




City Council
December 16, 2025

Item #7 RTC 25-1645
Open Space Element
General Plan Amendment

Afshan Hamid
Director of Community Development

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Open Space Element GPA



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Requirements of SB 1425


By 2026, state law (SB 1425) requires jurisdictions to:

- Include policies in their General Plan addressing climate resilience and other co-benefits of Open Space
- Requires jurisdictions to address the issue of access to open space for everyone; and to
- Preserve, enhance, and expand a network of open spaces

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New & Updated Goals & Policies

In response to SB 1425, staff is proposing minor text language in the Open Space Element:


- Open space access and the creation of a linked network of open spaces to strengthen the policies; and
- Resilience policies from the City's adopted Climate Action Plan (2022).

Goals	
5.9.1-G2	Parks, trails and open space <u>that are accessible to everyone by being located within a ten-minute walk to residential neighborhoods and employment centers.</u>
5.9.1-G4	<u>A comprehensive network of</u> park, trail and open space facilities that are accessible <u>to everyone</u> and provide connections to destination points and activity centers within the City.
Policies	
5.9.1-P3	Provide a <u>network of</u> trails along creeks and other rights-of-way to link parks, open spaces, bicycle facilities and transit services with residential neighborhoods and employment centers.
5.9.1-P6	Support construction of a <u>network of</u> trails within the City of Santa Clara that connect to the Bay Trail, the Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Creek and the Guadalupe River trails.
5.9.1-P22	<u>Carbon farming on open space lands. Partner with resource conservation districts to increase carbon farming, creek restoration, wetland restoration, and local offset opportunities in open space lands within the city limits of Santa Clara.</u>
5.9.1-P23	<u>Sustainable planting guide. Support local organizations in developing a planting guide that prioritizes increasing available soil carbon sequestration, resilience, and other equitably distributed co-benefits.</u>

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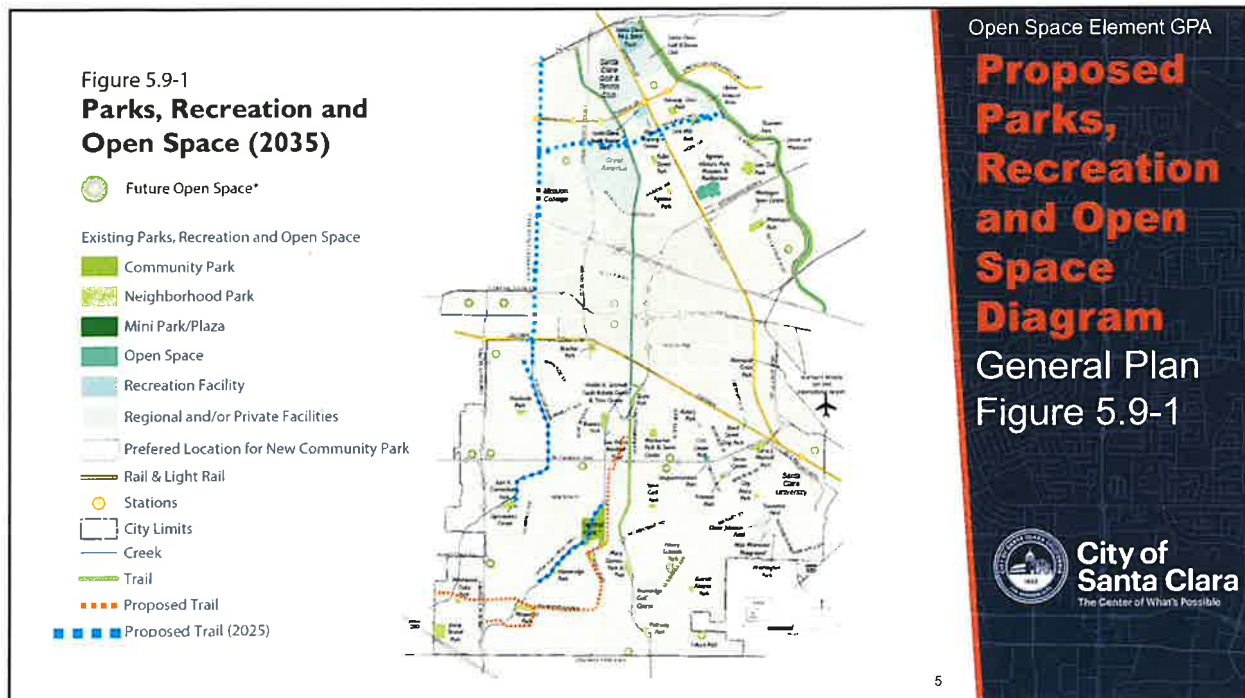
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City Efforts Underway: (consistent with General Plan)

- Creek Trail Network Expansion Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Language from the 2022 Climate Action Plan also included

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Recommendation

Recommend that the City Council:

1. Find that the Addendum to the 2010-2035 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the project complies with CEQA, and that the adoption of the Open Space Element Update would not result in environmental impacts beyond those described in the General Plan EIR and no further analysis is required.
2. Adopt the General Plan Text Amendment and find that it satisfies the SB 1425 requirements to update open space programs to include policies addressing climate resilience and other cobenefits of Open Space; and that the necessary text edits are consistent with the Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Goals and Policies in the General Plan.

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