address, zip code and school. YSOs must contribute \$25 per sport per year for each non-resident athlete on the roster. The City shall invoice the YSO for any monies owed to the Program. Invoices will be due within 30 days of receipt.

Fees and program guidelines are subject to change with review by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The following fees are recommended through Fiscal Year 2027/28.

Fiscal Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Wade Brummal Annual Fee	\$25	\$25	\$35	\$45

Payment

Fees shall be made payable to the City of Santa Clara-Wade Brummal Youth Sports Scholarship Program and be sent or dropped off at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Program Definitions

1. Non-Resident: A "non-resident" is any player/athlete 18 and under who does not reside within the geographic boundaries of the City of Santa Clara or the boundaries of the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD).
2. Youth Resident: A resident is any player/athlete 18 and under who resides within the City of Santa Clara or is enrolled in the SCUSD or a private school located in the City of Santa Clara.
3. Non-profit Youth Sports Organization: A registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving Santa Clara youth, located in the City of Santa Clara, that is registered with the State of California, operating exclusively for the welfare and development of a youth sport rather than commercial.
4. Proof of Residency: It will be the responsibility of the leagues to verify residency. Leagues will disclose non-residents on rosters submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department. The roster shall include the following information: name/initials, address, zip code, and school attendance for each participant.

Scholarship/Grant Eligibility

YSO must be Santa Clara based, non-profit youth sports organization, serving youth under the age of 18. YSO must contribute to the Program, be current in their payment to the Program, and comply with Title IX; the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in schools that receive federal funding including in their athletics programs.

Scholarship/Grant Non-Eligibility

- School-based, youth athletic programs.
- Reimbursement of field permit fees.
- Reimbursement facility rental fees.
- Reimbursement of any fees for sports membership or associations related to certifications.
- Reimbursement for liability insurance.

Grant Application

Online forms for these grants are available on the City Parks & Recreation Department website, under the tab "Scholarships and Grants". (City of Santa Clara Wade Brummal Grant Application). Grant applications may be submitted as early as April 15 but will be due by July 1 of each year for the expenses related to the previous year.

Grant Submission

All scholarship and grant submissions must include:

1. A completed application;
2. Submission of all back up documentation such as rosters, receipts, and a spreadsheet summary;
3. Itemized receipts from purchases with the date of the purchase; and
4. Organizations have no more than 60 days to complete the application process and provide approved receipts or the application will be disqualified.

Priorities of Funding

1. Participant Scholarships
 - a. Reimbursement of a YSO direct financial assistance to support disadvantaged athletes in the sport. Individuals must be qualifying residents of the City of Santa Clara.
 - b. YSO may qualify the athlete for a scholarship based on participation in a government support program such as WIC, SNAP, a reduced utility program, free and reduced lunch or other social service, or an expressed hardship.
2. Sports Equipment and Related Expenses
 - a. Competition/tournament fees, uniforms, training equipment, or other expenses that enable the scholarship athlete to play.
 - b. Organizational expenses related to volunteer coaches' certifications or volunteer fingerprinting.

Limit of Request(s)

1. An application will be considered for administrative approval for up to \$2,500 by the Parks & Recreation Department. Staff reserves the right to approve partial funding or to deny requests.
2. An application for over \$2,500 will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission for a recommendation of approval. The Commission reserves the right to approve partial funding of requests or to deny requests.
3. A request for funds may be made by any organization no more than one time per year.
4. If the balance of available funds in the Wade Brummel Scholarship Program is greater than \$50,000 at the end of the fiscal year, the Parks & Recreation Commission may choose to:
 - a. Contribute funds towards activities that would benefit Santa Clara youth sports based on staff recommendation.
 - b. Consider requests from non-contributing Santa Clara-based YSOs and programs (i.e. groups who do not pay into the program for non-residents) for scholarships and grants related for qualifying players/athletes of the City of Santa Clara.

All Wade Brummel Scholarship Program Guidelines will be in effect for any funding allocations related to this program.

Disclaimer

Contributions to the Program do not constitute a guarantee of funding.

Wade Brummal Scholarship/Grant Program Application

(Please type or print)

1. Amount requested \$ ~~42,044~~ 42,045

2. How are funds to be specifically used?
Help families with registrations fees

3. Summary of proposed activity, project, program, etc., to be funded.
SCYSL - non profit soccer club

4. Who is specifically served by these funds?
Low income families

Name/Organization SCYSL

Contact Person Jamie Alas

Phone (home) 408-294-6141

Phone (work)

Address PO Box 2014

City, State, Zip Santa Clara, CA 95055-2014

Applicant's signature*
Jamie Alas

Applicant's title TREASURER

Date 8/23/25

*Parent/guardian signature required if applicant is under 18 years old

Mail completed application to:
Wade Brummal Scholarship/Grant Program
Parks & Recreation Dept—City Hall
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Call (408) 615-3140 for additional information.

SCMSL

SANTA CLARA LIONS COMP

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	GRANT	COMMENTS
Thiago Villavicencio	2865 Homestead Rd	Santa clara	95051	\$950	
Abdul Hazari	1901 Halford Ave	Santa Clara	95051	\$950	
Berat Sonmez	2330 Monroe Street	Santa Clara	95050	\$950	
Samuel Rodriguez Gaitan	2020 Scott Blvd	Santa Clara	95050	\$950	
Hazel Pfaffroth	500 MAGNOLIA LN	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,500	
Gabriel & Jude Salinas	1184 Washington St	Santa Clara	95050	\$2,000	2 players -> \$1,000 per player
Aaron Getu	1475 El Camino Real	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,500	
Guilherme Vasconcellos	1000 Kiely Blvd, apt 1	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,000	
Manuel Mendoza	3575 Greenlee Dr #231	San Jose	95117	\$950	St Clare school Santa Clara ca 95051
Avery Karlen	444 Saratoga Avenue	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Oliver Karlen	444 Saratoga Avenue	Santa Clara	95050	\$950	
Antonio Ghezzi	491 Luther Drive	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,950	
Gianluca Ghezzi	491 Luther Drive	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,950	
Omar Rayyan	2520 Monroe St.	Santa Clara	95051	\$950	
Jayden Torres Pulido	894 Maryann Drive	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Elijah Smith	2601 Cortez Drive	Santa clara	95051	\$1,000	
Alessandro & Andres Rubalcava	2891 Pruneridge Ave.	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,925	2 players -> \$962.5 per player
Jaydynn Hagberg	1918 Hillebrant Pl	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Skyler De'Arman	3565 MacGregor Ln	Santa Clara	95054	\$1,000	
Kareen Jondi	1398 Bellomy St apt 4	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
David Hernandez-Leon	645 Malarin Ave	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Seleem Elsheikh	99 Vista Montana	San Jose	95134	\$950	granada islamic school santa clara
Emily Gerhardt	175 Harold Ave.	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Lilah Gerhardt	175 Harold Ave.	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Alexis Osuna	2173 Aza Drive 6	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Myles Fehrer-Quinn	692 Starr Ct	Santa Clara	95051	\$1,000	
Anahi Briones	2151 Main St	Santa Clara	95050	\$1,000	
Jasmine Laubach	4541 Renaissance Dr.	San Jose	95134	\$1,000	MacDonald HS
Eleazar Elvira	1800 civic center Dr Apt16	Santa Clara	95055	\$1,000	
Kate & Kailey Guardado	2282 Gianera st	Santa Clara	95054	\$1,950	
Trino Kazmierczak	1000 Kiely Boulevard	Santa Clara	95051	\$450	
Allysen Contreras	2350 Harrison St	Santa Clara	95050	\$500	
Gianna Moreno	2479 Borax Drive	Santa Clara	95051	\$500	
Jayden Valencia	3282 Saint Ignatius place apt #323	Santa Clara	95051	\$425	
Vicente Corrales	824 Maryann Drive	Santa Clara	95050	\$500	
Isabelle Chavez	141 Saratoga Ave	Santa Clara	95051	\$425	

SANTA CLARA REC

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	GRANT	COMMENTS
Ava Sanchez	134 Washington street #2	Santa Clara	95050	\$200	
X Sanchez	134 Washington street #2	Santa Clara	95050	\$255	
Scott Gutierrez	3392 Vincent dr	Santa Clara	95051	\$175	
Jesus Morales Perez	3280 CABRILLO AVE	SANTA CLARA	95051	\$175	
Luca Hernandez	1207 State st	alviso	95002	\$152	Scott lane elementary
Yaretzi & Kiyomi Duran	1345 Cabrillo Ave	SANTA CLARA	95050	\$305	
Zahra, Saleh & Aisha Farooki	1238 Loyola Dr	SANTA CLARA	95051	\$865	
Zion Olmos	150 Saratoga Avenue	Santa Clara	95051	\$175	
Cruz Leiwes	614 Armanini Ave	Santa Clara	95050	\$175	
Emmalyn Kindred	1940 Santa Rosa Ct	Santa Clara	95051	\$152	
Brianna Pimentel	1601 warburton ave apt 8	Santa Clara	95050	\$175	
Jaylen & Josiah Warren	2151 main street apt 20	Santa Clara	95050	\$355	
Elijah & Zamira Delp-Kullock	530 Mansion Ct #306	Santa Clara	95054	\$355	
Bryan Vasquez	3240 Homestead Rd	Santa Clara	95051	\$178	
Danika Gutierrez	3392 Vincent dr	Santa Clara	95051	\$178	

TOTAL BURMMAL

~~\$42,044~~

42,045

20



Agenda Report

26-216

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

REPORT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Review and Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the City Council for Adoption

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2023, City Council authorized an agreement with Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC (WRT) to prepare a comprehensive Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan (Plan). The Plan is intended to guide the acquisition, development, operations, maintenance, and funding decisions of the City's parks, recreation facilities, open space, and programming over the next 15-20 years. The final draft of the Plan (Attachment 1) and the accompanying presentation (Attachment 2) are now complete and are presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council for adoption.

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Clara operates and maintains a comprehensive parks and recreation system that includes approximately 308 acres of parkland, five community centers, nine reservable park buildings, nine swimming pools, and number of sports fields, joint-use facilities, natural areas, as well as three regional trail corridors. Many of the City's parks and facilities were developed decades ago. Several major facilities are more than 50 years old, and aging infrastructure has resulted in increasing repair, modernization, and lifecycle replacement needs.

To address these issues, in September 2013, the City Council adopted a goal to enhance community sports and recreational assets. However, the City did not have a comprehensive understanding of the system-wide parks and recreation needs and deficiencies.

In April 2017, the City hired Kitchell CEM to perform a Facility Condition Assessment Report (Kitchell Report) across 47 parks and 65 buildings. The report identified significant immediate and long-term capital repair needs with a 20-year life-cycle forecast. Following the report, operational safety repairs and replacements were performed, and capital improvement projects were submitted for consideration. However, funding constraints and the lack of a system-wide parks and recreation master plan created barriers to achieving Council goals and mitigating deficiencies outlined in the Kitchell Report.

The Kitchell Report, which identified specific infrastructure and lifecycle needs across the parks and recreation system, is now nine years old and considered outdated. Santa Clara continues to experience sustained population growth, increased diversity, higher-density housing development, and an aging community, all of which amplify the need for strategic program and facility investments to keep pace with these evolving community needs. Additionally, the City faces increasing demand for sports fields, aquatics facilities, fitness activities, walking loops and trail connectivity, and flexible

recreation spaces; all with a continued emphasis on environmental sustainability.

Recognizing the issues and increase in demand, in September 2023, the City Council authorized an agreement with WRT to develop a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan to guide acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, and funding decisions for the next 15 to 20 years. The intent was to create an inclusive, data-driven roadmap that would:

- Establish updated park acreage level of service standards
- Evaluate park access and distribution across neighborhoods
- Assess facility capacity and condition
- Identify recreation programming gaps
- Develop policy guidance and capital improvement project strategies
- Align with the City's General Plan, Climate Action Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans, and other adopted City policies

DISCUSSION

The Plan was developed over a two-year period through extensive community engagement, demographic and recreation trend analysis, and comprehensive assessments of the City's parks and facilities. It presents a long-term vision for the City's network of parks, recreation, and open spaces, shaped by identified community priorities and system needs. The Plan serves as a tool for setting priorities, directing funding resources, and providing a strategic framework for future initiatives. Implementation of this vision will occur incrementally over a 10- to 20-year planning horizon through a three-phase action plan, capital improvement budgeting, and ongoing operational planning.

The following provides a brief summary of the final draft of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, including an overview of the planning and community engagement process, community and recreation trends, the parks and recreation system-wide assessment, the Plan's goals, objectives and recommendations, and the three-phase action plan along with recommended funding sources.

Planning and Community Engagement Process

The planning effort launched in fall 2023 and included demographic analysis, asset inventory and assessments, recreation trend review, and coordination with related City planning efforts. Extensive community engagement was conducted throughout the process, including:

- Five pop-up events at the Concert in the Park, Art & Wine Festival, Northside Library, Pruneridge Shopping Center, and the Parade of Champions
- The involvement of focus groups such as Sports and Athletics, Community Organizations, Senior Advocates, Planning and Development, and Specialized Users
- Three surveys, with one being statistically valid
- A workshop with approximately 800 participants

Overall, more than 1,800 community members responded to the community engagement process. A key component of this outreach was a statistically valid community survey, which provided measurable data on resident priorities and satisfaction levels.

Community Engagement and Survey Findings

The statistically valid survey was conducted in 2024, with 342 households participating. The results indicated that:

- 92% of households reported visiting a park or facility within the past year, which is much

higher than the national average of 81%.

- 51% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the value of parks and recreation programs, activities, and events (compared to the national average of 62%), while 18% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (compared to 3% nationally).
- 9% of participants responded “excellent” when asked to rate the condition of parks and recreation facilities and amenities, far below the national benchmark of 35%.
- 89% of respondents support general repair and increased maintenance as a strategy to improve the existing parks and recreation system.

Key themes that emerged through community engagement included:

- High importance placed on safe, clean, and well-maintained parks
- Strong demand for additional indoor recreation space, including gymnasiums and indoor courts
- Interest in expanded and modernized aquatics facilities
- Desire for additional shade, seating, restrooms, and walking loops in existing parks
- Support for expanded fitness, outdoor recreation, and swim programming
- Interest in improved trail connectivity and safe pedestrian access to parks

The survey also highlighted areas where satisfaction did not match importance, particularly in indoor recreation capacity, aquatics modernization, and certain park amenities. The Plan’s recommendations are structured to address these identified gaps.

Community and National Recreation Trends

To plan for the future of Santa Clara’s parks, recreation, and open spaces, it’s important to understand the community’s needs relative to local and national recreation trends.

Santa Clara Community

Santa Clara’s population was estimated at 133,597 in 2023, having grown steadily over recent decades. By 2038, the population is projected to reach 154,569. In addition, the 55+ population grew from 19% to 24% of the population between 2010 and 2023. The City had a median age of 34.3 years old which is slightly younger than the U.S. median age of 38.5 years. Between 2010 and 2023, Santa Clara became significantly more diverse, with the Asian population emerging as the largest racial group at 49%. By 2038, this segment is projected to make up 58% of the community, while the White population is expected to decline to 16%.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends provide valuable insight into how the City residents recreate, and how our needs and interests may shift over time. Some activities have experienced large change, growth or decline in popularity, while others have remained relatively steady. For example, walking remains the most popular national recreation activity with 114,759,000 participants in 2022 but only experienced growth of 3.6%. As of 2023, participation in tennis, golf, and pickleball increased significantly nationwide, more than 25% in a five-year period. Swimming remained the leading aquatic activity in overall participation. Among fitness activities, trail running experienced the most substantial growth, increasing by nearly 50% over five years.

Parks & Recreation System Assessment

In addition to the analysis on the community and recreation trends, a comprehensive assessment of

the parks and recreation system was conducted. Each park was evaluated in the spring of 2024 using a standardized scoring system measuring access and connectivity, condition, functionality, and safety. Trails, indoor recreation facilities, aquatics assets, sports fields, and programming capacity were also reviewed to assess how well the system meets current and projected community needs. The findings identified strengths as well as systemwide gaps, including aging infrastructure, limited indoor capacity, and connectivity deficiencies.

Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Building on the community engagement process, demographic and recreation trend analysis, and comprehensive system assessment, the Plan identifies goals and corresponding recommendations to guide the future of Santa Clara's parks and recreation system in the following sections.

Goals and Objectives

Seven goals were developed to guide the future of the parks and recreation system:

1. Parkland: expand and improve parkland to ensure parks are inclusive, safe, accessible, and responsive to community needs; establishing a vision for a new park in North Santa Clara.
2. Indoor recreation facilities: provide adequate indoor recreation facilities to meet current and future demand.
3. Aquatic facilities: improve functionality of aquatic facilities to meet community demand and increase accessibility.
4. Paths and trails: create paths and trails to enhance connectivity to existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, while supporting recreational walking opportunities.
5. Open space and conservation: integrate environmental resiliency into park design and operations through climate-ready landscaping and sustainable practices.
6. Maintenance and aging structure: maintain parks and recreation facilities by implementing capital improvement and replacement programs, best management practices, safety and accessibility standards, and adequate staffing and funding.
7. Program and events: expand and diversify programs and events to serve all ages and address unmet community needs.

Recommendations

The following recommendations outline actions to implement the established goals:

1. Parkland Level of Service and Access

The Plan evaluates whether current park acreage remains sufficient given projected population growth. As of 2025, Santa Clara provides approximately 2.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The Plan recommends increasing the target to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents, consistent with the City's General Plan framework.

Based on growth projections, the City would require approximately 156.2 additional acres by 2035 to meet the recommended standard. Planned projects are anticipated to provide 70.2 acres, leaving an estimated 86-acre shortfall.

In addition to acreage, the Plan evaluates walkable access. Several neighborhoods lack park amenities within a 10-minute walk. Recommended strategies to address access gaps include:

- Development of new parks in underserved areas
- Integration of park space into future development

- Strengthened joint-use partnerships with school districts, which collectively represent approximately 152 acres of potential shared recreational space

2. Park Quality and Amenity Improvements

Community feedback emphasized that park quality is as important as park quantity. Residents identified the need for comfort and modernization improvements, including completing park walking loops, increasing shade and seating, modernizing playgrounds and restrooms, improving lighting and wayfinding, and repurposing underutilized areas to meet current recreation demand.

3. Indoor Recreation Facilities

The Plan identifies indoor recreation as one of the most significant system gaps. Santa Clara currently provides approximately 0.67 square feet of indoor recreation space per resident, slightly below national benchmarks. Survey responses and outreach consistently ranked indoor facilities, including gymnasiums and indoor courts as high priorities.

Recommendations include modernizing existing facilities, evaluating expansion of indoor recreation capacity, and considering development of new multipurpose indoor facilities, particularly in North Santa Clara.

4. Aquatics

Aquatics services remain highly valued. However, existing facilities are aging and unevenly distributed, concentrated in southern Santa Clara with limited access in northern neighborhoods. The Plan recommends development of a long-term aquatics strategy that addresses modernization, improved geographic balance, and long-term sustainability.

Community feedback supports expanded access to swim lessons, water fitness, and family-oriented aquatic amenities.

5. Trails and Connectivity

The Plan highlights the importance of strengthening the City's multiuse trail network to enhance connectivity between neighborhoods and parks, support recreational walking and biking, and improve safe access to amenities.

6. Recreation Programming Needs

The Plan emphasizes strengthening recreation programming to ensure offerings remain inclusive, relevant, and responsive to community needs.

Recommendations focus on increasing participation across all geographic areas, expanding high-demand programs while reducing low-interest offerings, and implementing evaluation tools to improve program quality and performance. The Plan also calls for refining program scheduling based on community feedback, enhancing marketing efforts, and formalizing partnership policies to maximize resources and community impact.

7. Maintenance, Operations, and Sustainable Delivery

The planning process underscored the need to align expansion with sustainable operations. Recommendations include:

- Implementing improved asset management systems
- Establishing lifecycle replacement planning
- Enhancing maintenance standards
- Ensuring adequate staffing levels
- Identifying sustainable funding sources to support long-term operations

These operational strategies are intended to prevent and/or limit future deferred maintenance and protect capital investments.

Action Plan and Funding Sources

The Plan’s recommendations are intended to be implemented strategically and incrementally, accounting for existing staffing levels and limited financial resources. The following sections summarize the phased action plan and the funding resources necessary to support long-term implementation.

Action Plan

The Plan structures its recommendations into three implementation phases: short-term (1-5 years), mid-term (6-10 years), long term (11+ years). The estimated total capital costs for full implementation range from \$618 million to \$850 million, with additional annual operating costs estimated between \$4 million to \$7 million. These planning-level costs are broken out across the phases as summarized below.

Cost Type	1-5 Years	6-10 Years	11+ Years	Grand Total
Est. Capital Cost	\$185M-260M	\$248M-327M	\$185M-263M	\$618M-850M
Est. Annual Operational Cost	\$0.7M-1.2M	\$1.2M-2.0M	\$2.2M-4.1M	\$4.1M-7.3M
Total per Phase	\$186M-261M	\$249M-329M	\$187M-267M	\$622M-857M

Totals are rounded to the nearest million.

The planning-level cost estimates are distributed across the following major categories:

Recommendation	Capital Cost	Operational Cost
Improve Existing Parks	\$43M-63M	Varies
Provide New Parks	\$359M-499M	\$2M-4M
Enhance Existing Indoor Facilities	\$63M-85M	Varies
Provide New Indoor Facilities	\$89M-107M	\$1.6M-2.3M
Sustainable Aquatic Facilities	\$25M-46M	Varies
Connected Trail System	\$39M-50M	\$0.03M-0.05M
Habitat & Conservation	Aggregated in “Improve Existing Parks”	Varies
Tree Canopy	\$0.2M-0.4M	Varies
Sustainable Funding		\$0.02M-0.03M

Improved Maintenance Practices	\$0.05M-0.08M	\$0.4M-0.6M
New Programs & Events to Meet Needs		\$0.08M-0.2M
Ensure Existing Programs Meet Needs		\$0.06M-0.1M
Total	\$618M-850M	\$4M-7M

Totals are rounded to the nearest million.

To support expanded facilities and service levels, approximately two-thirds of the projected \$4 million to \$7 million in Operational Cost is attributable to additional staffing, equivalent to estimated 32 to 55 full-time positions over time. These positions would likely include maintenance staff, recreation program staff, aquatics personnel, administrative support, and potentially capital project oversight, depending on the scope and phasing of implementation.

It is important to note that these cost estimates and staffing projections represent full build-out scenarios. Adoption of the Plan would not commit the City to immediate funding of these amounts. Implementation would occur incrementally, subject to future City Council direction, identification of funding sources, prioritization through the capital improvement planning, and annual budget approval processes.

Funding Sources

Meeting the capital needs of the Master Plan will require a layered funding approach that leverages federal, state, regional, and local resources. Many of these sources are used today; others may be explored in the years ahead. Some opportunities include:

- Ad valorem taxes on real property
- Dedicating portions of sales tax, hotel/motel, or restaurant taxes for parks and recreation.
- Improvement Districts or Community Facilities Districts (Mello-Roos) may fund capital and maintenance in growth areas.
- Parkland Dedication and Impact Fees (Quimby Act and Mitigation Fee Act) which are local development-based funding source requiring land dedication or in-lieu fees.
- Grants such as Land and Water Conservation Fund, California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grants, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program, etc.
- User fees, including recreation service fees, ticket sales/ administration, special use permits, public facility reservations, equipment rental.
- External partnerships, donations, and volunteer support.

Additionally, in November 2024, Santa Clara residents voted to approve \$400 million of Measure I General Obligation Bond, which allocates approximately \$115 million for parks, recreation, and library improvements. This bond allows the City to make needed maintenance and lifecycle replacement improvements, and it is a confirmation of residents’ belief in the value of parks and recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The development of a Parks Master Plan is an implementing action of Policy 5.1.1-P23 the 2010-2035 General Plan. The City Council certified the Environmental Impact Report for the 2010-35 General Plan on November 16, 2010 (Resolution 10-7797). As the proposed action falls within the scope of the Project analyzed by the General Plan EIR, no additional environmental review is necessary. When individual park development projects are brought forward in the future, any

necessary additional environmental review will be conducted at that time.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the Commission's review of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Plan will serve as a long-range policy and decision-making framework to guide the City in park acquisition, capital improvements, facility modernization, program delivery, maintenance standards, and funding approaches. The Plan does not authorize specific capital improvement projects or appropriate funding. Rather, it establishes strategic direction and service standards to inform future City Council actions, capital improvement planning, and annual budget decisions.

The Plan includes planning-level capital and operational cost estimates for long-term financial planning and prioritization. Full implementation of all recommendations will require cumulative capital investment ranging from approximately \$618 million to \$850 million over a 10- to 20-year horizon. Of this amount, approximately \$194 million to \$258 million is attributable to the acquisition of additional parkland needed to achieve the City's park acreage level-of-service goal. Additional annual operations and maintenance costs are estimated at approximately \$4 million to \$7 million. Approximately two-thirds of this cost is associated with the additional staffing needed to support expanded or improved facilities, services, and programs which equates to an estimated 32 to 55 additional full-time positions.

Implementation of the Master Plan will require a layered funding strategy that leverages federal, state, regional, and local resources, including development impact fees, grants, user fees, special districts, partnerships, and other revenue mechanisms. In addition, the Measure I General Obligation Bond allocates approximately \$115 million for parks, recreation, and library improvements. While Measure I provides a significant investment toward maintenance and capital improvements, full implementation of the Master Plan will require continued prioritization and identification of additional funding sources over time.

COORDINATION

This report was coordinated with the Finance Department, City Attorney's Office, and Public Works Department.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission review the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the accompanying presentation, provide comments on the Plan, and adopt a resolution recommending that the City Council approve the Plan.

Prepared by: Thuy Pham, Management Analyst, Parks & Recreation
Reviewed by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation
Approved by: Jovan Grogan, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Draft December 2025
2. Master Plan Presentation March 2026



CITY OF SANTA CLARA

PARKS & RECREATION

MASTER PLAN

DRAFT | DECEMBER 2025

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ART & WINE FESTIVAL, CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA



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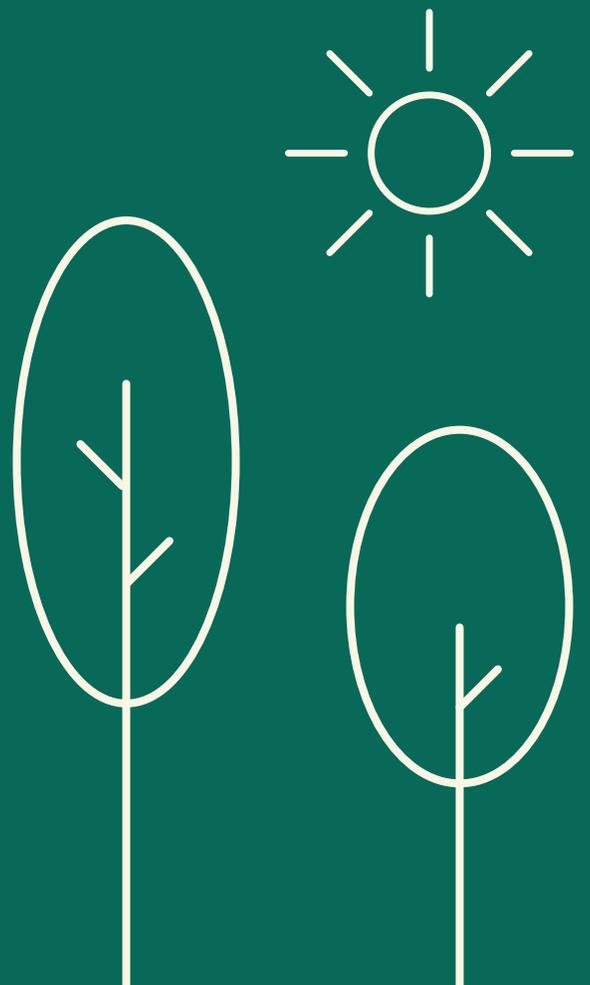
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A Resolution of Approval	E Facilities Assessment
B Demographics & Trends Report	F Maintenance Assessment
C Parks Assessment	G Community Engagement Summary
D Programming Assessment	H Statistically-Valid Survey Findings



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Introduction & Executive Summary





INTRODUCTION

Parks, recreation, and open spaces not only enhance quality of life but also contribute to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of a city. As Santa Clara continues to grow and change, its parks and recreational facilities must also evolve to meet the diverse and expanding needs of its residents.

To guide this transformation, the City has developed the *Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Master Plan*—a comprehensive, community-informed framework for decision-making over the next 15 years. This plan outlines a strategic approach for improving and reimagining the City’s parks and recreation assets. It also sets priorities for maintenance, staffing, and sustainable funding to ensure long-term success.

In November 2024, Santa Clara residents voted to approve \$400 million of general obligation bond money, of which approximately \$115 million has been allocated to parks, libraries, the Senior Center, and aquatic facilities. This bond allows the City to make needed maintenance and lifecycle replacement improvements, and it is a confirmation of residents’ belief in the value of parks and recreation. The *Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Master Plan* recognizes the great value our community places on parks and recreation and creates a strong framework for using resources—both from the bond and other sources—effectively in the years ahead.

1.1 THE VALUE OF PARKS & RECREATION

Parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and trails benefit people across all age groups and in multiple ways. These important spaces provide opportunities to build confidence, learn new skills, and find moments of calm and reflection, while also enhancing air quality, cooling the urban environment, and serving as gathering places that strengthen social bonds.

SUPPORTING WELLNESS

Recreation areas promote active lifestyles by encouraging walking, playing, sports, and physical exercise for all ages. These activities not only support physical health but also boost mental well-being, self-esteem, and emotional resilience. For children, especially those who are neurodiverse, outdoor activity can improve focus and reduce stress. Regular movement helps prevent chronic illnesses and supports cognitive functions such as learning and memory¹.

FOSTERING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Well-designed, inviting parks and recreation facilities offer spaces where people can come together—whether for casual meetups, family outings, or neighborhood events. These shared experiences deepen our sense of community, build trust among residents, and foster a shared responsibility for maintaining public spaces. Time spent in parks can reduce feelings of isolation and contribute to emotional well-being².

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-places/php/key-topics/parks>, <https://time.com/4405827/the-healing-power-of-nature/>

² National Recreation and Park Association: <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2022/april/studying-the-health-benefits-and-economic-impacts-of-parks/?utm>

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

As urban areas expand, the connection between people and the natural world can weaken. Parks and trails serve as gateways to natural landscapes, giving communities a chance to experience local ecosystems and better understand the relationship between human activity and the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Open spaces play a vital role in safeguarding the environment. They help purify air and water, support groundwater recharge, reduce flood risks, and provide shade that lessens urban heat. Parks offer habitat for wildlife and plant life, sustaining local biodiversity. By capturing carbon and supporting climate adaptation efforts, park landscapes contribute to long-term environmental resilience³.

STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Green spaces and parks contribute to economic growth by boosting property values, supporting tourism, and helping attract and retain businesses. People often prefer to buy homes near well-maintained parks, and popular destinations—such as Santa Clara’s Central Park—draw visitors whose spending benefits local shops and services. Businesses are also more likely to invest in communities where talented workers want to live, work, and enjoy quality public spaces⁴.

³ Sustainability: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/13/6132?utm>

⁴ National Recreation and Parks Association: <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2022/april/studying-the-health-benefits-and-economic-impacts-of-parks/?utm>

1.2 ABOUT THIS PLAN

This Master Plan presents a comprehensive, long-term vision for the City’s network of parks, recreation, and open spaces, shaped by the goals and desires of the community. It serves as a tool for setting priorities, directing funding resources, and providing a strategic framework for future initiatives. The *Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is organized into the following sections:

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduces the Master Plan document and summarizes its most important elements.

Chapter 2

SANTA CLARA TODAY

Describes Santa Clara’s people, parks, and recreation as they are today. Analyses include demographics; relevant planning efforts; parks, facility, and program assessment; and maintenance overview.

Chapter 3

OUR VISION

Captures the community’s vision for parks and recreation in Santa Clara, based on input from a range of engagement events and feedback collected throughout the process.

Chapter 4

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Outlines goals, objectives, and recommendations for Santa Clara’s parks, programs, facilities, open spaces, and trails.

Chapter 5

REALIZING OUR VISION

Identifies the costs for improving and expanding the parks and recreation system, along with the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining it, and outlines strategies for prioritizing and funding implementation.

Appendices

Supporting analyses and reports are provided in a separate appendices document.

1.3 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning effort launched in Fall 2023 and progressed through three key phases, beginning with the collection and analysis of data and background information. This informed the development and refinement of initial goals and objectives, which were then shaped into a cohesive Plan. The final *Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Master Plan* was adopted by City Council in [Month] [Year]. The planning process is illustrated in **Figure 1.1**.

5
POP UPS

3
SURVEYS

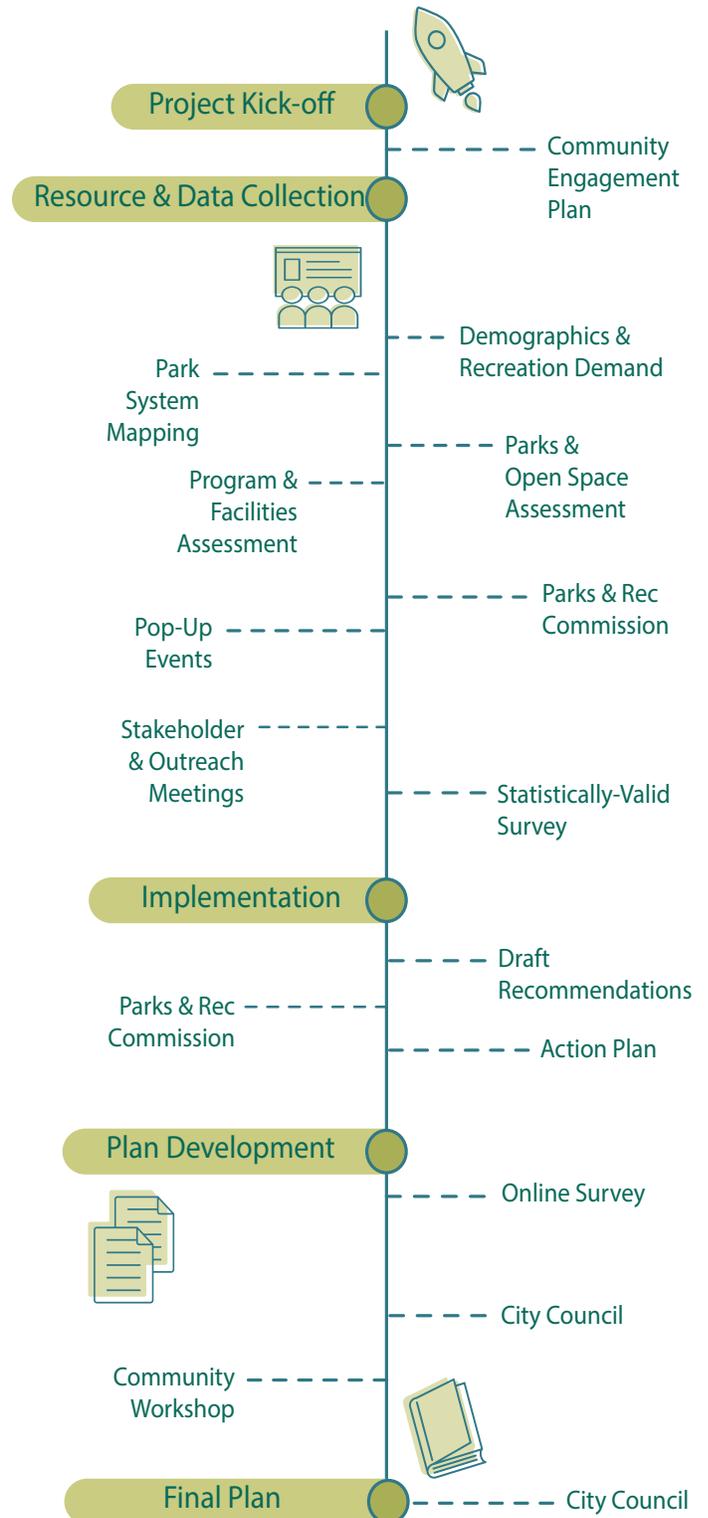
5
FOCUS GROUPS

1
WORKSHOP

1,800 +
PEOPLE ENGAGED!

Community members gave feedback at community engagement events around Santa Clara and online throughout the planning process—in total over 1,800 Santa Clarans were engaged!

FIGURE 1.1 | Project Timeline



1.4 OUR GOALS

The goals outlined in this plan were shaped through extensive community involvement and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders. The outcome is a unified vision for the future of Santa Clara’s parks, recreation services, and open space system. Detailed recommendations supporting each goal can be found in Chapter 4. Each goal speaks to one important element of a complete parks and recreation system: parkland, indoor facilities, aquatics, paths and trails, environmental resiliency, maintenance, and programs and events.



Provide **parkland** to meet community needs and ensure that existing and new parks provide recreational value and are inclusive, safe, and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.



Provide **indoor recreation facilities** to meet current and future community recreation needs.



Improve functionality of **aquatic facilities** to meet community demand and increase accessibility.



Create **paths and trails** to enhance connectivity to existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, while supporting recreational walking opportunities.



Incorporate **environmental resiliency** into all parks and green spaces with native and climate-ready plants, conservation, and other similar strategies to maximize ecological benefits.



Maintain parks and recreation facilities by implementing capital improvement and replacement programs, best management practices, safety and accessibility standards, and adequate staffing and funding.



Provide offerings for all ages and abilities and address unmet **program and event** needs.

Key Recommendations

The Plan should result in specific outcomes that advance the goals on the previous pages.

- **Develop new parks** to support Santa Clara’s growing and changing population—prioritizing park-deficient areas and incorporating parks into new development.
- Establish a vision for the **new destination park on the north side of Santa Clara** to ensure its development meets the needs of the community.
- Ensure that new parks are of a size and shape that **supports recreational use** and have a **robust mix of relevant amenities**.
- Pursue the development of a **multipurpose community center** on the north side of Santa Clara, and **explore options for a future indoor recreation facility** with a gymnasium.
- Evaluate existing facilities and **develop an approach for delivering aquatic services** that considers improvements to existing neighborhood pools, new aquatic facilities in underserved areas, and potential consolidation.
- Continue to develop the Citywide planned **multiuse trail network** and ensure that trails are well-integrated into parks, supporting park access and recreation value, and **minimizing disruption** of green space and user conflicts.
- Develop **new programs identified as high-priority needs**—such as fitness and wellness, outdoor recreation, water fitness, and swim lessons—while monitoring industry trends.
- Reevaluate and **establish sustainable funding sources** to adequately maintain and operate the parks and recreation system to the City’s desired maintenance standard.

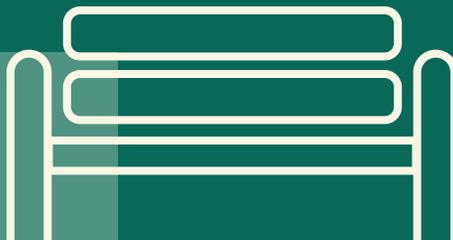
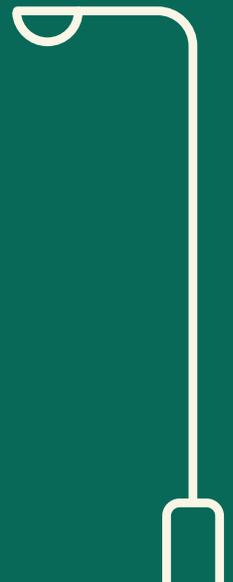


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Santa Clara Today



2.1 SANTA CLARA'S PEOPLE

To plan for the future of Santa Clara’s parks, recreation, and open spaces, it’s essential to first understand the community. This chapter highlights key findings about the City’s parks and natural areas, its range of recreational programs offered, and the diverse people who live, play, and connect in these spaces.

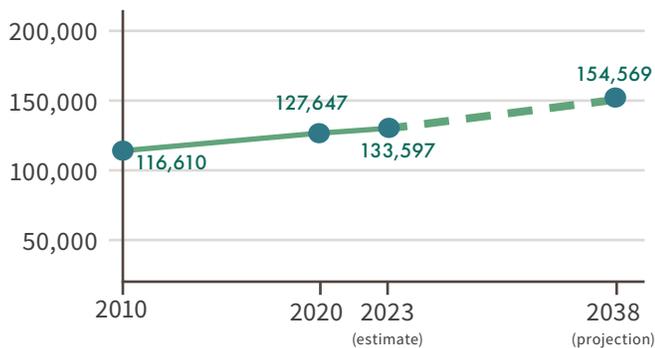


Santa Clarans enjoy the Art & Wine Festival, held in Central Park.

A Growing Population

Santa Clara’s population was estimated at 133,597 in 2023, having grown steadily over recent decades. By 2038, our population is projected to reach 154,569. This anticipated growth underscores the importance of thoughtful investment in, expansion of, and ongoing care for the City’s parks and recreation facilities to ensure they keep pace with community needs.

FIGURE 2.1 | Population Growth



Source: US Census 2010, US Census 2020, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) 2023

Youthful but Aging

Santa Clara’s population has become slightly older, following a nationwide trend. The 55+ population grew from 19% to 24% of the population between 2010 and 2023. The City had a median age of 34.3 years old which is slightly younger than the U.S. median age of 38.5 years. The City’s age distribution is projected to remain relatively unchanged over the next 15 years.

Figures 2.4 and 2.5 show the distribution of Santa Clara’s population under age 18 and over age 55, illustrating how different areas of the City serve differing age groups.

Diverse Community

Between 2010 and 2023, Santa Clara became significantly more diverse, with the Asian population emerging as the largest racial group at 49%. By 2038, this segment is projected to make up 58% of the community, while the White population is expected to decline to 16%.

FIGURE 2.2 | Population by Age Segment

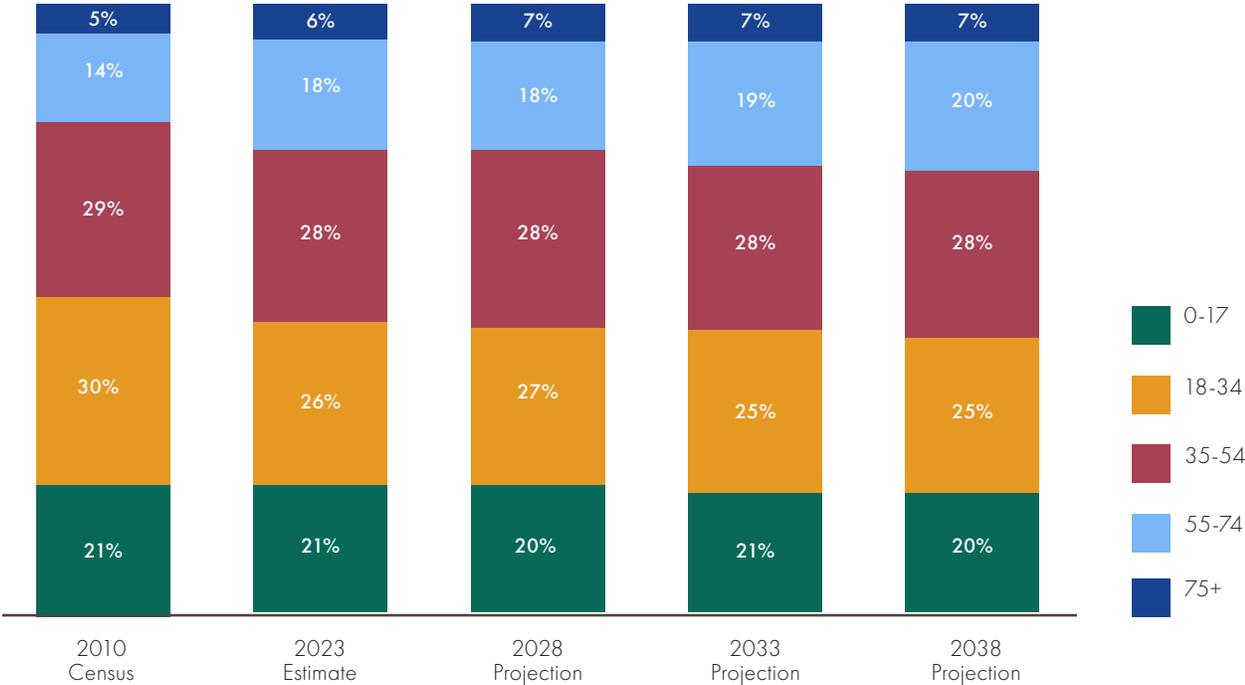
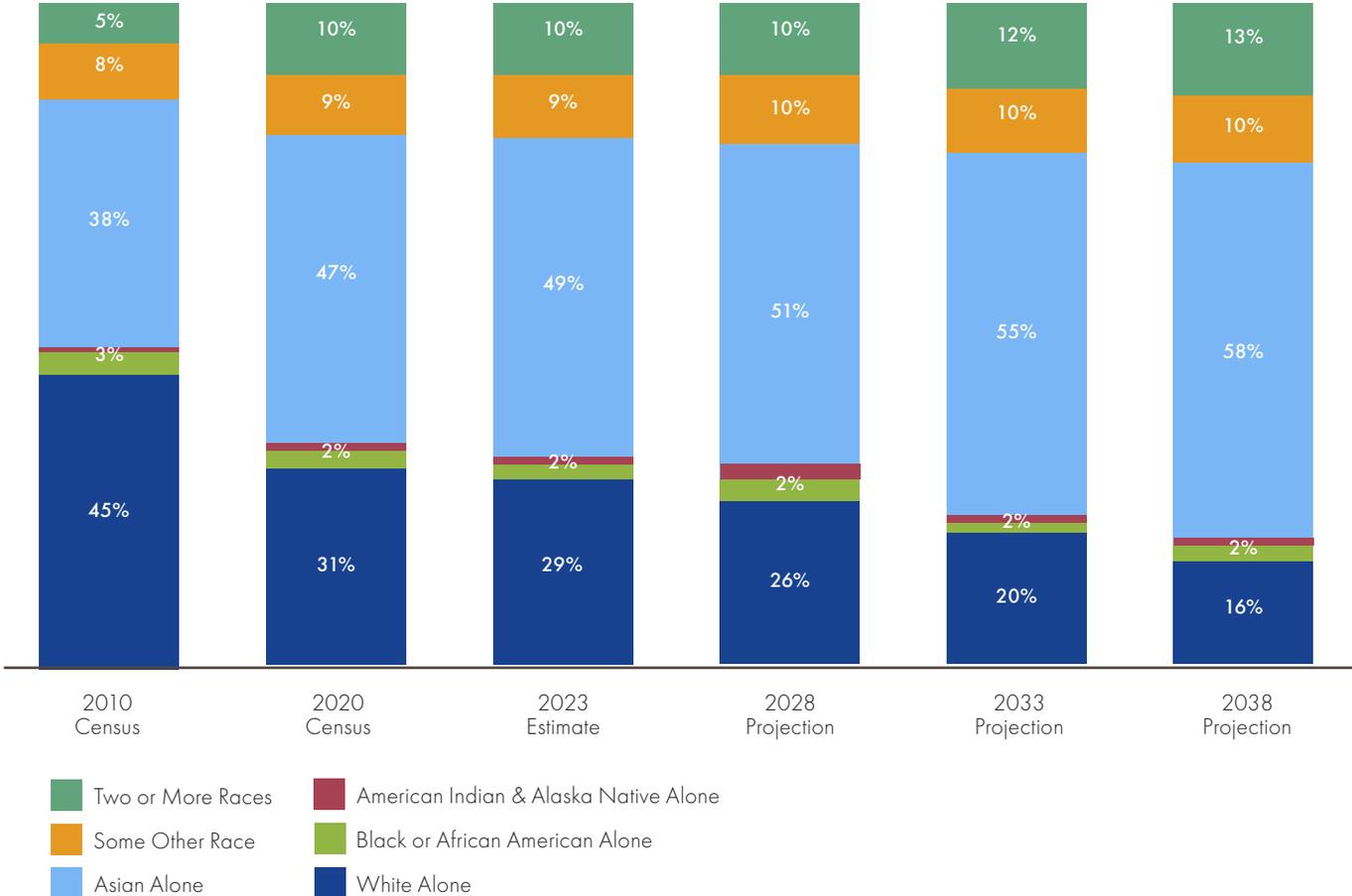
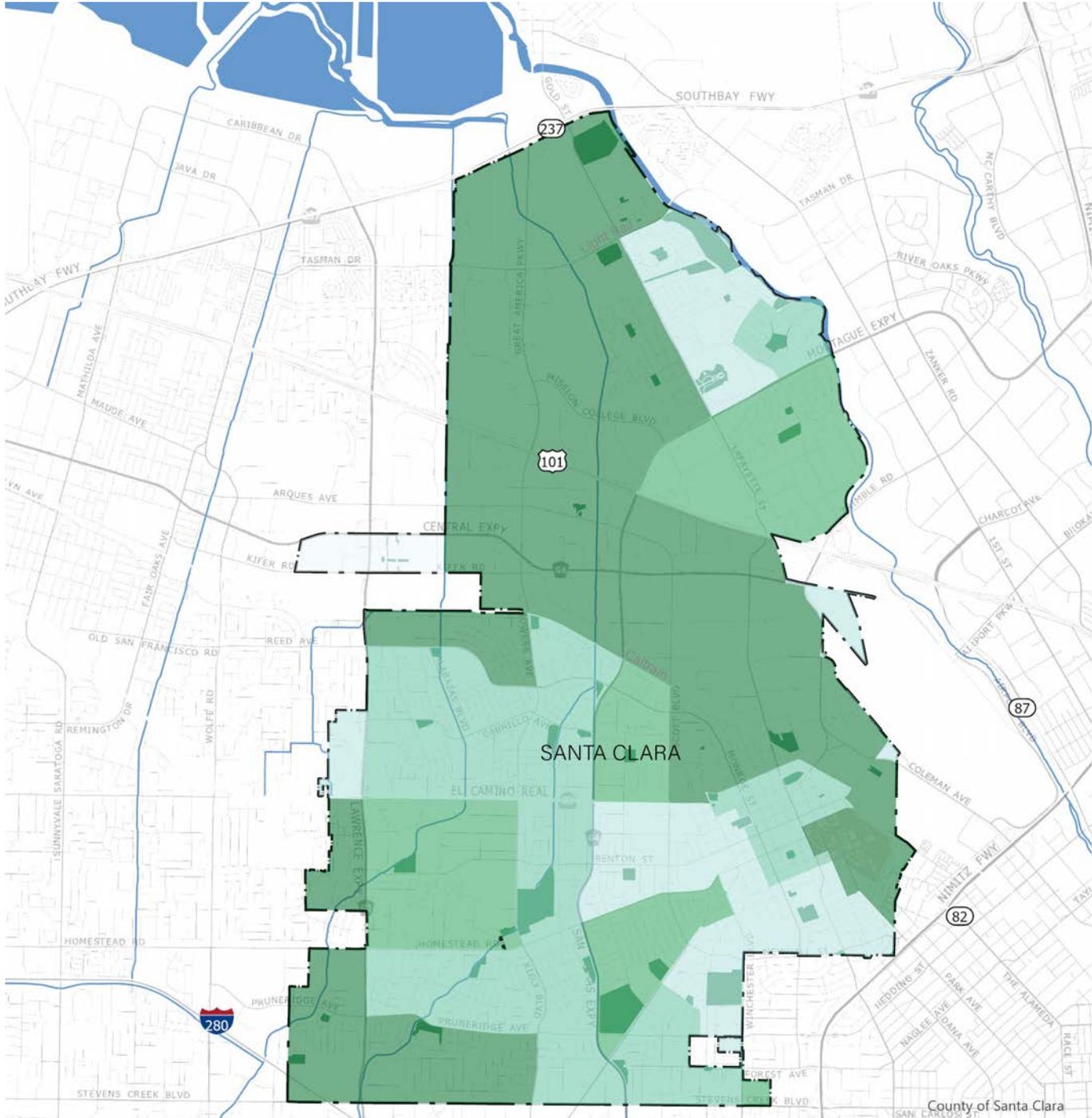


FIGURE 2.3 | Population by Race



Note: Hispanic population is projected to stay constant at 18% of total population.
 Source: US Census 2010, US Census 2020, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) 2023

FIGURE 2.4 | Santa Clara Youth Population - Percent Under 18

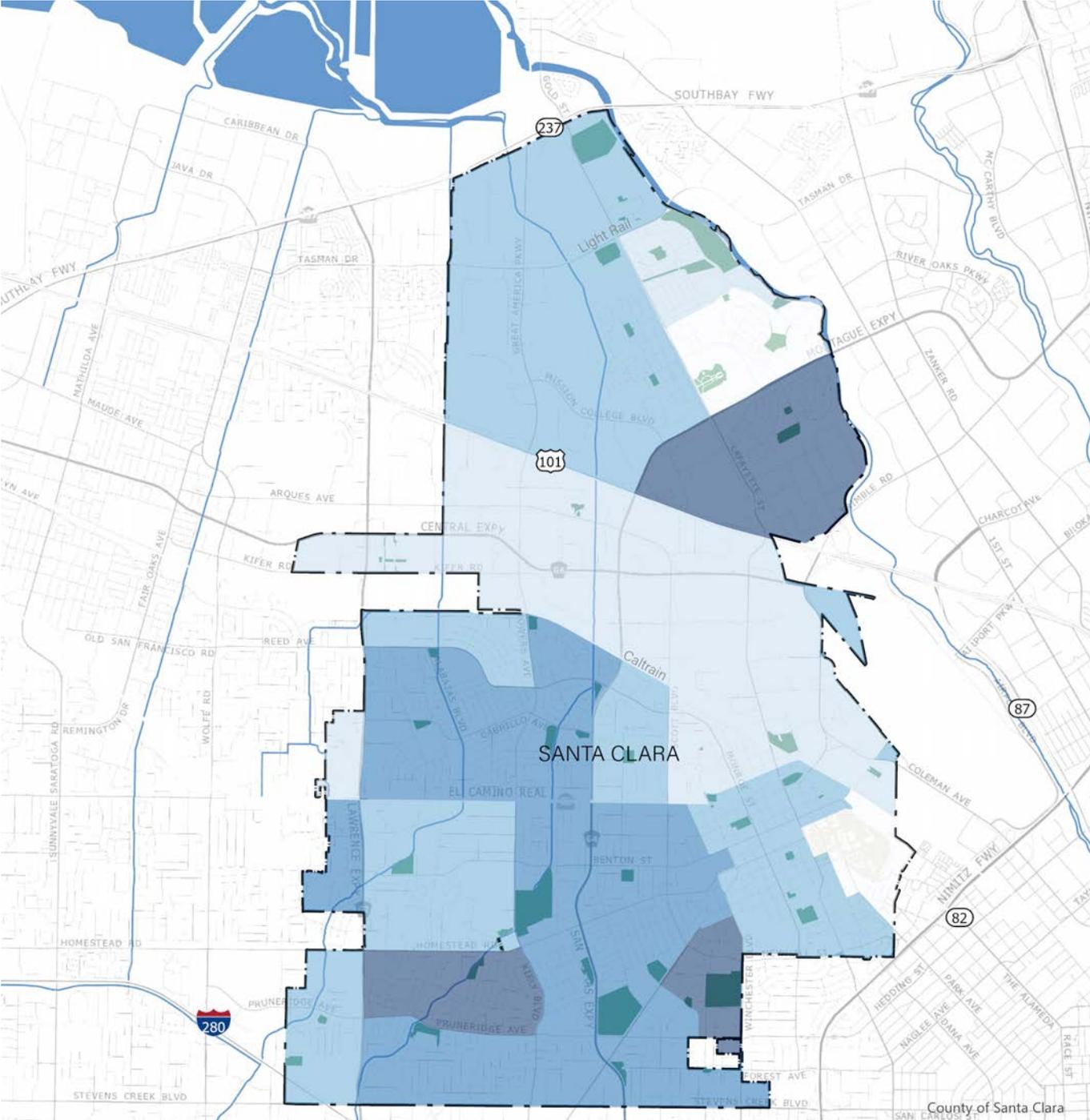


Source: ESRI 2023

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles

- <15%
- 15-22%
- 22-24%
- 24-26%
- >26%

FIGURE 2.5 | Santa Clara Senior Population - Percent 55+



Source: ESRI 2023

- <5%
- 5-10%
- 10-15%
- 15-20%
- >20%

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles

2.2 RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends provide valuable insight into how Santa Clarans recreate, and how our needs and interests may shift over time. When paired with the community’s socioeconomic profile and regional context, these trends help anticipate which recreational activities are likely to be most in demand locally. The following section summarizes key national trends and considers their implications for Santa Clara.

Some activities have experienced large change, growth or decline in popularity, while others have remained relatively steady. For example, walking remains the most popular national recreation activity with 114,759,000 participants in 2022 but only experienced growth of 3.6%.

Figure 2.6 illustrates five-year percentage changes in national participation for key recreation activities. Activities are arranged from left to right by total participation, which is indicated in bold.

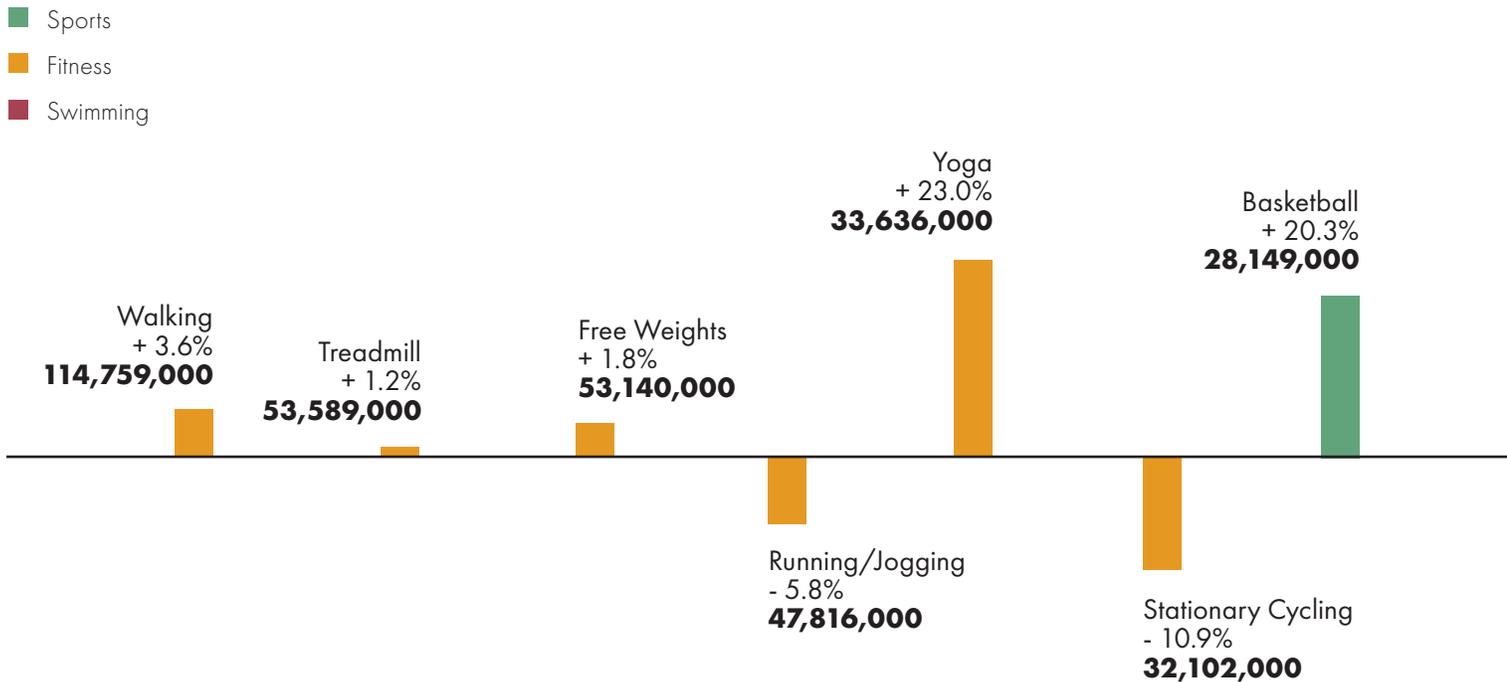
Sports

As of 2023, the sports most participated in the United States were basketball, golf, and tennis, which have participation well above the other sport activities. Tennis, golf, and pickleball grew significantly in popularity—more than 25%--in a 5-year period (2017-2023) while ultimate frisbee, roller hockey, and rugby experienced a decrease in popularity.

Swimming

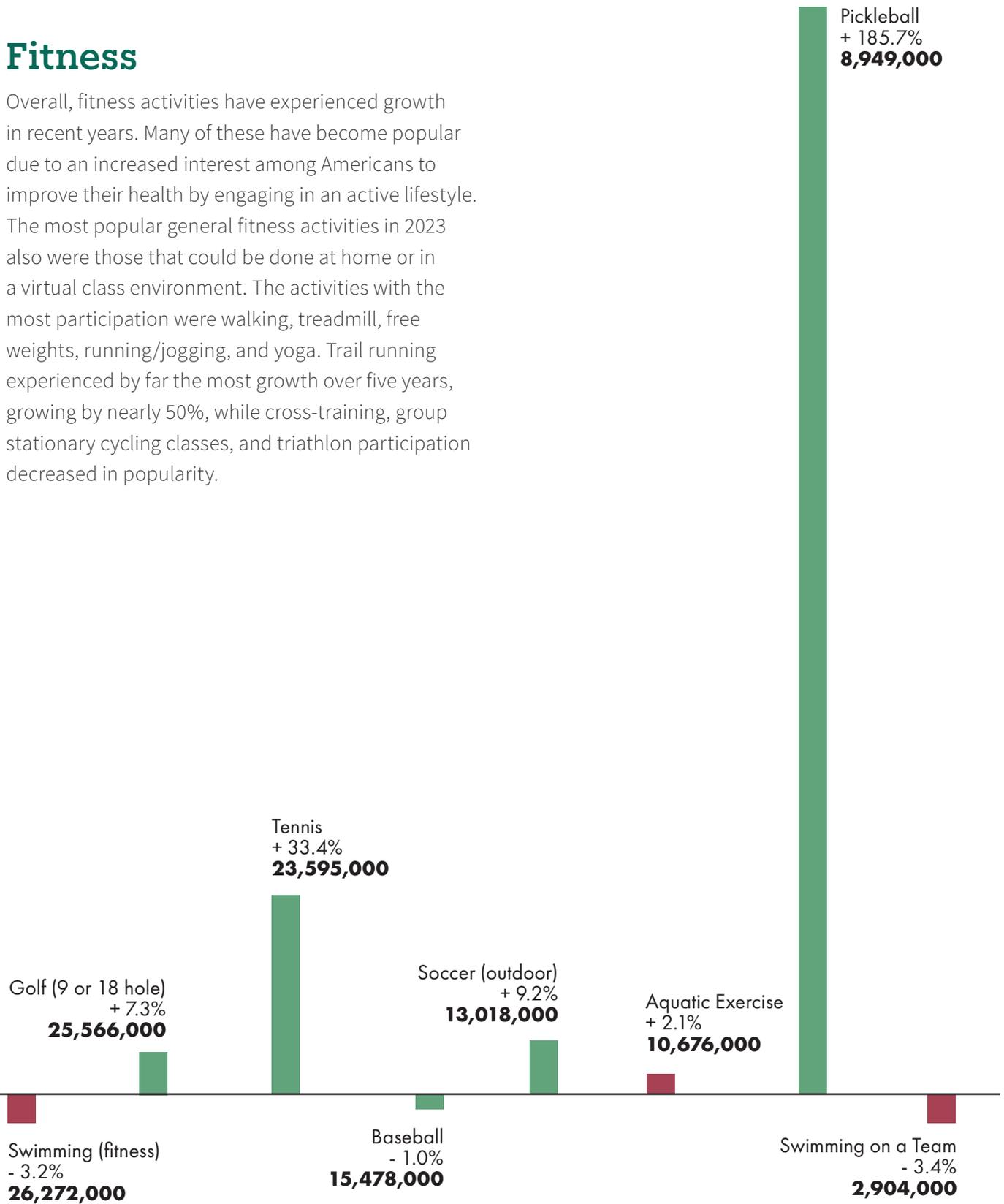
As a lifetime activity, swimming continues to have strong participation. In 2023, fitness swimming remained the overall leader in participation amongst aquatic activities. Over the past five years, aquatic recreation activities did not see significant growth or decline, with swimming and swimming teams seeing slight decrease and aquatic exercise a slight increase in popularity.

FIGURE 2.6 | National Recreation Participation and Trends Over 5 years



Fitness

Overall, fitness activities have experienced growth in recent years. Many of these have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health by engaging in an active lifestyle. The most popular general fitness activities in 2023 also were those that could be done at home or in a virtual class environment. The activities with the most participation were walking, treadmill, free weights, running/jogging, and yoga. Trail running experienced by far the most growth over five years, growing by nearly 50%, while cross-training, group stationary cycling classes, and triathlon participation decreased in popularity.



2.3 BUILDING ON PREVIOUS PLANS

Building on Santa Clara’s previous plans is essential for ensuring the recreation and parks system works in synergy with the City’s guiding policy documents, planned development, and public investments. An overview of related efforts follows.

CITY OF SANTA CLARA 2010-2035 GENERAL PLAN (2010)

The *City of Santa Clara 2010-2035 General Plan* serves as the City’s foundational planning document, and provides high-level guidance for the recreation, parks, and open spaces. Adopted by City Council in 2010, the General Plan offers a strong framework and starting point for the Master Plan, with guidance on park access, provision, amenities, and partnerships with schools and other local agencies. Its most relevant guidance includes:

- Maintain a park service standard of 2.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* shall consider increasing the standard to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents.
- Provide sufficient facilities, parks, trails and open spaces that promote community health and physical activity within a 10-minute walk to residential neighborhoods.
- Coordinate with local school districts to share school facilities during non-school hours.

FACILITIES CONDITION ASSESSMENT (KITCHELL REPORT) (2018)

The City selected Kitchell CEM to perform *Facility Condition Assessments* (FCAs) for Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Facilities, including 47 parks and 65 buildings. This assessment detailed inventory, conditions, repair cost determinations, and forecasted necessary renewals. Each site was given a rating of Critical, Poor, Fair, or Good. The Kitchell report was an invaluable resource and touchstone in the creation of this Plan.

SANTA CLARA CREEK TRAIL MASTER PLAN (IN PROGRESS)

The City is preparing a master plan for the development and construction of three trail corridors within the City limits: Calabazas Creek, Saratoga Creek and the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way. The plan will include recommendations that aim to close gaps and expand upon the existing trails.

SANTA CLARA PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN (2020)

The *Santa Clara Pedestrian Master Plan* was developed in collaboration with the Santa Clara Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The key goals of the Plan are to expand the existing pedestrian network; improve connectivity to public transit; enhance pedestrian mobility, safety, and ADA accessibility; provide amenities and activation; and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transportation. The City aims to increase the pedestrian commute mode share from 4 percent in 2020 to 8 percent by 2027.

SANTA CLARA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN (2018)

The *Santa Clara Bicycle Master Plan* aims to improve bicycle safety Citywide through bike infrastructure that is safe, clearly designated, and well-connected. The plan recommends a 70-mile bicycle network that includes over 11 miles of car-free, shared-use paths, 32 crossing location enhancements, 50 locations for new bike parking, and 20 strategic Citywide programs.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (2022)

Adopted in 2022, the *Climate Action Plan* aims to holistically address climate change by reducing greenhouse gases, building resiliency to anticipated climate impacts, and bringing vital social and economic co-benefits to Santa Clara. The plan targets an 80% reduction in emissions by 2035, and net carbon neutrality by 2045. The plan highlights buildings and energy, transportation and land use, materials and consumptions, natural systems and water resources, and community resiliency and well-being as key sectors and provides strategies and actions for each.

PARK MASTER PLANS & DESIGNS

Several park sites have improvement plans already in place or under development. These plans outline more detailed changes at the site level, with common goals such as enhancing amenities, improving accessibility, expanding recreation opportunities, and preserving open space. Current and upcoming plans include:

- Central Park (2019)
- Henry Schmidt Park (2019)
- Warburton Park Rehabilitation Plan (2025)
- Mary Gomez Park (in progress)
- Earl Carmichael Park (in progress)
- Maywood Park (in progress)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Numerous specific plans and master-planned development projects have been approved or are underway in Santa Clara, including the *Santa Clara Station Area Specific Plan*, *El Camino Real Specific Plan*, *Freedom Circle Focus Area Plan*, *Lawrence Station Area Plan*, *Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan*, *Santa Clara Downtown Precise Plan*, *Tasman East Specific Plan*, and the Related Santa Clara development.

These new developments will bring additional houses and offices, and significant population and job growth. The plans may also come along with new parks, recreation facilities, and trails, introducing expanded recreation opportunities within Santa Clara. Planned development and associated recreation improvements are described in more detail in the following section.

2.4 SANTA CLARA'S PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM

Santa Clara’s parks and recreation system includes approximately **308 acres of parkland**, ranging from urban plazas to small neighborhood parks to larger destination parks and greenways (as detailed in the Park Typology section on the following pages). Of this parkland, 305 acres are City-owned and operated, while the remaining 3 acres are owned by the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) or private entities but made available to the public through joint-use agreements.

The City features several miles of trails that connect neighborhoods and parks, providing residents with opportunities for walking, biking, and outdoor recreation. There are three City-operated recreation centers and additional community facilities offering a variety of programs and activities.

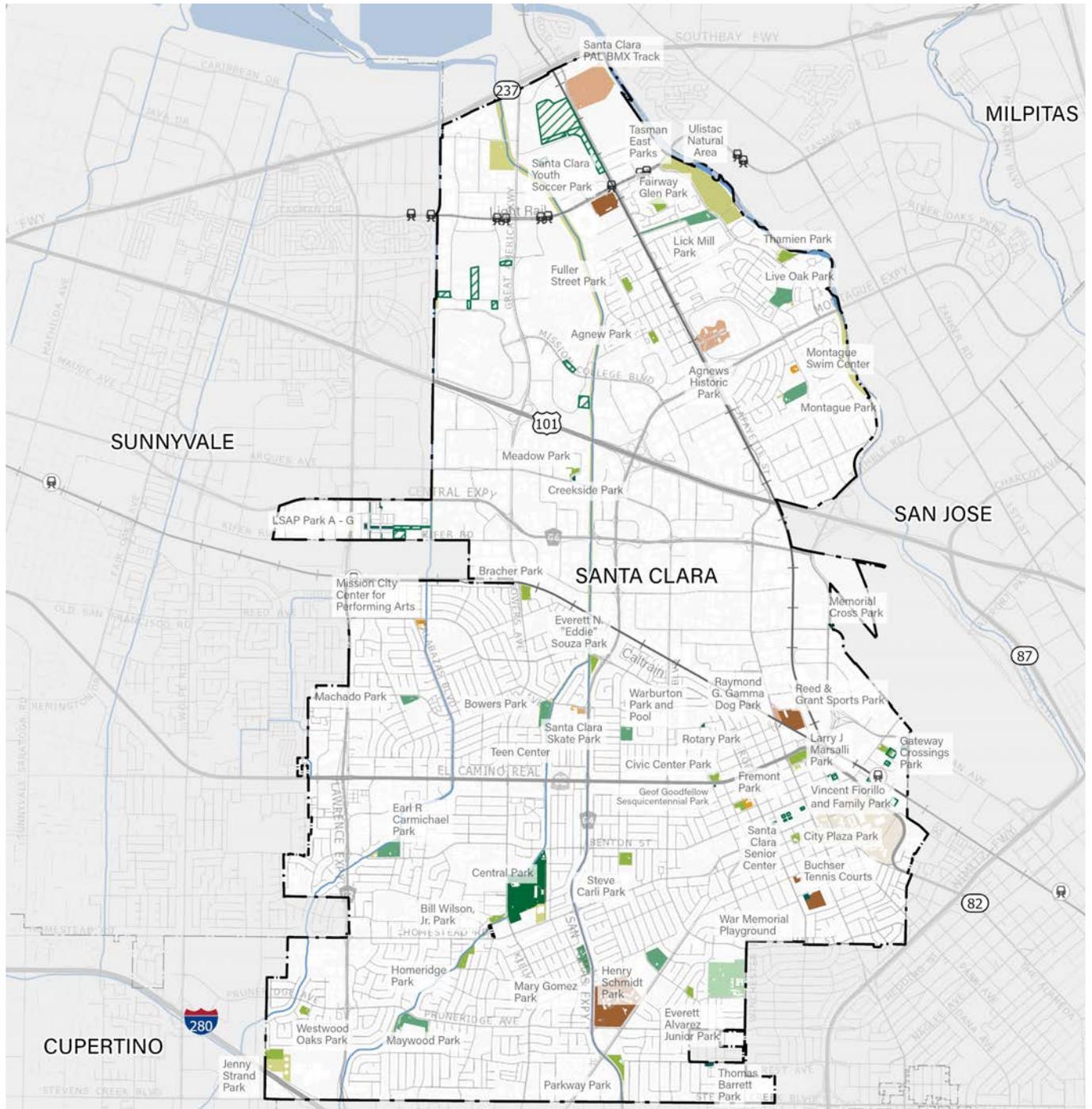
Parks

Santa Clara’s parks system is classified into seven park types: destination parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, mini parks & plazas, special use parks, sports parks, and natural areas & greenways. These park types are shown in **Figure 2.7** and summarized on the pages that follow.

Park System Amenities AT A GLANCE



FIGURE 2.7 | Parks by Type



Source: City of Santa Clara and WRT, 2024

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Destination Park | Sports Park | Cities | VTA Stations |
| Community Park | Natural Area or Greenway | Creeks | CalTrain Station |
| Neighborhood Park | Recreation Facility | CalTrain | VTA Light Rail |
| Mini Park | Cemetery | | |
| Special Use Park | Planned Park | | |



Central Park (Destination Park)



Henry Schmidt Park (Community Park)



Homeridge Park (Neighborhood Park)



Geof Goodfellow Sesquicentennial Park (Mini Park & Plaza)

PARK TYPOLOGY

While Santa Clara’s General Plan identifies five basic park types, this Plan refines and expands the framework to include seven categories. As described below, each category is designed to serve a distinct function while complementing the broader park system.

Destination Parks

Destination parks are larger parks that serve multiple and diverse recreation needs, including places for community gathering, active recreation, passive enjoyment of green space, trees, and natural areas. Destination parks include recreational facilities and community services that serve all City residents.

Community Parks

Community parks are medium to large parks that provide opportunities for recreation, community gathering, and passive enjoyment of green space. Community parks feature amenities that may attract people from a larger part of the City.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are small to medium-sized parks that provide passive and active recreation opportunities and green space within walking or biking distance for residents in one or more neighborhoods.

Mini Parks & Plazas

Mini parks provide limited recreation amenities and green space for nearby residents. Plazas provide passive and flexible gathering areas that can support socialization.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks generally center on one non-traditional amenity, like a skate park, dog park, golf course or community garden. This category also includes cemeteries and parks that feature historic sites. These parks can vary widely in size, shape, location, and use.

Sports Parks

Sports parks are focused on providing specific sport amenities that typically serve a citywide or regional population.

Natural Areas & Greenways

Natural areas are primarily dedicated to conserving natural resources or protecting the public from natural hazards. This category also encompasses greenways, which form linear networks of open space that frequently tie into nearby parks. Often aligned with creeks, greenways offer inviting places for walking, biking, and simply experiencing nature.



Community Garden at Copper Place- LSAP Park G (Special Use Park)



Santa Clara Youth Soccer Park (Sports Facility)



Ulistac Natural Area (Natural Areas & Greenways)

TABLE 2.1 | Santa Clara Parks & Open Spaces

PARKS & OPEN SPACE (2025)	ACRES
Destination Parks	
Central Park	45.0
Subtotal, Destination Parks	45.0
Community Parks	
Bowers Parks	8.7
Earl R. Carmichael Park	8.3
Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Park	2.5
Henry Schmidt Park	7.5
Larry J. Marsalli Park	7.3
Lick Mill Park	9.9
Live Oak Park	9.9
Machado Park	2.7
Mary Gomez Park & Pool	5.6
Maywood Park	7.0
Montague Park	7.5
Warburton Park & Pool	4.0
Subtotal, Community Parks	80.9

PARKS & OPEN SPACE (2025)	ACRES
Neighborhood Parks	
Agnew Park	2.0
Bill Wilson, Jr. Park	2.7
Bracher Park	3.4
Everett Alvarez Jr. Park	1.6
Fairway Glen Park	4.0
Fremont Park	2.7
Fuller Street Park	2.4
Homeridge Park	4.3
Jenny Strand Park	4.5
Meadow Park	1.9
Parkway Park	4.5
Steve Carli Park	1.6
Thamien Park	3.4
Westwood Oaks Park	1.7
Subtotal, Neighborhood Parks	40.7

PARKS & OPEN SPACE (2025)	ACRES
Mini Parks & Plazas	
City Plaza Park	1.6
Civic Center Park	1.6
Creekside Park	0.9
Geof Goodfellow Sesquicentennial Park	0.2
LSAP Park A	0.4
LSAP Park B	0.2
LSAP Park C	0.2
LSAP Park D	0.7
LSAP Park E	0.8
LSAP Park F	0.2
Memorial Cross Park	0.3
Rotary Park	0.3
Thomas Barrett Park	1.0
Vincent Fiorello Family Park	0.3
War Memorial Playground*	0.9
Subtotal, Mini Parks & Plazas	9.6

PARKS & OPEN SPACE (2025)	ACRES
Special Use Parks	
Agnews Historic Park	15.7
LSAP Park G	0.2
LSAP Park G-2	0.2
LSAP Park H	0.3
Mission City Memorial Park	1.7
Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park	1.7
Santa Clara P.A.L. BMX Track	49.1
Santa Clara Skate Park*	1.0
Subtotal, Special Use Parks	69.9
Sports Parks	
Buchser Tennis Courts*	1.0
Reed & Grant Sports Park	9.2
Santa Clara Youth Soccer Park	11.2
Subtotal, Sports Parks	21.4
Natural Areas & Greenways	
Ulistac Natural Area	40.9
Subtotal, Natural Areas & Greenways	40.9
TOTAL	308.3

*Joint-Use Facility

Note: Santa Clara features an extensive and growing trail system. These trails and their greenways are not counted toward parks and open space acreage.

School Grounds & Joint-Use Facilities

School grounds within **Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD)** and **Cupertino Union School District** play a vital role in supplementing the City’s recreation system, providing **152 acres of fields, hardcourts, and playgrounds** across 28 elementary, middle, and high school sites. While these spaces offer valuable recreation opportunities, the absence of formal **joint-use agreements** leaves public access undefined and inconsistent.

Strengthening partnerships through joint use agreements with SCUSD, CUSD, and other agencies could increase recreational resource access for the community. The City already maintains several joint-use agreements with **SCUSD, Mission College, and other partners**, providing access to facilities such as the Santa Clara Skate Park, Montague Pool, and War Memorial Park (see **Table 2.1**).

PLANNED PARKS

Several new parks and major park improvements are currently in the planning stages in Santa Clara, including parks that will be constructed as part of new residential development projects, as well as projects planned by the City. When considering the future of the park system, it is important to factor in these upcoming projects. Some of the parks already in the pipeline may help address recreation needs identified in this analysis—this Plan builds upon those ongoing efforts. Planned parks are shown in **Figure 2.8**.

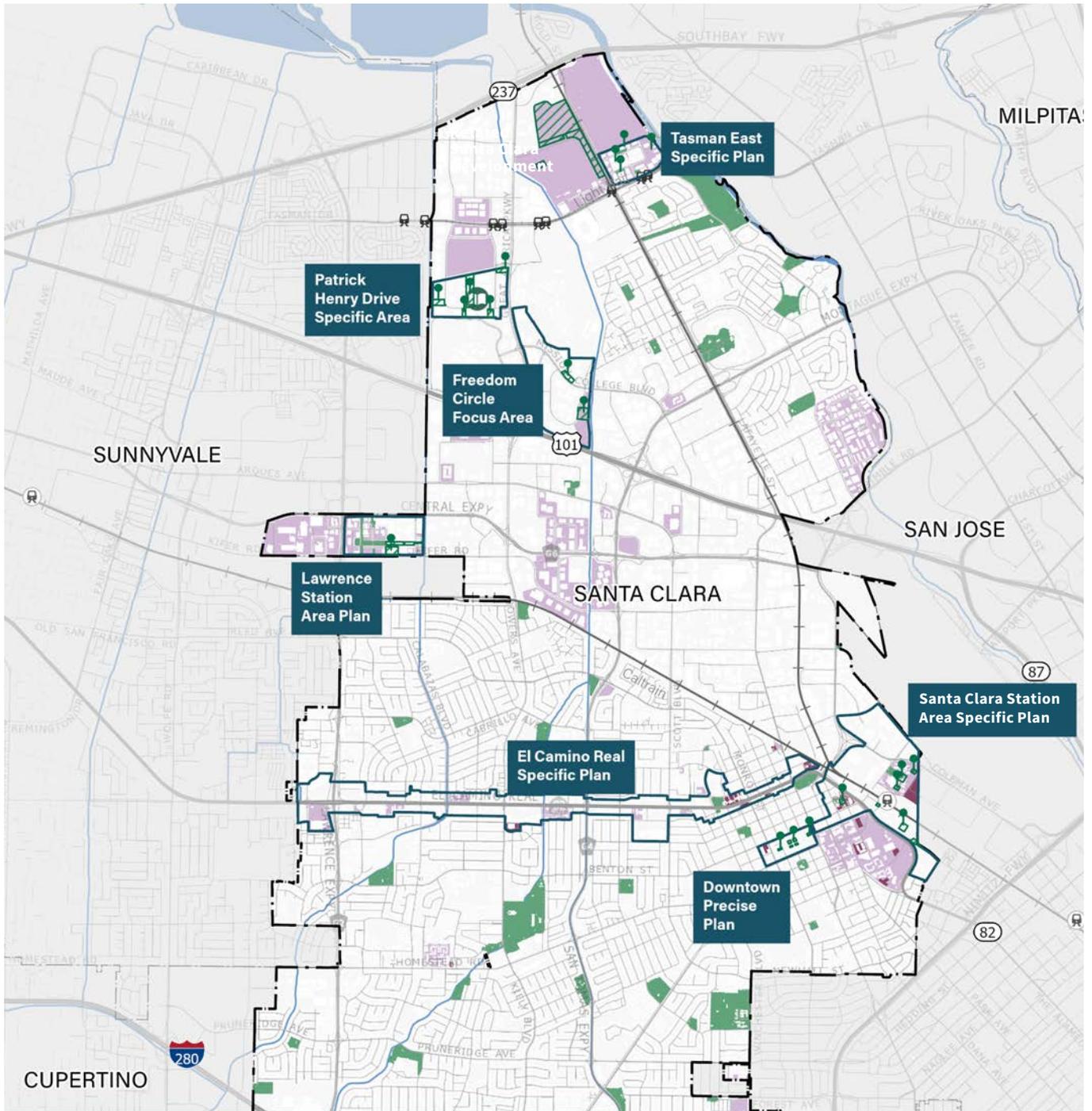


The Related Santa Clara development is planned to include a new 35-acre park, as conceptually rendered above.



A new mini park will be added as part of the Patrick Henry Drive Specific Area Plan. This specific plan includes approximately 10 acres of new public parkland and 4 acres of new private open space.

FIGURE 2.8 | Planned Parks



Source: City of Santa Clara, General Plan, Specific Plans

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| | Planned Library / Community Center | | Specific Plans | | City of Santa Clara Park | | CalTrain |
| | Planned Park | | Completed Development (2024) | | Cities | | CalTrain Station |
| | Potential Parks | | In-Progress Development (2024) | | Creeks | | VTA Stations |
| | | | | | VTA Light Rail | | |

PARKS ASSESSMENT

To better understand the current state of individual parks in Santa Clara, each of the City’s parks was visited and assessed in Spring 2024. In the field, the team used a criteria-based scoring system to record findings in the following four categories: access and connectivity, condition, functionality, and safety and comfort.

All features were scored using a scale of 1 to 4 (Critical, Poor, Good, Great). For parks that were included in the 2018 *Kitchell Report*, the team converted the Kitchell score to be comparable with the site assessment scoring system.

Although each park has its unique strengths and challenges, the following summarizes the systemwide strengths and opportunities identified in the Parks Assessment. Full Parks Assessment results are detailed in Appendix C.

Strengths

- Parks are **clearly well-loved**, with many people observed using the parks.
- Parks are **generally well-maintained** – though there is some room for improvement.
- Parks are **welcoming and open**.
- Parks **feel safe and comfortable** with little to no evidence of derelict use.
- Most parks offer **diverse amenities and activities**.
- Most parks provide parking and are **easily accessible** by car.

Areas for Improvement

- In many parks, play structures, exercise equipment, benches, and picnic areas are **nearing the end of their lifecycle** and need to be replaced.
- **Signage** throughout the park system is inconsistent, presenting an opportunity to add wayfinding signs, especially in larger parks with more complex programming.
- Some parks are **located next to major roadways**, which can compromise their tranquility.
- **Better traffic calming** and **pedestrian crossings** at some parks would improve comfort and safety for those arriving on foot or by bike.
- Some parks, typically the smaller ones, are **underutilized and feel isolated**.
- **Comfort amenities** are limited or absent in some parks, especially smaller ones, and in some cases, they are not in working condition.

FIGURE 2.9 | Parks Assessment Criteria

Access & Connectivity

- Sight lines and entrances
- Signage, maps, and City branding
- ADA accessibility
- Presence of crosswalks and crossing signals
- Sidewalks and surrounding circulation
- Path connectivity within park
- Sufficient parking
- Nearby bike lanes and adequate bike parking
- Adjacent trails or trailheads
- Public transportation nearby



Condition

- Paving condition
- Vegetation condition
- Tree canopy condition
- Playground condition
- Recreation amenities condition
- Building/restroom facility condition
- Trash receptacles condition
- Seating/benches condition



Functionality

- Relevance and variety of recreational amenities
- Appropriate amenity adjacencies
- Distribution of shady and sunny areas
- Variety of shrubs and trees
- Absence of visible drainage issues or erosion
- Compatibility with neighbors
- Availability of comfort amenities (drinking fountains, seating, restrooms, etc.)
- Relevance and variety of play equipment
- Level of activation during site visit



Safety & Comfort

- Adjacent derelict features
- Graffiti, vandalism, broken furniture
- Evidence of illicit or unauthorized use
- Road/traffic calming measures near park
- Line of sight/openness
- Eyes on the street
- Ease of navigation
- Nighttime safety
- Mitigation of views/noise from surrounding land uses

Trails

Trails are a vital component of a park system, providing safe, accessible routes for walking, running, cycling, and other forms of active transportation. They connect neighborhoods to parks and community destinations, encourage healthy lifestyles, and offer opportunities to experience the natural environment.

Santa Clara is served by three primary north-south trails that offer strong connections across the City and to regional destinations. In contrast, east-west corridors are less developed, revealing several gaps and opportunities for enhanced linkage. The City's planned trail network helps address these deficiencies by introducing new east-west connections and closing critical gaps within the system. Existing and planned trails and bike lanes are shown in **Figure 2.10**. Descriptions of the City's major regional trails follow.

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL

The San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail is the main trail in Santa Clara as of 2025. It runs north-south, almost the entire length of the City. The southern end of the trail has yet to be completed.

CALABAZAS CREEK TRAIL

The Calabazas Creek Trail runs along the Calabazas Creek and western border of Santa Clara. This trail has significant gaps that would require multiple under or over crossings.

GUADALUPE RIVER TRAIL

The Guadalupe River trail is a 9.5-mile paved path along the river corridor, from downtown San Jose to the Bay. The segment that follows Santa Clara's eastern border has a parallel levee trail along the river.

PLANNED TRAILS

As shown in **Figure 2.10**, future trails and bikeways are planned to fill trail gaps, create new east-west connections, and connect the community's parks and open spaces. A complete trail system would provide great connectivity between the City's parks and other key community destinations. The *Santa Clara Creek Trail Master Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, and Pedestrian Master Plan* should be referenced for further details.

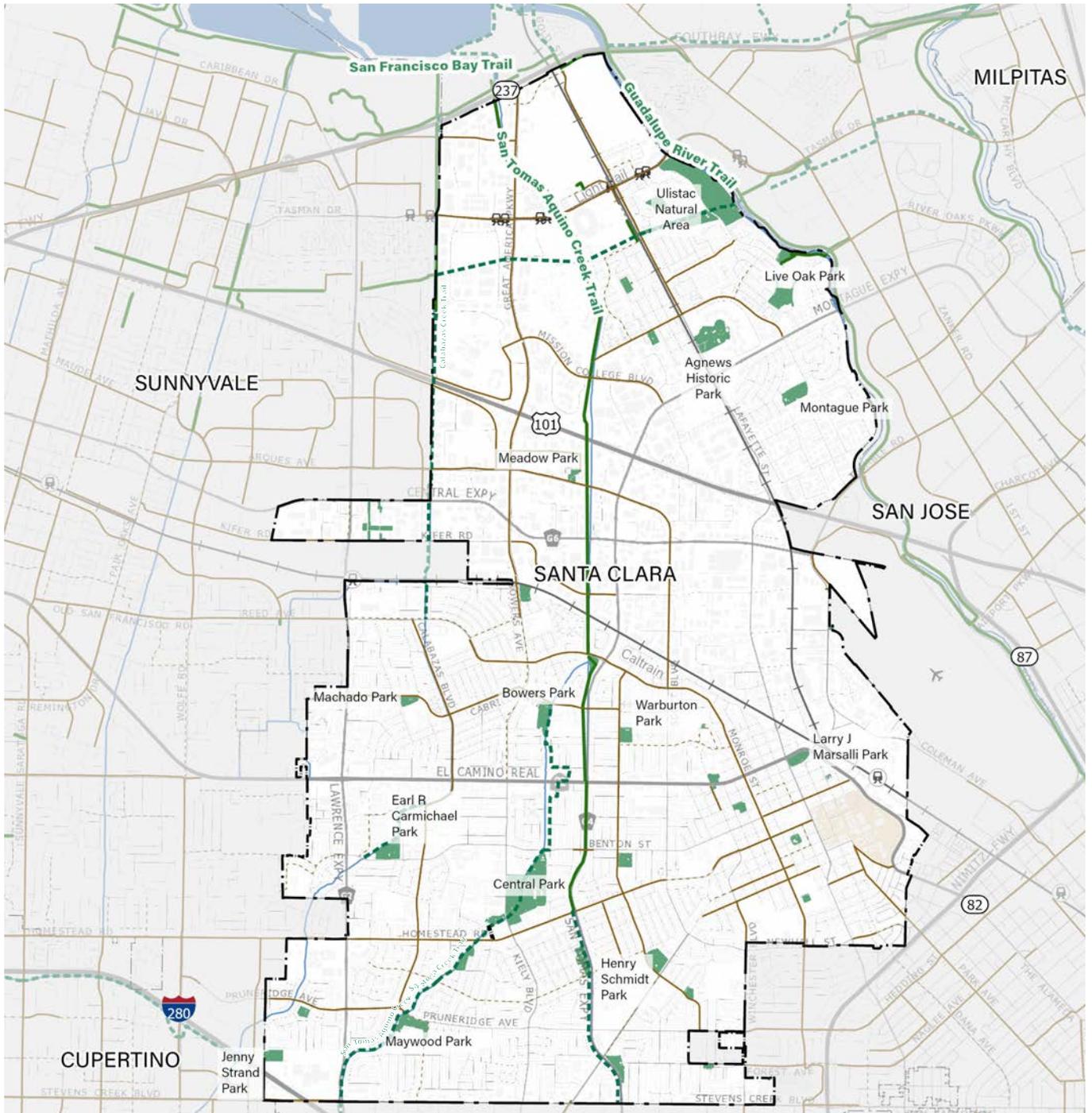


The San Tomas Aquino Trail provides a safe and comfortable off-street route through the heart of Santa Clara. When complete, it will traverse the City from its northern to its southern border.



The Guadalupe River Trail runs through Ulistac Natural Area and allows users easy access to the full open space area and adjacent parks and trails.

FIGURE 2.10 | Existing & Planned Trails



Source: Santa Clara County



- Planned Trails
- Existing Trail
- Existing Bike Lane
- Existing Bike Route/Sharrow
- City of Santa Clara Park
- Creeks
- Cities
- CalTrain

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Santa Clara has three major indoor recreation facilities: the Community Recreation Center, the Senior Center, and the Youth & Teen Center. Additionally, there are numerous smaller park buildings throughout the park system.

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

The Community Recreation Center (CRC) was built in 1962 and encompasses 29,000 square feet. The CRC has a multipurpose room, a stage, kitchen and activity rooms, a ceramics room, and various offices. Activities held here include art, dance, enrichment, fitness, music, and theater.

SENIOR CENTER

The Santa Clara Senior Center, built in 1973 and renovated in 2007, is a two-story, 45,000-square-foot facility. The center includes a swimming pool, spa fitness center, locker rooms and showers, ceramics room, lapidary, wood shop, lounge, offices, and multiple multipurpose rooms.

YOUTH & TEEN CENTER

Constructed in 2003, the 7,535-square-foot Youth & Teen Center is a City facility situated on school district property. The center has a conference room, arts room, computer room, offices, lounge, classroom, and large multipurpose room. It is also home to the City's skate park.

OTHER COMMUNITY CENTERS & BUILDINGS

Youth Soccer Park

The Youth Soccer Park sits directly adjacent to Levi's Stadium and includes a 7,000-square-foot fieldhouse. Constructed in 2005, the building also features a large multipurpose room and a small conference room.

Reed & Grant Sports Park

Beyond its sports facilities, Reed & Grant Sports Park features a 3,800-square-foot multipurpose building and a concession stand. The park opened in 2020.

Park Buildings

Many parks also feature small buildings that provide bathrooms, storage, and multipurpose rooms. Some even house specialized recreation facilities, such as the gymnastics center at Earl R. Carmichael Park. Overall, these smaller park buildings are generally in disrepair and require maintenance, lifecycle replacements, and upgrades, as detailed in the Kitchell Report.

SPECIFIC PLAN FACILITIES

A future recreation facility is planned in northern Santa Clara. As currently envisioned in the Patrick Henry Specific Plan area, this facility would include a community center and library. Additionally, the Tasman East development is anticipated to include a new community room. Further details on proposed facilities are provided in Chapter 4.



COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER



YOUTH SOCCER PARK



SENIOR CENTER



YOUTH & TEEN CENTER

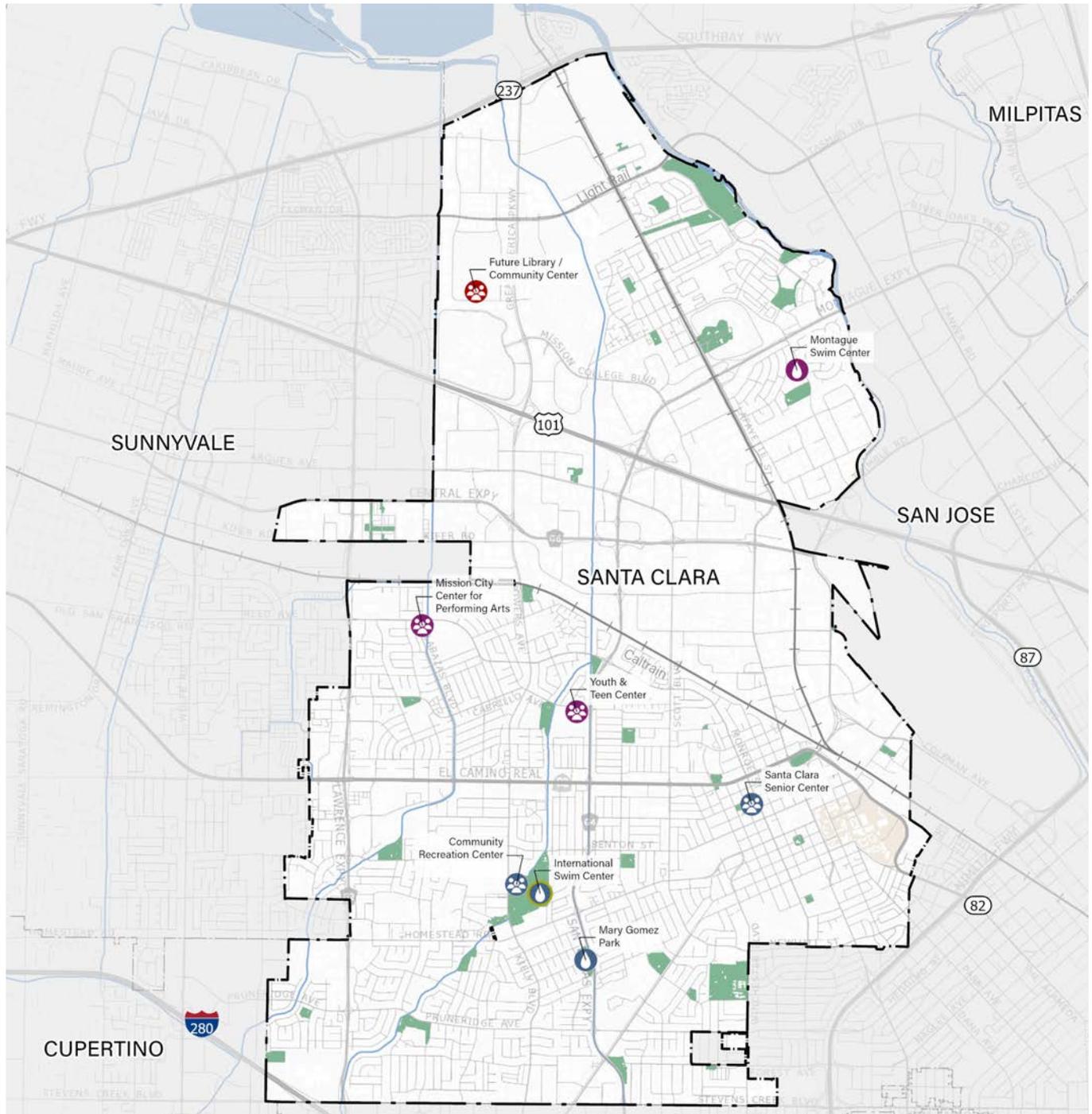


REED & GRANT SPORTS PARK



PARK BUILDINGS

FIGURE 2.11 | Existing & Planned Indoor Recreation & Aquatic Facilities



Source: City of Santa Clara and WRT, 2025

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles

City-Owned Facilities

-  Community Center
-  Regional Aquatic Facility
-  Local Aquatic Facility

Joint-Use Facilities

-  Community Center
-  Local Aquatic Facility

Planned Facilities

-  Community Center

 City of Santa Clara Park

 Cities

 Creeks

 VTA Light Rail

 CalTrain

FACILITY ASSESSMENT

The Community Recreation Center, Santa Clara Senior Center, and Youth & Teen Center were evaluated to assess their current state and functionality. The key findings from this analysis follow. The full assessment can be found in Appendix E.

KEY FINDINGS

Community Recreation Center

- Several deferred maintenance items
- Interior finishes, furniture, lighting, and mechanical and electric systems need updates
- Opportunity to expand the building footprint
- Opportunity to enclose the courtyard to provide more program space

Santa Clara Senior Center

- Several deferred maintenance items
- Opportunity to reprogram space for better efficiency
- Finishes, furniture, and lighting need updates
- HVAC system needs updates to be able to function as a warming/cooling center, separate from the aquatics system

Youth & Teen Center

- Several deferred maintenance items
- Opportunity to reprogram space and layout for efficiency and flexibility
- Finishes, furniture, and lighting need updates
- Program and facility supervision line of sight needs updates
- Programming spaces would benefit from acoustic separation/dividers
- Limited storage



Santa Clara indoor recreation facilities are mostly functional and well-used, but require updates to remain relevant and functional.

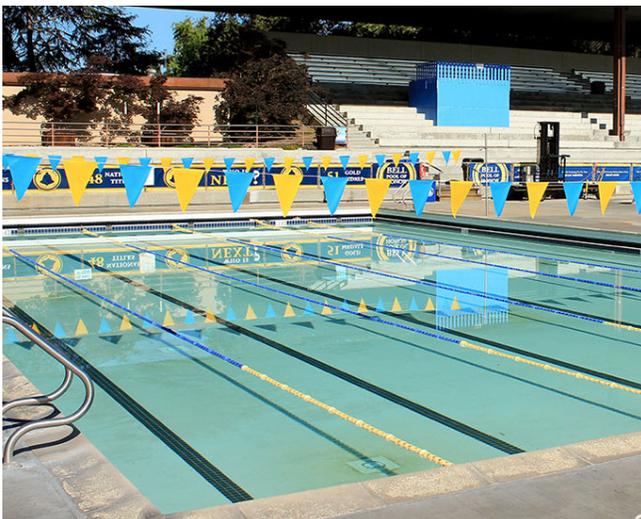
Aquatics

Santa Clara stands out for its aquatics amenities and programs. As of 2025, the City operates ten pools at five sites—including, the Santa Clara International Swim Center, or ISC. Per capita, Santa Clara has five times more public recreational pools and two and a half times more competitive pools than the national average for similarly sized cities.

Similar to parks, aquatic facilities are concentrated in southern Santa Clara, limiting access in northern neighborhoods. Recommendations for potential new aquatic facilities and improvements to existing facilities are detailed in Chapter 4.

INTERNATIONAL SWIM CENTER (ISC)

The International Swim Center is located within Central Park and has **3 competitive pools**. The facility was built in 1967 and is cornerstone of Santa Clara aquatics.



MARY GOMEZ POOL

The Mary Gomez pool facility consists of **1 recreation pool** and sits within Mary Gomez Park. The pool was built in 1958.



WARBURTON PARK

Warburton Park houses **2 recreation pools**. These aquatic facilities were built in 1954.



ISC Renovations

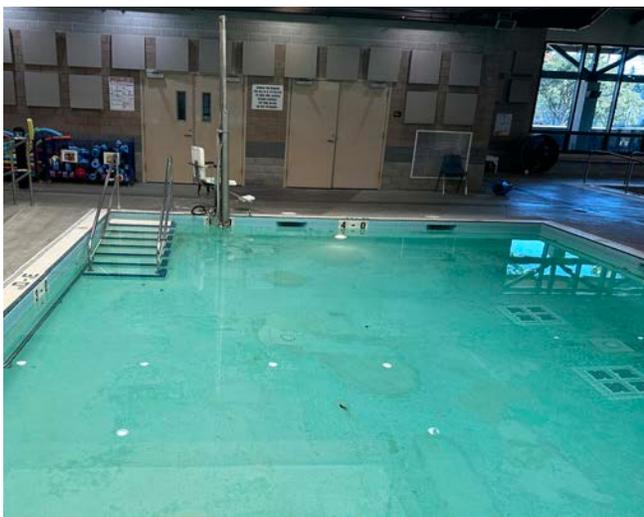
MONTAGUE SWIM CENTER

Montague Swim Center is adjacent to Montague Park and is comprised of **2 recreation pools**. This facility was built in 1970.



SENIOR CENTER

The Santa Clara Senior Center holds **2 indoor recreation pools** and a spa. These facilities were built in 2007.



The International Swim Center is aging and required urgent renovations during the master planning process. The City is moving ahead with a remodel of the ISC, with critical funding provided through the bond measure approved by voters in 2024. The project will be completed in two phases. Phase I focuses on major pool upgrades, including new decking, recirculation and plumbing systems, boilers, and perimeter gutters for all pools, as well as improvements to the dive tower and adjustments to the racing pool's depth, lighting, temperature, and equipment. Phase II will add a new amenity center with administration offices, rentable space, restrooms and locker rooms, and equipment storage.



The ISC is a beloved community asset and piece of Santa Clara history.

Recreation Programming

The Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department manages a wide range of recreation programs and community events, including youth camps, aquatics, sports, health and fitness, literacy, senior services, and special events. To further enhance programming and expand access, the Department also partners with nonprofit organizations and other community groups. These formal and informal partnerships support the delivery of select programs and help broaden the reach of recreation services throughout the community.

CORE PROGRAM AREAS

The Department’s vision is to be a premier parks and recreation system in the region, providing all residents with access to high-quality programs and experiences. A key step toward achieving this vision is identifying Core Program Areas, which help focus efforts on the activities that matter most to the community. This framework enables staff, policymakers, and the public to align around shared priorities.

Currently, the Department offers programs across nine Core Program Areas:

Aquatics

Santa Clara offers year-round lap swim and, at times, aquatic fitness programs. Seasonally, the City provides Recreation Swim and Swim Lessons. Swim lessons include both group and private options for children and adults.

Athletics

Recurring group recreational and instructional sports leagues, programs, and activities are operated, taught, or managed by the Department—through contractors, staff, or volunteers.

Enrichment

The Department operates, teaches, or manages a wide range of group and individual recreational and instructional offerings including groups, activities, special interest programs, STEM programs, arts and crafts, and more, for participants of all ages, delivered through contractors or staff.

Older Adults

Santa Clara provides facilities, programs, and services that meet the needs of older adults (50+) at different stages and levels of life.

Visual & Performing Arts

Roberta Jones Junior Theatre provides youth with high-quality recreational experiences in theatre arts, visual arts, dance, and choir. Participants are offered opportunities for self-expression in a fun, safe environment that supports the development of self-esteem, confidence, and social skills.

Youth Development

The Department offers programs that support positive physical and emotional development for early learners, school age and teens through a variety of afterschool, summer camps, early learning and teen leadership programs.

Rentals/Reservations

The City offers one-time rentals of facilities, parks, and other amenities to the general public. Fee waivers and discounts for certain users—such as government agencies and community civic groups—are addressed in the Facility Use Policy.

Special Events

The Department organizes themed activities and events, which may or may not require registration. These include food-focused events, entertainment, holiday celebrations, cultural programs, and other special-interest activities.

Special Event Permitting

Events planned and implemented by outside organizations may be co-sponsored by the City at varying levels. City co-sponsorship may include fee discounts, fee waivers, or in-kind services.

PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT

Recreation programming is a vital component of the Santa Clara parks system. An analysis of current offerings was conducted to identify both strengths and opportunities for improvement. The assessment examined how well existing programs serve different age groups, the lifecycle stage of each program, user participation data, and results from the Statistically-Valid Survey (see Chapter 3). Key findings are summarized below, with detailed recommendations provided in Chapter 4.



Older adult programming is an important and popular Core Program area in Santa Clara.

KEY FINDINGS

- Santa Clara has **high program participation**, though quality ratings fall below the national benchmark.
- Top barriers include **inconvenient times, lack of awareness of offerings, and lack of interest.**
- Participation **distribution generally reflects population patterns.**
- The Department offers a **balanced range of programs for all ages.**
- Eight of nine core programs are in **early or growth stages**, and there are few mature core programs.
- A **cost recovery policy**, rooted in best practices, was adopted by City Council in April 2022.
- Program **success is measured mainly by participation and enrollment**; the Department does not currently track satisfaction, retention, or unmet needs.
- **Staffing is not sufficient** to expand program offerings.
- While several marketing strategies are used, there is **no formal Marketing Plan.**
- The Department has a **strong volunteer program.**
- Programs are supported by partner providers, but **no formal partnership policy exists.**

Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance is essential to the health, safety, and long-term value of a parks and recreation system. Well-maintained parks, trails, and facilities ensure that residents can enjoy safe, clean, and functional spaces year-round, while also protecting the City’s investment in its infrastructure. Regular upkeep—such as landscaping, repairs, and equipment replacement—extends the life of amenities, reduces long-term costs, and prevents small issues from becoming major problems. Maintenance also plays a critical role in preserving natural areas, protecting plant and wildlife habitats, and ensuring that parks remain attractive and welcoming.

The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for managing and maintaining the City’s extensive park system, recreation facilities, pools, and cemeteries. Their maintenance responsibilities encompass a wide range of tasks to ensure the safety, functionality, and aesthetic appeal of public spaces. Through these comprehensive maintenance activities, the City ensures that its parks and recreational facilities remain safe, functional, and enjoyable for all residents and visitors. Key areas of focus include:

Grounds Maintenance

Regular upkeep of lawns, gardens, and open spaces to provide clean and inviting areas for public use.

Facility Maintenance

Ensuring that recreation centers, pools, and other public facilities are in good working order and meet the community’s needs.

Playground and Equipment Upkeep

Routine inspections and maintenance of playgrounds and recreational equipment to ensure safety and compliance with current standards.

Irrigation Systems

Managing and maintaining water systems to support the health of park landscapes.

Tree and Plant Care

Preserving the health and appearance of trees and plants within parks.

Mission City Memorial Park Public Cemetery

Providing burial services and ongoing upkeep of the grounds, including landscaping, irrigation, and monument care.

Trail Maintenance

Maintaining trails within parks to provide safe and enjoyable pathways for walking, jogging, and biking.

Graffiti Removal

Promptly addressing vandalism to maintain the cleanliness and appearance of public spaces.



Picnic areas, like the one shown above in Bowers Park, require regular maintenance to stay functional and inviting.

MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT

Maintenance and operations are essential to sustaining the quality and usability of Santa Clara’s parks and facilities. An assessment of current practices was conducted to highlight strengths and areas for improvement. Key findings are summarized below, with detailed recommendations provided in Chapter 4.

Key Findings

- The **annual operations funding** for parks, pools, and facilities maintenance is approximately **\$12.8 million**.
- There **is a lack of adequate space** for maintenance equipment, storage, support facilities, planning, and team meetings.
- The **Parks Maintenance Division**, including Cemeteries has around **52 full-time positions** and enough equipment to meet current system needs when fully staffed.
- Maintenance generally follows written standards, but there is **no formal maintenance management plan** to set park-specific standards, track performance, or forecast costs.
- A **GIS-based asset management system is not in use**, limiting the City’s ability to track work, resources, and replacement schedules.
- The City maintains parks, athletic complexes, irrigation systems, and playgrounds, while **contracting turf, landscape, and weed abatement**.
- The City **lacks dedicated staffing** to oversee construction projects within parks.



Maintenance operations are extensive and require numerous facilities and equipment. The Santa Clara maintenance facilities and team support the entire park and recreation system.

ART & WINE FESTIVAL, CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA



Vision & Priorities



3.1 ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Community engagement is a cornerstone of the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, ensuring that residents' voices shape priorities and outcomes. Throughout the process, the planning team hosted a variety of engagement activities—including focus groups, pop-up events, surveys, and a community workshop—reaching more than 1,800 participants. The Parks

and Recreation Commission and City Council were also engaged at key milestones. A detailed summary of engagement activities and feedback is provided in the following sections, with full results and analysis available in Appendix G.

The City of Santa Clara is creating a

La Ciudad de Santa Clara está creando un
Santa Clara 市正在创建一个

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Please join us! Find out how on the flip side.

¡Únase a nosotros! Descubra cómo en el otro lado.
请加入我们！详细信息请查看背面。



To hear from the most community members possible, the City advertised community engagement events, feedback opportunities, and project updates.

5

POP-UPS

3

SURVEYS

5

FOCUS GROUPS

1

WORKSHOP

1,800 +

PEOPLE ENGAGED!

Pop Ups & Online Survey

Five pop-up events were held in the late summer and early fall of 2024. An online survey was also published on the City's website, providing another way for community members to leave feedback. In total, over 700 people provided insight into their parks and recreation needs and desires at the pop-up events.

Figure 3.1 and **Figure 3.2** on the following pages show the combined results from the data collected at pop-up events. This data gave the project team great insight into what facilities and amenities are most important to Santa Clara residents.





Santa Clarans made their voices heard, sharing their vision for the future of parks, amenities, facilities, and programs in the City.

WHAT WE HEARD

- **Favorite Parks:** Residents indicated that Central Park is the overall favorite and also needs the most work, along with Henry Schmidt Park, Bowers Park, and Warburton Park & Pool.
- **Desired Amenities:** Residents would like to see more aquatic facilities, a connected trail system, play areas, splash pads, and habitat restoration.
- **Events, Programs & Inclusivity:** Strong demand for parks to be community gathering places, with more affordable and inclusive programs for all ages, especially youth and seniors.
- **Green Spaces & Environmental Sustainability:** Emphasis on expanding shaded green spaces, using native plants, and maintaining parks as resilient and eco-friendly havens.
- **Clean & Well-Maintained:** Residents would like to see a clean, well-maintained park system that feels safe for all users.
- **Accessible & Connected:** Demand for better connectivity through walking/biking paths and accessible infrastructure.

FIGURE 3.1 | Which Park Is Your Favorite? (Pop-Up Feedback)

WHICH PARK IS YOUR FAVORITE?

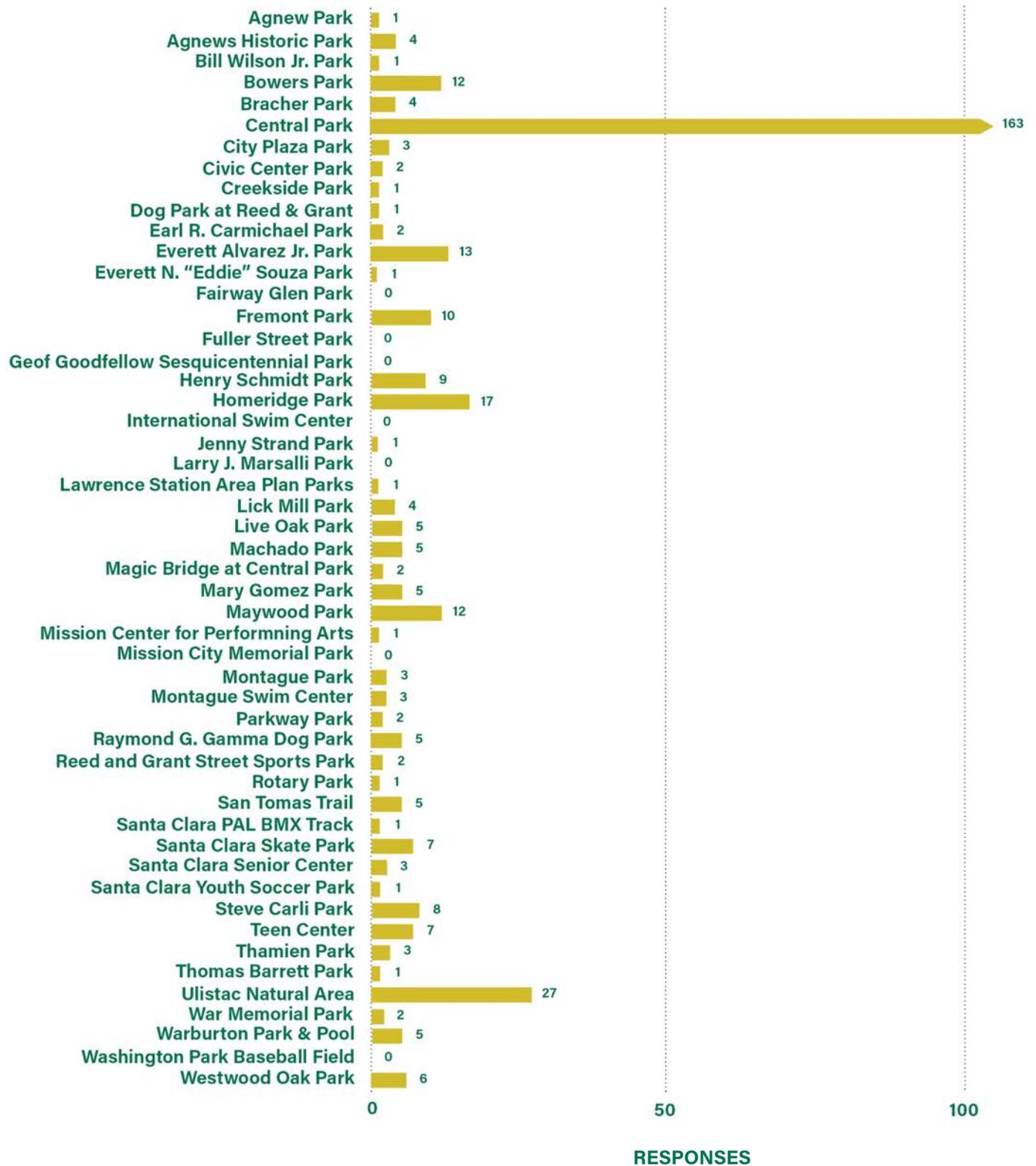
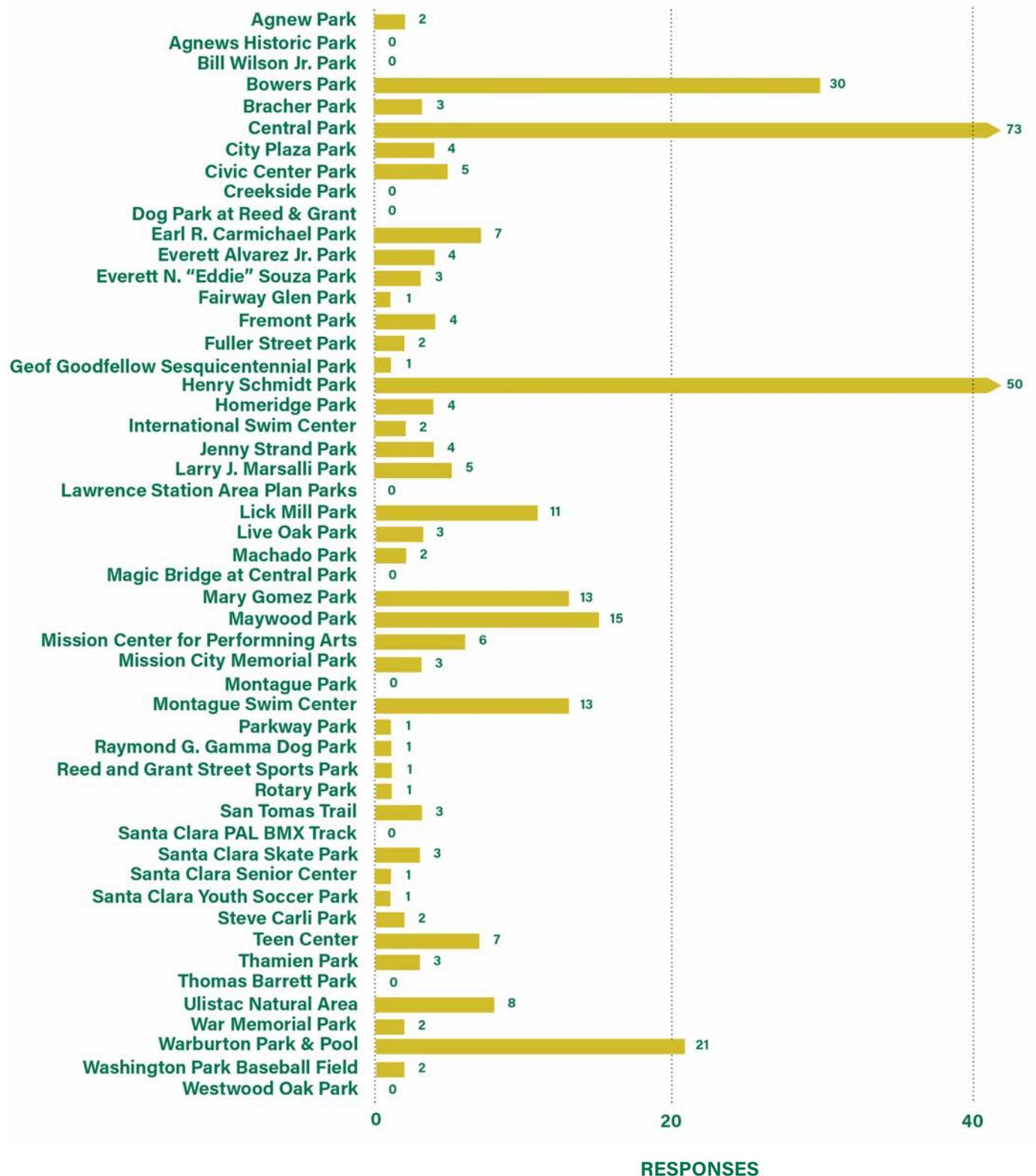


FIGURE 3.2 | Which Park Needs Improvement the Most? (Pop-Up Feedback)

WHICH PARK NEEDS IMPROVEMENT THE MOST?



*Which City of Santa Clara park is your favorite?
Why is that park your favorite?*

**CENTRAL PARK, WITH ITS
NEWLY CONSTRUCTED
PLAYGROUND, AMPLE
PARKING, EXCELLENT
FACILITIES, AND VIBRANT
ATMOSPHERE FILLED WITH
FAMILIES AND KIDS, IS THE
BEST PARK IN THE CITY.**

-Santa Clara resident, online survey



Pop-up engagement at beloved Santa Clara events like Concert in the Park (shown above), was a great way to reach community members. Team members were able to chat with residents, answer questions, and listen to priorities and concerns.

Focus Groups

In September 2024 the project team met with five separate focus groups to hear their needs for the parks and recreation system and desired outcomes for the Plan. The focus groups were arranged as follows:

Sports and Athletics

- Santa Clara Activities League
- Santa Clara Westside Little League
- Aquatic User Groups

Community Connectors

- Santa Clara Historical and Landmarks Commission
- Discover Santa Clara
- Mission College
- Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department

Senior Advocates

- Santa Clara Senior Advisory Commission
- Senior Center members

Planning and Development

- Santa Clara Water & Sewer Utilities
- Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department
- Santa Clara Economic Development Department
- Edgecore Digital Infrastructure
- Hunter Properties

Specialized Users

- Youth & Teen Center
- Santa Clara Lawn Bowling Club
- Santa Clara Womens League
- Ulistac Natural Area
- Santa Clara Community Recreation Center; Performing Arts Users

WHAT WE HEARD

The focus groups discussed their desired outcomes, with some overlapping themes emerging. Key takeaways from all focus groups included:

- **Facility & Maintenance Needs:** Demand for improved and expanded recreational facilities, better maintenance of parks, and the addition of amenities like pickleball courts, indoor gyms, and multiuse sports fields.
- **Access, Inclusion & Connectivity:** Expanding inclusive and accessible recreational opportunities, improving trail connections, and ensuring parks and programs accommodate diverse age groups and interests.
- **Funding & Staffing Challenges:** Addressing insufficient funding and staffing is essential to maintaining facilities, expanding programming, and ensuring recreation service needs are met.

Can you describe your vision for the future of Santa Clara parks and recreation?

CLEAN AND GREEN SPACES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY ALONG WITH COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE EXERCISE AND WELL-BEING FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

-Santa Clara resident, online survey

Workshop & Online Survey

A community workshop was held in June 2025 at the Santa Clara Senior Center; approximately 20 people were in attendance. Participants discussed a series of questions in small groups, recording their answers on comment cards, and left feedback in an open house format on preliminary recommendations for the park system.

A second online survey was launched on the City's website in June 2025 and remained open through August 2025. More than 800 responses were received from a wide and relatively even distribution of ages and ZIP codes across Santa Clara. The survey was developed to mirror the community workshop and was to gather similar feedback.

WHAT WE HEARD

Both the workshop and second online survey asked participants about which parks, facilities, and programs they use most; what they want to see more of in the parks system; and for their feedback on preliminary goals and recommendations. Key findings from the workshop and online survey are summarized below:

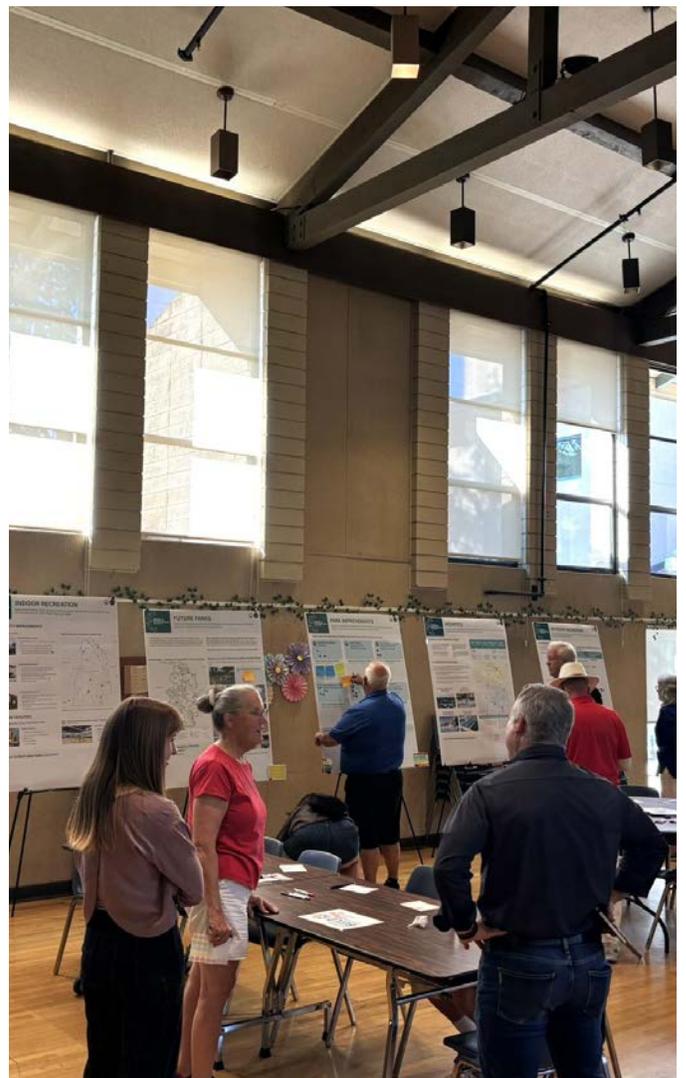
- **Central Park** was, by far, reported as the **most used park**. Henry Schmidt was the second most frequently used park. Mary Gomez Park and Pool, Steve Carli Park, and Live Oak Park were also mentioned multiple times.
- The **Community Recreation Center** is the **most used indoor facility**, followed by the Senior Center and then the Youth & Teen Center. Responses from senior residents indicated very high and predominantly sole use of the Senior Center.

- **Trails and walking paths, playgrounds, swimming pools, lawn bowling, tennis courts, and pickleball courts** were reported as the most desired outdoor recreation facilities.
- Additional and improved amenities in parks were identified, especially **sports fields and courts, pickleball courts, walking trails, and comfort amenities**.
- **Longer hours, an easier reservation system, better promotion of programs, multigenerational programs** (music in the park, all-family games, and arts and crafts fair were noted), more accessible and plentiful **parking, specialized amenities** (pickleball and mahjong were noted), and **senior programs and field trips** would attract residents to engage in City programs.
- There is **openness to interagency collaboration, especially with schools**, to expand community use and programming.

What would attract you and your household to participate in recreation programs more often?

**MORE WALKING TRAILS,
SMALL DOG PARKS,
MEETING & PARTY ROOMS,
COMMUNITY SPACES.**

-Santa Clara resident, workshop



The workshop allowed participants to leave individual feedback and participate in group discussions, learning more about their fellow residents' ideas.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The team met with the Parks and Recreation Commission early in the project in August 2024. The group discussed key aims for the project, as follows.

- **Sustainable Parks and Recreation:** Focus on maintenance and funding to ensure the delivery of quality parks and recreation over time.
- **Effective Master Plan:** Establish clear priorities and a course of action for park and program improvements.
- **Funding Strategies:** Explore partnerships, grants, and corporate contributions.
- **Recreation Emphasis:** Increase offerings to meet community needs.
- **Community Engagement:** Broaden input through diverse, accessible outreach methods.

The Commission was also engaged later in the planning process, during the implementation phase in April 2025, to give feedback on the planning direction. The Commission highlighted the following key ideas in review and discussion.

- **Community Priorities:** Prioritizing community feedback, now and in the future, is extremely important. In this planning process the community has stated the importance of trails, open space, nature, and conservation.
- **Access:** Exploring joint-use facility options and creating access for use of school sites is a goal. For future locations, setting priorities for choosing sites and filling gaps in park access is important.
- **Programming:** The Commission has interest in benchmarking with neighboring communities and recognizing opportunities to leverage recreation programs from other providers, communities, and school districts.
- **Maintenance and Staffing:** Maintenance and staffing are critical to park health and longevity and must be appropriately addressed in the plan.
- **Further Study and Data Collection:** It is important to clearly understand how the community uses different sites and facilities, and why they do so. The Commission wants to have accurate information on utilization numbers and patterns.

3.2 STATISTICALLY-VALID SURVEY

A survey was conducted in November 2024. The survey was delivered by mail to a random selection of households, and returned at a rate that generated a statistically-valid sample of the City’s population. This quantitative data is supported by the qualitative data collected through other community engagement events.

KEY FINDINGS

- Survey results indicated that Santa Clara **residents use parks and recreation facilities at a high rate—92% of households** reported visiting a park or facility within the past year (the national average is 81%).
- **Satisfaction with the value of parks and recreation programs, activities, and events is lower than the national average.** Only 51% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied (compared to the national average of 62%), while 18% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (compared to 3% nationally).
- When asked to rate the **condition** of parks and recreation facilities and amenities, only 9% of participants responded “excellent,” **far below the national benchmark** of 35%.
- Survey respondents indicated the **most support for general repair and increased maintenance** as a strategy to improve the existing parks and recreation system (89% of respondents).

PRIORITY RECREATION AMENITIES & PROGRAMS

Figures 3.3 and 3.4 show the **Priority Investment Ratings (PIR)** for amenities and programs. The PIR combines how important a facility or program is to the community with how well current offerings meet residents’ needs.

Top Priority Facilities

- Multiuse trails
- Swimming pools
- Open space and conservation areas
- Picnic areas and shelters
- Indoor walking/jogging track
- Outdoor multiuse courts
- Outdoor exercise/fitness equipment
- Indoor basketball/volleyball courts
- Pickleball courts

Top Priority Programs/Activities

- Fitness and wellness programs (scored 200, the maximum, reflecting high importance and unmet needs)
- Outdoor recreation
- Water fitness/lap swimming
- Community special events
- Cultural enrichment programs
- Performing arts programs
- Recreation/competitive swim teams

These PIR results are reinforced by **qualitative community feedback**, which highlighted consistent priorities such as shade, aquatic facilities, and a connected trail system.

FIGURE 3.3 | Top Priorities for Facilities/Amenities

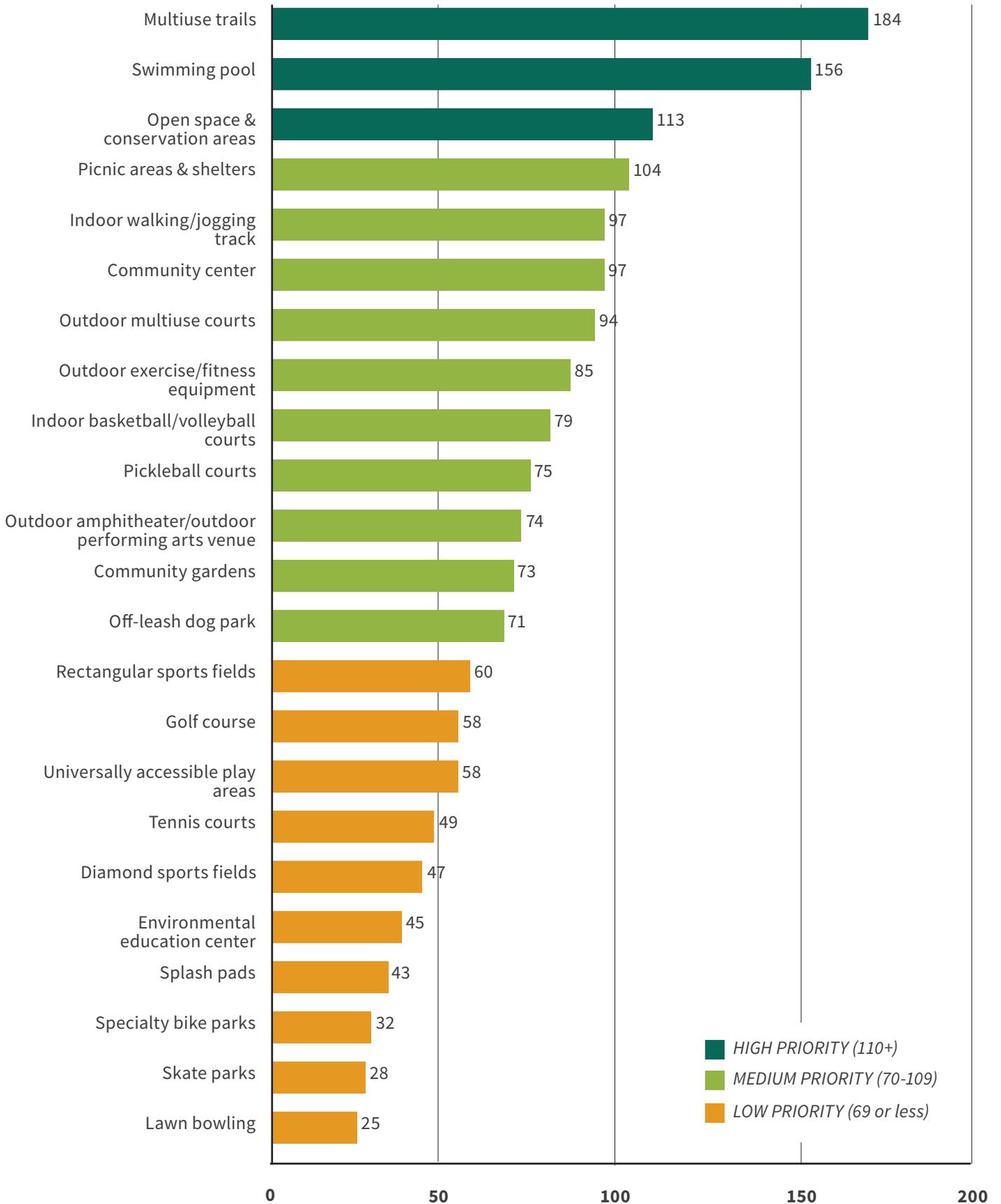
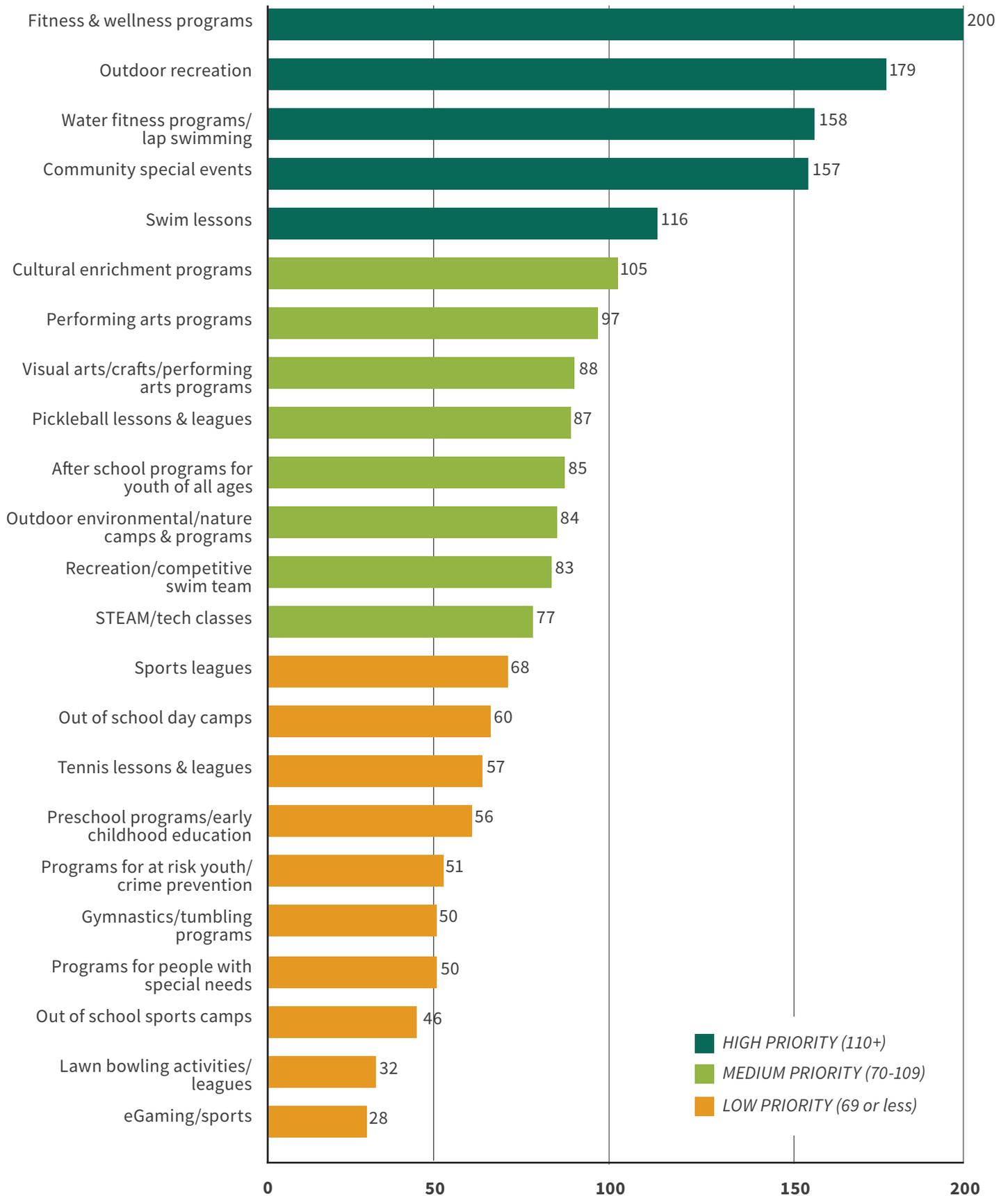


FIGURE 3.4 | Top Priorities for Programs/Activities



3.3 GUIDING THEMES

Below, community feedback is summarized into a set of guiding themes. These themes capture the community's priorities and aspirations, and they serve as the foundation for the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations outlined in the chapters ahead.



PATHS & TRAILS

Walking and other forms of exercise are fundamental recreational activities in Santa Clara. **Walking loops within parks** and **connected trail systems** are key priorities.



SPORTS COURTS

Additional outdoor sport court facilities, particularly **multiuse** and **pickleball** courts, are highly desired.



MAINTENANCE & AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Funding for maintenance and **lifecycle improvements** or replacements has not kept up with needs and has led to deteriorating park and facility conditions.



OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION AREAS

Green spaces and **conservation areas** are important to the community. Parks and open spaces can provide **recreation**, **health and wellness** opportunities, and **environmental benefits**.



AQUATICS

Aquatic facilities, water fitness, swimming lessons, and aquatics programs and programs are **high priorities** for community members. Aging infrastructure and design limitations create aquatic program challenges.



FUNCTIONAL & INCLUSIVE PARKS

Existing and new parks should **provide recreational value** and **amenities** that serve all members of the community.



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Fitness and wellness programs, **outdoor recreation** programs, and programs **servicing all community members**, are top priorities.



PARK COMFORT

Well-maintained **restrooms, trees, shade, seating, and picnic areas** will make parks more comfortable and desirable for the community.



INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

An **indoor track**, a **community center**, **indoor basketball courts**, and **indoor volleyball courts** all ranked relatively high on the survey. An indoor sports/gymnasium facility could address this demand.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Residents place a high value on **community events** that highlight Santa Clara park spaces, **culture, and unique character**.





Goals, Objectives & Recommendations



4.1 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This chapter presents a strategic framework to guide the future development and stewardship of Santa Clara’s parks, facilities, and programs. It begins with a set of overarching goals, each supported by specific objectives. A revised park classification system follows, outlining distinct categories that define the unique recreational roles parks play in the community. The chapter also introduces Level of Service Standards, which set benchmarks for the amount and distribution of parkland, ensure equitable and walkable access citywide, and identify the key amenities needed to serve Santa Clara’s growing population.

Goal 1: Parkland

Provide adequate parkland to meet community needs and ensure that existing and new parks provide recreational value and are inclusive, safe, and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

PROVIDE NEW PARKLAND

- **Develop new parks** to support Santa Clara’s growing and changing population—prioritizing park-deficient areas and incorporating parks into new development—while striving to meet the City’s standard of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents.
- Establish a vision for the **new park in north of Santa Clara** to ensure its development meets the needs of the community.



Magical Bridge play area, located in Central Park, provides a functional, accessible, and inclusive high priority amenity, and is well-integrated with the rest of the park space and uses.

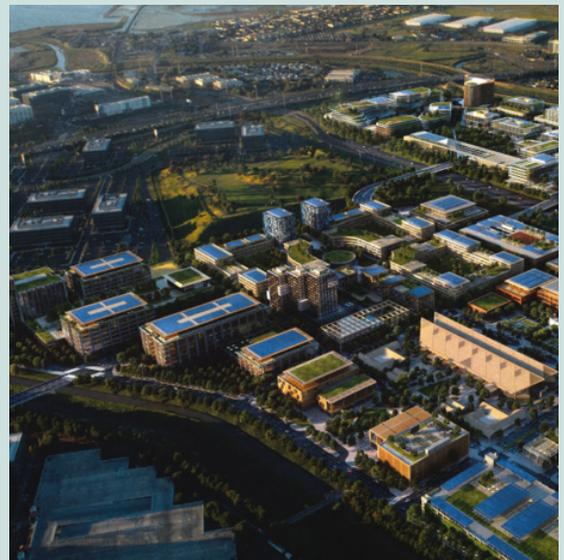
City Park North

IMPROVE PARK EXPERIENCE

- **Ensure parks** are of a size and shape that **supports recreational use** and have a robust mix of relevant amenities, following the standards provided in this plan.
- Provide **high-priority amenities** in new parks, existing parks or through joint-use agreements.
- **Provide comfort amenities** like restrooms, trees and shade, picnic and seating areas, drinking fountains, parking, and trash receptacles.
- Provide complete **walking loops** or walking opportunities in all parks.
- Improve the **condition and functionality** of existing parks in alignment with the Kitchell Report and the Park Improvement Tiers identified in this plan.
- Implement **universal design principles** for all new and rehabilitated park facilities.

A **new 32-acre park** is planned on City-owned land in north Santa Clara, adjacent to and connected with the Related development project. The new destination park offers an opportunity to provide parkland and amenities in an area that currently has limited access to recreation.

This site is a former landfill and as a result planning must carefully address environmental and topographic constraints, while ensuring strong connections to the surrounding development. Equally important will be robust community engagement to help shape the park's programming and design. With these considerations in place, the park can be envisioned to meet many of Santa Clara's recreation needs.



*The Future North Park site in northern Santa Clara
Source: Related Santa Clara*

Goal 2: Indoor Recreation Facilities

Provide adequate indoor recreation facilities to meet current and future community recreation needs.

PROVIDE NEW INDOOR FACILITIES

- Pursue the development of a **multipurpose community center** on the north side of Santa Clara and explore options for a **future indoor recreation facility**.
- Seek opportunities for increasing recreational access and use through **partnerships and shared-use** recreation sites, including public and private recreation facilities.

ENHANCE EXISTING FACILITIES

- Enhance the **Community Recreation Center, Senior Center, and Youth & Teen Center** to better serve the recreation needs of the community.
- Upgrade **other City park and recreation facilities** to improve programming, accessibility, and overall user experience.

Goal 3: Aquatic Facilities

Improve functionality of aquatic facilities to meet community demand and increase accessibility.

SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC FACILITIES

- Complete planned **improvements to the International Swim Center (ISC)** to serve both recreational and competitive aquatic needs.
- Evaluate existing facilities and **develop an approach for delivering aquatic services** that considers improvements to existing neighborhood pools, new aquatic facilities in underserved areas, and potential consolidation.



Additional or expanded indoor recreation space would allow for greater volume and variety of recreation and programming, like the fitness class shown above.



Making the necessary improvements to the ISC (above) and exploring the potential for new aquatic facilities in underserved areas will help fill current gaps in aquatic recreation service. A new aquatic facility could provide new types of aquatic recreation, like play spaces (right).



Goal 4: Paths & Trails

Create new paths and trails to enhance connectivity to parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, while supporting walking opportunities.

CONNECTED TRAIL SYSTEM

- Continue to develop the citywide **planned multiuse trail network** and ensure that trails are well-integrated into parks, supporting park access and recreation value, and minimizing disruption of green space and user conflicts.
- Provide **trailhead amenities at parks**, including bicycle parking, water fountains/refill stations, and wayfinding signage and maps.
- Collaborate with Public Works to identify and implement **safe crossing and traffic calming improvements** near parks and trails.



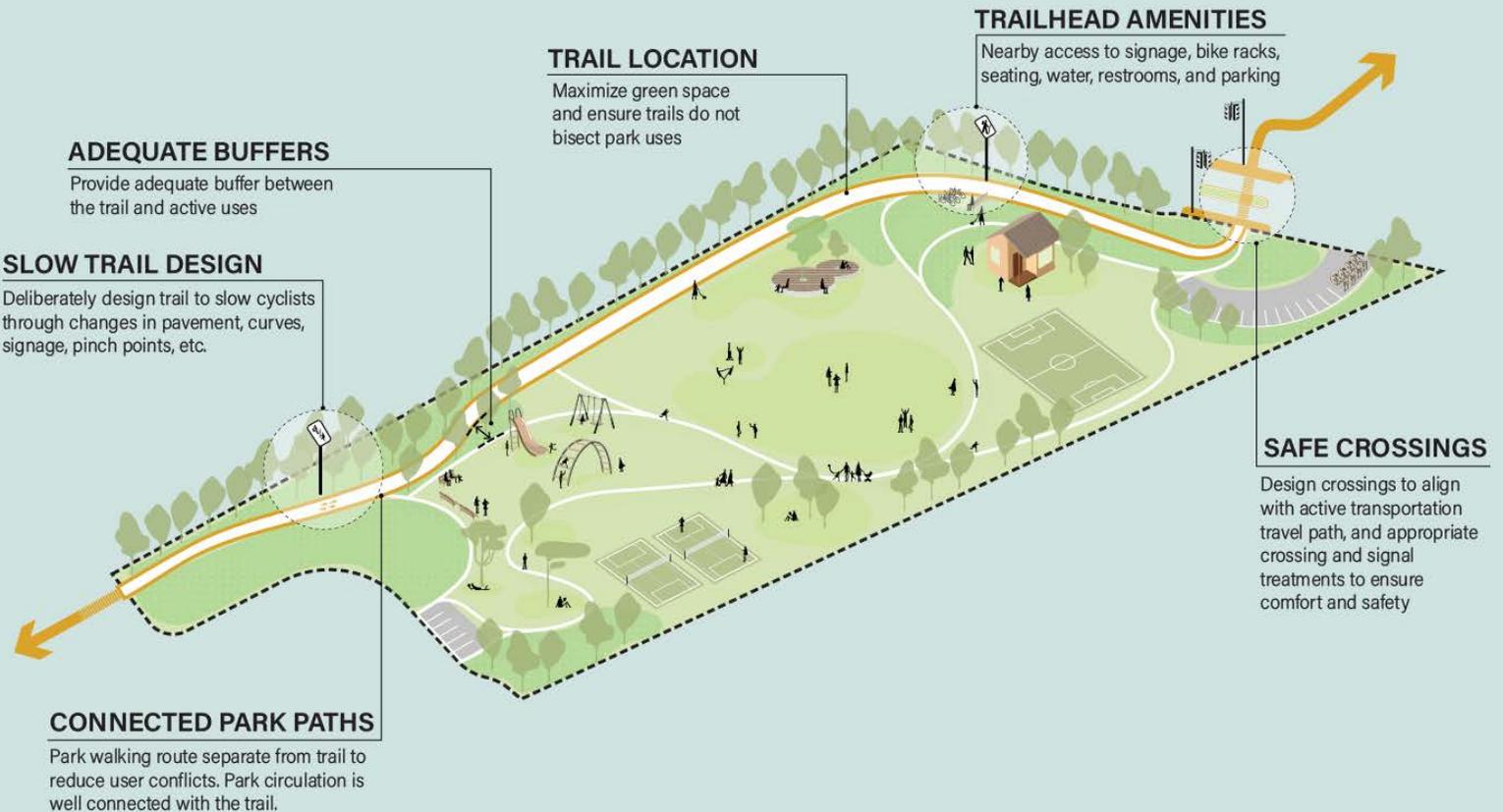
Thoughtfully designed paths and trails can peacefully coexist within, and enhance, parks. Multiuse trails, like the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail shown above, are the top recreational amenity priority identified in the statistically-valid survey findings and need to be prioritized, while not disrupting adjacent park space and uses too much.

Source: Weekend Sherpa

Trail Design in Parks

Parks and trails have a mutually beneficial relationship, each enhancing the value of the other. Trails act as vital connectors, guiding walkers, runners, and cyclists to parks, while parks provide trails with scenic and meaningful segments, including rest areas, social gathering spaces, green space, and amenities along the route. At the same time, this synergy can create conflicts—differences in speed, activity type, and user expectations can lead to incompatibility, particularly in shared spaces. Recognizing both the opportunities and challenges of this relationship is essential to designing parks and trails that work for all users. Thoughtful planning and design can help mitigate conflicts while maximizing benefits for both park and trail users. **Figure 4.1** highlights key considerations for successfully integrating trails within parks.

FIGURE 4.1 | Design Guidelines for Successful Park-Trail Interface



Goal 5: Open Space & Conservation

Incorporate environmental resiliency into all parks and green spaces with native and climate-ready plants, conservation, and other similar strategies to maximize ecological benefits.

HABITAT & CONSERVATION

- **Conserve water** in parks through native plantings in non-active areas and the implementation of efficient irrigation systems.
- Preserve and enhance **habitats, riparian corridors, and heritage trees** within all parks and open spaces.
- Use permeable surfaces and landscaped areas to **increase filtration and manage stormwater**.

TREE CANOPY

- Develop and implement a park **tree policy and strategy to preserve and improve the park tree canopy** that establishes a current park tree inventory and a system for tracking tree removal and planting.
- **Plant additional trees** and landscaping in parks to provide shade, reduce the impacts of extreme heat, and sequester carbon, while replacing aging or structurally compromised trees on a 2:1 basis.



Community gardens (LSAP Park community garden, Santa Clara, top) and healthy and robust tree canopies (Steve Carli Park, Santa Clara, bottom) enhance recreation value and park experience as well as contribute to environmental and conservation efforts.

Source: GameTime (below)

Goal 6: Maintenance & Aging Infrastructure

Maintain parks and recreation facilities by implementing capital improvement and replacement programs, best management practices, safety and accessibility standards, and adequate staffing and funding.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

- Reevaluate and establish **sustainable funding sources** to adequately maintain and operate the parks and recreation system to the City's maintenance standard.
- Ensure **appropriate staffing levels** are dedicated to the management and oversight of **construction projects** occurring within parks.

IMPROVED MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

- Develop a comprehensive **maintenance management plan** with defined outcomes and standards that reflect community maintenance priorities, ensuring all work action plans are aligned.
- Implement an enterprise **asset management system** to track lifecycle of facilities, amenities, and equipment to help staff perform scheduled capital projects and preventative maintenance.
- Develop a formal **customer service satisfaction tool** to evaluate parks on an annual basis.



Adequate funding and staffing are vital to providing crucial park maintenance, keeping sites and facilities safe and functional.



A customer service satisfaction tool could be implemented in many different forms. Consistent feedback would provide the City and maintenance teams with valuable information.
Source: Opiniator

Goal 7: Programs & Events

Provide offerings for all ages and abilities and address unmet program and event needs.

IMPROVE EXISTING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Analyze program and event participation data and develop strategies to **expand engagement** citywide.
- Evaluate **program and event schedules** and timing; adjust offerings to meet community needs.
- Increase **program and event awareness** by leveraging current and emerging communication trends.
- Provide an accessible system for **program registration** and park or recreation **facility reservations**.
- Continuously review **program fees** to ensure alignment with the City's cost recovery policy.
- Continue to **develop partnerships and sponsorships** to support programming and events.

PROVIDE NEW PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Develop **new programs** identified as high-priority needs—such as fitness and wellness, outdoor recreation, water fitness, and swim lessons—while monitoring industry trends.
- Increase activation of City parks and facilities by adding **new community events** based on public interest, such as food festivals, entertainment, and holiday and cultural celebrations.
- Regularly **survey the community for program satisfaction** to identify unmet needs.

Santa Clara already has many successful and well-loved programs and events like Early Learners programs, the 4th of July Celebration, Concerts in the Park, the Art & Wine Festival, and the Health & Wellness Fair (all highlighted in the photos on the right). Expanding engagement, awareness, partnerships, offerings, and feedback opportunities would improve the City's programs and events.



4.2 PARK & OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Parkland & Access

Adequate parkland and walkable access to parks and open spaces is essential for promoting physical activity, fostering community connection, and supporting overall well-being. Two key metrics are used to evaluate and establish standards for park access: **park acreage level of service (LOS)** and **park distribution**.

PARK ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service (LOS) measures the availability of parks and recreational facilities relative to a community’s population, helping ensure equitable access and adequate resources. As of 2025, Santa Clara has 2.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This Plan endorses the ratio of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents, consistent with the recommendations found in the City’s General Plan.

As shown in **Table 4.1**, by 2035 Santa Clara will need 156.2 additional acres of parkland to serve a growing population. Current development projects and City-led improvements are expected to contribute 70.2 acres, **leaving a shortfall of 86 acres**.

This additional acreage can be achieved through a combination of new park development and joint-use opportunities at school sites. The **Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD)** provides **152 acres** of fields, hardcourts, and playgrounds across 28 school sites, offering significant potential to expand community parkland through joint-use agreements. To maintain the current 2.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, as well as meet the increased ratio of 3.0 acres per 1000 residents, the plan calls for a **balanced approach of new City-owned parkland and joint-use site agreements**.

TABLE 4.1 | Park Acreage Level of Service

TOTAL PARK & OPEN SPACE ACRES (CITY & OTHERS)	EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE (ACRES/1000 RESIDENTS)	LEVEL OF SERVICE GOAL (ACRES/1000 RESIDENTS)	2035 ACREAGE NEEDED (PARK OR JOINT-USE)	PLANNED ACRES (AS PART OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT)	ADDITIONAL ACRES NEEDED (IN ADDITION TO PLANNED ACRES)	EXISTING SCHOOL ACRES (GROUNDS WITH POTENTIAL FOR JOINT-USE)
308.3*	2.3	3.0	156.2	70.2	86.0	152

*Santa Clara currently has 6 public parks that are not owned by the City. Other owners include Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD), private developers, and HOAs.

PARK AMENITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE

Assessing the level of service for specific park amenities helps us understand the community’s access to these facilities. **Table 4.2** shows Santa Clara’s level of service—measured as population per amenity—for common park facilities and presents standards based on best practices, tailored to the City’s needs as identified through the community engagement process. Applying these standards to the City’s projected population highlights **deficiencies in key amenities**, including **diamond fields**, **rectangular (soccer) fields**, and **pickleball courts**. Increasing the level of service for these amenities can be achieved through the construction of new parks,

reimagining existing parks, or expanding access to joint-use sites. As shown in far-right column of **Table 4.2**, school sites contain **numerous recreational amenities that could be made available to the public through joint-use agreements** and address most of the current gaps in recreation opportunity.

This analysis focuses on traditional park amenities commonly tracked by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). However, additional needs identified through community engagement—such as trails, walking/jogging tracks, shade structures, community gardens, and outdoor fitness equipment—are not reflected in **Table 4.2**.

TABLE 4.2 | Amenity Level of Service (LOS)

AMENITY	CITY INVENTORY	CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL	SERVICE STANDARD	ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED IN 2035	SCHOOL DISTRICT INVENTORY
Diamond (Baseball/ Softball) Field	6	1 per 22,822 residents	1 per 13,500 residents	5	15
Multiuse Field	15	1 per 19,129 residents	1 per 9,000 residents	2	19
Soccer Field	11	1 per 12,448 residents	1 per 10,000 residents	4	4
Cricket Field	0	N/A	1 per 100,000 residents	2	2
Outdoor Basketball Court	19	1 per 7,207 residents	1 per 8,500 residents	-	16
Pickleball Court	6	1 per 22,822 residents	1 per 8,500 residents	12	-
Tennis Court	35	1 per 3,912	1 per 4,000 residents	3	22
Dog Park	7	1 per 19,562 residents	1 per 20,000 residents	1	-
Splash Pad	0	N/A	1 per 75,000 residents	2	-
Playground	33	1 per 4,149 residents	1 per 4,250 residents	2	14
Reservable Picnic Areas	9	1 per 15,215 residents	1 per 9,000 residents	8	-





PARK DISTRIBUTION

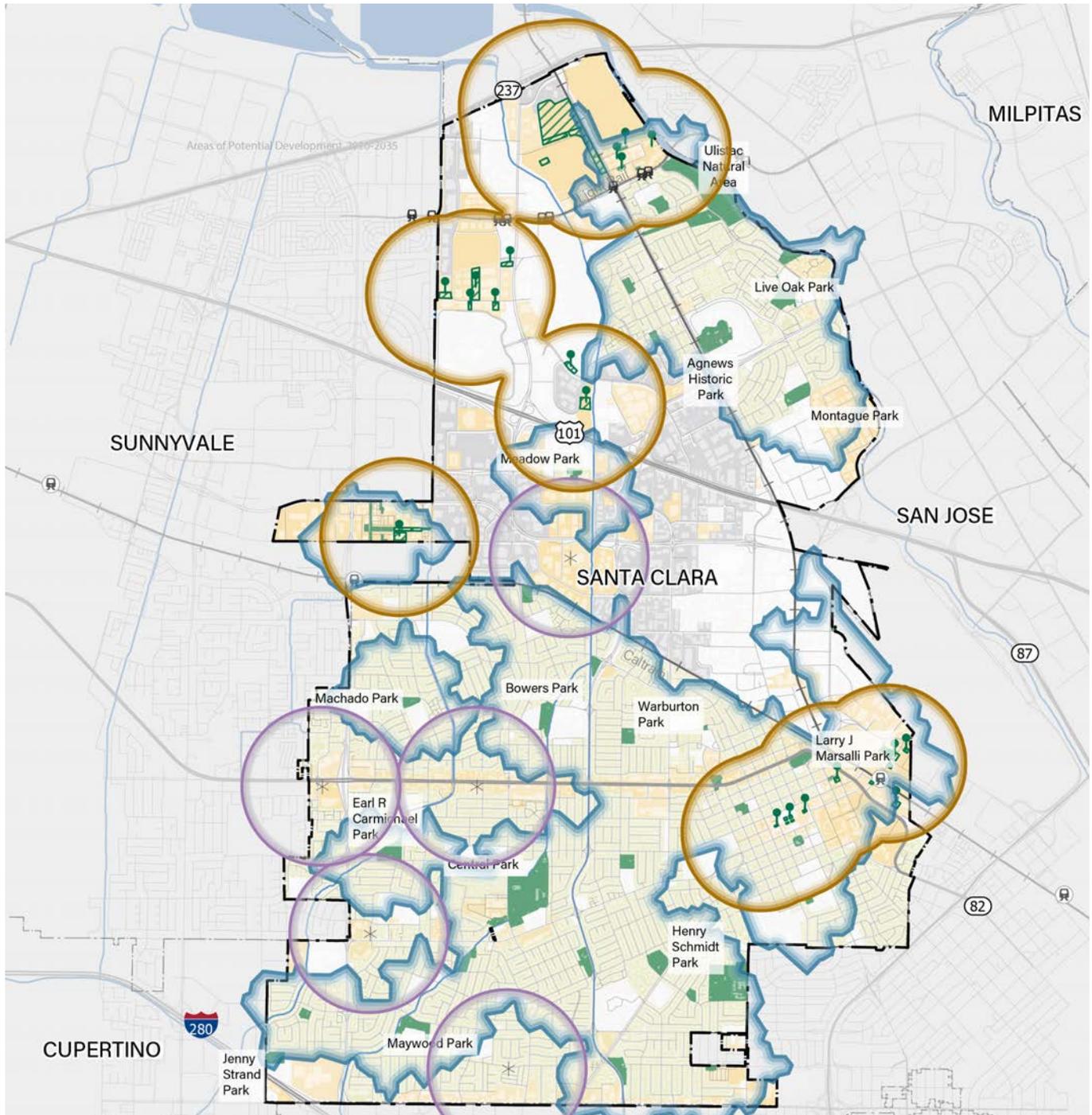
Understanding how parks are distributed and accessible is critical to measuring community access.

Figure 4.2 on the following page shows park access within a 10-minute walk in Santa Clara, highlighting uneven coverage across the City. Some older residential areas along the El Camino Real Corridor and elsewhere currently lack good park access, while areas experiencing redevelopment will require parks to serve future residents.

Planned parks will expand access in northern Santa Clara to meet future growth, but some existing neighborhoods will still lack nearby parks. Potential new park sites would help address these areas and advance the City's goal of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The 10-minute walk areas for potential new park sites are shown in purple in **Figure 4.2**. Together, existing, planned, and potential parks would bring nearly all residents within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Joint-use agreements with public schools offer another opportunity to fill service gaps. As shown in **Figure 4.3**, on the following pages, most neighborhoods are already within a 10-minute walk of either a park or school. Securing access to these school sites and enhancing them for recreation—especially in areas lacking park access—would create a more evenly distributed system across the community.

FIGURE 4.2 | Existing, Planned & Potential Park Walksheds

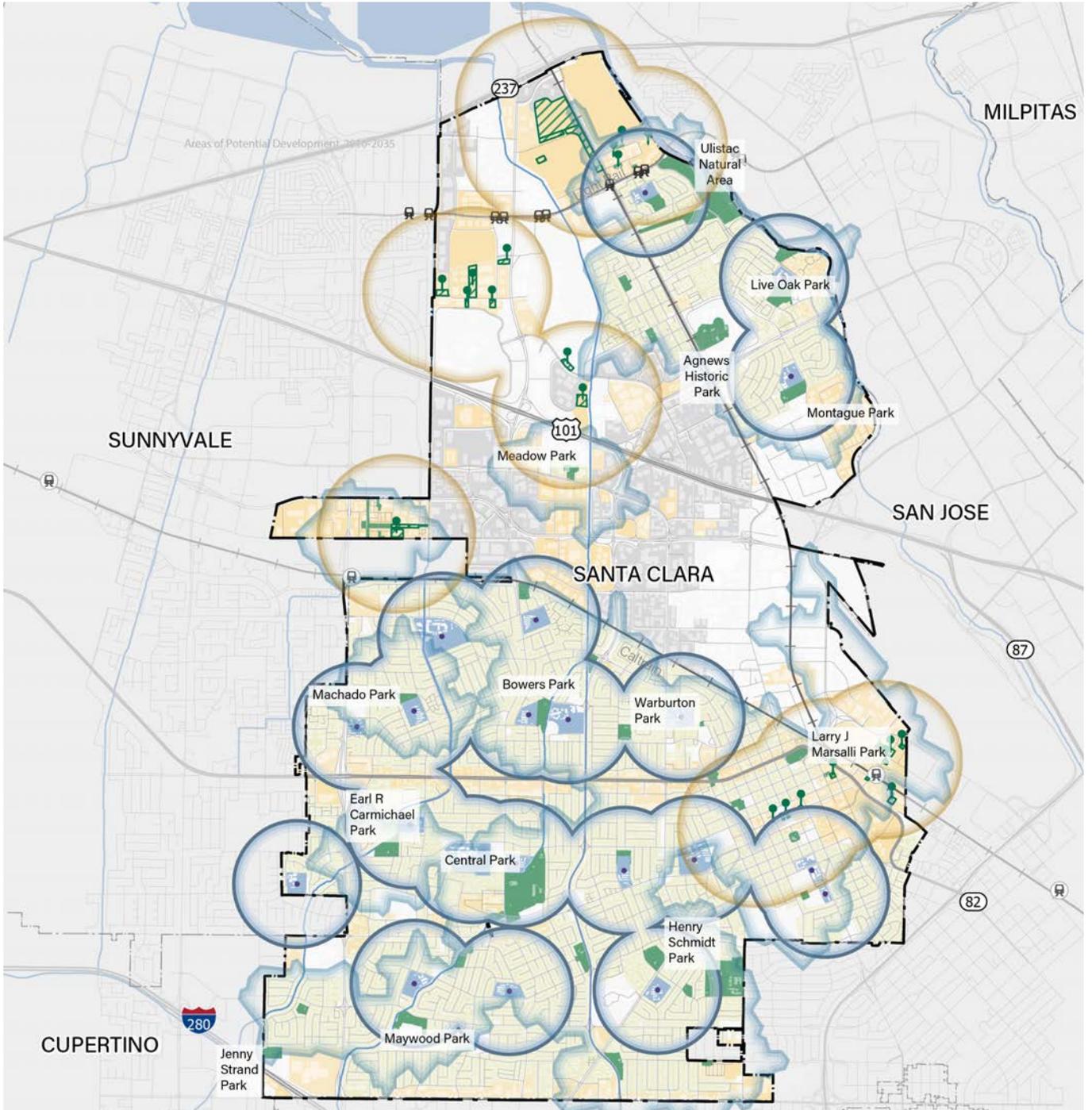


Source: City of Santa Clara, General Plan, Specific Plans

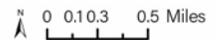


- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 10 Minute Walkshed (1/2 mile) from Neighborhood, Mini and Community Parks | Existing Residential Land Use | City of Santa Clara Park | CalTrain |
| 1/2 Mile Buffer from Planned Parks | General Plan Growth Areas | Planned Park | Cities |
| Potential Future Parks or Joint Use Sites | Future Residential or Mixed Use | Potential Parks | Creeks |
| | Future Office / R&D | | VTA Light Rail |

FIGURE 4.3 | Planned Park & School Walksheds



Source: City of Santa Clara, General Plan, Specific Plans



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1/2 Buffer from Potential Joint-use Facilities | Existing Residential Land Use | City of Santa Clara Park | CalTrain |
| 10 Minute Walkshed (1/2 mile) from Neighborhood, Mini and Community Parks | General Plan Growth Areas | Planned Park | Cities |
| 1/2 Mile Buffer from Planned Parks | Future Residential or Mixed Use | Potential Parks | Creeks |
| | Future Office / R&D | SCUSD School | VTA Light Rail |

Park Type Standards

Park Type Standards provide clear guidelines for the planning and design of Santa Clara’s park system. They establish expectations for amenities and promote a consistent level of service across neighborhoods. By tailoring requirements to each park’s intended role and community context, this framework advances equitable access, high-quality recreational experiences, and sustainable development practices.

For each park type, standards are provided in a set of categories, as follows:

- Size & Shape
- Use Duration
- Location Characteristics
- Access
- Parking
- Required Amenities
- Optional Amenities
- Landscape Features

Standards indicate what park users can expect from each park type, and guide the creation of future parks and enhancements to existing parks.

Note: Due to the unique characteristics of Santa Clara’s parks, not all sites will meet every definition or amenity requirement. These standards should be applied with discretion, taking into account site constraints and community needs. This applies to private and publicly developed parks.

Parks and plazas in urban districts play a vital role in enhancing livability and vibrancy. Though often compact, these spaces can be highly amenitized, with thoughtful design that maximizes usability and comfort. In addition to traditional park features, they may incorporate distinctive seating and shade structures, interactive installations or art, and creative landscaping. Their greatest value often comes from their location and context—embedded within walkable urban areas, they offer convenient places for rest, social interaction, and casual recreation.

When designed intentionally and strategically, parks in urban areas become vibrant, functional, and well-used components of the broader park system.





These mini parks and plazas incorporate interesting and aesthetic design choices, artwork, plantings, seating and rest options, and other strategic amenities at a smaller scale. They are embedded in and add to the surrounding urban environment.

Destination Parks

SIZE & SHAPE

- Typically 20 acres or greater
- Configuration must create functional community-wide access, gathering and recreational space

USE DURATION

- 1 to 4 hours

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- May be adjacent to schools, libraries, other community facilities, and commercial and mixed-use activity centers

ACCESS

- Connection to transit stations, sidewalks, bikeways, and trails
- Frontage on at least two streets
- Primary access and parking should be from a collector or arterial roadway; secondary access may be from local neighborhood streets

PARKING

- On-site parking lot(s), sized based on amenities
- Street parking
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- At least one community active-use amenity, such as a sport court or field (lighted or unlighted), aquatic facility, or park building

- At least one special recreation amenity, such as a dog park, amphitheater, skate and/or bike park, etc.
- Unique, thematic, or innovative playground equipment or comparable creative play environment that is universally accessible
- Open lawn for multiuse recreation and unstructured play
- Accessible walking path, loop, and/or trail
- Reservable and drop-in picnic areas, preferably shaded and with barbecues
- At least two restrooms
- Site furnishings including seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification, wayfinding, and regulation signs



Destination amenities are important features of destination parks (Central Park, above).

OPTIONAL AMENITIES



- Indoor recreation facility, gymnasium, or community center
- Aquatic facility
- Additional recreation facilities such as skate and/or bike park or outdoor fitness equipment
- Outdoor amphitheater with covered stage
- Environmental education facility
- Interpretive trail with signage or environmental education facility
- Community, demonstration, or pollinator garden(s)
- Designated space for concessions
- Public art
- Storage or maintenance building(s) and lockable trash enclosure with dumpster, architecturally complementary with the rest of the park and located area away from main park attractions

LANDSCAPE FEATURES



- Large shade trees should be plentiful, aiming for a tree canopy of at least 25% of the site at maturity. Distinct trees and/or planting areas in key areas to establish stronger park identity, such as park entrances/gateways and central gathering places
- Natural turf areas designed for multipurpose active and passive recreation activities
- In passive areas, climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- Approximately 50-60% of the site should be relatively level, and usable
- Existing natural features should be preserved and incorporated into park design, when practical and possible



Plentiful large shade trees are essential for park comfort (Central Park, above).

Community Parks

SIZE & SHAPE

- Typically 5 to 20 acres
- Smaller sites may be acceptable due to site-specific conditions or inclusion of key amenities
- Configuration must create functional community-wide access, gathering and recreational space

USE DURATION

- 1 to 3 hours

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Typically, adjacent to schools, libraries, other community facilities, and commercial and mixed-use activity centers
- Distributed across the City

ACCESS

- Served by the City’s public transportation network, including bus routes, bikeways, and trails
- Street frontages at site boundary wherever possible, including frontage on at least two major streets

PARKING

- On-site parking lot(s). Sized based on amenity needs
- On-street parking
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- At least one community active-use amenity, such as a sport court or field (lighted or unlighted), aquatic facility, or park building
- At least one special recreation amenity, such as a dog park, amphitheater, skate and/or bike park, etc.
- Unique, thematic, or innovative playground equipment or comparable creative play environment that is universally accessible
- Accessible walking path, loop, and/or trail
- Open lawn for multiuse recreation and unstructured play
- Reservable and drop-in picnic area, preferably shaded
- Restrooms
- Site furnishings including seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification, wayfinding, and regulation signs



Restrooms are necessary for Community Parks (Earl R. Carmichael Park, above).

OPTIONAL AMENITIES



- Indoor recreation facility, gymnasium, or community center
- Aquatic facility
- Additional active use amenities (such as sports courts and fields)
- Interpretive trail with signage or environmental education facility
- Community, demonstration, or pollinator garden(s)
- Public art
- Storage or maintenance building(s) and lockable trash enclosure with dumpster, architecturally complementary with the rest of the park and located away from main park attractions

LANDSCAPE FEATURES



- Large shade trees should be plentiful, aiming for a tree canopy of at least 25% of the site at maturity
- Natural turf areas designed for multipurpose active and passive recreation activities
- In passive areas, climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- Approximately 75-80% of the site should be relatively level, and usable
- Existing natural features should be preserved and incorporated into park design



Ball fields and other active use amenities are required at community parks (Henry Schmidt Park, above).

Neighborhood Parks

SIZE & SHAPE

- Typically 1 to 5 acres
- Proportions must create functional community gathering and recreational spaces. If linear, width should be a minimum of 90 feet

USE DURATION

- 1 to 2 hours

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Central to the neighborhoods they serve with residential or school adjacent land uses. Relevant considerations include proximity to other park sites and trail connections

ACCESS

- Connected to bikeways and trails, where feasible
- Typically two street frontages, with sidewalks
- Minimal access barriers, including fencing, steep slopes, or major arterial roads

PARKING

- Street parking.
- On-site parking if needed to support amenity or where street parking is inadequate
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- Playground(s) with creative play environment including several elements of play for ages 2-12
- Accessible walking loop
- Open lawn for multiuse recreation and unstructured play
- At least one active-use full sports court or field,
- Dispersed picnic facilities, including tables shaded by trees or shade structures
- Site furnishings, including seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification and regulation signs

OPTIONAL AMENITIES

- Restroom or access to restroom in adjacent facility
- Small sports amenity (table tennis, cornhole, bocce, or similar)
- Amphitheater
- Par course or fitness stations
- Splash pad
- Community garden
- Barbecues
- Public art
- Additional sports court or field

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Large shade trees should be plentiful, aiming for a tree canopy of at least 25% of the site at maturity. Distinct trees and/or planting areas should be placed at park entrances and central gathering places to establish park identity
- Natural turf areas designed for multipurpose active and passive recreation activities
- In passive areas, climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- At least 80% of the site should be relatively level, and usable
- Existing natural features should be preserved and incorporated into park design, when practical and possible



Playgrounds are a required element for neighborhood parks (Thamien Park, above; Homeridge Park, below).

Mini Parks & Plazas

SIZE & SHAPE

- Typically 0.5 to 1 acre
- Proportions must create functional community gathering and recreational space. If linear, width should be a minimum of 90 feet

USE DURATION

- 30 minutes to 1 hour

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Embedded within neighborhoods or urban districts
- At trailheads or access points to open space

ACCESS

- Served by adjacent sidewalks.
- Frontage on two or more streets is preferable; one street frontage is acceptable

PARKING

- Street parking
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- Site furnishings including seating and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification and regulation signs
- At least three of the recreation amenities identified as “optional”

OPTIONAL AMENITIES

- Playground equipment or comparable creative play environment
- Open lawn for multiuse recreation and unstructured play
- Small sports amenity (table tennis, cornhole, bocce, or similar)
- Plaza or gathering space
- Picnic areas with table games
- Shade structures
- Water features or splash pads
- Par course or fitness stations
- Public art

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Shade structures and trees should be plentiful, aiming for a canopy of at least 25% of the site. Distinct trees and/or planting areas should be placed at park entrances or in central gathering places to establish park identity
- In passive areas, plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting



Site furnishings, trees and plantings, and synergy with the surrounding neighborhood make mini parks and plazas functional and inviting, even with small footprints (Vincent Fiorillo Park, left above; LSAP Park, right above; mini park in the Tasman East neighborhood, right middle; Civic Center Park, below).

Special Use Parks

SIZE & SHAPE

- Variable, dependent on purpose and available land
- Configuration must create functional community-wide access, gathering and recreation space

USE DURATION

- Variable, dependent on purpose

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Variable, dependent on purpose

ACCESS

- Connected to bikeways and trails where feasible.
- At least two street frontages

PARKING

- On-site and/or street parking, dependent on purpose
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- Community-wide amenities and facilities (e.g. skate and/or bike park, dog park, golf course, community garden, cemetery, historic site)
- Site furnishings including seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification and regulation signs

OPTIONAL AMENITIES

- Playground equipment or comparable creative play environment
- Accessible walking loop
- Open lawn for multiuse recreation and unstructured play
- Picnic areas
- Restroom(s)
- Public art

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Large shade trees should be plentiful, aiming for a tree canopy of at least 25% of the site at maturity. Distinct trees and/or planting areas in key areas to establish stronger park identity, such as park entrances/gateways and central gathering places
- Climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- Approximately 50-60% of the site should be relatively level, and usable
- Existing natural features should be preserved and incorporated into park design, when practical and possible



Special Use Parks have one or more unique primary amenity, such as a skate park or dog park (upper and lower left), or a historic site (right).

Sports Parks

SIZE & SHAPE

- Typically 10 to 55 acres
- Configurations must create functional community-wide access, gathering and recreation space

USE DURATION

- 1 to 4 hours, including nighttime use

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Distributed throughout the City
- May be adjacent to schools, libraries, other community facilities, and commercial and mixed-use activity centers

ACCESS

- Connected to the City’s transportation system.
- A minimum of two major street frontages is desirable
- Direct connection to sidewalks, bike routes, and trail system

PARKING

- On-site parking lot(s), sized based on amenities
- Street parking
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES

- Lighted recreation amenities (e.g. aquatic facility, soccer fields, baseball/softball fields). Multiple fields/sites should be included to enable tournament play
- At least two restrooms
- Site furnishings, including seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles
- Signage, including site identification, wayfinding, and regulation signs

OPTIONAL AMENITIES

- Playground equipment or comparable creative play environment
- Spectator seating
- Reservable picnic site or multipurpose building
- Concession
- Public art
- Integrative public address system
- Storage or maintenance building(s) and lockable trash enclosure with dumpster, architecturally complementary with the rest of the park

LANDSCAPE FEATURES



- Trees should be appropriately sized and placed to provide shade and complement the functionality of the sports facility
- Climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- All areas designated for sports will be flat, level, and usable



Sports parks are dedicated to ball fields, courts, or aquatics facilities (Reed and Grant Sports Park, above).

Natural Areas & Greenways

SIZE & SHAPE



- Typically 20 acres or greater
- Variable shape, responsive to natural features
- Wide enough to accommodate both a multiuse trail and a natural or park-like environment, with greater width and amenities at entry points or connections
- Configuration must create functional community-wide access, gathering and recreation space

USE DURATION



- 30 minutes to 3 hours

LOCATION CHARACTERISTICS



- Encompassing undeveloped land and natural features (hillsides, marshlands, creek corridors, etc.)
- May be adjacent to parks, facilities, and trails

ACCESS



- Direct connections to sidewalks, bike facilities, and trail system
- Trailheads with parking should have pedestrian and bike access
- Appropriate crosswalks, speed tables, and signage should be implemented at intersections

PARKING



- Street parking
- Bike parking

REQUIRED AMENITIES



- Seating and trash receptacles at entry points
- Signage, including site identification, wayfinding, and regulation signs
- Trails that accommodate multiple uses, including hiking and biking

OPTIONAL AMENITIES



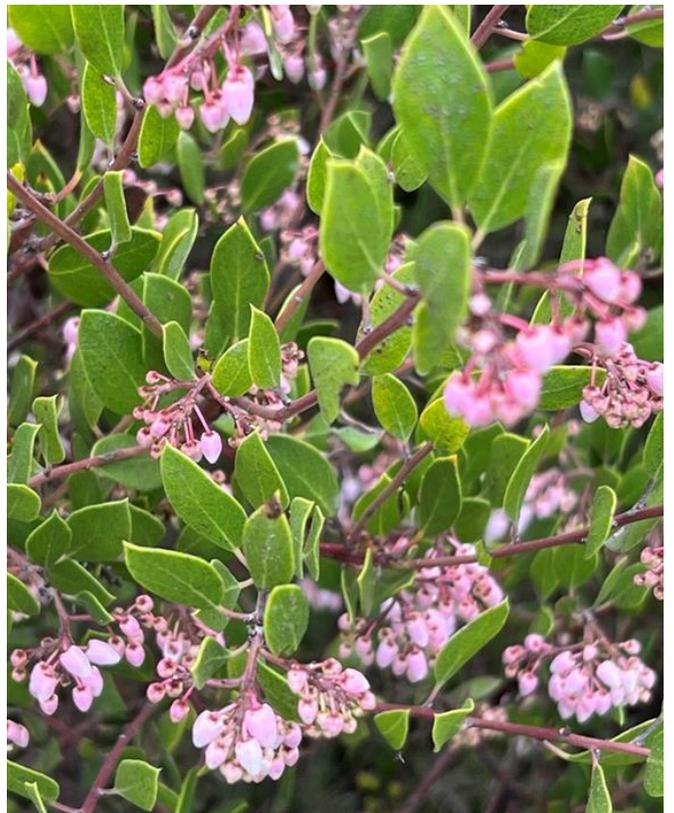
- Viewpoints
- Interpretive signage
- Restroom(s)
- Dispersed picnic areas
- On-site parking lot(s)
- Outdoor fitness equipment

LANDSCAPE FEATURES



- Undeveloped areas should be preserved in a natural state while mitigating invasive species
- Assess and track vegetation; implementing maintenance and management standards to mitigate potential fuel loads and fire risks
- Trees for shade and windbreaks
- No planting should impede sight lines or hinder view into the greenway or trail
- Climate-ready plant species that are native, drought-tolerant, and/or habitat-supporting
- Existing natural features should be preserved and incorporated into park design, when practical and possible

Note: Open spaces and greenways are not eligible for developer credit.



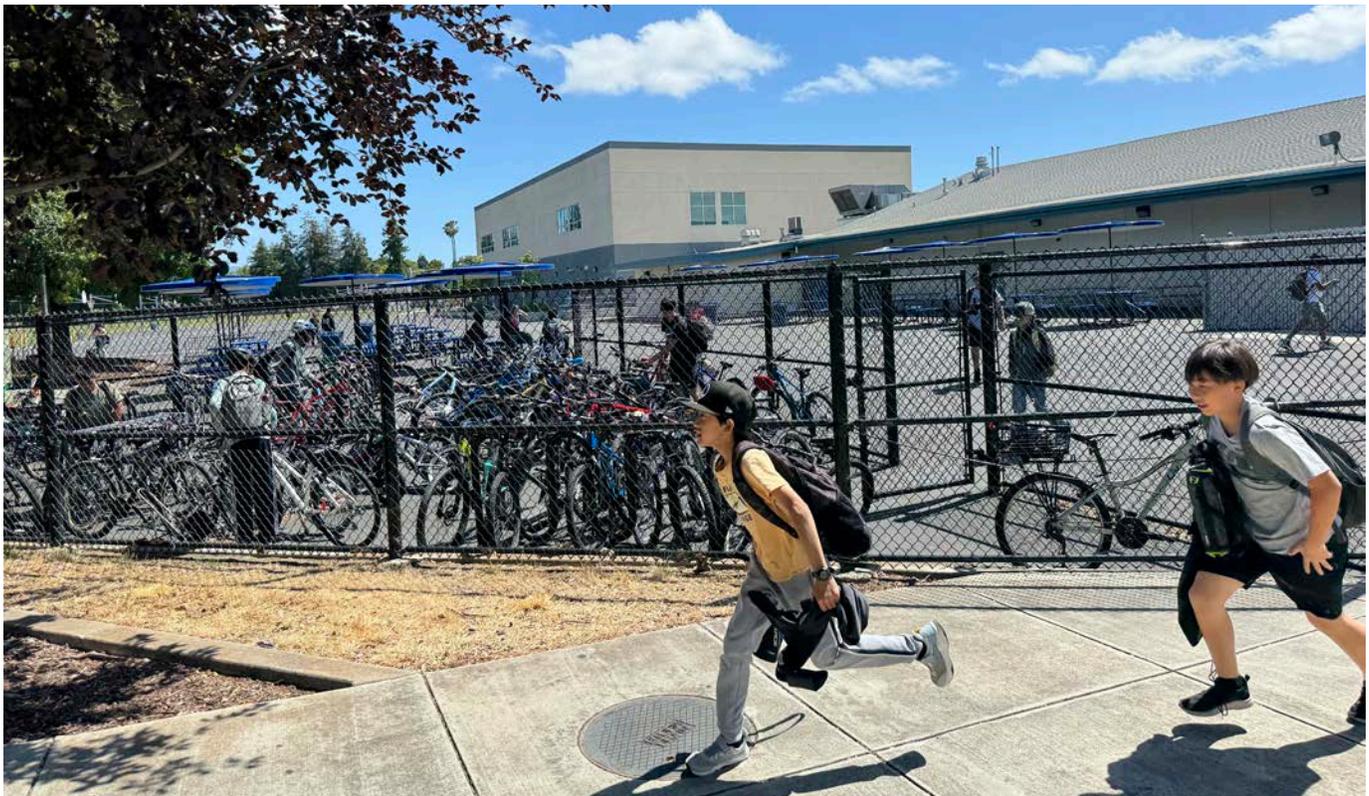
Ulistac Natural Area is Santa Clara's signature public open space, featuring natural vegetation, nature trails, and interpretive signage.

Joint-use Sites

Joint-use sites, stand-alone schools that also function as public parks or recreation amenities, can expand recreation opportunities in Santa Clara and significantly help meet community needs. Partnership and communication between entities can allow for improved recreational services for both students and residents—all part of the Santa Clara community.

A strong joint-use agreement is essential to ensure a fair, mutually beneficial arrangement. Such agreements should be transparent, community-facing documents that highlight access and partnership, clearly define maintenance and

operational responsibilities, outline cost-sharing for capital improvements. Some level of City investment in school sites is necessary to ensure an equitable agreement that creates functional and appealing recreation opportunities, balancing student needs during school hours and general community needs after hours and during school breaks.



Fencing at a joint-use site should enforce any necessary separation, while maintaining sight lines and a cohesive feeling between the areas of the site.

Successful Park-School Design Considerations

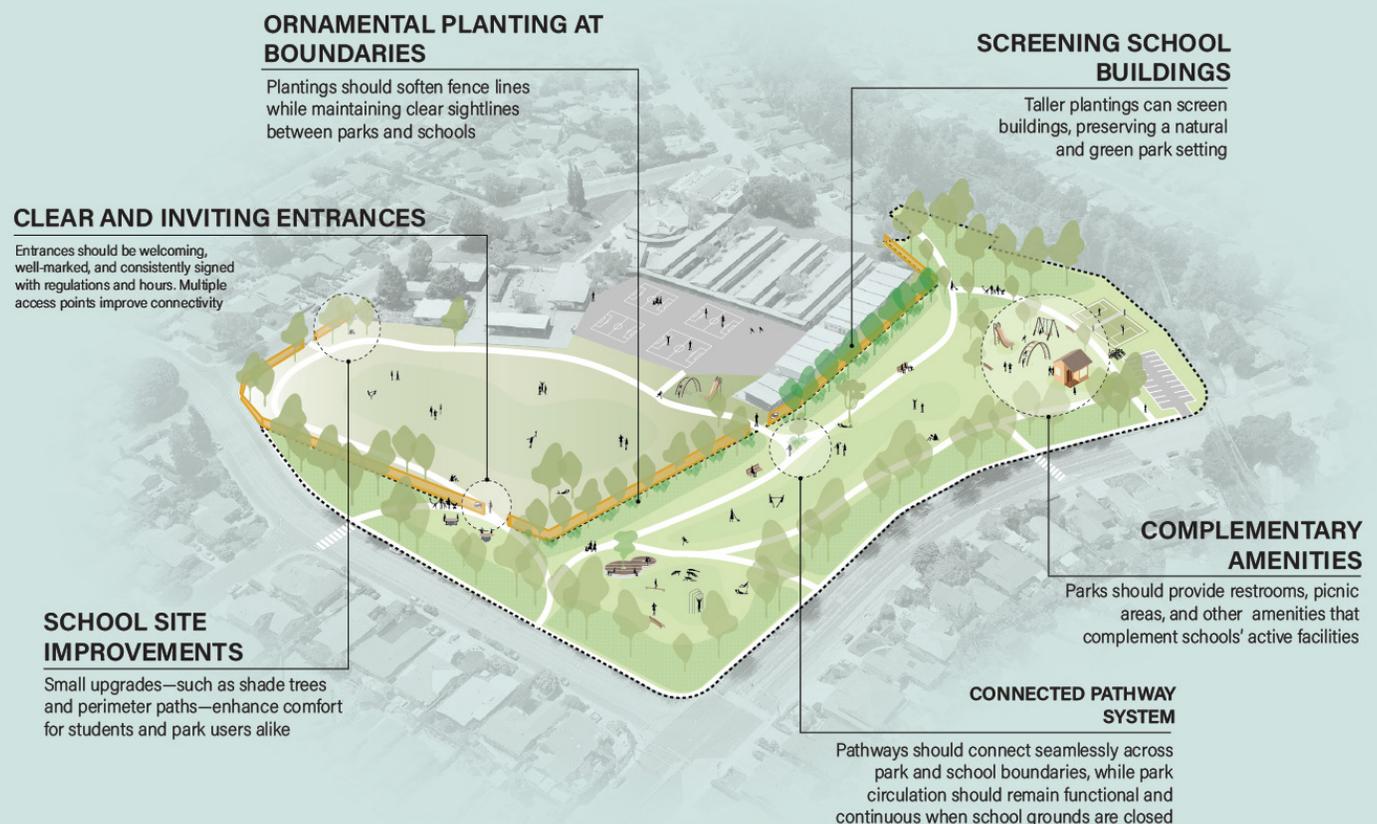
Creating successful joint-use facilities requires a thoughtful balance between safety, accessibility, and community benefit. During school hours, sites must ensure a secure environment for students, while outside those times, they should invite the public to enjoy the space with ease. Well-planned access points and fencing can achieve both goals—protecting children while signaling openness beyond the school day. Clear signage, welcoming entrances, and consistent public hours help reinforce when and how the community can engage with the space.

Parks and schools that directly border each other can provide mutual benefits by leveraging the distinct amenities each offers. Municipal parks typically include restrooms, picnic areas, walking paths, and other spaces for passive enjoyment, in addition to key active recreation facilities where

space allows. School grounds often feature sports fields, courts, playgrounds, and other active recreation amenities but lack areas for comfort and relaxation. Through collaboration and intentional design, the City and school district can create a cohesive site that is safe, welcoming, and functional, offering a wide array of recreational opportunities beyond what either could provide independently.

Figure 4.4 illustrates the potential of an integrated park-school adjacency, showing how such a site can function as a cohesive joint-use area during non-school hours while maintaining necessary security during school hours. The amenities at each site complement one another, offering visitors a wide range of recreational options. Key elements of a successful design include clear signage, established standards and rules around use times, and thoughtfully designed barriers where necessary.

FIGURE 4.4 | Design Guidelines for Successful Park-School Adjacency



Park Improvement Strategy

A Park Improvement Strategy provides a structured approach to upgrading and enhancing the City’s park system to ensure it meets current and future community needs. By organizing improvements into three categories, the strategy prioritizes maintaining existing resources, strategically enhancing functionality, and undertaking visionary transformations. This framework allows for a clear understanding of the scope, goals, and investment required for each type of improvement, while also aligning upgrades with community aspirations and long-term objectives.

PRESERVING WHAT WE HAVE

This category includes essential park improvements necessary to keep the park system operational. This encompasses routine maintenance, repairs, repainting, replanting, “lifecycle replacements” (such as replacing aging amenities or infrastructure), and removing accessibility barriers for individuals with disabilities. The focus of this category is to maximize the use of existing resources, with the primary objective of preserving the City’s current investments.



Fuller Street Park would benefit from added seating, shaded areas, vegetation, and other plantings. Repurposing a portion of the open lawn space for alternative uses could be beneficial.



*Preserving
what we have*



*Improving what
we have*



*Envisioning
enhancement*

Preserve:

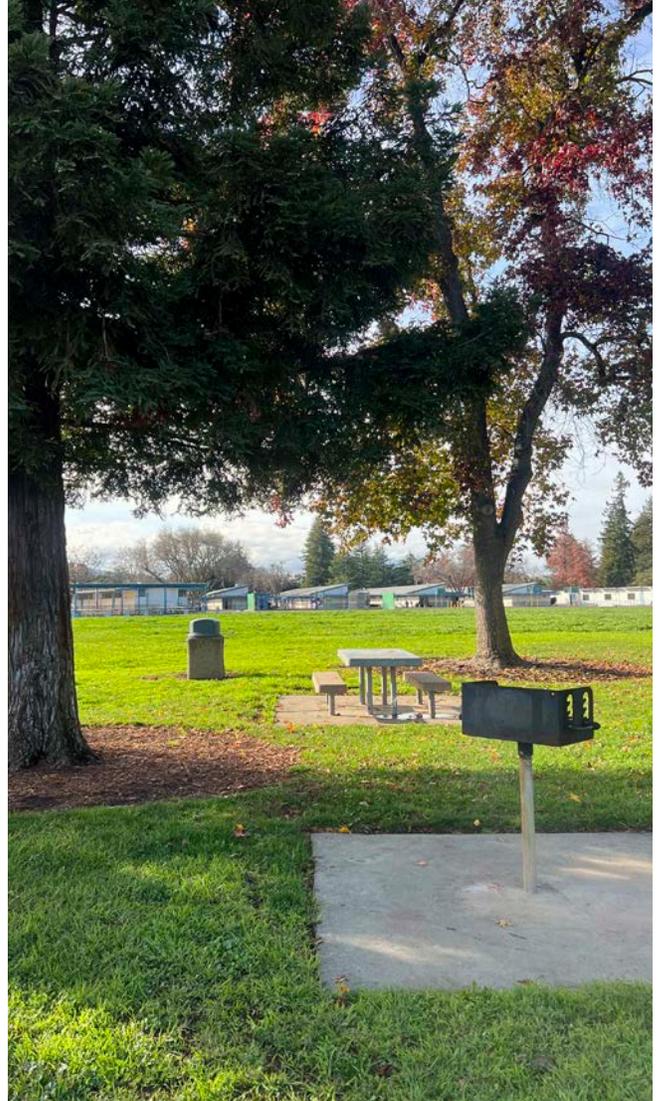
- Bill Wilson, Jr. Park
- Bracher Park
- City Plaza Park
- Civic Center Park
- Creekside Park
- Everett Alvarez Jr. Park
- Everett N. “Eddie” Souza Park
- Fuller Street Park
- Geof Goodfellow Sesquicentennial Park
- Henry Schmidt Park
- Live Oak Park
- LSAP Parks
- Meadow Park
- Memorial Cross Park
- Montague Swim Center
- Reed and Grant Sports Park
- Rotary Park
- Thamien Park
- Thomas Barrett Park
- Vincent Fiorillo & Family Park
- War Memorial Playground
- Warburton Park
- Westwood Oaks Park

IMPROVING WHAT WE HAVE

This category encompasses park upgrades designed to enhance functionality, visitor experience, and recreational opportunities. While these updates generally do not significantly alter the park's overall character or layout, they may involve improving existing features, adding new amenities, or implementing other strategic changes to enrich the park experience. Such improvements often require substantial funding.

Improve:

- Agnew Park
- Agnews Historic Park
- Bowers Park
- Central Park
- Earl R Carmichael Park
- Fairway Glen Park
- Fremont Park
- Homeridge Park
- Jenny Strand Park
- Lick Mill Park
- Machado Park
- Mary Gomez Park
- Maywood Park
- Montague Park
- Parkway Park
- Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park
- Steve Carli Park
- Ulistac Natural Area



Maywood Park would benefit from basic repairs and a reorganization of its layout. Key ideas include creating a walking loop, moving the play area to the west near the amphitheater, turning the current play area into a fitness node, grouping picnic areas on the east side, hosting small events, adding an off-leash dog area in the west corner, and exploring changes to the parking layout.

ENVISIONING ENHANCEMENT

Parks in this category are identified as prime candidates for extensive upgrades, which may include major renovations or complete redesigns to deliver entirely new park experiences. This typically encompasses full park overhauls, land acquisitions, and the development of new parks. Parks in this category generally fall short of meeting current community needs and require comprehensive renovation to address gaps. These projects typically begin with a master planning process to assess existing conditions, understand community priorities, and develop a new design. While often the costliest, these projects provide the greatest flexibility to bring trending recreational opportunities to the community.

Envision and Enhance:

- Larry J. Marsalli Park
- City Park North
- Future planned parks



Larry J. Marsalli Park would be improved with better screening from the adjacent highway, additional connection points and entrances, and a repurposing of the existing lawn space for new amenities.



Typical Park Improvements

The specific improvement needs at individual park sites are unique and should be clarified through a detailed site design and a community engagement process. However, the following improvements have been identified and prioritized through site assessments and community input as common improvement needs in many parks throughout Santa Clara.

1. Repurpose underutilized areas for **new recreational amenities**
2. Install complete **walking loops** in parks
3. Provide additional **seating, shade, and trash receptacles**
4. Plant more **diverse vegetation and trees**
5. Enhance and **modernize restrooms**
6. Install educational and wayfinding **signage**
7. Connect **trails to parks** and provide **trailhead amenities**
8. Provide **screening from major streets**



Park improvements can create unique spaces and experiences for Santa Clarans.

4.3 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Improving Existing Facilities

Making improvements to existing facilities helps ensure they remain safe, accessible, and functional, while modernizing spaces to better meet evolving needs. This plan makes the following recommendations for Santa Clara’s existing facilities. These recommendations are fully detailed in Appendix E: Facilities Assessment.



The Senior Center, like the Community Recreation Center and Youth & Teen Center, requires routine maintenance to ensure ongoing functionality. There is an opportunity to make additional improvements and expand facilities to better serve programs and community use.

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

- Address deferred maintenance
- Renovate interior finishes, furniture, and lighting and update mechanical and electrical systems
- Enclose or protect courtyard to provide more program space
- Expand building footprint where possible; add community hall
- Expand and enhance program spaces

SENIOR CENTER

- Address deferred maintenance
- Reenvision layout of rooms for efficiency, flexibility, and expanded capacity
- Update finishes, furniture, and lighting
- Evaluate and upgrade HVAC systems to allow the facility to efficiently function as designed, including operating as a warming and cooling center

YOUTH & TEEN CENTER

- Address deferred maintenance
- Add acoustic separation and new dividers in programming spaces
- Reenvision layout for efficiency and flexibility
- Update finishes, furniture, and lighting
- Update security technology

Recreation Needs

The national average for square feet of indoor recreation facilities per population is approximately 0.75 SF per resident. In 2025 Santa Clara had 0.67 SF per resident (NRPA 2025 Agency Performance review). This is similar to some surrounding and comparable communities (Sunnyvale has 0.68 SF per resident and San Mateo has 0.62 SF per residents), while others meet and exceed the national average (Mountain View: 1.23 SF per resident; Daly City: 1.07 SF per resident). Additionally, the average for a gymnasium multiuse court is 1 per 38,924 residents nationally. Santa Clara has no gymnasiums as of 2025.

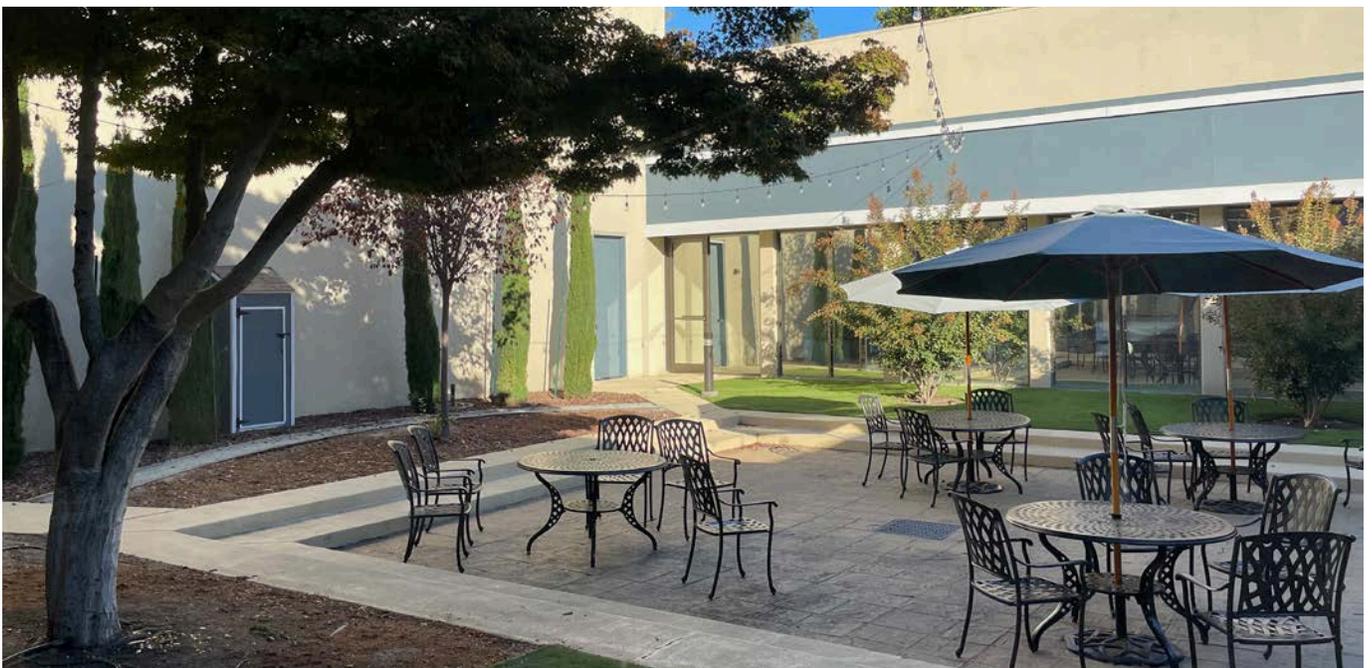
Considering projected population growth and community need, it is estimated that Santa Clara will need approximately 70,000 additional square feet of

indoor facility space in 2035. This plan recommends the following:

- **Expansion of the Community Recreation Center:** 5,000 to 10,000 square feet
- **New library & recreation center in north Santa Clara:** 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of indoor recreation space
- **New recreation facility with a multi-court gymnasium:** 38,000 to 43,000 square feet

In addition, the City should pursue community access to additional gymnasiums through partnerships with the school districts, Mission College, or other public or private partners.

This plan recommends two new recreation facilities, a health and wellness center and a facility with a gymnasium, to help meet the projected indoor recreation needs.



The Community Recreation Center courtyard is a space that could be redesigned to better serve residents' needs.

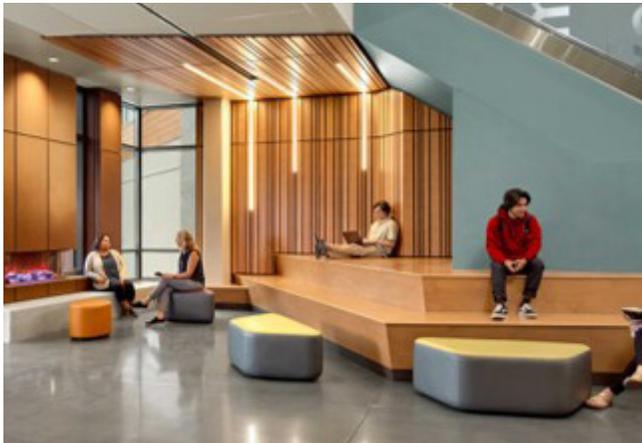
New Facilities

NORTH LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER

To provide needed indoor recreation space on the developing north side of the City, a multigenerational health and wellness center and library are envisioned. Altogether, this facility should have approximately 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of indoor recreation space as well as a library branch. The recreation space would include a community center, gym and fitness area.

Proposed Features

- 20,000 to 25,000 SF of indoor recreation space
- Library & Community Center
- Senior recreation & programming
- Health and Wellness Center/fitness
- Active recreation
- Lobby/reception



RECREATION FACILITY WITH GYMNASIUM

This Plan recommends a future facility with approximately 38,000 to 43,000 square feet that includes a minimum of one multi-court gymnasium and spaces to support athletic, health and wellness classes and drop-in recreation. This gym should be located for convenient access for all residents.

Proposed Features

- 38,000 to 43,000 SF
- Up to 3 gymnasiums
- Fitness/dance studio
- Fitness/cardio space
- Lobby/reception
- Staff offices



This Plan recommends that the City add a library and recreation center on the north side, with approximately 21,600 square feet of indoor recreation space, and a 38,000 to 43,000 square foot gymnasium-focused recreation center. Examples from other communities are shown here.

4.4 AQUATIC NEEDS

Aquatics Level of Service

The three competitive pools at the ISC and the seven recreation pools distributed throughout the City currently provide residents with one competitive pool per 44,532 residents and one recreation pool per 19,085 residents. Per capita, Santa Clara has five times more recreational pools and 2.5 times more competitive pools than the national average for similar sized cities.

At a Citywide scale, Santa Clara is well-served by aquatic facilities. However, existing facilities are concentrated in southern Santa Clara with limited access in northern neighborhoods. Additionally, many aquatics facilities are aging, with deferred maintenance and insufficient funding. There is an opportunity to better serve the community's aquatics needs, now and in the future.



The International Swim Center (top left), Senior Center pool (top right), and Warburton Pool (above) are each recommended for improvements.

A Vision for the Future of Santa Clara Aquatics

Figure 4.5 illustrates a potential future concept for aquatics in Santa Clara. This approach proposes phasing out two of the City’s smaller, aging pools to allow for the development of larger, upgraded facilities.

This concept aims to:

- **Better distribute aquatic facilities** throughout the community.
- Deliver **larger, modern aquatic centers** that can support a **broader range of recreational and competitive amenities** than smaller neighborhood parks.
- Focus City resources, enabling **funding to be more strategically allocated** and balanced across all recreational needs.
- **Reevaluate** the existing **Montague Pool**, which is on school district property and doesn't have good access; and **Mary Gomez Pool**, which doesn't adequately meet the City's aquatic needs.

This concept would achieve an aquatic level of service of 1 competitive pool per 51,608 residents and 1 recreation pool per 38,706 residents by incorporating a new regional aquatics facility and repurposing the current pool space at Montague and Mary Gomez parks, shown in **Table 4.3**.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Improved ISC

The ISC would maintain its 3 competitive pools, with necessary maintenance issues and upgrades addressed.

NEW WARBURTON AQUATIC FACILITY

Warburton Pool would be reimagined as a family-friendly aquatic facility. The existing 2 recreation pools would be consolidated and include other aquatic elements such as water play features.

NEW NORTH AQUATIC CENTER

A future north aquatic center is envisioned to have 2 recreation pools and potentially include elements like splash pads and water play features.

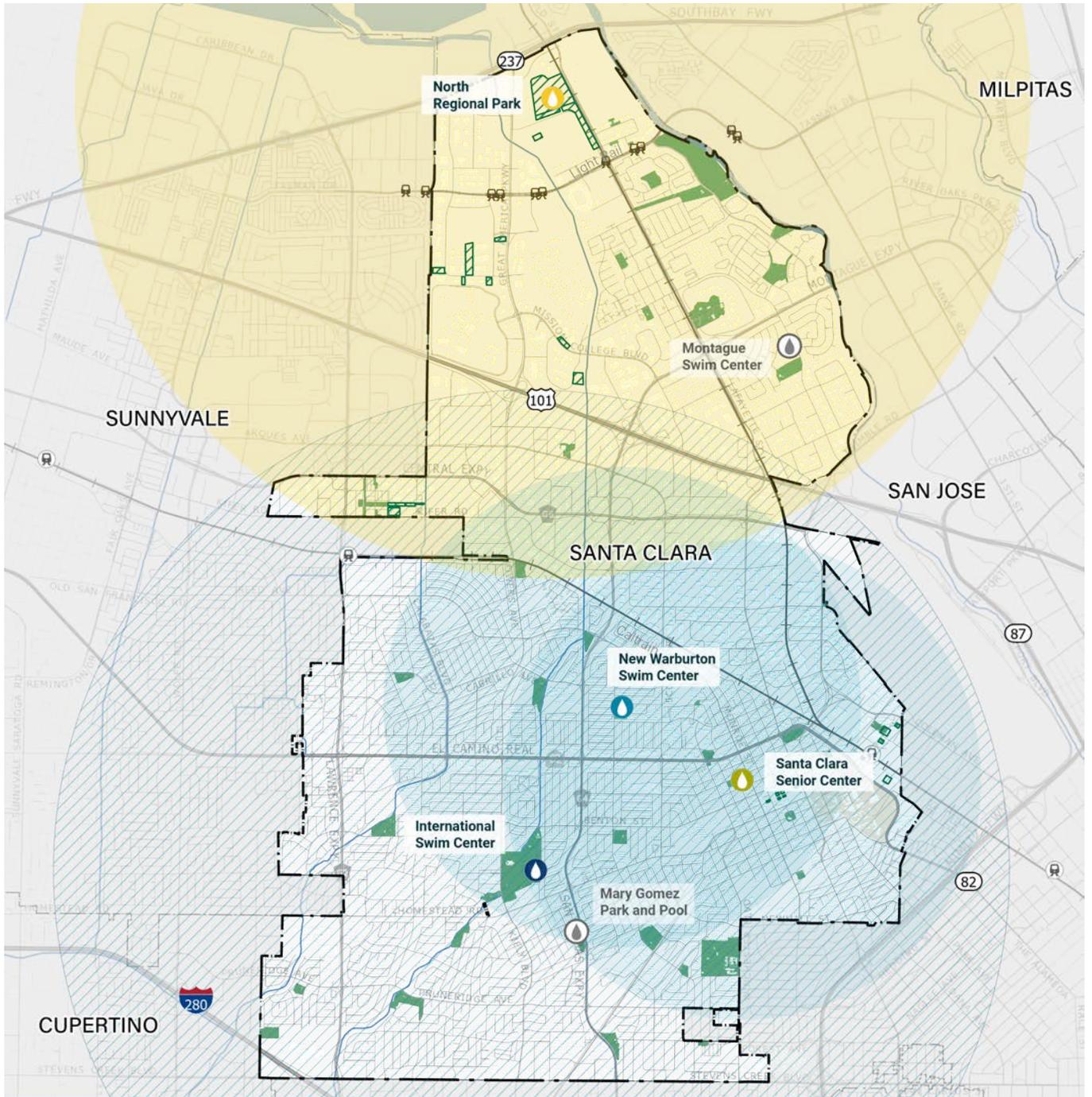
EXISTING SENIOR CENTER POOLS

The Senior Center aquatic facilities would remain as is with any necessary maintenance issues and upgrades addressed.

TABLE 4.3 | Aquatics Level of Service - Proposed

FACILITY TYPE	INVENTORY (2025)	FACILITIES (# OF POOLS)	LEVEL OF SERVICE (2035)	NATIONAL AVERAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE
PROPOSED				
Competitive Pool	3	ISC (3)	1 per 51,608 residents	1 per 110,270 residents
Recreation Pool	5	Future Regional Aquatics Facility (2) Warburton (1) Senior Center (2 + spa)	1 per 38,706 residents	1 per 111,385 residents

FIGURE 4.5 | Proposed Aquatic Center Service Area Map

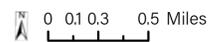


Service Area

- Existing Neighborhood Aquatic Facility (10 min. drive)
- Proposed Regional Aquatics Center (20 min. Drive)
- Existing Regional Aquatics Center(20 min. Drive)

Aquatic Facility

- Existing Regional Aquatic Center
- Proposed Regional Aquatic Center
- Improved Neighborhood Aquatic Facility
- Existing Special Use Pool
- Existing Neighborhood Pool to be Phased Out



4.5 RECREATION PROGRAMMING NEEDS

High quality recreation programs serve all ages and abilities, foster social inclusion, and contribute to physical and mental well-being. They also help define a City's identity, bringing people together through shared activities and experiences. To remain relevant and effective, programming must continually evolve to reflect community needs, preferences, and participation trends. The following recommendations are intended to strengthen the quality, reach, and efficiency of Santa Clara's programming and help deliver high-value offerings that make the most of available resources:

- **Increase Participation:** Through ongoing participation data analysis, create strategies to expand participation from all geographical areas in programs and services offered by the department.
- **Expand Programs:** Expanding programming in areas of greatest unmet need is essential for delivering high-quality services. By prioritizing high-demand offerings and reducing low-interest programs, detailed in **Figure 3.4: Top Priorities for Programs/Activities**, staff can ensure resources are focused where they will have the greatest impact.
- **Program Evaluation Tools:** Pre- and post-program tools should be developed and utilized to evaluate the quality and success of the programs more fully.
- **Time Offerings of Programs:** Survey residents to determine the best time offerings by core program area and adjust time offerings based on the results.
- **Increasing Quality and Value:** Survey current participants to identify why quality and value scores fall below national benchmarks and take action to improve them.
- **Marketing:** Develop a formal marketing program that aligns with how residents would most like to receive information.
- **Partnerships:** Develop and implement a formal partnership policy to guide updates to existing agreements.



A variety of program offerings supports a diverse, changing, and vibrant City. Maintaining and expanding existing, popular programs, and implementing new programs to address resident needs, will help build the Santa Clara community and culture.

4.6 MAINTENANCE & SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance and sustainability are central to a thriving parks system, ensuring safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for all users. Recommendations focus on routine upkeep and proactive strategies to extend the life of parks and facilities while keeping the system resilient and vibrant:

- **Maintenance Management Plan:** Develop a comprehensive plan with clear outcomes and standards for each park, using findings from this plan as a guiding resource.
- **Community-Aligned Work Plans:** Align maintenance activities with both community satisfaction and priority.
- **Asset Management:** Implement an asset management system to track maintenance, prevent breakdowns, and capture actual costs of work performed.
- **Work Order Scheduling:** Use GIS to organize assets by location, type, or age and create preventive, reactive, or inspection tasks.
- **Mapping Tools:** Leverage GIS maps to visualize work orders and interact with asset data efficiently.
- **Data Mobility:** Provide staff with mobile tools to access and update maintenance information in the field.
- **Asset Lifecycle Tracking:** Monitor work performed on any asset throughout its lifecycle, including overdue tasks and contractor assignments.
- **Minimize Unproductive Time:** Analyze worker time for efficiency, including travel and idle time.
- **Equipment Investment:** Invest in new equipment as the park system grows.
- **Cost-Reduction Strategies:** Lower expenditures through volunteer programs and operational partnerships that share costs and responsibilities.
- **Construction Project Oversight:** Hire 2–3 project managers to manage bond-funded and ongoing lifecycle replacement projects.
- **Staffing Evaluation:** Assess hiring and retention practices and implement improvements to strengthen the workforce.



Functional and efficient maintenance equipment and teams ensure that the parks system is robust and thriving over time.

Checklist for Project Success

With numerous projects competing for attention, deciding which initiatives to pursue can be challenging. Without clear criteria, prioritization can seem subjective and inconsistent, making it difficult to allocate resources effectively. The following criteria provides a structured framework to both evaluate and shape projects within the broader vision for Santa Clara's Parks and Recreation system. The same criteria can also be used to drive project definition and design, ensuring that community value is being achieved.

- **Community Priority:** Reflects public interest and community engagement findings.
- **Resolves Deficiency:** Fills gaps in amenities or programs and supports future growth.
- **Equity:** Improves access for underserved populations and across areas.
- **Functionality, Condition & Safety:** Addresses infrastructure issues and enhances operations.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Supports water conservation, biodiversity, or resilience.
- **Operational Efficiency & Sustainability:** Reduces costs, increases cost recovery, and preserves investments.
- **Feasibility:** Considers cost, funding, partnerships, and staff capacity.



MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUND, CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA

Realizing Our Vision



5.1 ACTION PLAN

Given limited staffing and financial resources, the plan’s recommendations are intended to be implemented strategically over the next decade and beyond. **Table 5.1: Action Plan** provides a long-term implementation framework, translating the goals, policies, and improvement recommendations from Chapter 4 into a clear and actionable roadmap that considers both capital investments and ongoing operational needs.

The Action Plan is designed to support informed decision-making by helping the City prioritize projects, align resources with community priorities, and thoughtfully sequence investments over time. It is intended to guide capital improvement programming and annual budgeting efforts, while linking project timing and feasibility to potential funding opportunities.



Earl Carmichael Park is slated for near-term improvements that would enhance park comfort, functionality and condition, and introduce new amenities.

Costs

Table 5.1: Action Plan includes high-level capital and operational cost estimates for each recommended action. These estimates are intended to serve as broad, planning-level guidance to assist the City in evaluating priorities and allocating resources. They are not precise figures and will require refinement through future feasibility studies, design efforts, and detailed cost analysis.

Note: All costs are presented in 2025 dollars. A 3 to 5 percent annual escalation is recommended to account for inflation.

CAPITAL COSTS

Capital investments include improvements to existing parks and facilities, as well as the development of new parks, facilities, and amenities. Understanding these costs is essential to incorporating projects into the City’s capital improvement program and long-term financial planning. Costs associated with planning and design of new parks and park improvements are also included in this category.

Full implementation of the vision outlined in this Master Plan is estimated to require between **\$618 and \$850 million** in total capital investment. Of this amount, approximately **\$194 to \$258 million** is attributable to the acquisition of additional parkland needed to achieve the City’s park acreage level-of-

service goal (see page 78 for additional detail).

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COSTS

In addition to one-time capital investments, the recommendations in this Master Plan will result in ongoing costs associated with continued maintenance, enhanced operations, and expanded programming. Typical maintenance activities include landscape care, irrigation operation and repair, and the upkeep or replacement of park amenities and facilities. Operational costs include implementing programs and events, identifying and securing funding, upgrading City systems, construction management, and overall project coordination.

Based on the recommendations in this plan, full implementation would require an estimated **\$4 to \$7 million in additional annual operations and maintenance funding**. Approximately two-thirds of this cost is associated with the additional staffing needed to support expanded or improved facilities, services, and programs. This equates to an estimated **32 to 55 additional full-time equivalent (FTE)** positions to fully support implementation of the Master Plan over time.

Total Cost of Ownership

Every park and recreation amenity requires not just an initial investment to build, but a reliable stream of funding to keep it safe, attractive, and functional over the long term. True costs extend beyond construction to include lifecycle improvements, routine and preventative maintenance, utilities, and staffing impacts. By considering both direct and indirect expenses, this section helps the City develop a more complete picture of the resources required. The goal is to ensure that financial planning supports a sustainable strategy—one that preserves the community's investment and maintains a high-quality parks and recreation system for generations to come.

CAPITAL
INVESTMENT

+

OPERATIONS
+ MAINTENANCE

+

LIFECYCLE
REPLACEMENTS

=

TOTAL COST OF
OWNERSHIP

Phasing

Implementing this plan requires significant investment. A strategic approach to phasing capital projects ensures that resources are prioritized, allocated efficiently, and applied in a realistic, achievable manner.

Table 5.1: Action Plan assigns each recommendation to one of the following phases:

- Ongoing (spans all phases)
- Short-Term (1-5 years)
- Mid-Term (6-10 years)
- Long Term (11+ years)

Note: Ongoing projects are distributed evenly across all phases.

Phases were determined based on a combination of community need and project feasibility. Recommendations that have the greatest impact on meeting community needs (as identified in Chapters 3 and 4) and are more readily achievable were placed in near-term phases. Projects requiring substantial funding or with slightly lower immediate impact were scheduled for later phases.

Estimated investment by phase:

Short-Term (1-5 years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$185M-260M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$650K-1.2M

Mid-Term (6-10 years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$248M-327M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$1.2M-2.0M

Long Term (11+ years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$185M-263M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$2.2M-4.1M

TABLE 5.1 | Action Plan (1 of 4)

#	RECOMMENDATION	PROJECT TYPE	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COST	PHASE	NOTES
1	PARKS					
1.1	Improve Existing Parks		\$43M-63M	Varies		
1.1.1	Enhance park comfort and functionality by providing adequate comfort amenities, walking loops, and incorporating universal design principles.	Capital Improvement; O&M	See 1.1	Varies	Ongoing	Capital costs for park improvements are aggregated (see line 1.1). Costs are estimated per acre, with assumptions tied to park type and tier within the Park Improvement Strategy (see pp. 102-104). Operational costs are dependent on project specifics. Some improvements may increase operational costs while others may decrease.
1.1.2	Improve the condition and functionality of existing parks in alignment with the Kitchell Report and the Park Improvement Tiers identified in this plan.	Capital Improvement; O&M	See 1.1	Varies	Ongoing	
1.1.3	Provide deficient and high-priority amenities in new parks, existing parks or through joint-use agreements.	Capital Improvement; O&M	See 1.1	Varies	Near/ Mid-Term	

TABLE 5.1 | Action Plan (2 of 4)

#	RECOMMENDATION	PROJECT TYPE	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COST	PHASE	NOTES
1.2	Provide New Parks*		\$359M-499M	\$2M-4M		
1.2.1	Support the development and operation of the parks planned as part of future development.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$30M-40M	\$420K-875K	Ongoing	It is assumed that all 35 acres of parks identified in specific and master plans are delivered.
1.2.2	Establish a clear vision, plan, develop and operate 35-acre new park in north Santa Clara.	Policy/ Planning; Capital Improvement; O&M	\$75M-102M	\$420K-875K	Ongoing	
1.2.3	Obtain land for 86 acres of additional parkland through acquisition, future development, or joint-use agreements, prioritizing park access gaps.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$194M-258M	N/A	Near/ Mid-Term	Costs assume 50% of park acreage would be joint-use.
1.2.4	Develop and operate 86 acres of additional parkland, prioritizing park access gaps.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$60M-99M	\$1M-2M	Long-Term	
2	RECREATION FACILITIES					
2.1	Enhance Existing Indoor Facilities		\$63M-85M	Varies		
2.1.1	Remodel/expand Community Recreation Center, and operate.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$38M-53M	Varies	Mid/ Long-Term	Operational costs are dependent to project specifics. Some improvements may increase operational costs while others may decrease.
2.1.2	Remodel Senior Center, and operate.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$25M-32M	Varies	Mid-Term	
2.1.3	Remodel Youth & Teen Center, and operate.	Capital Improvement; O&M	N/A	Varies	Mid/ Long-Term	
2.2	Provide New Indoor Facilities		\$89M-107M	\$1.6M-2.3M		
2.2.1	Construct and operate proposed north Santa Clara Library/Recreation Center.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$36M-40M	\$540K-760K	Mid/ Long-Term	Assumes capital costs will be covered by the developer.
2.2.2	Construct and operate proposed recreation center with gymnasium.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$53M-67M	\$1M-1.5M	Mid/ Long-Term	
2.2.3	Seek opportunities for additional indoor recreation access through partnerships.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Ongoing	

*See Section 4.2: Park & Open Space Needs on page 78 for details on park acreage needs.

TABLE 5.1 | Action Plan (3 of 4)

#	RECOMMENDATION	PROJECT TYPE	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COST	PHASE	NOTES
3 AQUATICS						
3.1	Sustainable Aquatic Facilities		\$25M-46M	Varies		
3.1.1	Complete planned ISC improvements and operate.	Capital Improvement; O&M	\$25M-45M	Varies	Near-Term	Operational costs are dependent to project specifics. Some improvements may increase costs while others may decrease.
3.1.2	Evaluate existing facilities and community need and develop aquatics strategy for the future.	Planning/ Policy	\$350K-500K	\$0	Near-Term	Consultant fees for strategy development are represented under Capital Costs.
4 PATHS & TRAILS						
4.1	Connected Trail System		\$39M-50M	\$27K-54K		
4.1.1	Develop and operate planned Citywide trail network.	Capital Improvement	\$35M-45M	\$27K-54K	Ongoing	Capital costs are based on the Creek Trail Master Plan.
4.1.2	Implement safe crossings and traffic calming.	Capital Improvement	\$4M-5M	\$0	Near/ Mid-Term	
5 OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION						
5.1	Habitat & Conservation		See 1.1	Varies		
5.1.1	Conserve water and enhance habitat in parks through use of native plantings in non-active areas and efficient irrigation systems.	Capital Improvement	See 1.1	Varies	Near-Term	Capital costs for park improvements are aggregated (see line 1.1). Operational costs are dependent to project specifics. Some improvements may increase costs while others may decrease.
5.1.2	Integrate green infrastructure in park and facility design.	Capital Improvement	See 1.1	Varies	Ongoing	
5.2	Tree Canopy		\$200K-400K	Varies		
5.2.1	Conduct a Tree Master Plan and Inventory.	Planning/ Policy	\$200K-400K	\$0	Near-Term	Consultant fees for plan development are represented under Capital Costs.
5.2.2	Plant trees to provide shade, while replacing aging or structurally compromised trees 2:1.	Capital Improvement	See 1.1	Varies	Ongoing	Capital costs for park improvements are aggregated (see line 1.1). Operational costs are dependent on project specifics.

TABLE 5.1 | Action Plan (4 of 4)

#	RECOMMENDATION	PROJECT TYPE	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COST	PHASE	NOTES
6	MAINTENANCE & AGING INFRASTRUCTURE					
6.1	Sustainable Funding		\$0	\$15K-25K		
6.1.1	Reevaluate and establish sustainable funding sources for maintenance, operations, and lifecycle improvements.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-\$25K	Near-Term	
6.2	Improved Maintenance Practices		\$50K-75K	\$415K-625K		
6.2.1	Develop a Maintenance Management Plan.	Planning/ Policy; O&M	\$50K-75K	\$0	Near-Term	Consultant fees for plan development are represented under Capital Costs.
6.2.2	Implement an Asset Management System.	Planning/ Policy; O&M	\$0	\$200K-300K	Near-Term	
6.2.3	Provide adequate staffing dedicated to construction management.	Planning/ Policy; O&M	\$0	\$200K-300K	Ongoing	
6.2.4	Evaluate parks annually through a customer service satisfaction tool.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Ongoing	
7	PROGRAMS & EVENTS					
7.1	New Programs & Events to Meet Needs			\$80K-240K		
7.1.1	Implement high-priority program needs (fitness and wellness, outdoor recreation, water fitness/swim lessons).	Programs/ Events	\$0	\$50K-120K	Near/ Mid-Term	
7.1.2	Activate parks and facilities through new special events based on community interest.	Programs/ Events	\$0	\$30K-120K	Ongoing	
7.2	Ensure Existing Programs Meet Needs			\$60K-100K		
7.2.1	Analyze program and event participation data and develop strategies to expand engagement Citywide.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Near-Term	
7.2.2	Evaluate schedule and timing of programs to meet resident needs.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Near-Term	
7.2.3	Analyze program use fees to ensure they are consistent with the City's cost recovery policy.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Ongoing	
7.2.4	Develop community partnerships to support programs & events.	Planning/ Policy	\$0	\$15K-25K	Ongoing	
Total			\$618M - 850M	\$4M - 7M		

5.2 FUNDING

Delivering the Master Plan vision will require significant investment and a diverse set of funding strategies. In November 2024, Santa Clara approved an infrastructure bond providing \$115 million for parks, recreation, and libraries. This represents a major step forward, but additional resources will be needed to fully address community needs. This chapter first outlines Santa Clara’s current funding practices, then highlights additional funding opportunities that can help sustain long-term investment.

Current Funding Mechanisms and Sources

Santa Clara relies on a mix of local revenues, external grants, and one-time contributions to fund parks and recreation. Key sources include:

General Fund: The General Fund—which brings together a variety of funding sources—is the primary mechanism that supports park operations and maintenance.

Quimby Act Fees: The Quimby Act requires developers of new residential subdivisions to provide recreation value through land dedication, in-lieu fees, or a combination of both. The contribution amount is based on the number of new residents (and therefore greater need for parkland) generated from the development. Revenues must be used to acquire, develop, or improve park and recreation facilities.

Park Mitigation Fee Act (MFA): Like the Quimby Act, the Park Mitigation Fee Act allows municipalities to collect revenue to fund parks and recreation facilities. MFA fees are established through a nexus study that establishes a reasonable relationship between new development—not just residential subdivisions—and the need for additional park resources. The MFA applies to a wider range of development types and allows municipalities greater revenue to support the recreation needs of future populations.

Capital Projects Reserve: Federal, state, county, and private sources have funded ADA compliance, playground upgrades, greening, and facility rehabilitation. Examples include CDBG, County Inclusive Playground Grants, and Urban Greening programs.

Bonds: The City’s voter-approved infrastructure bond, Measure I, is backed by property tax, and is used for large-scale acquisition or capital improvements.

Grants and Donations: External funds—federal, state, county, and private—support projects such as ADA compliance, playground safety, greening, and facility rehabilitation. Examples include Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Santa Clara County Inclusive Playground Grants, and state programs like Urban Greening.

In addition, special one-time sources have provided critical support—for example, a \$5 million developer agreement funded Phase I of Future North Park, while a partnership with Silicon Valley Power (SVP) supplied solar panels during the Parks Service Center roof replacement.

Funding Sources

Meeting the capital needs of the Master Plan will require a layered funding approach that leverages federal, state, regional, and local resources. Many of these sources are used today; others may be explored in the years ahead. Key opportunities include:

TAX SUPPORT

- **Property Taxes:** Ad valorem taxes on real property.
- **Sales or Hospitality Taxes:** Dedicated portions of sales tax, hotel/motel, or restaurant taxes for parks and recreation.
- **Special Districts:** Improvement Districts or Community Facilities Districts (Mello-Roos) can fund capital and maintenance in growth areas.

CAPITAL FEES

- **Parkland Dedication and Impact Fees (Quimby Act and Mitigation Fee Act):** Local development-based funding source requiring land dedication or in-lieu fees.

2024 Infrastructure Bond

In November 2024, Santa Clarans approved an infrastructure bond providing over \$115 million for parks, libraries, the Senior Center, and aquatic facilities. These funds are critical for key improvements, including:

- Aquatics Facility Renovation(s) (including the ISC)
- Aged Park Infrastructure
- Senior Center Renovation
- Park Renovations at Bowers, Earl Carmichael, Warburton, Henry Schmidt, and Mary Gomez
- Additional Pickleball Courts



International Swim Center

GRANTS

There are many federal, state, regional, and local grant programs that support parks and recreation. However, pursuing grants—writing and managing the process—takes significant staff time. The list below highlights key opportunities most relevant to Santa Clara, with details on eligibility, funding levels, and match requirements. Funding opportunities will change during the course of the planning period.

Federal Programs

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Supports acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas. Requires a 50% local match; awards typically range from \$1–6 million. Biennial funding cycles.
- **USDOT Safe Streets for All (SS4A):** Supports roadway safety planning and implementation. Requires a 10–20% local match depending on project type. Annual funding cycles.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, HUD):** Provides annual entitlement funding for public facility improvements and planning benefiting low- and moderate-income populations. No match required.

State Programs

- **California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grants:** Funds projects like tree planting, shade, pathways, and stormwater improvements. No match required, though leveraged funds improve applications. Cycles open every 2–3 years.

- **Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP):** Funds trails, crossings, and active transportation projects. Requires a 10% local match. Biennial cycles.
- **California Recreational Trails Program:** Supports trail construction and rehabilitation, covering up to 88% of costs. Requires ~12% local match. Annual or biennial cycles.
- **CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants:** Supports tree inventories, master plans, and canopy projects. Match requirements vary. Cycles tied to state bond allocations.
- **California ReLeaf Grants:** Funds community-based urban forestry projects. Requirements vary by grant type; cycles offered periodically.

Regional & County Opportunities

- **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Urban Grant Program:** Supports trails, park development, greening, and environmental education. Flexible match requirements; offered every 2–3 years.
- **Santa Clara County All-Inclusive Playground Grants:** Funds playgrounds designed to universal standards. No set match requirement, though local contributions strengthen applications. Offered as funds become available.
- **VTA Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian Program:** Supports countywide bike and pedestrian projects. Match requirements vary; cycles offered periodically.

Local Utilities & Rebates

- **Silicon Valley Power (SVP) Rebates and Incentives:** Provides rebates for energy efficiency and electrification projects. No match required; available year-round while funds last.
- **Valley Water Rebate and Grant Programs:** Provides rebates for water efficiency retrofits and stewardship grants. No match required; rolling applications with annual budget allocations.

USER FEES

User fees are a key component of the City's Cost Recovery Policy (highlighted on pages 45 and 76, and supported with recommendation 7.2.3 in the Action Plan on page 123). Currently user fees are funneled into the general fund. Ensuring these fees are set aside for recreation facility, amenity, and program development and improvement would help support the park system and its sustainability.

- **Recreation Service Fees:** Dedicated user fees paid by facility users, such as sports leagues and special interested classes, to help contribute toward the upkeep or construction of the facility.
- **Ticket Sales/Admissions:** Fees for self-directed activities such as pools, ice skating rinks, ballparks, and entertainment facilities.
- **Special Use Permits:** Charges for permits that allow individuals to use park property for financial gain. The City either receives a set amount or percentage of total revenue generated.

- **Reservations:** Fees allowing users to reserve specific public facilities for a set amount of time, including group picnic shelters, meeting rooms, etc.
- **Equipment Rental:** Fees from rental of equipment such as tables, chairs, tents, stages, sports equipment, roller blades, watercraft, etc.

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Corporate Sponsorships:** Allows corporations to invest in new or existing recreation facilities, programs or events.
- **Partnerships & Interlocal Agreements:** Joint funding effort in partnership with separate agencies, including government entities, non-profits, or private businesses. Based on a negotiated agreement, partners often share the asset, along with their associated operational and maintenance costs and responsibilities.
- **Private Donations & Friends Groups:** Funds, land, or in-kind services via campaigns or endowments.
- **Volunteerism:** Donation of time to assist the department in providing a service.

FRANCHISES & LICENSES

- **Naming Rights:** Sale of naming rights for new or renovated facilities.
- **Utility Easements:** Leasing rights for utility companies to develop above- or below-ground infrastructure on parkland

Funding Alignment Matrix

Table 5.2 maps key Master Plan recommendations to the most relevant funding sources. This alignment illustrates how Santa Clara can maximize existing tools while strategically pursuing new opportunities. Some key observations follow.

Built-in Alignment: Many recommendations can be delivered through existing streams (developer fees, CDBG, utility rebates).

Bond Leverage: Measure I (2024) provides bond capacity for large-scale park and aquatic projects.

Stable Entitlement: CDBG continues to offer a dependable stream for smaller, high-impact projects.

Utility Incentives: SVP and Valley Water rebates can be embedded into facility design to offset costs.

Developer Leverage: Future development agreements present opportunities for major land dedications or direct contributions.

TABLE 5.2 | Funding Sources for Key Capital Improvements

PROJECT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDATION	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Improve Existing Parks	Add/improve restrooms, seating, shade, walking loops, and universal design features (per Kitchell Report and Park Improvement Tiers)	Mitigation Fee Act & Quimby; 2024 bond funds; General Fund Capital Projects Reserve (safety/ADA); County Inclusive Playground Grants (supplemental); SVP & Valley Water rebates (lighting, irrigation)
Provide New Parks	Plan and develop the 35-acre new park in north Santa Clara	Developer contributions; LWCF; Parkland in-lieu fees; General Fund Capital Projects Reserve (match)
	Acquire 86 acres of additional parkland	Joint-Use Agreements; Parkland in-lieu fees; Open Space Authority Urban Grants; LWCF; developer agreements
	Develop and operate 86 acres of additional parkland	Quimby/MFA; Joint-Use Agreement; Mello-Roos (operations/maintenance); Urban Greening
Enhance Indoor Facilities	Remodel/expand Community Recreation Center	CDBG entitlement; SVP rebates (HVAC/lighting); Valley Water rebates (fixtures); General Fund reserve (ADA)
	Remodel Senior Center	CDBG entitlement; SVP rebates; Valley Water rebates; General Fund reserve
	Remodel Youth & Teen Center	CDBG entitlement; SVP rebates; Valley Water rebates; General Fund reserve
Provide New Indoor Facilities	Construct new north Santa Clara Library/ Recreation Center	Mello-Roos; GO bonds (large-scale facility funding, Measure I precedent); CDBG entitlement
	Construct new recreation center with gymnasium	Mello-Roos; GO bonds (large-scale facility funding, Measure I precedent); CDBG entitlement
Sustainable Aquatic Facilities	Complete ISC improvements (design and construction)	2024 bond funds; SVP rebates (pool pumps, HVAC); Valley Water rebates (conservation)
	Evaluate facilities and develop aquatics strategy	2024 bond funds; CDBG planning funds; General Fund Capital Projects Reserve; Valley Water mini-grants
Connected Trail System	Develop Citywide trail network	Active Transportation Program (10% match); Recreational Trails Program (12% match); VTA Measure B; Parkland fees
	Implement safe crossings and traffic calming	SS4A (10–20% match); VTA Measure B
Tree Canopy	Design and implement Tree Master Plan and Inventory.	CAL FIRE Urban Forestry grants; California ReLeaf; Urban Greening; General Fund Reserve (inventory software).

5.3 CALL TO ACTION

The Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a road map for enhancing, expanding, and sustaining our community's parks and recreation assets. It outlines strategies for prioritization, maintenance, staffing, and funding to ensure these spaces meet the needs of all residents.

Bringing this vision to life will require the collaboration of City staff, elected officials, and community members alike. By making smart investments now, Santa Clara can ensure that current and future residents have access to safe, welcoming, and high-quality parks and recreation opportunities.

Together, we can create a thriving, vibrant parks and recreation system for the future!







ULISTAC NATURAL AREA & GUADALUPE RIVER TRAIL | SANTA CLARA, CA

Appendices





SANTA CLARA PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

MARCH 2026



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The **Parks & Recreation Master Plan** is presented to the Commission to:

- Review the proposed **standards and long-term goals**;
- Consider whether the Plan appropriately **reflects community priorities and system needs**;
- Adopt a resolution recommending that the **City Council** approve the Plan.



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REALIZING OUR VISION



CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA

Introduction & Executive Summary



WHY A PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN?

- This Master Plan presents a comprehensive, **long-term vision** for the City's park, recreation and open space network.
- It will serve as a tool for:
 - Understanding **community need**
 - Setting **priorities**
 - Directing **funding resources**



THE PROCESS

- The planning effort launched in Fall 2023 and progressed through five key phases.
- Community members gave feedback at community engagement events around Santa Clara and online throughout the process—in total over 1,800 Santa Clarans were engaged!

5

POP UPS

3

SURVEYS

1,800 +
PEOPLE ENGAGED!

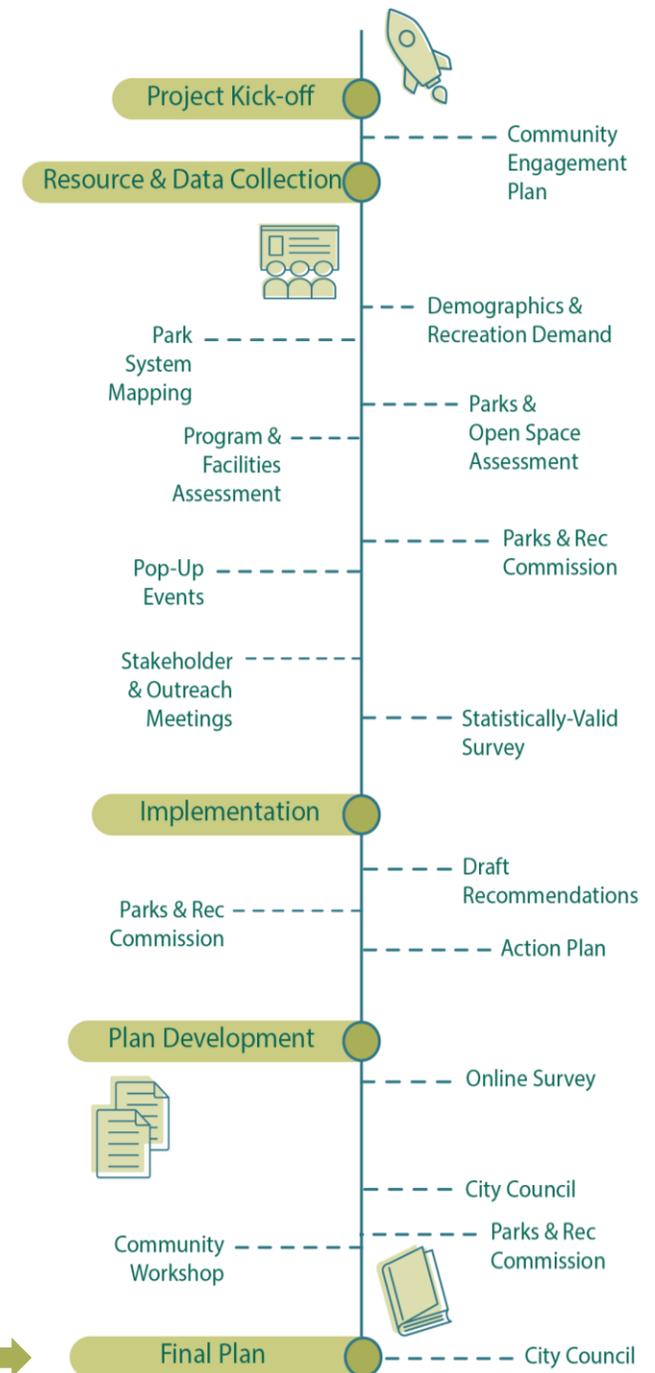
5

FOCUS GROUPS

1

WORKSHOP

WE ARE HERE! →





CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA

Santa Clara Today

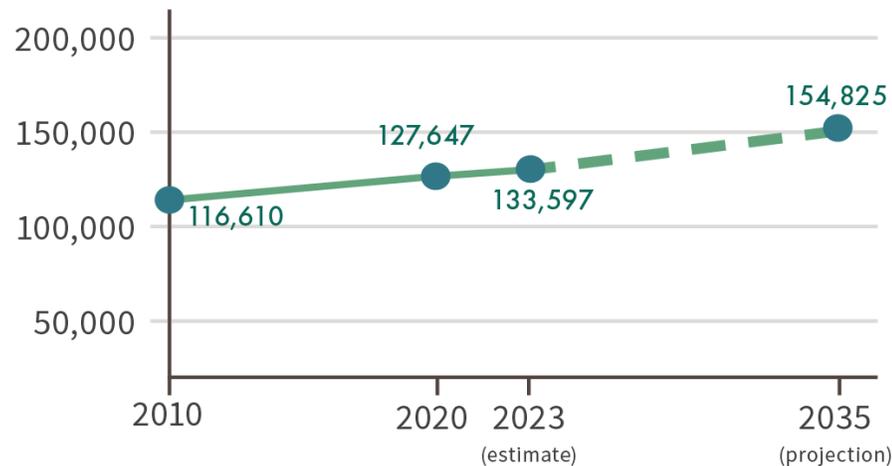


DEMOGRAPHICS

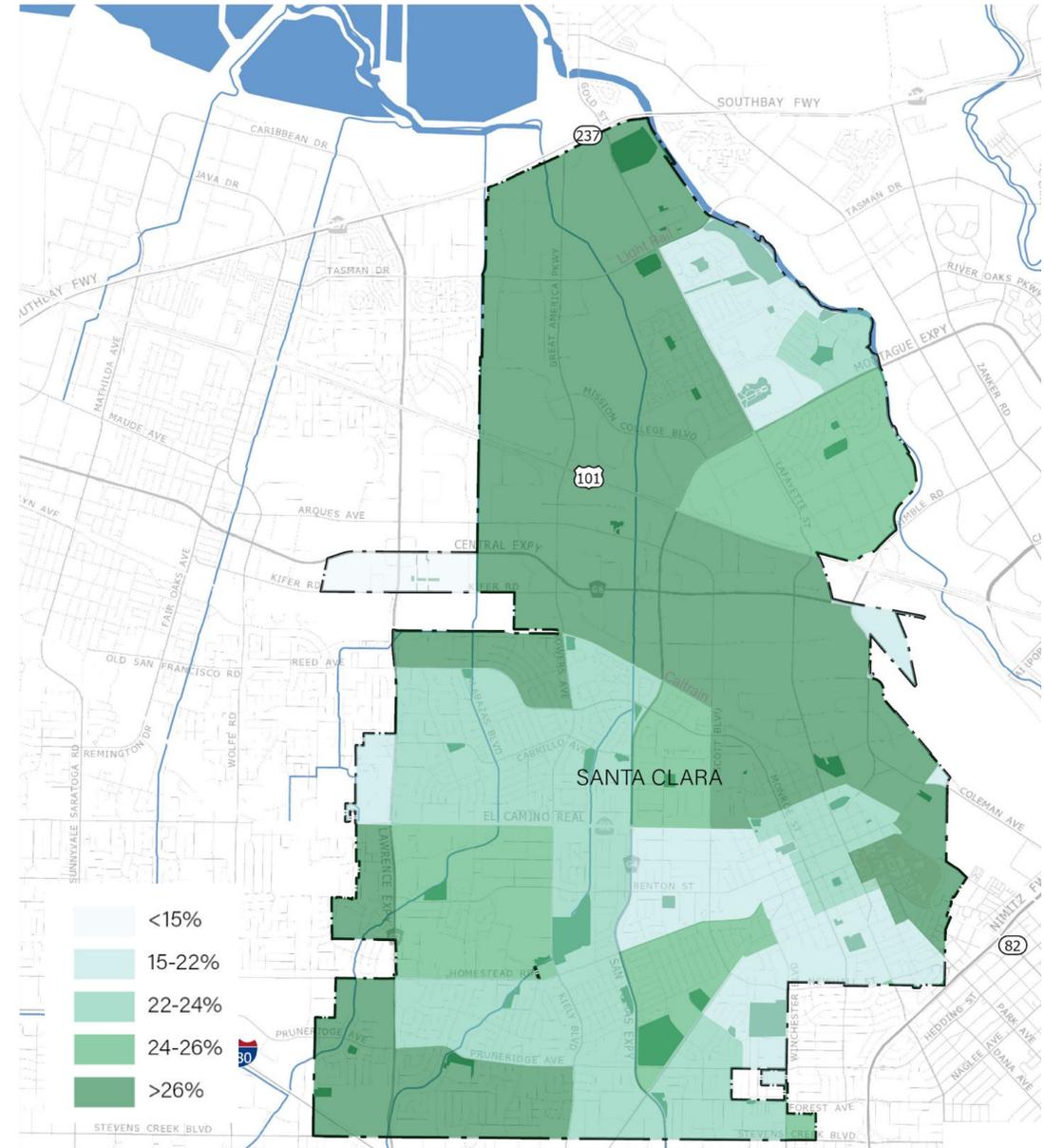
- **Population growth heightens the need for strategic investment** in parks and recreation so facilities keep pace with evolving community needs.
- **Santa Clara's population is aging modestly**, mirroring national trends, with age distribution expected to remain largely stable over the next 15 years.
- **Santa Clara has grown significantly more diverse**, with the Asian population now the largest racial group at 49%.

FIGURE 2.1 | Population Growth

Source: US Census 2010, US Census 2020, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) 2023



Percent Youth (<18) Population



SANTA CLARA'S PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM

308

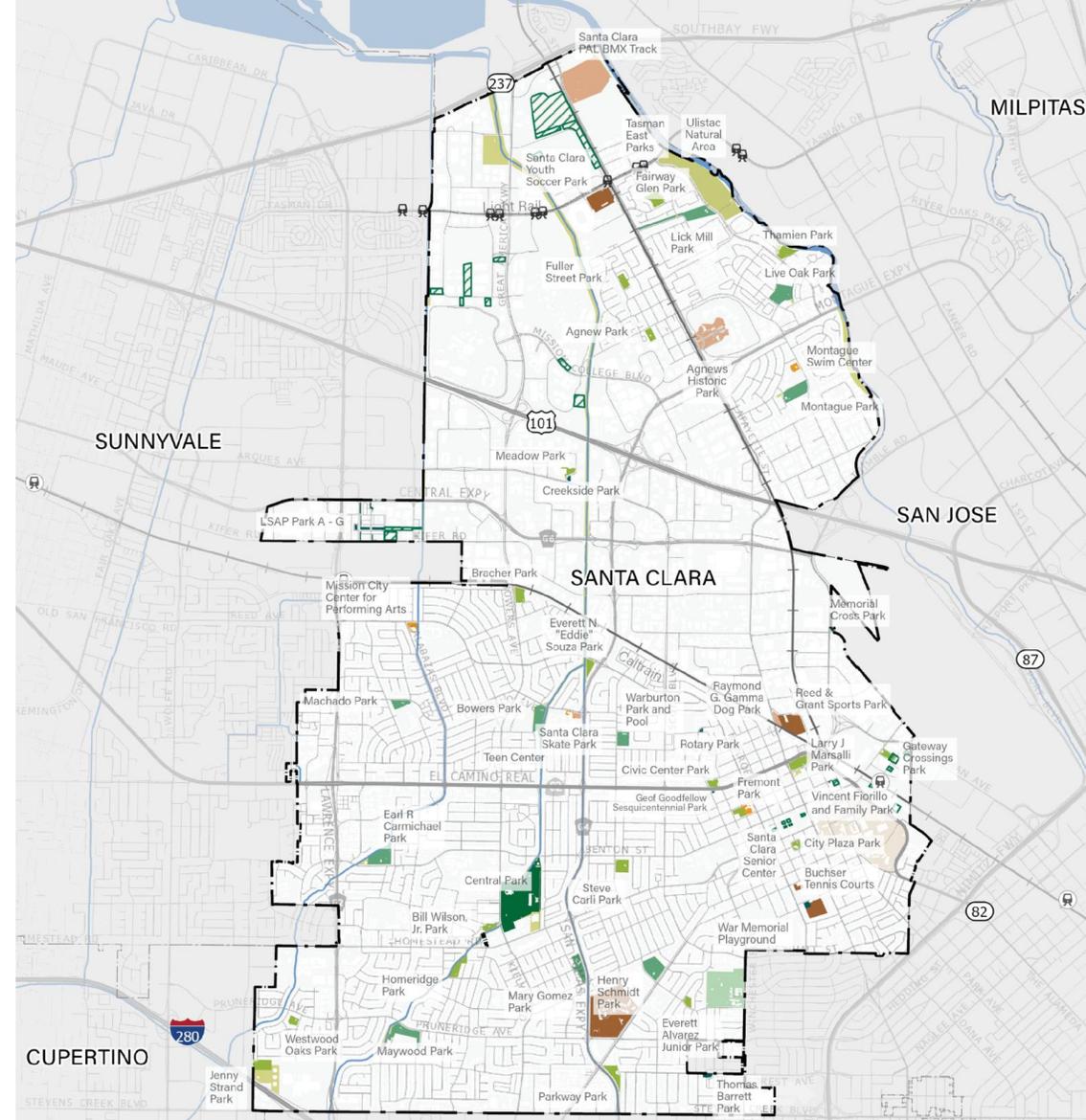
Acres of Parkland

5

Community Centers

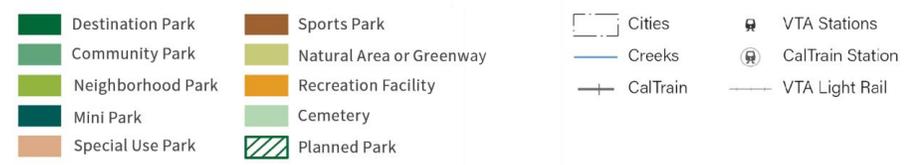
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Regional Trail Corridors



Source: City of Santa Clara and WRT, 2024

0 0.1 0.3 0.5 Miles



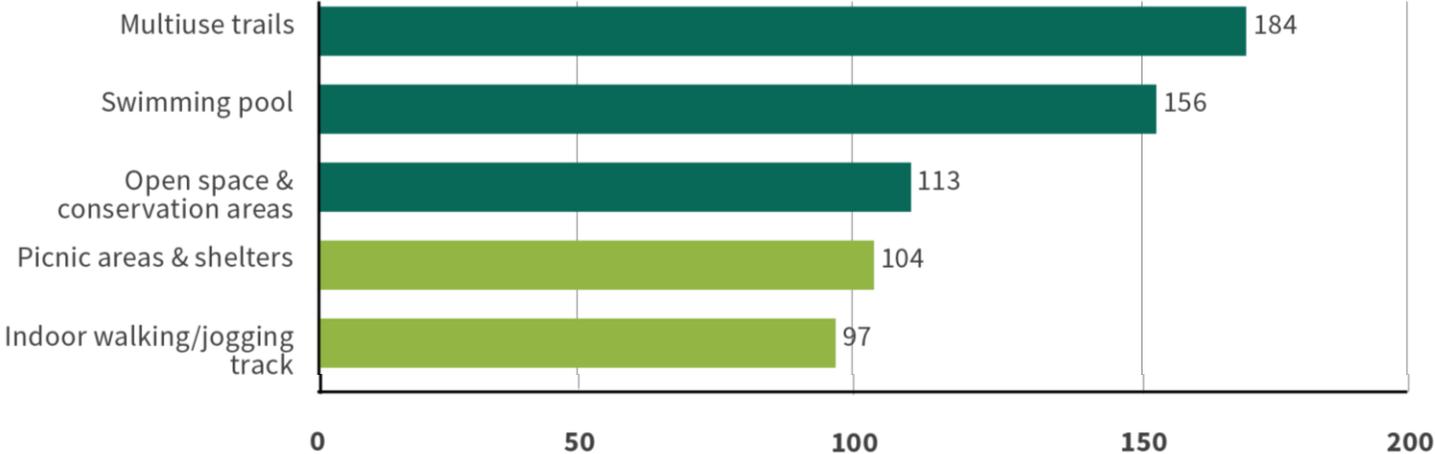


Vision & Priorities



RECREATION PRIORITIES

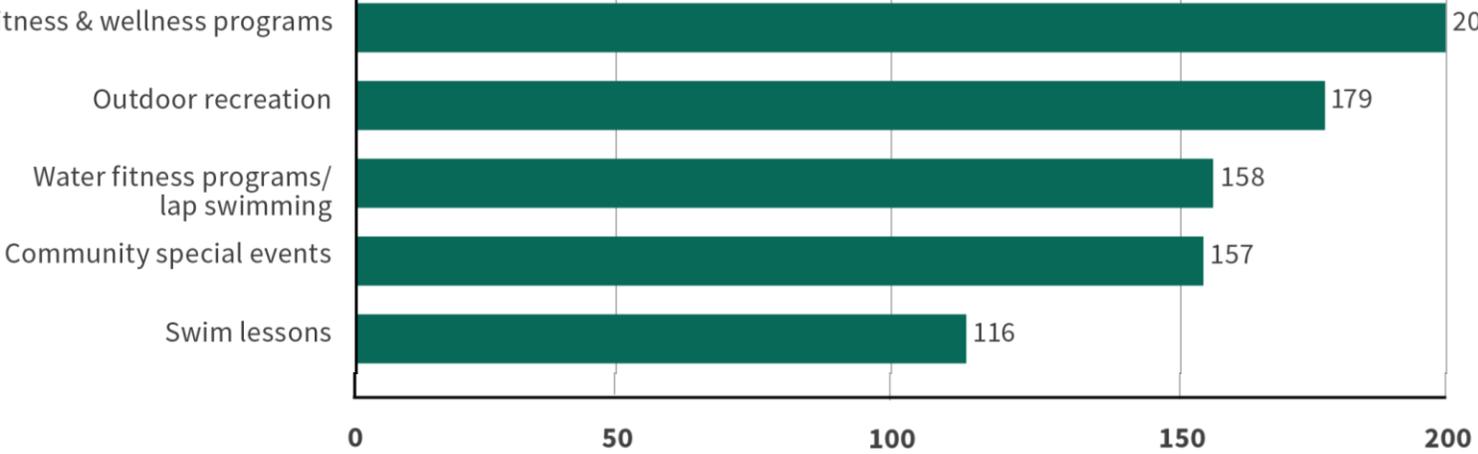
Top 5 Priorities for Facilities/Amenities



PRIORITY INVESTMENT RANKING = IMPORTANCE + UNMET NEED

- HIGH PRIORITY (110+)
- MEDIUM PRIORITY (70-109)
- LOW PRIORITY (69 or less)

Top 5 Priorities for Programs/Activities



Note: These tables are showing the top five priorities for each category. See plan for full lists.

GUIDING THEMES



PATHS & TRAILS

Walking and other forms of exercise are fundamental recreational activities in Santa Clara. **Walking loops within parks** and **connected trail systems** are key priorities.



MAINTENANCE & AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Funding for maintenance and **lifecycle improvements** or replacements has not kept up with needs and has led to deteriorating park and facility conditions.



AQUATICS

Aquatic facilities, water fitness, swimming lessons, and **aquatics programs** and programs are **high priorities** for community members. Aging infrastructure and design limitations create aquatic program challenges.



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Fitness and wellness programs, **outdoor recreation** programs, and programs **servicing all community members,** are top priorities.



INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

An **indoor track, a community center, indoor basketball courts, and indoor volleyball courts** all ranked relatively high on the survey. An indoor sports/gymnasium facility could address this demand.



SPORTS COURTS

Additional outdoor sport court facilities, particularly **multiuse** and **pickleball** courts, are highly desired.



OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION AREAS

Green spaces and **conservation areas** are important to the community. Parks and open spaces can provide **recreation, health and wellness** opportunities, and **environmental benefits.**



PARK COMFORT

Well-maintained **restrooms, trees, shade, seating, and picnic areas** will make parks more comfortable and desirable for the community.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Residents place a high value on **community events** that highlight Santa Clara park **spaces, culture, and unique character.**



CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA

Goals, Objectives & Recommendations



OUR GOALS



Provide **parkland** to meet community needs and ensure that existing and new parks provide recreational value and are inclusive, safe, and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.



Provide **indoor recreation facilities** to meet current and future community recreation needs.



Improve functionality of **aquatic facilities** to meet community demand and increase accessibility.



Create **paths and trails** to enhance connectivity to existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, while supporting recreational walking opportunities.



Incorporate **environmental resiliency** into all parks and green spaces with native and climate-ready plants, conservation, and other similar strategies to maximize ecological benefits.



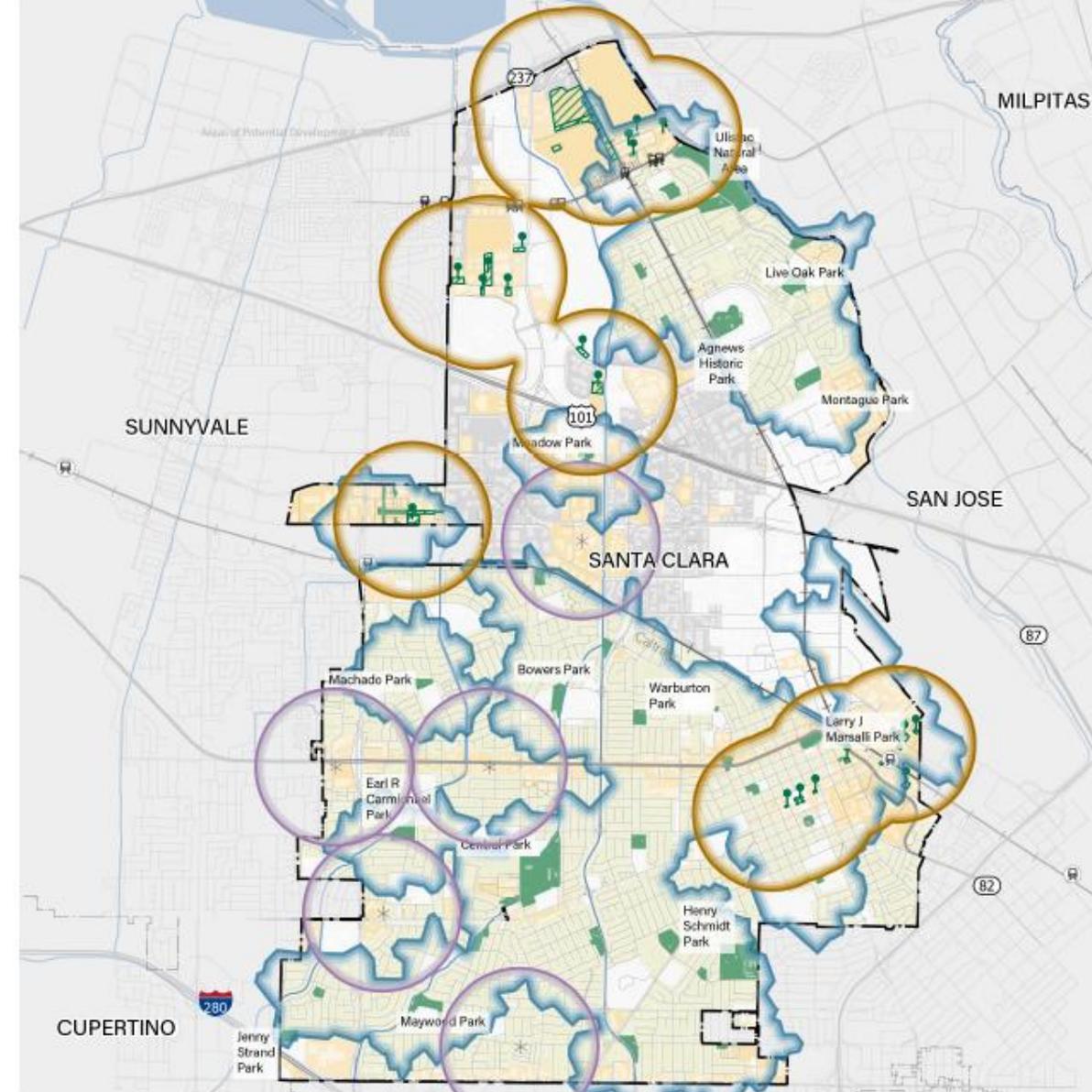
Maintain parks and recreation facilities by implementing capital improvement and replacement programs, best management practices, safety and accessibility standards, and adequate staffing and funding.



Provide offerings for all ages and abilities and address unmet **program and event** needs.

PARK ACCESS

- **Access gaps:** Several neighborhoods lack parks within a **10-minute walk**, particularly in older areas and growth corridors.
- **Planned Parks & Partnership:** Combining planned parks and partnership with the school districts and/or HOAs sites can significantly improve access.



Source: City of Santa Clara, General Plan, Specific Plans



PARK ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

- **Current LOS: 2.3 acres/1,000 residents**
- **LOS goal: 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents**, resulting in a projected **86-acre shortfall by 2035**. This goal was developed in response to following key factors:
 - **Meeting community access and amenity needs:** Adding new park acreage in underserved areas of Santa Clara would improve access and contribute to an increased level of service.
 - **Lower provision compared to peer communities:** The current LOS of 2.3 acres per 1,000 residents is generally lower than national and local metrics, though direct comparisons are challenging.
 - **Opportunities for Joint-Use:** Incorporating school sites as joint-use facilities could provide **up to 152 acres**, which would exceed the acreage needed to achieve 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents.

TOTAL PARK & OPEN SPACE ACRES (CITY & OTHERS)	EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE (ACRES/1000 RESIDENTS)	LEVEL OF SERVICE GOAL (ACRES/1000 RESIDENTS)	2035 ACREAGE NEEDED (PARK OR JOINT-USE)	PLANNED ACRES (AS PART OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT)	ADDITIONAL ACRES NEEDED (IN ADDITION TO PLANNED ACRES)	EXISTING SCHOOL ACRES (GROUNDS WITH POTENTIAL FOR JOINT-USE)
308.3*	2.3	3.0	156.2	70.2	86.0	152

PARK AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

RECREATION AMENITY	CITY INVENTORY	CURRENT LOS <i>(pop. / amenity)</i>	NATIONAL AVERAGE LOS ¹ <i>(pop. / amenity)</i>	PRIORITY INVEST RATING ²	SERVICE STANDARD <i>(pop. / amenity)</i>	ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED IN 2035	SCHOOL SITES INVENTORY
Diamond Field	6	22,822	6,821	Low	13,500	5	15
Multiuse Field	15	9,120	18,595	Low	9,000	2	19
Cricket Field	0	0	NA	Medium	10,000	2	2
Basketball Court	19	7,207	9,742	Low	100,000	0	16
Pickleball Court	6	22,822	19,882	Medium	8,500	12	0
Dedicated Tennis Court	35	3,912	8,587	Low	4,000	3	22
Dog Park	7	19,561	76,509	Medium	20,000	1	0
Splash Pad	0	0	61,418	Low	75,000	2	0
Playground	33	4,149	5,000	Low	4,250	2	14
Reservable Picnic Area	9	15,215	NA	Medium	9,000	8	0

¹ For agencies serving communities of between 100,000 and 250,000 residents. Source: National Recreation and Park Association, 2024.

² Based on Statistically-Valid Survey conducted for Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Master Plan, 2024

PARK TYPE STANDARDS

PARK TYPE	ACTIVE-USE AMENITY	SPECIAL RECREATION AMENITY	PLAYGROUND	WALKING LOOP	OPEN LAWN	PICNIC AREAS	COMFORT AMENITIES	RESTROOM	ON-SITE PARKING
DESTINATION PARKS Acres: 20+ acres Use Duration: 1 to 4 hours	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
COMMUNITY PARKS Acres: 5 to 20 acres Use Duration: 1 to 3 hours	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS Acres: 1 to 5 acres Use Duration: 1 to 2 hours	•		•	•	•	•	•		
MINI PARKS & PLAZAS Acres: 0.5 to 1 acre Use Duration: 30 minutes to 1 hour			•				•		
SPECIAL USE PARKS Acres: Variable Use Duration: Variable		•					•		•
SPORTS PARKS Acres: 10 to 55 acres Use Duration: 1 to 4 hours	•			•			•	•	•
NATURAL AREAS & GREENWAYS Acres: 20+ acres Use Duration: 30 minutes to 3 hours							•		

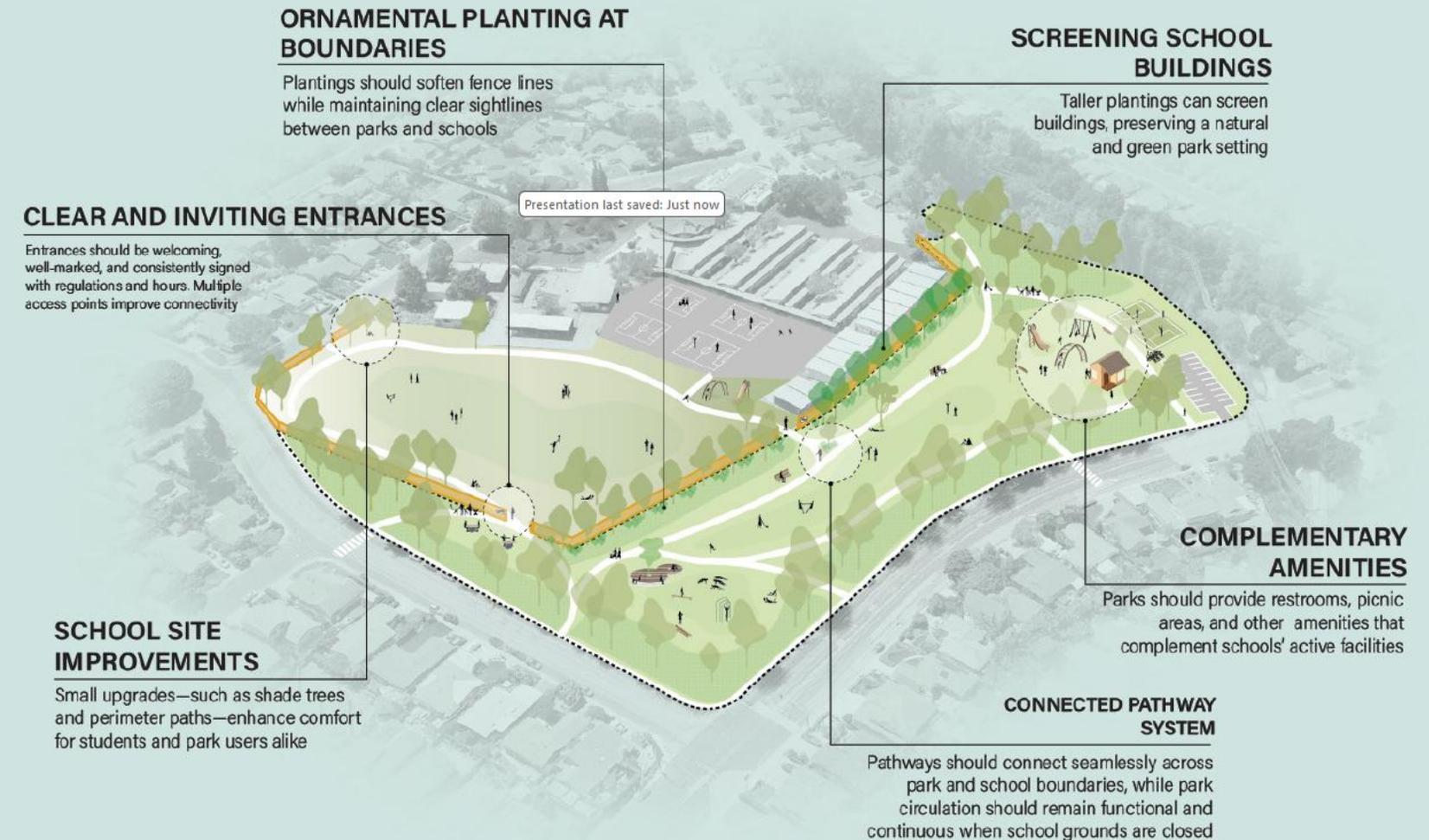
• = Required

SCHOOLS & JOINT-USE SITES

School grounds are a key opportunity to meet the recreational needs in Santa Clara.

- Joint use of **~152 acres of school grounds**—fields, courts, and play areas—expands recreation without acquiring new land.
- Clear access, fencing, and hours—paired with good site design and amenities—create **welcoming and functional joint-use sites**.

FIGURE 4.4 | Design Guidelines for Successful Park-School Adjacency



IDENTIFIED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Complete park **walking loops**
- **Repurpose underused areas** for needed recreation amenities
- Additional **seating, restrooms, trash receptacles,** and **shade**
- Improved informational, educational, and wayfinding **signage**
- Additional or more diverse **vegetation and plantings**
- **Screening** from major streets or noise-producing uses
- Improved vehicular and bicycle **parking**



INDOOR FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Facilities

- Santa Clara has **5 key indoor recreation facilities** (see table).
- There are also **9 smaller reservable park buildings** (with one additional planned) that help meet facility needs;

Indoor Facility Needs

- In 2025, Santa Clara had **0.67 square feet of indoor recreation facilities per resident**, which is slightly below the national average of 0.75 SF.
- **Indoor track, community center, and indoor basketball/volleyball courts** all ranked as high priorities in the statistically valid survey.
- Many **existing facilities** have aged infrastructure and need **repair and refurbishment**.

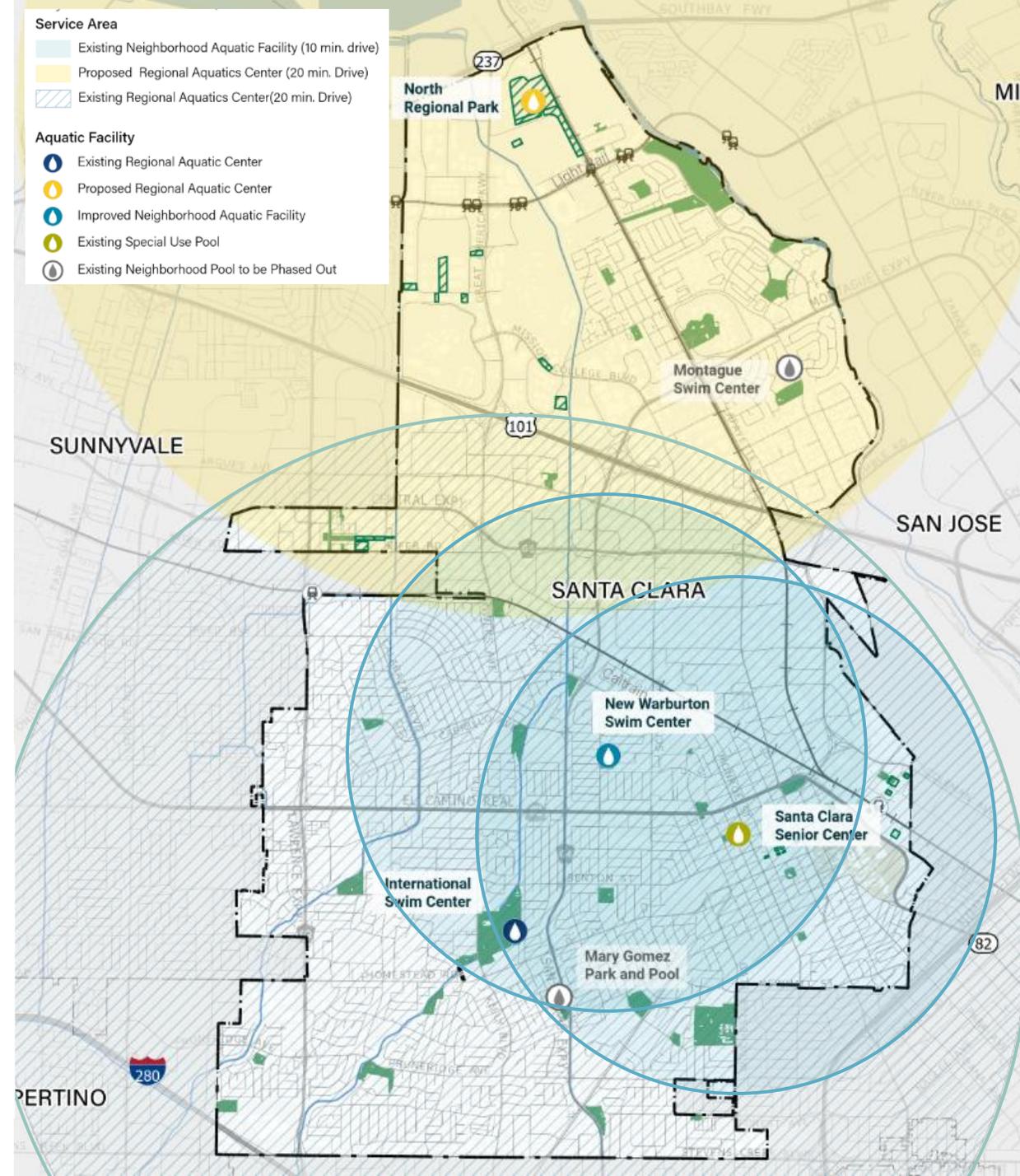
Recommendations for Key Indoor Facilities

EXISTING FACILITIES	EXISTING SQ FT	ADDED SQ FT	REMODEL	EXPAND	NEW
Community/Recreation Center	29,630	10,000	✓	✓	
Reed & Grant Facility	3,800	-			
Youth Soccer Park	7,000	-	✓		
Senior Center	45,000	-	✓		
Total SQ FT	85,430	10,000			
EXISTING SPECIAL USE FACILITIES					
Youth & Teen Center	7,535	-	✓		
PROPOSED FACILITIES					
<i>Proposed</i> North Santa Clara Library & Rec Center		21,620			✓
<i>Proposed</i> Recreation Facility w/ Gymnasium		40,000 - 60,000			✓
Total SQ FT		61,620-81,620			

AQUATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop an Aquatic Strategy Considering:

- **Improved ISC:** Improve existing facilities with all necessary maintenance issues and upgrades addressed.
- **New Warburton Aquatic Facility:** Reimagined as a family-friendly aquatic facility with a consolidate pool and other aquatic elements, such as water play features.
- **New North Aquatic Center:** Envisioned to have 2 recreation pools and potentially include elements like splash pads and water play features.
- **Existing Senior Center Pools:** Existing aquatic facilities would remain as is with any necessary maintenance issues and upgrades addressed.
- **Phase-Out Montague and Mary Gomez Pools:** Reevaluate these sites and consider phasing them out.



PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Increase Participation:** Create strategies to expand participation from all geographical areas.
- **Expand Programs:** Prioritize high-demand offerings and reduce low-interest programs, ensuring resources are focused where they will have the greatest impact.
- **Program Evaluation Tools:** Pre- and post-program tools should be developed and utilized to evaluate program quality and success.
- **Time Offerings of Programs:** Survey residents to determine the best time offerings and adjust accordingly.
- **Increasing Quality and Value:** Survey current participants to identify why quality and value scores fall below national benchmarks and take action to improve them.
- **Marketing:** Develop a formal marketing program that aligns with how residents would like to receive information.
- **Partnerships:** Develop and implement a formal partnership policy to guide updates to existing agreements.



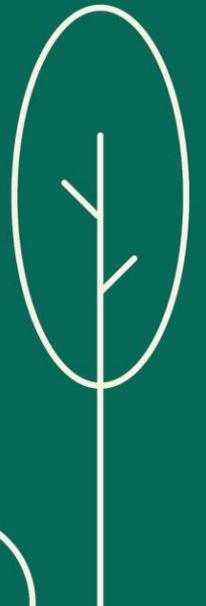
MAINTENANCE & SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Community-Aligned Work Plans:** Align maintenance activities with both community satisfaction and priority.
- **Asset Management:** Implement a system to track maintenance, prevent breakdowns, and capture actual costs of work performed.
- **Data Mobility:** Provide staff with mobile tools to access and update maintenance information in the field
- **Asset Lifecycle Tracking:** Monitor work performed on any asset throughout its lifecycle.
- **Minimize Unproductive Time:** Analyze worker time for efficiency, including travel and idle time.
- **Equipment Investment:** Invest in new equipment as the park system grows.
- **Cost-Reduction Strategies:** Lower expenditures through volunteer programs and operational partnerships.
- **Construction Project Oversight:** Hire project managers to manage bond-funded and ongoing lifecycle replacement projects.
- **Staffing Evaluation:** Assess hiring and retention practices and implement improvements to strengthen the workforce.



MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUND, CENTRAL PARK | SANTA CLARA, CA

Realizing Our Vision



ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan prioritizes recommendations, estimates costs, and provides a phased roadmap for implementation.

Key Ongoing Projects (1-11+ years)

- Establish a clear **vision, plan, develop and operate 35-acre new park** in north Santa Clara.
- **Improve existing parks** through continued implementation of the Kitchell Report and increasing park comfort through increased shade, seating, and other amenities.
- **Plant trees** to provide shade in existing parks
- Develop and operate **planned Citywide trail network**.
- Obtain land for **86 acres of additional parkland** through **acquisition, future development, or joint-use agreements**, prioritizing park access gaps.
- Develop **community partnerships** to support programs & events.

Key Short-Term Projects (1-5 years)

- Complete **planned ISC improvements**.
- Develop an **aquatics strategy** for the future.
- Implement **high-priority program** needs (fitness, outdoor recreation, swim lessons, etc.). *
- Provide **deficient high-priority amenities** in new parks, existing parks, or through joint-use agreements. *
- Reevaluate and **establish sustainable funding sources for maintenance, operations, and lifecycle improvements** to address deferred maintenance.

* *Project spans two phases*

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan prioritizes recommendations, estimates costs, and provides a phased roadmap for implementation.

Key Mid-Term Projects (6-10 years)

- Provide **deficient high-priority amenities** in new parks, existing parks, or through joint-use agreements.*
- Implement **high-priority program** needs (fitness, outdoor recreation, swim lessons, etc.).*
- **Remodel the Senior Center**
- **Remodel/expand the Community Recreation Center***
- Construct the proposed **North Santa Clara Library/Recreation Center.***
- Construct the **proposed recreation center with gymnasium.***

Key Long-Term Projects (11+ years)

- **Remodel/expand Community Recreation Center***
- Construct proposed **North Santa Clara Library/Recreation Center.***
- Construct **proposed recreation center with gymnasium.***
- **Develop and operate 86 acres of additional parkland,** prioritizing park access gaps.

* *Project spans two phases*

COSTS

- **Planning-Level Estimates:** Order-of-magnitude ranges for both capital investment and annual operating cost increases.
- **High-Cost Categories:**
 - **New Park Acquisition:** \$194–\$259M (~30% of total)
 - **New Park Development:** \$165–\$241M
 - **Indoor Recreation Facilities:** \$152–\$192M
 - **Improving Existing Parks:** \$43–63M
 - **Aquatic Improvements:** \$25–\$46M
 - **Citywide Trails:** \$39–\$50M
- **Reduced Costs Through Partnerships:** Joint-use agreements and developer contributions can significantly offset City costs
- **2024 Bond Funding:** A portion of these costs are already planned to be covered by 2024 bond funds.

Estimated Cost Per Phase

Short-Term (1-5 years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$185M-260M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$650K-1.2M

Mid-Term (6-10 years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$248M-327M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$1.2M-2.0M

Long Term (11+ years):

- Estimated Capital Cost: \$185M-263M
- Estimated Annual Operational Cost: \$2.2M-4.1M

FUNDING STRATEGY

Current Funding Mechanisms

- General Fund
- Quimby Act Fees
- Park Mitigation Fee Act (MFA)
- Capital Projects Reserve
- Bonds

Current & Potential Funding Sources

- **Tax Support**
 - Property Taxes*
 - Sales or Hospitality Taxes
 - Special Districts
- **Development**
 - Parkland Dedication and Impact Fees*
- **Grants**
 - Federal Programs*
 - State Programs*
 - Regional & County Opportunities*
 - Local Utilities & Rebates*
- **User Fees**
 - Recreation Service Fees*
 - Ticket Sales & Admissions*
 - Special Use Permits*
 - Reservations & Equipment Rental*
- **External Partnerships & Community Support**
 - Corporate Sponsorships
 - Partnerships & Agreements*
 - Private Donations & Friends Groups
 - Volunteerism
- **Franchises & Licenses**
 - Naming Rights
 - Utility Easements

** Indicates strategies used by the City to fund parks and recreation in recent years.*

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The **Parks & Recreation Master Plan** is presented to the Commission to:

- Review the proposed **standards and long-term goals**;
- Consider whether the Plan appropriately **reflects community priorities and system needs**;
- Adopt a resolution recommending that the **City Council** approve the Plan.



Agenda Report

26-267

Agenda Date: 3/9/2026

REPORT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Discuss the Progress Made on the FY 2025/26 Parks & Recreation Commission's Work Plan Goals and Activities

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Parks & Recreation Commission has considered three to six specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound workplan goals and/or activities for the Fiscal Year (FY). These goals are intended to focus the Commission's efforts and respond to City Council priorities within the existing budget direction and resource limitations.

The City now aims to align the Boards, Commission, and Committee (BCC's) workplan goals to the City Council goals on an annual cycle. The new process is intended to provide:

Clear Prioritization

Each board and commission will have a defined set of objectives, making it easier for Council to assess progress and allocate staff resources efficiently.

Enhanced Transparency

Workplans will provide greater visibility into the activities and goals of advisory bodies, fostering stronger communication and accountability.

Improved Coordination

By aligning the efforts of staff and BCC's, the workplan is intended to effectively promote enhanced collaboration on citywide initiatives.

Informed Decision-Making

With a clear roadmap of each group's priorities, the City Council will be better equipped to make decisions that support both short-term needs and long-term strategic goals.

At the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting, the Commission adopted of the following Work Plan Goals for FY 2025/26:

Goal 1: Review park site and facility condition assessments and recommend priorities given existing and anticipated service levels and available resources.

Goal 2: Review and solicit community input on the existing City park rehabilitation projects based on the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget and schedule, as well as review residential developer proposed schematic designs for new neighborhood parks that serve new residential development.

Goal 3: Host and develop recommendations for the annual Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival 2025, participate in Citywide special events, and plan additional citywide special events.

Goal 4: Participate in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process.

Goal 5: Consider the annual budget of the Parks & Recreation Department during the budget preparation process and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Manager and City Council.

DISCUSSION

At the March 2026 meeting, the Commission will review the matrix for the Work Plan Goals (Attachment 1) and provide updates on progress made to meet the measurable objectives for FY 2025/26.

In addition to conducting a review of the Work Plan Goals matrix, the purpose of this item is to provide the opportunity for the subcommittees to report on their progress. As such, each subcommittee will provide a verbal update on their planned efforts and activities. Should an item require action by the full Commission, the item will be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda on the City’s official -notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City’s website and in the City Clerk’s Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and update Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY 2025/26.

Prepared by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

ATTACHMENTS

1. Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan FY 2025-2026 - March



City of Santa Clara

The Center of What's Possible

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

CHARTER, PRIORITIES, AND WORK PLAN FY
2025/26

CITY CHARTER

The City of Santa Clara charter includes the following sections that mandate the formation of a Parks & Recreation Commission and its role.

Sec. 1008 Parks & Recreation Commission.

There shall be a City Parks & Recreation Commission consisting of seven members to be appointed by the City Council from the qualified electors of the City, none of whom shall hold any paid office or employment in the City government.

Sec. 1009 Parks & Recreation Commission – Powers and duties (Mission).

The Parks & Recreation Commission shall have power and be required to:

- (a) Act in advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to parks, recreation, playgrounds, and entertainment;
- (b) Consider the annual budget of the Parks & Recreation Department during the process of its preparation and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Manager and the City Council; and
- (c) Assist in the planning and supervision of a recreation program for the inhabitants of the City, promote and stimulate public interest therein and to that end, solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities and other public and private agencies interested therein. (Amended by electors at an election held March 7, 2000, Charter Chapter 11 of the State Statutes of 2000)

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

In 2021, the City Council established specific priority areas. The City Council affirmed the following priority areas:

1. Deliver and Enhance High-Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure
2. Manage Strategically Our Workforce Capacity and Resources
3. Promote and Enhance Economic, Housing and Transportation Development
4. Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
5. Ensure Compliance with Measure J and Manage Levi's Stadium
6. Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency
7. Promote Sustainability and Environment Protection

VISION STATEMENT

Enrich the lives and enhance the health and wellbeing of our community by supporting a vibrant, active quality of life for all ages, abilities and interests through excellent parks and recreational facilities, community services, programs, and events.

PRIORITIES

Based on the Commission charter, Council Priorities, the above vision statement, values, and context from prior years, the Commission has defined its priorities and goals for the current fiscal year. The priorities are presented in this section and the goals emanating from these priorities are stated in the following section.

1. Assess facility and program conditions and recommend prioritized maintenance and improvements to facilities and programming. Include in the master plan as appropriate.
2. Identify gaps in infrastructure and programs by neighborhood. Include recommendations for updates to the master plan.
3. Identify opportunities for increasing community participation and current impediments. Recommend ways to enhance community participation and experience.
4. Review the current year Art & Wine Festival, feedback received, and lessons learned, and plan for next year's Art & Wine Festival.

GOALS

Goal #1:

A. Review park site and facility condition assessments and recommend priorities given existing and anticipated service levels and available resources

Action(s)	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Visit at least 12 facilities (e.g., parks, pools, centers, etc.) annually, and make notes related to how the facility is being utilized, and amenities that may be necessary to meet neighborhood / community needs with an annual presentation of findings.</p> <p>Recommendations for immediate repairs (e.g., water fountain non-operational) should be documented via MySantaClara.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Provide facility map to Commissioners and track who has attended each, month by month; attempting to get at least one Commissioner to each facility.</p> <p>Simplified system would negate the need to utilize the previously used form.</p>	<p>1 - 100% of Commissionmembers visit at least 1 (one) facility each month;</p> <p>2 - Report out on annual certified list of findings from Action(s)</p>

Goal #2:

A. Review and solicit community input on the existing City park rehabilitation projects based on the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget and schedule; and

B. Review residential developer proposed schematic designs for new neighborhood parks that serve new residential development;

Action(s)	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Measurable Outcomes
Improve Park Project Webpage to highlight community outreach	n/a	On-going	Complete pending map update	Webpage is revised to include opportunities for community input for Park Projects
Use data to improve metrics for park use and outreach. Work with city staff to solicit input from the community and identify and recommend improvements to improve overall metrics of all parks.	Chu DeMarco Gupta	On-going	Park amenity webpage has been added to allow individuals to search for specific amenities. Placer AI pilot transitioning to long-term Agreement; metrics to be available once subscription details are finalized.	An evaluation tool is developed to evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts, and the Commission receives regular reports
Receive presentations organized by city staff and review residential developer proposed schematic designs for new neighborhood parks that serve new residential development	All Commissioners	On-going	To be presented as needed	Schematic designs for all new parks are submitted to the Commission for review and comment
Act as ambassadors for new parks and engage community to give feedback	All Commissioners	On-going		100% of Commission members attend at least 3 community or Council meetings to advocate on behalf of Parks and Recreation programs

As needed, attend City Council meeting(s) associated with topics the Parks & Recreation Commission has previously considered; Commissioners may choose to speak on the item should advocacy be seen as a benefit	Based on Commissioner availability	On-going	Ensure community input is conveyed through Commissioner public presentation	
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Goal #3:

A. Host and develop recommendations for the annual Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival;

B. Participate in Citywide Special events; and,

C. Plan additional citywide special events.

Action(s)	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Measurable Outcomes
Participate in Art and Wine Festival planning and supervise hosting of Art and Wine Festival	All Commissioners	September 13 – 14, 2025	Fingerprinting is required; coordinate with staff to be paid for by the City	100% of Commission member volunteer for a minimum of 3 hours each day in support of the Art & Wine Festival
Participate in Citywide Special events.	All Commissioners		Summer Concert Sunset Cinema July 4 th Celebration Tree Lighting Street Dance Halloween	100% of Commission member volunteer for a minimum of 3 hours per year in support of one of the Department's Special Events
Support the efforts of the City's Commissions (Cultural, Senior, Youth) to attend special events initiated by fellow Commissions and suggest new Citywide events and/or new elements to existing events to staff	All Commissioners		Cultural – e.g., concerts, cinema Senior – e.g., Health & Wellness Fair Youth – e.g., 5k run Potential new - Citywide volleyball tournament	1 – annual outreach to fellow Commissions about upcoming events and needs for volunteer assistance 2 – attend special events initiated by fellow Commissions

Goal #4:

A. Participate in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process

Action(s)	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Measurable Outcomes
Receive updates from Staff	All Commissioners			Staff provides a monthly update on the status of the master plan process
Develop Subcommittees as needed	All Commissioners			All Commission members participate in focus group or other community engagement activity for the master plan process.

Goal #5:

A. Consider the annual budget of the Parks & Recreation Department during the budget preparation process and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Manager and City Council.

Action(s)	Ad Hoc Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Measurable Outcomes
Receive updates from Staff	All Commissioners	Annually	May	A review of the proposed annual budget is placed on the Commission's agenda prior to the Council adoption of the budget.
Review Wade Brummal Grant/Scholarship requests in accordance with established policy	All Commissioners	As needed	Collection is due in early-July; annual Fall review plus as-needed	Staff provides an annual report of all Wade Brummal Grant/Scholarship requests to ensure Commission is reviewing requests in accordance with established policy