



Planning Commission

**Item 25-1109: Open Space
Element General Plan
Amendment**

November 12, 2025



Requirements of SB 1425

By 2026, SB 1425 requires jurisdictions to:

- Include policies 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



Current Open Space Inventory

- Agnews Park
- Civic Center Park
(City Hall Grounds)
- Ulistac Open Space





Current Open Space Efforts

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

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

 Future Open Space*

Existing Parks, Recreation and Open Space

-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Mini Park/Plaza
-  Open Space
-  Recreation Facility
-  Regional and/or Private Facilities
-  Preferred Location for New Community Park
-  Rail & Light Rail
-  Stations
-  City Limits
-  Creek
-  Trail
-  Proposed Trail
-  Proposed Trail (2025)



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Diagram

General Plan
 Figure 5.9-1



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Recommendation

Recommend City Council to:

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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Open Space Element basics

GP guidelines define Open Space as unimproved land devoted to:

- The preservation of natural resources
- Managed production of resources, meaning farmland (not applicable in the City of Santa Clara)
- Outdoor recreation, including linkages
- Open Space for public safety (for example, earthquake easements)
- Military installations (not applicable in Santa Clara)
- Tribal Resources



Revised Open Space Goals

Goals

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



Revised Open Space Policies

Policies

5.9.1-P3

Provide a network of trails along creeks and other rights-of-way to link parks, open spaces, bicycle facilities and transit services with residential neighborhoods and employment centers.

5.9.1-P6

Support construction of a network of trails within the City of Santa Clara that connect to the Bay Trail, the Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Creek and the Guadalupe River trails.



Additional Open Space Policies

- 5.9.1-P22 Carbon farming on open space lands. Partner with resource conservation districts to increase carbon farming, creek restoration, wetland restoration, and local offset opportunities in open space lands within the city limits of Santa Clara.
- 5.9.1-P23 Sustainable planting guide. Support local organizations in developing a planting guide that prioritizes increasing available soil, carbon sequestration, resilience, and other equitably distributed co-benefits.



Trails as Open Space Connectors



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