



County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan 2012 Update



County of Santa Clara • Parks & Recreation Department

December, 2012

Summary Report

**County of Santa Clara
Parkland Acquisition Plan
2012 Update**

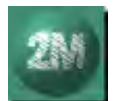
Prepared for:

County of Santa Clara • Parks and Recreation Department



Prepared by:

**2M Associates
H.T. Harvey & Associates
Terrell Watt, AICP**



December, 2012



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MISSION:
The Mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Regional parkland acquisition has been a role of the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department since its inception in 1956. In 1993, a set of acquisition criteria was developed to help guide choices about which parklands to purchase. In the ensuing seventeen years, the County has seen an unprecedented increase in population, bringing with it changes in demographics and recreation demands. To keep pace with these changes, the Department's Strategic Plan acknowledged and recommended that the acquisition criteria should be revisited. This Parkland Acquisition Plan 2011 Update portrays a framework for the County of Santa Clara's Parks and Recreation Department to utilize in making parkland acquisition decisions over next twenty years.



Lake Vasona
County Park

Funding the Department's acquisition program has been accomplished through the Park Charter, first established by the voters of the County of Santa Clara in 1972. This plan presents an affirmative commitment to the mission and vision of the Department. This commitment is to preserve the regional nature of the County's park system, address countywide recreation needs, and promote the long-term benefits parks and trails provide for all County residents whether living in urban or rural environs.



Sunnyvale-Baylands Park

At the same time, this plan recognizes the tremendous population growth the County has experienced (over the fifty-five years since the Department was founded) and will continue to experience in the foreseeable future. Santa Clara County is now largely an urban county.



Almaden-Quicksilver
County Park

This plan signifies an evolution in how the County will balance its role of providing regional outdoor recreation and interpretation opportunities in a variety of landscapes that represent natural resource diversity while also providing, over time, a stronger interconnectivity between an urban population and regional parks. This linkage is particularly important in a time when many children and adults simply do not get outside to enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation because they lack access to parks of any sort.



Guadalupe River Park



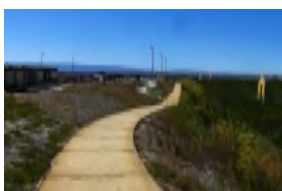
Lake Vasona
County Park



Twin Creeks
Sports Complex



Hellyer County Park



Alviso Marina County
Park



Los Gatos Creek Trail

The significant ways this acquisition plan differs from the existing plan developed in 1993 in how it will serve the next generation of park users include:

- Acknowledgement that trails provide both outdoor recreation opportunities and access for urban populations to regional parks.
- Recognition that park-deficient urban areas exist, including those within the County's unincorporated jurisdiction. The County has a role in providing park services to these areas or "islands" that may include acquisition within or in close proximity to these islands.
- Refinement of land acquisition criteria and recommended programs that balances urban and rural outdoor recreation needs
- A strengthened emphasis on partnerships and the recognition that collaboration with other public agencies and non-profit organizations will result in more regional parklands being acquired while providing sustained operations of those parks.

Overview

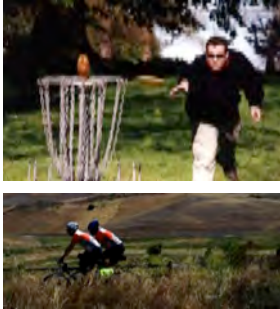
This plan reviews the history of regional parkland acquisition in the County, the plans and policies of the County and others that affect parkland acquisition, and the outdoor recreation trends and needs that future parklands will serve.

Decision Model and Acquisition Criteria

A decision model of the acquisition criteria is provided that addresses:

- How a potential acquisition will fit into a spectrum of parks that are of countywide significance;
- If there are specific resources, access conditions, use opportunities, liabilities, or other use constraints that would affect considerations about acquiring a property;
- Whether the proposed acquisition can be sustained by the Department's operating budget; and
- How a property acquisition would be prioritized.

Policy Direction



Coyote Creek Parkway

The policy direction of this Acquisition Plan Update is that the Department should focus on two tenets. The first is to preserve the Department's historic acquisition funding focus on acquiring regionally significant parkland and trail corridors. The second is to enhance its acquisition partnership focus with local cities and/or other agencies that can utilize acquired parkland to offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities that respond to the needs of a growing and sometimes underserved urban population.

Recognizing that there are limits to the acquisition monies available to the County, County funding of projects that are not an expansion of an existing County park should be commensurate with the level of the partnership commitments related to the acquisition. For urban projects, parkland acquisition should be led by the cities. The County should partner with these cities when there is a regional nexus involved.

The 1993 Acquisition Plan includes a reiteration of the County's Eminent Domain Policy for acquisition of parks and open space, which generally states that the County will work with willing sellers and limits the use of Eminent Domain. This Acquisition Plan Update does not include a re-examination of the use of Eminent Domain.

Responding to Urban Recreation Needs

A set of formalized planning and acquisition strategies to address urban and suburban park needs is provided that is consistent with the County's historical role and commitment to the acquisition of regional parklands. Key components include:

- Strengthen and expand the Department's focus and role in completing the Countywide Trails Master Plan:
 - Increase staff focus on trail planning support to cities.
 - Proactively work with cities in acquisition planning of properties which would enhance the recreational value of trails.
 - Seek trail partnerships with transportation agencies.
 - Seek grants to support the construction of regionally serving trails.

- Increase coordination with cities through annual “cities” meetings, individual “city focus” meetings, and attend the Park Directors’ Forum to provide updates that identify projects with an acquisition component.
- Prioritize County efforts to search for properties to be developed into trails and parks of countywide significance within or near selected islands within the County’s jurisdiction that are surrounded by incorporated urban areas that could include:
 - Conduct joint park/trail needs assessments with cities.
 - Purchase of property from willing sellers.
 - Identify public agency-owned land solely within the unincorporated islands that have the potential to also provide public outdoor recreation opportunities without land acquisition.
 - Identify public agency-owned park or open space properties where expansion or enhancement could also be of countywide recreational value.

It should be noted that some of the urban acquisition strategies above fall outside the specific parameters of the Acquisition Plan as they either involve planning or may lead to potential construction, maintenance or other support, rather than strictly acquisition funding.





C O N T E N T S

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 The Park Charter	1
1.3 Acquisition Policy History and Values	4
1.3.1 A Regional Perspective.....	5
1.3.2 Partnerships - Land Acquisition	7
1.3.3 Partnerships – Outdoor Recreation Programming.....	11
1.3.4 A Living Document.....	11
1.4 Board of Supervisors – Key Points of Discussion	12
1.5 The Update Process.....	14
1.5.1 Countywide	14
1.5.2 Urban Trails, Parks, and Open Space	16
2.0 EXISTING PLANS & POLICIES	18
2.1 Santa Clara County	19
2.1.1 The Park Charter	19
2.1.2 Santa Clara County General Plan.....	19
2.1.3 County Acquisition Policy (1993)	25
2.1.4 Open Space Preservation: A Program for Santa Clara County	27
2.1.5 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan	28
2.1.6 Individual Park Master Plans	31
2.2 State of California.....	32
2.3 Other Park And Recreation Suppliers	33
2.4 Potential Future Policy Considerations	34
3.0 ACCOMMODATING FUTURE RECREATION TRENDS AND NEEDS	37
3.1 Recreation Trends and Needs	37
3.1.1 Formal Needs Assessments and Use Surveys.....	37
3.1.2 Population Growth	38
3.1.3 Park-deficient Urban Unincorporated Areas	38

3.2	National and State Trends.....	39
3.3	Countywide Outdoor Recreation Needs.....	40
3.4	Implications for Land Acquisition.....	43
4.0	LAND ACQUISITION FRAMEWORK & CRITERIA	45
4.1	Acquisition Framework	45
4.1.1	Owner Considerations	47
4.1.2	A System Context	47
4.1.3	Sustainability.....	50
4.1.4	Specific Property Characteristics	51
4.2	Ownership and General Property Characteristics	52
4.3	Acquisition Criteria	52
5.0	PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS	57
5.1	Priority Criteria.....	57
5.2	Areas of Possible Acquisition for Regional Parklands and Trails.....	58
5.3	Policy Considerations.....	60
6.0	ACQUISITION PROCEDURES	62
6.1	Legal Requirements	62
6.2	Steps	62
7.0	OWNER OPTIONS FOR SALE OF A PARCEL.....	64
8.0	URBAN TRAILS, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES	66
8.1	Strategy Overview	66
8.1.1	Connectivity and Trails	69
8.1.2	Urban Unincorporated Areas.....	70
8.1.3	Coordination	72
8.2	Urban Acquisition Criteria	73
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	75
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	77

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1:	Existing County Parklands.....	2
Figure 1-2:	Parks and Public Lands of Santa Clara County.....	3
Figure 1-3:	Spectrum of Park Providers and Services	8
Figure 2-1:	Countywide Trail Routes.....	23
Figure 4-1:	Land Acquisition Decision Model.....	46
Figure 4-2:	Acquisition Plan Context.....	48
Figure 5-1:	Areas of Possible Acquisition for Regional Parklands and Trails	59
Figure 8-1:	Urban Areas.....	68

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1:	Santa Clara County General Plan Policies Specifically Referencing Park and Trail Acquisition.....	21
Table 2-2:	Santa Clara County General Plan Policies Related to Trail Acquisition	22
Table 4-1:	System Context Criteria	51
Table 4-2:	Ownership and Property Characteristics	52
Table 4-3:	Acquisition Criteria.....	53
Table 5.1:	Priority Criteria	57

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A:	County Park Charter
Attachment B:	1993 County of Santa Clara Parks Acquisition Policy and County Eminent Domain Policy
Attachment C:	Park Charter Fund History
Attachment D:	Public Workshop and Comment Summary
Attachment E:	General Plan Policies and Acquisition Criteria
Attachment F:	Inventory / Status of Planning and Implementation of Long-Range Plans for County Parks
Attachment G:	County Park Abandonment Law of 1959
Attachment H:	Public Park Preservation Act of 1971
Attachment I:	Summary of Related Agency Policies
Attachment J:	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan - Countywide Significance Criteria For Regional Parks and Recreation
Attachment K:	Outreach Program Summary - March, 2011 through August, 2012

- Attachment K-1: Outreach Program Support Documents
- Attachment L: Summary of Recent Park Charter Land Acquisition Funding and Partnerships
- Attachment M: Urban Unincorporated Island Analysis
- Attachment N: Urban Park Operations and Management Cost Analysis
- Attachment O: Supplemental Letters of Interest



Lake Vasona County Park (photo by Ron Hurii)



INTRODUCTION

MISSION *The Mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect, and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.*

VISION *We create a growing and diverse system of regional parks, trails, and open spaces of Countywide significance that connects people with the natural environment, offers visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, and balances recreation opportunities with resource protection.*

1.1 PURPOSE

This plan presents a structure for the County of Santa Clara's Parks and Recreation Department for regional parkland acquisition over the next twenty years. It updates the 1993 County of Santa Clara Parks Acquisition Policy to incorporate direction provided by more recent plans and policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors and provides a current understanding of the park and outdoor recreation needs of the residents of Santa Clara County.

Figure 1-1, Existing County Parklands, illustrates the existing County park system. Figure 1-2, Parks and Public Lands of Santa Clara County, illustrates the County's parks in the context of the spectrum of park and open space opportunities available to the general public and other lands that have been conserved through easements. Included are lands of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of California, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and fifteen cities.

1.2 THE PARK CHARTER

The Park Charter directs the Board of Supervisors to the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan as their reference

County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan 2011 Update

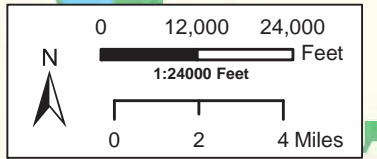
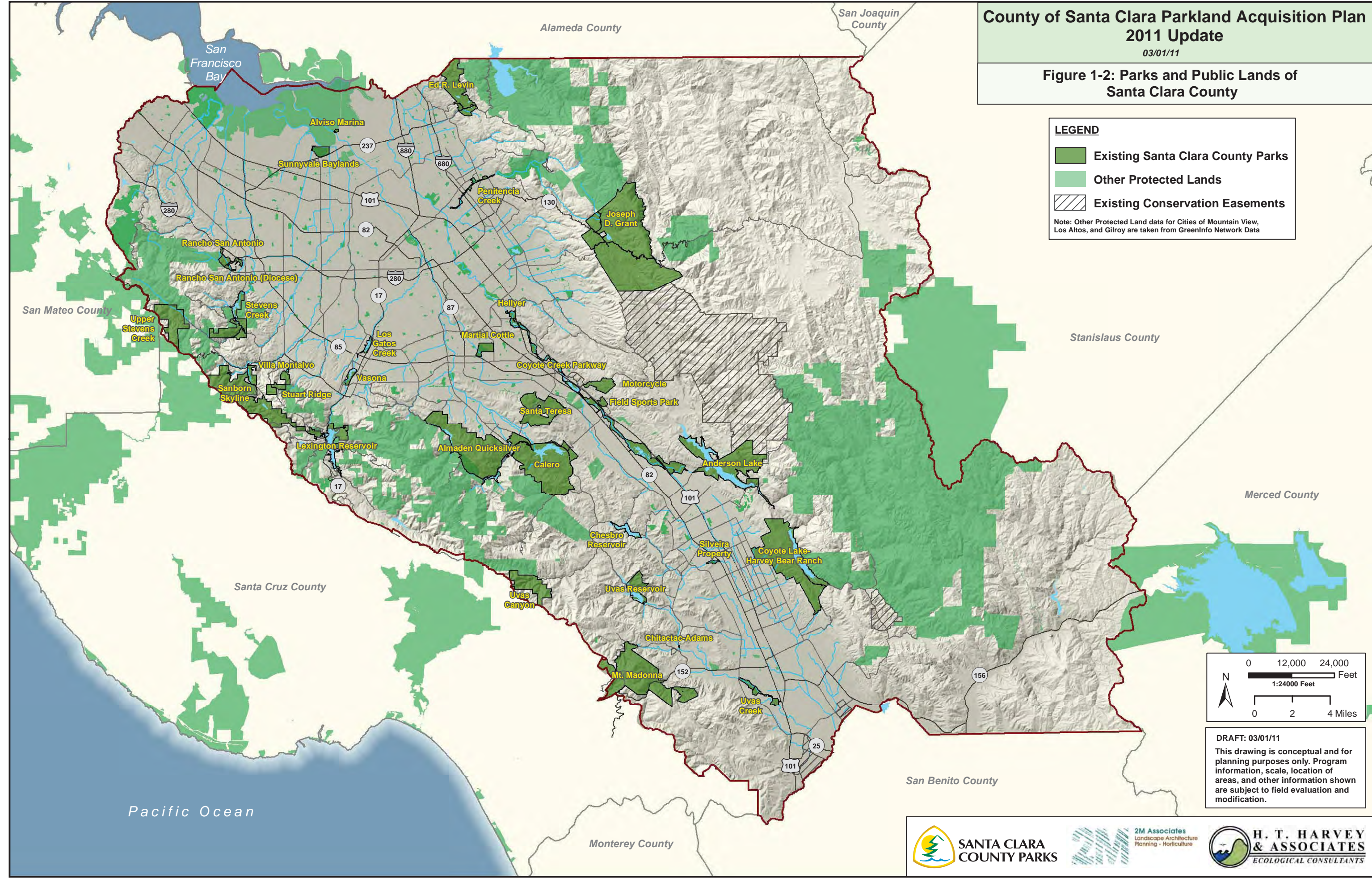
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Figure 1-2: Parks and Public Lands of
Santa Clara County

LEGEND

- Existing Santa Clara County Parks
- Other Protected Lands
- Existing Conservation Easements

Note: Other Protected Land data for Cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Gilroy are taken from GreenInfo Network Data



DRAFT: 03/01/11
This drawing is conceptual and for planning purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

in determining that a parkland acquisition is in conformance with adopted policy.

**The Park Charter
and the General
Plan**

County policies about parkland acquisition are hierarchical, beginning with the directives of the Park Charter, moving to the policies of the General Plan. From these policies, a set of criteria has been derived that is used to evaluate potential properties for acquisition.

Article VI. Section 604.11 of the County Charter describes the Park Charter. Item 3 of the Park Charter refers to the County General Plan as the conformance guide for parkland acquisition. It states:

"The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted County Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan."

Policies and criteria derived from the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan are presented in Chapter 2.

1.3 ACQUISITION POLICY HISTORY AND VALUES

The 1993 County of Santa Clara Parks Acquisition Policy sets forth criteria that have been used to evaluate potential candidate properties for acquisition. The policy in its entirety is presented in Attachment B.

The Acquisition Policy includes a reiteration of the County's Eminent Domain Policy for acquisition of parks and open space, which generally states that the County will work with willing sellers and limits the use of Eminent Domain. This Acquisition Plan Update does not include a re-examination of the use of Eminent Domain.

Since the passage of the Park Charter Fund in 1972, a significant number of acquisitions has taken place singularly by the Department or very often in partnership with other agencies and organizations. A compendium that provides an example of some of these acquisitions can be found in Attachment L.

Several general themes have directed the acquisition of County parks over the last fifty-four years. These are summarized below.

1.3.1 A Regional Perspective

The Beginning

The original Ordinance No. NS-300.18, dated September 4, 1956, provided for the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Department in the County (the Department). The *Resolution* accompanying the ordinance defined the role and function of County activities in parks and recreation versus the role and function of municipalities and school districts, including the following relevant recitals:

- That the function of the County in parks and recreation is limited to the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of facilities that are not feasible for or within the sphere of local school districts or municipalities.
- That such facilities are of a nature to be suitable for countywide and regional service.
- That it be specifically the policy of the County not to engage in an intensive, organized, urban type recreation program on small park areas inside urban developed territory.
- That there shall be a cultural and aesthetic aspect to this function including the preservation of areas of historic significance and natural beauty.
- That the function take on a regional aspect by some kind of association with adjoining counties in a program for joint planning for parks and recreation.

The General Plan

In 1972, the County General Plan outlined "*A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County*". This plan was incorporated with some modifications into the Parks, Trails and Scenic Highways Element of the General Plan adopted in 1980. The Regional Park System proposed in the General Plan envisioned "a necklace of parks." It consisted of a series of major regional parks located in the foothills and mountains around the valley, similar to emeralds on a necklace.

These regional park "emeralds" were intended to preserve, and make available for public recreation, examples of the County's finest natural resources. Recreational trails were proposed to link these regional parks with one another as well as to provide access from the valley floor. This same vision was extended to the existing County General Plan adopted in 1994.

The focus of the Department's land acquisition role is summarized in the following General Plan policies:

- The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government. (Policy C-PR15; R-PR17)
- The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of the cities and other appropriate agencies. (Policy C-PR16; R-PR18)

These two policy statements clearly define the niche for the County and for cities and other agencies.

The Strategic Plan

The Department's mission as an agency emphasizing the acquisition and operation of regional parks of countywide significance was critically re-evaluated over a three-year public process and confirmed in 2003 by the Board of Supervisors with the adoption of the *Strategic Plan for Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation System* (the Strategic Plan). The Strategic Plan also presented a new vision to focus the Department's role. This vision for regional parks and trails expands the "emerald necklace" by strongly relating to the dominant urban character of Silicon Valley and the County. Vision themes include:

- **The Emerald Web:** that consists of a continuous, interconnected network of parks, trails and open space areas
- **An Opportunity to Escape:** that counterbalances the pace and technological atmosphere of Silicon Valley
- **A Quality Park Experience:** that begins at home and is composed of opportunities for the general public to safely explore the outdoors while renewing the human spirit
- **A Seamless Program:** that offers easy access to outdoor recreation and interpretation opportunities
- **Resource Protection:** that balances resource conservation, recreation opportunities, and park management to assure the existence of vibrant, quality parks for future generations

Inherent in the vision is the creation of a diverse system of regional parks, trails, and open spaces of Countywide significance.

1.3.2 Partnerships - Land Acquisition

A hallmark of land acquisition in more recent years has been an ever-increasing reliance on partnerships. A variety of plans and policies currently guides the Department's acquisition efforts (see Chapter 2). Each of these plans, and in particular the *Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan*, relies to varying degrees on the concept that many working together can accomplish more than any one working alone. Actions cited in the Strategic Plan call for the County to take a leadership role that encourages active partnerships, including those leading to the identification of land acquisition opportunities.

These plans also reflect the Board's goals of achieving certain outcomes through the County's park system. These goals include preservation of open space, preservation of unique or culturally significant land, provision of recreational opportunities, such as camping, equestrian riding, and boating, and protection of wildlife and its habitat.

As the only parks and recreation-providing agency with countywide jurisdiction, the Department has played an important, unifying role. The Department promotes interagency cooperation and interconnectivity between park systems. The ultimate goal is for the County to work with other agencies to jointly provide a seamless, integrated web of parks and trails across the urban core of the valley that provides interconnectivity with the County's regional parks system. While the role of County Parks as a regional parks system is well known, what is not as well known is the larger role the Department has played in supporting other park and recreation service providers in the County including a significant role in the County's urban valley.

Figure 1-3 presents an overview of the range of park and open space experiences and types of agencies and organizations that provide them. At the upper end of the spectrum, wilderness areas provide people with opportunities for full-day or extended stays. At the other end of the spectrum, local cities provide neighborhood parks that are within walking distance of homes. The Department's leadership role has been as a regional facilitator, linking both ends of the spectrum.

The Department has accomplished its goals of providing regional parks and urban access in two important ways. First, the Department has served as a direct service provider by operating and maintaining parks that are both urban and regional-serving. Examples include Ed Levin Park in Milpitas and Hellyer Park in San José.

Second, the Department has been a partner with local cities and agencies in acquiring parkland that helped to grow the overall park system while leveraging each other's funds to achieve an acquisition that neither could afford on its own. Working together with the cities and agencies, the Department helps meet the community's park, open space, and trails needs.

The County's main contribution to this web of parks and trails has been through partnerships and expenditure of one-time resources.

FIGURE 1-3: Spectrum of Park Providers and Services



The County has an acquisition role that complements the roles that are played by federal, state, and regional open space providers as well as the 15 cities within the County. Together, these providers meet the total parks and recreation needs of the residents of the County.

The division of roles has allowed each agency to do what it does best and reduce duplication. By working together, the combined expertise of each agency has enabled the partners to meet the larger community's needs.

Attachment L presents a listing of some of these partnership projects. Examples of the County's urban partnerships that involved land acquisition are provided below.

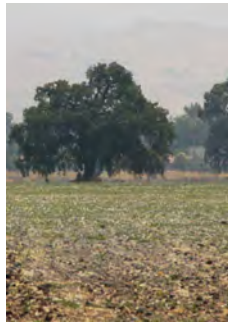


San Tomas Aquino / Saratoga Creek Trail: an example of the County's larger unifying role that has been accomplished through the use of one-time acquisition resources and partnerships. This 12-mile regional trail alignment was identified in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan. County Parks served as the lead in coordinating the efforts of the three cities through which the trail passes: Santa Clara, San José, and Cupertino.



Sunnyvale Baylands Park: a 177-acre urban community park that was developed on County land through a partnership with the City of Sunnyvale. Under the original agreement, the city and County funded development of the park, and the city took on full responsibility for ongoing maintenance and operations. The new agreement includes capital improvements funded solely by the city.





Martial Cottle Park: a new 256-acre park with an agricultural theme in urban San José. As both a County and State Park unit, this represents a unique partnership between the County and State Parks which contributed \$5,000,000 in acquisition costs for the land. Only a short walk from the Blossom Hill light rail station, it will include a zone of recreation and visitor service facilities set within the surrounding agricultural landscape.



Twin Creeks Sports Complex: where Twin Creeks Sunnyvale Inc. entered into a lease agreement with the County in 1985 to both develop and operate this 48-acre regional softball complex on County-owned land. This is a unique example of a public / private partnership. This partnership provides a regional-serving facility that not only generates an ongoing revenue stream, but enables the County to utilize the focused softball complex expertise of this lessee partner to operate and maintain this complex.



Penitencia Creek Park and Trail: where Penitencia Creek Park and Trail includes a 78-acre creekside park that is a hybrid of regional and neighborhood parks and example of creating a web of urban parks and trails. While the County operates and maintains the two miles of regional trail and the Penitencia Creek Gardens park, the City of San José leases 15 acres for a neighborhood park and community center.

1.3.3 Partnerships – Outdoor Recreation Programming

Outdoor recreation needs are generally accommodated in two ways: Acquiring and developing parklands; offering programs that encourage and support park use.

Land acquisition alone is not a panacea in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of the County. The spectrum of recreation providers also includes varying program services. In the last few years, the Department has taken on a new countywide role promoting community health and wellness through the use of trails and outdoor recreation activities. To this end, County Parks has developed key partnerships with the health and hospital system, which is in the process of developing a strategic business plan that emphasizes health promotion and community partners, like Kaiser Permanente, to develop programs and events focused on community health and wellness utilizing regional trails and parks.

1.3.4 A Living Document

The Acquisition Plan is intended to be a living document that will be responsive to changing circumstances. These circumstances are reflected through a variety of plans and policies that themselves change over time. Some of these include:

- The Park Charter Fund: The Park Charter Fund has been voted upon by the County residents seven times. Each time, the formula involving the percentage of property taxes that are directed to the Park Charter Fund has been adjusted. With each vote the formula for allocating funds to acquisition, capital improvements, and operations has been adjusted. A summary of these approvals of the Park Charter Fund is provided in Attachment C.
- The County of Santa Clara 1995-2010 General Plan: The General Plan was last updated and adopted in 1994 and has served as the conformance guide for parkland acquisition. It is now in the initial stages of being updated and policies affecting land acquisition may change as the General Plan is updated.
- The Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan): While in a draft status and not yet adopted by the Board of Supervisors, inherent in the plan is a focus on acquiring land that protects wildlife habitat and



Examples of partnerships and County programs that respond to outdoor recreation needs are the Healthy Trails program and the Festival in the Park. Healthy Trails is a self-paced health and wellness program through which individuals can engage in physical activity in parklands, using trails to improve their overall fitness. The festival is a community health and wellness fair held annually at Hellyer County Park. These programs serve the larger County mission of creating healthier communities, and have established the County as a leader in making the connection between parks and community health and wellness.

corridors. The plan could provide a mechanism for additional parkland acquisition funding partnerships that would in turn provide passive recreation opportunities, such as trails, while also protecting habitat and preserving open space.

1.4 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

"I did read the entire Strategic Plan. . . From my perspective, everything we need is in here . . . certainly the visions, and some of the goals, the vision of partnerships. . . If you just follow the role in the Strategic Plan I think our needs will be met at some point. It is going to take time. . . . The future of partnerships is a must. I don't think we need to change your role".

George Shirakawa,
Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors
September 28, 2010

"So look at Lake Cunningham and say that there's thousands and thousands of people that . . . have some interconnectivity, that have some access to that park that may not have access to Grant park even though it's just 25 minutes further away by car. So, balance would be my point".

Ken Yeager, President
of the Santa Clara
County Board of
Supervisors
September 28, 2010

On September 28, 2010 the Board of Supervisors at a study session provided guidance about the Department's role in acquiring parklands. This discussion focused on four general themes.

Mission: The mission of the Department in providing a regional perspective emphasizing land acquisition for parks and trails of countywide significance should be retained.

Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan should be followed to help guide acquisition priorities. Its comprehensive evaluation of outdoor recreation needs within the County and identification of the Department's unique role as one member in a community of park and recreation suppliers, defines the approach to be taken in land acquisition.

Balance: The Department's land acquisition program should reflect a balanced approach that ultimately provides a sense of equilibrium to the park system between resource protection and recreation experiences responsive to changing demographics and County residents' needs. This balancing would include projects that allow local agencies to collectively fund acquisition of lands that provide greater access and outdoor recreation opportunities to urban residents.

Access and Interconnectivity from Urban Areas: A key to the success of the land acquisition program will be overall interconnectivity between parks and trails of the County. The County, with partners, should focus efforts that result in bringing urban residents to regional parks. This can be achieved either by expanding the regional park system into or near urban areas, or by prioritizing land acquisition that will result in trail connections from urban areas to regional parks.

On March 29, 2011 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors accepted as a status report the Santa Clara County Parkland Acquisition Plan 2011 Update, dated March 1, 2011. At that time, the Board of Supervisors also:

- Accepted policy recommendations within the status report affirming the following:
 - The County's role in providing park services to park-deficient urban and suburban areas in the County; and,
 - The County's role in land acquisition, at both the regional level and in partnership with other park and recreation service providers in the County's urban core.
- Referred to the Department the preparation of a report about acquisition strategies to address urban and suburban park needs, consistent with the County's historical role, while still maintaining the County's commitment to the acquisition of regional parklands.

At the August 21, 2012 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Santa Clara County Parks Department presented a **2012 Update of the Parkland Acquisition Plan** that included urban trails, parks, and open space strategy recommendations. The Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

- Accepted the draft report relating to the Parkland Acquisition Plan: 2011 Update; and 2012 Update. These updates strengthened and expanded the Department's focus and role in completing the Countywide Trails Master Plan and formalized the urban partnership process by increasing the Department's outreach to cities and other partners that provide outdoor recreation facilities and services.
- Accepted the modifications to the staff recommendations from the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee that met on April 12, 2012. These included:
 - a modification of the countywide analysis (see Attachment M) utilized to measure unincorporated island residents' access to outdoor recreation areas (parks, trails, schools) to reflect the benchmark of the annexing city.
 - the retention of "regional parks" as a focus for urban parkland acquisition.

- Directed the Parks and Recreation Department staff to prioritize the search for urban properties that could be developed into trails and parks of countywide significance within or near selected urban unincorporated islands within the County's jurisdiction.

Chapter 8, Urban Trails, Parks and Open Space Strategies documents the process, research, and outcomes stemming from the Board of Supervisors direction of March 29, 2011 and final acceptance on August 21, 2012.

1.5 THE UPDATE PROCESS

1.5.1 Countywide

Public Involvement: The initial planning process extended through March 1, 2011. Five public workshops were conducted throughout the County focusing on the criteria used in the land acquisition process. Approximately 175 people were in attendance. Geographic representation was excellent. Involvement was considerable. Small group discussions were conducted and recorded about acquisition criteria definitions and the criteria that were most important to consider. Numerous written public comments were provided at the workshops. In addition, the Department received over 65 follow-up comments and suggestions via e-mail. A summary of these workshops and comments is provided in Attachment D.

The public dialogue provided the Department with a thorough examination of the criteria and suggested refinement or expansion of the criteria.

The criteria were derived from the County's policies and could be organized into six categories. These were the topics discussed at the public workshops.

- **Countywide significance:** the first consideration used in determining whether to pursue acquisition of a property.
- **Partnerships:** opportunity to leverage costs by partnering with other regional park or open space providers, cities, local public agencies, or non-profit organizations.

- **Linkage:** the relationship of the site to the Countywide Trails Plan, other parks, or wildlife corridors.
- **Opportunity:** use of the property given such factors as terrain, constraints represented by resources or surrounding land uses, conformity with adopted plans, or accommodation of local needs.
- **Cost:** relative to funds available, likely development costs, and, very importantly, operational costs and the sustainability of the overall regional park system and level-of-service the Department provides.
- **Timing:** acquisition being accelerated by a threat of development or other constraint that necessitates quick action to prevent loss of an acquisition opportunity.

Major ideas that the public suggested be considered in acquiring lands include:

- Thinking beyond “countywide significance” to include regional and statewide perspectives.
- Considering assistance to cities that may not be able to provide facilities, such as regional sports complexes, that would free up neighborhood serving parks for general park use.
- Emphasizing corridors to provide trails and habitat, thus creating linkages that serve both people and wildlife.
- Fast-tracking implementation of the Countywide Trails Plan by emphasizing working with property owners in securing easements rather than fee-simple ownership.

The general sentiment expressed at the public workshops was that the County’s parks represent great public resources, are well-used, that the Department is outstanding in delivering the opportunities and services it provides, and that the system should continue to grow as it has by:

- Expanding existing parks.
- Purchasing more trails lands or easements to link urban areas to parks and other public lands.

- Implementing existing master plans that have been prepared in the past 10-15 years (Coyote-Harvey Bear, Santa Teresa, Coyote Creek Parkway, Martial Cottle).

Partner Coordination: Individual meetings and telephone interviews were conducted with different groups to discuss the role of the County in parkland acquisition and the overall criteria that the County should use in determining acquisition targets and priorities. These included:

- Open Space Providers: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and the Nature Conservancy
- Fifteen cities within the County
- Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan consultant group

The Department has initiated a Countywide Parkland Mapping project. To this end, the Department has requested GIS and database information from the 15 cities for development of a composite map. Based on the participation of all partners this effort could result in a coordinated database available for use by all to facilitate collaborative Countywide park and trail planning.

A listing of workshops and meetings conducted in the preparation of this plan is presented in Attachment K.

1.5.2 Urban Trails, Parks, and Open Space

Based on the Board of Supervisors' referral from its March 11, 2012 meeting, the Department staff undertook the following activities in order to address the Board's direction:

- Conducted a community outreach program during the fall of 2011 focusing on urban and suburban recreation needs, desires, and opportunities. This program included four public workshops and meetings with public agencies, cities, and school districts to provide input relative to the County's future role in urban parkland acquisition services. A summary of this outreach program is presented in Attachment K and Attachment K-1.
- Conducted analysis of acquisitions for the last 22 years, beginning in Fiscal Year 1990 to determine the historical role

of the County in urban acquisitions. This analysis is presented in Attachment L.

- Conducted an analysis of park accessibility within the unincorporated urban islands of the County and conducted a prioritization exercise to determine where the greatest need for outdoor recreation opportunities exists, as measured by residential access to park-like facilities. This analysis is presented in Attachment M.
- Evaluated the costs associated with operations and maintenance of urban parks relative to current costs to the Department for operating and maintaining existing regional parks under its jurisdiction. This analysis is presented in Attachment N.
- Presented the draft urban trails, parks and open space strategies to the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee and the general public prior to presentation to the Board of Supervisors and collected written comments from the general public about the strategies. These are presented in Attachment O.



Almaden-Quicksilver County Park (photo by Ron Horii)



EXISTING PLANS & POLICIES

The significant plans and policies that currently guide the Department's acquisition efforts are summarized below. These plans reflect the Board's goals of achieving balance throughout the County's park system. These goals include interconnectivity of a seamless system, preservation of open space, preservation of unique or culturally significant land, provision of recreational opportunities, such as camping, equestrian riding, boating, and protection of wildlife and its habitat.

These existing and emerging County policies as they apply to regional parkland acquisition are defined in the County of Santa Clara Charter, Article VI, Section 604.11. Where potential evaluation criteria for directing land acquisition are identified, these are noted.

Plans and policies of the County of Santa Clara that are related to the land acquisition and the criteria used include:

- County of Santa Clara Charter and the Park Charter Amendment of 2006
- County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department 1993 Acquisition Policy (assemblage of the Eminent Domain Policy and Acquisition Process)
- County of Santa Clara General Plan (1995-2010) inclusive of the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update (1995)
- Park Master Plans, Trail Master Plans and Resource Management Plans for County Parks approved by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors
- County of Santa Clara, Parks and Recreation Department. Strategic Plan for Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation System (2003)
- 2020 Open Space Preservation Program (1987)

Related plans and policies that are referenced include:

- State of California law relating to parkland acquisition
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- City General Plans
- Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Draft 2009-10)

2.1 SANTA CLARA COUNTY

2.1.1 The Park Charter

The County Charter (see Attachment A) is the legislative document adopted by the people of the County of Santa Clara that, among other items, defines the County's powers and privileges and facilitates the governing of the County. The Department benefits from a unique amendment to the County Charter that was made first made in 1972 and has been updated numerous times, most recently in 2006, stating that a fixed percentage of the assessed valuation of property within the County must be spent on the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of parks. This provision is commonly referred to as the "Park Charter", the "Park Charter Amendment" or the "Park Charter Fund".

2.1.2 Santa Clara County General Plan

**Parks and
Recreation
Element of the
General Plan**

The current Santa Clara County General Plan titled *Charting a Course for Santa Clara County's Future: 1995-2010* was last updated and adopted in 1994. It is divided into the following general sections:

- Countywide Issues and Policies
- Rural Unincorporated Area Issues and Policies
- Urban Unincorporated Area Issues and Policies
- South County Joint Area Plan Policies

Park and recreation policies of the General Plan are contained in both the *Countywide Issues and Policies* and the *Rural Unincorporated Area Issues and Policies* chapters of the General Plan. Policies within these Chapters of the General Plan provide criteria direction for the 1993 Acquisition Policy (see Section 1.3). Attachment E lists individual General Plan strategies and policies, and provides an annotated listing of general acquisition criteria that relate each.

The General Plan, and hence the criteria in the existing Park Acquisition Policy, are based on a perspective that high urban land costs will generally preclude the acquisition of large parcels of land to create regional urban parks. Consequently, more emphasis is given to:

- open space where resource-based recreation would occur;
- the completion of streamside and baylands park chains within both urban and rural areas;

- completion of the countywide trail system.

General Plan policy statements that specifically reference parkland acquisition are provided in Table 2-1.

**Countywide
Trails Master Plan
Update**

The policies and map associated with the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan Update (Trails Master Plan) were adopted by the Board of Supervisors and incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan. Figure 3-1, Countywide Trail Routes, illustrates the pattern of regional trails within the general Plan.

The Trails Master Plan is specifically not a land acquisition plan. Its preamble strongly identifies that the intent of plan policies will adhere to five beliefs:

- to build a realistic trail system that effectively meets the needs of County residents;
- to respect private property rights through due process in the detail planning and design of trails;
- to provide responsible trail management; inform the trail user that the idea of "shared-use" includes respecting adjacent land uses;
- to accept responsibility for any liability arising from the public's use of County trails; and
- to implement trails involving private property only when the landowner is a willing participant in the process.

General Plan policy statements that reference trail acquisition are provided in Table 2-2. General Plan policies about trails include the specific identification of priority criteria for trail routes including the complexity of land acquisition (Policy C-PR 33.2 / R-PR 35.1).

TABLE 2-1: Santa Clara County General Plan Policies Specifically Referencing Park and Trail Acquisition

POLICY CODE	POLICY
C-PR(i) 2 R-PR(i) 2	Consideration, in parks and open space land <u>acquisition</u> planning and decision making, should be given to the open space preservation priorities proposed by the Open Space Preservation 2020 Task Force.
R-PR 16	Parks and recreation system planning, <u>acquisition</u> , development, and operation should be coordinated among cities, the County, State and Federal governments, school districts and special districts, and should take advantage of opportunities for linkages between adjacent publicly owned parks and open space lands.
R-PR(i) 10	Establish joint programs or other procedures for identifying and capitalizing upon potential opportunities for joint land <u>acquisition</u> , development and/or management of parks and open space lands. (Implementors: County, Cities, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, State Parks Department, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge).
R-PR 20	Individual citizens, community organizations, and businesses should be encouraged to aid in regional parks and open space <u>acquisition</u> , development, and maintenance.
R-PR(i) 12	Establish a program to solicit support from individual citizens, community organizations, and businesses to aid in regional parks <u>acquisition</u> , development, and maintenance. (Implementor: County)
R-PR 29	Trail planning, <u>acquisition</u> , development, and management should be coordinated among the various local, regional, state, and federal agencies which provide trails or funding for trails.
R-PR 30	Trail <u>acquisition</u> , development, patrol, maintenance, and liability responsibilities should be established on a project-by-project basis, and should be coordinated with all jurisdictions involved in each trail segment.
R-PR 42	The Skyline Scenic Recreation Route should be completed in accordance with the recommendations of the four-county Joint Powers Committee, including development of a riding and hiking trail system along the route, and <u>acquisition</u> of a 100-foot right-of-way for the unpaved section of the route from Loma Prieta Road to Mount Madonna Park.



TABLE 2-2: Santa Clara County General Plan Policies Related to Trail Acquisition

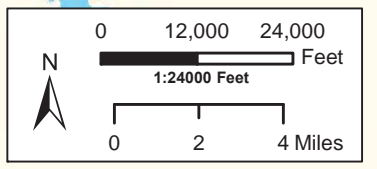
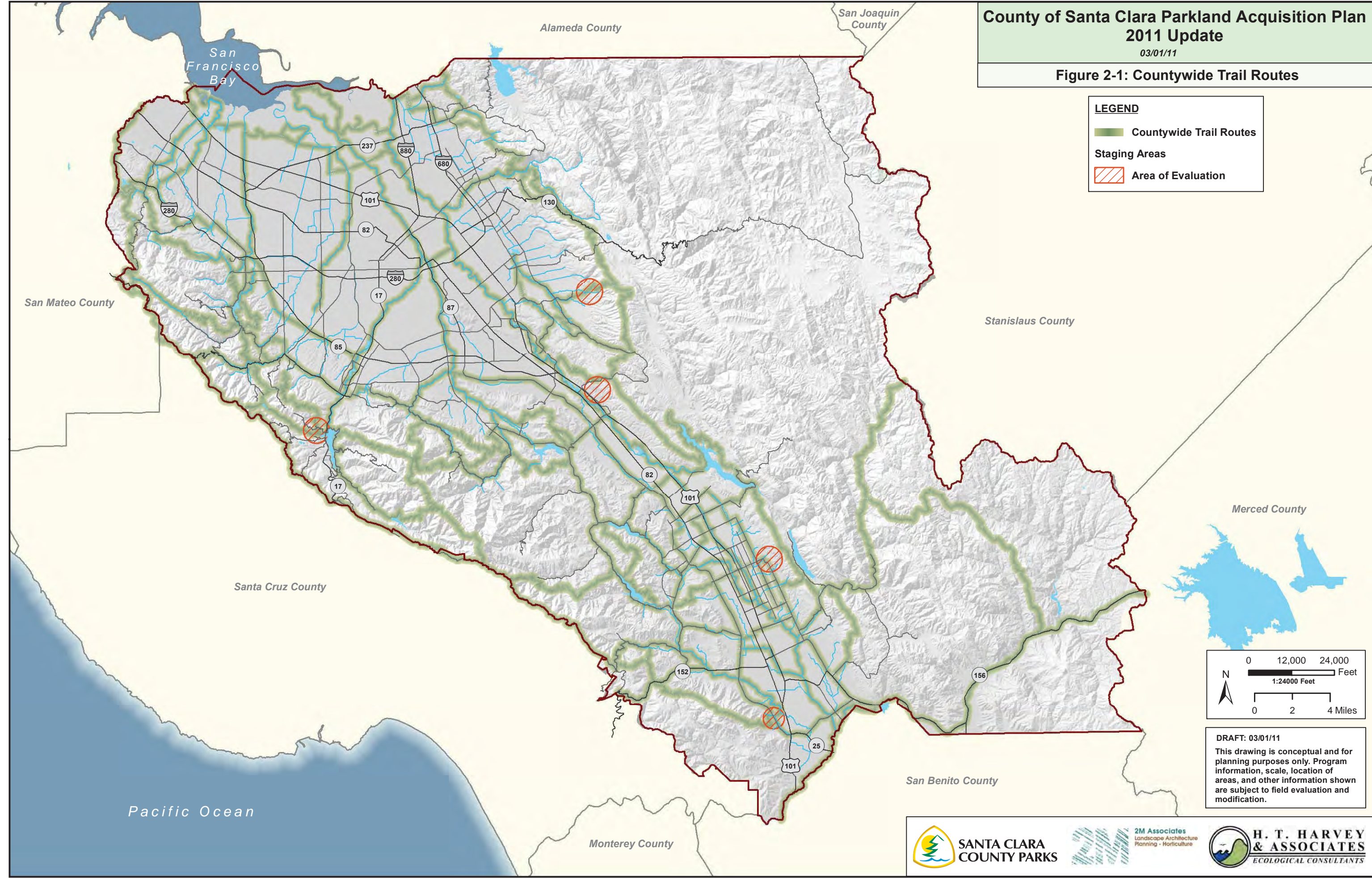
POLICY CODE	POLICY
<p>PR-TS (i) 3.B C-PR(i) 18.1 R-PR(i) 16.1</p>	<p>As a high priority, establish an evenly-balanced review committee, reasonably representative of the cultural diversity of the community, composed of property owners and trail interests, appointed by the Board of Supervisors to work with County staff to analyze the feasibility and acceptability of specific methods available to fund trail <u>acquisition</u>, development, operations, and maintenance including but not limited to the following: 1) user fees for recreational services including equipment rentals, parking and use of facilities (e.g., picnic areas, etc.); 2) gasoline, hotel or other tax increment for trail implementation; 3) Landscaping and Lighting Act assessment district financing; 4) development fee and/or dedication requirements based on the impact of proposed new development on trail needs; 5) encouraging and accepting gifts; and 6) creating incentives for trail dedication and improvement through density bonuses and transfer of development credits. (Implementor: County).</p>
<p>PR-TS (i) 3.D C-PR(i) 18.3 R-PR(i) 16.3</p>	<p>Notify landowners in unincorporated County areas whose property may be affected by a proposed trail route identified as "high priority" on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map. Said landowners shall be informed of the process to be used in determining whether to proceed with <u>acquisition</u>, and consulted to determine their interests and concerns related to the proposed trail. If the County determines, based on its evaluation of trail needs and acquisition priorities, available funding, and other factors, that it wishes to purchase land along a proposed trail route, the County shall notify the affected landowners and initiate a dialogue regarding the County's proposed acquisition. (Implementor: County).</p>
<p>PR-TS 5.2 C-PR 33.2 R-PR 35.1</p>	<p>Criteria used to prioritize trail routes shall include: need for trail uses; compatibility of the trail route with adjoining property; trail usefulness; complexity of <u>land acquisition</u>; opportunities for a large number of users; safety concerns; financial considerations; need for trail settings; and opportunities for a sense of remoteness.</p>
<p>PR-TS 6.1 C-PR 33..3 R-PR 35.2</p>	<p>Trail planning, <u>acquisition</u>, development, and management of trail routes shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map should be coordinated among the various local, regional, state and federal agencies which provide trails or funding for trails.</p>
<p>PR-TS (i) 6.B C-PR(i) 19.12 R-PR(i) 20.1</p>	<p>Develop agreements for funding, interagency planning, <u>acquisition</u>, development and maintenance of countywide trails and trail segments with cities where the City has adopted relevant provisions of the Countywide Trails Master Plan and commits to implement and maintain a priority trail route. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, Transportation Agency, SCVWD).</p>
<p>PR-TS 6.2 C-PR 33..4 R-PR 35.3</p>	<p>Trail <u>acquisition</u> responsibilities should be established on a project-by-project basis, and should be coordinated with all jurisdictions involved in each trail route.</p>

**County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan
2011 Update**
03/01/11

Figure 2-1: Countywide Trail Routes

LEGEND

-  Countywide Trail Routes
- Staging Areas**
-  Area of Evaluation



DRAFT: 03/01/11
This drawing is conceptual and for planning purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.



**A Vision of
"A Necklace of
Parks"**

The regional parks, trails and open space system envisioned in the General Plan historically has been referred to as a "necklace of parks" consisting of a series of major regional parks located in the foothills and mountains around the valley, similar to emeralds on a necklace. These regional park "emeralds" were intended to preserve, and make available for public recreation, examples of the county's finest natural resources. Recreational trails and scenic highways were proposed to link these regional parks with one another as well as to provide access from the valley floor. This vision also included a regional park and trail system that would preserve, and make available for public recreation, examples of the County's finest natural resources.

This vision continues but was expanded by the Board of Supervisors upon adopting the *Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan* (see Section 2.1.5 below for a description of the expanded vision).

**Scenic Highway
Policies**

The Skyline Scenic Recreation Route is specifically identified for development of a riding and hiking trail system along the route, and acquisition of a 100-foot right-of-way for the unpaved section of the route from Loma Prieta Road to Mount Madonna Park (Policy C-PR 40).

**Urban
Unincorporated
Area Policies**

There are numerous existing urban unincorporated islands throughout the County. The Urban Unincorporated Area Policies of the General Plan are built around three broad strategies. These are:

- Strategy #1: Promote Eventual Annexation.
- Strategy #2: Ensure Conformity of Development with Cities' General Plans.
- Strategy #3: Provide Services as Efficiently and Equitably As Possible.

The General Plan policies recognize that the County has very few mechanisms or resources for providing and maintaining urban infrastructure and services. These policies also recognize that residents of urban unincorporated areas may utilize certain types of city-provided services, such as parks, for which they pay no property taxes to support. Annexation of existing urban unincorporated areas would allow cities to then receive property taxes from those areas, which would help pay for services heretofore used by the residents before annexation, such as parks.

**South County
Joint Area Plan
Policies**

The South County Joint Area Plan Policies of the General Plan were adopted by the County and the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy as a mutual statement of policies for community development and environmental management. These policies are intended to achieve harmony and cooperation among the three South County jurisdictions, and consistency between their adopted policies (Policy SC0.1). This policy includes the following:

- Where appropriate, parks and schools should be located together to optimize their multiple use as community facilities (Policy SC4.10).
- High priority should be placed on:
 - the acquisition of roadside rights-of-way for pedestrian and equestrian trails and pathways and bicycle routes
 - the acquisition of streamside areas for pedestrian and equestrian trails and pathways, particularly where the streamside remain in a natural state (Policy SC16.7).
- A variety of open space preservation tools should be used to protect open space in South County, including public acquisition (Policy SC16.17).

2.1.3 County Acquisition Policy (1993)

Following the adoption of the March 1990 Eminent Domain Policy, the Board directed the County Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a policy for parkland acquisition. The *Santa Clara County Parks Acquisition Policy* was approved by the Board on March 30, 1993.

The Acquisition Policy is an assemblage of the County's Eminent Domain Policy and a description of a process and criteria used to evaluate individual land acquisition proposals. The description below does not attempt to cover all the detail of the Policy. Therefore for clarity, the Acquisition Policy is provided in its entirety in Attachment B.

Eminent Domain

The *Eminent Domain Element of the Acquisition Policy, Parks and Open Space* was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 24, 1990. This policy is a restrictive one, generally limiting the use of eminent domain only when any one or more of the following situations occur:

- (a) Whenever the action would serve the convenience and mutual interests of both a consenting seller and the County.
- (b) When any property is threatened by imminent conversion to developed uses.

- (c) When property other than property in active ranching, agricultural production or timberland production zones is planned for sale other than to family members and co-owners.
- (d) When impasse has been reached after good faith mutual negotiations on price or terms, and the property is necessary to the County's acquisition program, and there is no feasible alternative.
- (e) To acquire trails and trail easements only in non-rural areas located within city boundaries, including unincorporated areas within those boundaries, and any areas bordering the San Francisco Bay.

The policy as related to acquiring trails or trail easements was narrowed through the adoption of the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update to allow use of eminent domain only when items (a) or (e) are satisfied.

Policy and Process

The 1993 Acquisition Policy includes a statement of definitions, an evolution process based on a set of criteria, and procedures combined with the County's Eminent Domain Policy. The process ensures that any parcels that may potentially be acquired meet criteria designed to maximize the benefit to the County park system and, thus its residents. An overriding consideration is that any parcel to be acquired is related to the policies of a park master plan, a site capital improvement plan, the County General Plan, the South County Joint Area Plan Policies, the 2020 Open Space Preservation Program, or other resource plans.

The process can begin with virtually anyone proposing a parcel for acquisition, including an individual property owner. The Department then characterizes and ranks the desirability of the parcel as a component of the County park system using a standardized set of criteria. These criteria are found in Appendix D of the 1993 Acquisition Policy (see also Attachment B). Parkland recommendations are forwarded to an Acquisition Review Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. If an acquisition is recommended, an closed session of the Board of Supervisors is held to decide whether or not to proceed with acquisition.

Implementation of the policy involves two phases. The first phase deals with an accumulated list of potential acquisitions. Other parcels that are proposed later are evaluated individually as the need arises.

Identifying a candidate parcel for acquisition then triggers the second

phase where a set of Acquisition Procedures are followed by the County in negotiating with a property owner.

**Acquisition
Criteria**

The Park Acquisition Policy criteria are organized into two tiers. The primary criteria used to evaluate a potential acquisition include:

- Expansion of an existing County park - the proposed property is an inholding within an existing County park, provides a logical boundary, or is contiguous to a County park.
- Trail connectivity - the property could link County parks and other public lands, serve as a regional trail route, or facilitate a rail-to-trail transit route.
- New park land - the proposed property would create a new County park.
- Plan consistency - the proposed property is part of a major open space plan.
- Funding - availability of acquisition funds.
- Location – the proposed property is in an unincorporated area.

Secondary criteria include:

- Financial considerations such as the revenue-generating potential of the property.
- Development and operational cost.
- Cultural significance.
- Ecological considerations.
- Recreational potential (including trail use potential) of the proposed property.
- Threat of development.

The opportunity to work with a partner in the acquisition, either as a financial or operational partner, has been a significant factor in how individual criteria have been considered.

2.1.4 Open Space Preservation: A Program for Santa Clara County

County General Plan policies C-PR(i)2 and R-PR(i)2 incorporate by reference the criteria recommendations contained in the *Open Space Preservation: A Program for Santa Clara County*, a report of the Preservation 2020 Task Force (the Preservation 2020 Study).

The Preservation 2020 Study specifically states that it is not intended to give detailed recommendations on park acquisition, that being the

function of the Department. However, it does indicate where park acquisition is the most appropriate (or sometimes only) tool for open space preservation. Further, it confirmed those features of the County's Regional Parks, Trails and Scenic Highways element of the General Plan which make important contributions to the broader goal of open space preservation.

Criteria recommended to use for specific parkland acquisitions are:

- Resource value: the mix of specific resources that would be protected.
- Recreation Value: refers to features with recreation use potential, e.g., water bodies, historical sites.
- Access/Location: reflects proximity to urbanization and ease of access, features that are subject to change with urban expansion, or extension of public roads.
- Vulnerability to Development: gives higher priority to lands that may be lost to park or other open space use if not acquired soon.
- Land Assembly: high rankings go to areas in large holdings where land acquisition would not be frustrated by excessive parcelization and development.

2.1.5 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

An Expanded General Plan Vision

On August 5, 2003, the County Board of Supervisors approved the *Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan* (the Strategic Plan). The Strategic Plan horizon extends for a twenty-year period.

The Strategic Plan is a "living document" used to guide the Department consistent with the County General Plan policies, including those related to parkland acquisition. It is composed of three sections:

- Developing the Picture – where regional park and outdoor recreation needs and core values about regional outdoor recreation are identified to characterize a vision for regional parks.
- Painting the Picture - providing the Department with a framework to address regional park and recreation issues.
- From Picture to Practice – consisting of twelve individual Action Plans, including acquisition, with prioritized tasks that represent all the Department's major programs.

The Strategic Plan specifically states that, among other items, it is not an acquisition plan or an update of the existing General Plan policies. However it did expand the "Vision" for the regional park system as a string of emeralds as presented within the General Plan without altering the policies of the existing General Plan.

Updated Actions

The Department reviews the Strategic Plan annually for implementation progress. On October 5, 2006 the Board of Supervisors approved an *Updated Strategic Plan Actions and Priorities for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System*. In that update, strategic action items for parkland acquisition included:

Action Item A-1: Updating the acquisition criteria checklist.

Action Item A-2: Updating acquisition priorities in accordance with the Acquisition Policy.

Action Item A-3: Incorporating the Parks Expansion Map of the Parks and Open Space Element of the County General Plan during future cycles of the General Plan Update.

Action Item A-4: Updating the list of excess lands that meet the requirements for disposal and do not support regional park and recreation needs and secure Board of Supervisors' authorization for disposal.

Action Item A-5: Acquire 10,000 acres of new parkland within 10 years.

In addition, updated Strategic Plan actions include participating in partnership funding opportunities for land acquisition opportunities (Action Item P-1).

The Framework and Criteria

There are two specific items in the Strategic Plan that provide a framework to be considered in updating the Acquisition Plan and the criteria within it. These are:

Countywide Significance Criteria: Three categories and seven corresponding criteria are described to help determine what regional park resources would be of countywide significance. These are:

Categories:	Cultural	Use	Physical
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic Value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand - Accessibility - Uniqueness of Use - Regional Appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of Area - Resources

Regional Park Classification: Five categories of regional parks are identified that complement the trail classification found in the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update. These are:

- **Urban Recreation Area:** An area that occurs within or near the incorporated areas of the County and includes:
 - a setting generally in an undeveloped condition that either appears natural in character or is reclaimed to do so;
 - lands developed for high impact public recreation uses.
- **Rural Recreation Area:** An area that occurs outside the incorporated areas of the County and includes:
 - lands generally in an undeveloped condition that appear natural in character and encompass a wide variety of habitat types;
 - lands that would be developed for relatively moderate to high impact public recreation uses.
- **Natural Area:** An area anywhere in the County that is essentially undeveloped and includes:
 - lands generally managed for conditions that best protect the environment and habitat value;
 - lands developed with only minimal amenities needed to provide public access for low-intensity and dispersed recreation.
- **Historic Site:** A district, site, or structure that possesses elements of Countywide significance in history, archaeology, or culture. Historic Sites may be found in each of the Park Classifications.
- **Resource Bank:** Lands that have been acquired for future public use and that are to be re-classified during a site-specific Park Master Plan process.

While applied to an individual park during its master planning process, the classifications indicating the types of lands that would be appropriate for acquisition are not necessarily limited in terms of their geographic characteristics vis-à-vis an urban versus rural setting.

Strategies and Criteria

Strategies of the Strategic Plan that may affect parkland acquisition criteria include:

Strategy #1.1.1: New regional park acquisitions should be considered on lands that:

- expand the boundaries of existing parks or connect these areas;
- provide parks in underserved areas;
- conserve representative diverse natural landscapes and historic resources of the County; and/or
- respond to population growth, changing demographics and other trends.

Strategy #1.1.2: New regional trail acquisitions and easements should be focused on lands that could include routes and regional staging areas as identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan map that:

- provide linkage to and between existing County parks;
- link a County Park and open space with other public lands;
- add segments to the regional, sub-regional, and connector trail routes; and/or
- make use of abandoned railroads and rights-of-way, water resource facilities, utility corridors, where feasible.

Strategy #2.1.4: The acquisition of open space areas protected predominantly for natural habitat conservation, water quality, or agriculture should primarily be the responsibility of other organizations in partnership with one another and the Department.

Strategy #4.2.1: Lands representative of the natural and historic landscapes of the County should be conserved through strategic park and open space land acquisitions.

2.1.6 Individual Park Master Plans

Attachment F provides an overview of the status of individual park master plans, trail plans, or resource management plans within the County park system.

The following plans have been specifically adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and contain statements or guidance about expansion of existing park boundaries.

- Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park Master Plan
- Coyote Creek Parkway Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and Master Plan
- Los Gatos Creek County Park Master Plan Update
- Sanborn County Park Trails Master Plan
- Santa Teresa County Park Master Plan

Other plans for specific County parks have either been entirely contained within existing park boundaries, were prepared in draft form and have not been adopted by the Board, or have never been prepared and therefore do not affect the County Acquisition Policy.

2.2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County Park Abandonment Law of 1959

The County Park Abandonment Law of 1959 (Government Code Section 25580-25588) outlines restrictions and processes such that the Board of Supervisors may abandon all or any portion of a park or land acquired for park purposes, and may sell the land or use the land for other county purposes, if it finds that all of the land to be abandoned is not being used by the public for park purposes and that the property is not appropriate, convenient or necessary for park purposes. The complete act is found in Attachment G.

Public Park Preservation Act of 1971

The Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (Public Resources Code Section 5400-5409) establishes restrictions and mitigation measures whereby public agencies are prohibited from acquiring real property that is in use as a public park for any non-park purpose, unless sufficient compensation or land, or both, are provided to enable the operating entity to replace the park land and the facilities. The complete act is found in Attachment H.

The Naylor Act

Some areas of the state are experiencing declining public school enrollments, are closing school sites, and are sometimes selling or leasing these sites for other uses, including parks. The Naylor Act (California Education Code 17485-17500), requires school districts, when selling school playgrounds and other undeveloped open space lands, to offer the property for sale to the relevant city, park district, regional park authority, and county, in that priority order. Further, the Naylor Act requires school districts to sell the open-space type property, if requested by one of the enumerated entities, at the

acquisition cost plus inflation and improvement costs, but not less than 25% of market value.

**Other State Law
and Local
Ordinances**

There are numerous sources of California State Law that guide the County's acquisition, conveyance, leasing, and licensing use of Real Property. It is not the purpose of this plan to provide a comprehensive overview of legal considerations. However, it is important to note that the County ensures compliance with various provisions of the California Public Resources Code (including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the Civil Code, the California Government Code, and the County of Santa Clara Ordinance Code when taking action related to land acquisition, conveyances, and entitlements.

2.3 OTHER PARK AND RECREATION SUPPLIERS

There are many agencies and organizations that acquire lands ultimately used for park, open space, and trail purposes within Santa Clara County that complement the land acquisition role of the County. The primary open space partners the Department would work with include, but are not limited to:

- National Park Service (Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Fifteen cities within the County
- San Francisco Bay Trail Project
- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

A summary of these agencies and organizations plans and policies is presented in Attachment I.

The County has and will continue to seek partnership funding opportunities through State and Federal grant sources (e.g., State Coastal Conservancy, Federally Sourced Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the like). The County will also seek partnership and funding leverage opportunities through regional parks and open space planning efforts. For example, the Bay Area Open Space Council, of which the County is a member, participates

in planning efforts focused on serving urban populations and creating landscape linkages throughout the greater Bay Area.

2.4 POTENTIAL FUTURE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

The Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is under consideration and may be part of future land acquisition evaluations if adopted. While not finalized, the draft plan presents a framework for promoting the protection and recovery of natural resources and contribute to the recovery of endangered species. The current Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan proposes that a portion of the County Parks' overall acquisitions would support the habitat reserve goals over the life of the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. However, the permit term of 50 years was selected because it allows for the full and successful implementation of the covered activities, the conservation strategy, the monitoring and adaptive management program, and the funding strategy.

The cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San José, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District are collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, stakeholder groups and the general public to prepare and implement the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. This long-range plan is to protect and enhance ecological diversity and function within a large section of Santa Clara County, while allowing for currently planned development and growth. The plan will create a number of new habitat reserves that will be larger in scale and more ecologically valuable than the fragmented, piecemeal habitats currently yielded by mitigating projects on an individual basis.

Objectives of the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan include:

- Conserving natural biological communities at the ecosystem scale by agreeing as a region on essential habitat for the protection of certain endangered and threatened species, and proactively preserving that habitat to both mitigate for the environmental impacts of development and enhance and restore the natural communities that support endangered plants and animals.
- Accommodating land uses compatible with local General Plans by streamlining the permitting process and allowing public and private development and operations/maintenance projects requiring permits from state and federal agencies to proceed.

without the costly and time-consuming delays associated with negotiating endangered species issues on a project-by-project basis.

- Facilitating the provision of water supply and flood protection by preserving and enhancing watersheds and by meeting state and federal habitat requirements for contracts to import water from outside the County.
- Providing a process with extensive and numerous opportunities for public involvement throughout development and implementation of the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.

To be incorporated into the Reserve System and count toward the land acquisition requirements of the plan, acquired lands must meet the following criteria:

- Contribute to meeting the goals and objectives of the plan.
- Have a location, configuration, and quality consistent with the reserve design and assembly principles of the Plan.
- Permanently protect the biological functions and values that contribute to the plan.
- Be managed in perpetuity according to a Reserve Management Plan. Acquisitions may be counted toward meeting the obligations of the plan before the Reserve Management Plan has been completed if the Implementing Entity owns the land or if the property owner is bound by a conservation easement or other agreement that requires preparation of a management plan.

Key to the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan implementation is a "Stay Ahead Provision" that generally requires that the assembly of the reserve stay ahead of the covered activities. This could affect the timing of parkland acquisition associated with lands that would help the County meet its obligations as defined under the plan.

**Relationship to
the Parkland
Acquisition Plan
Update**

Over the years, one of the goals of the County General Plan and the acquisition of the County's regional parklands has been to target properties that represent the wide variety of landscapes that exist within the County. Therefore, a great many of the County's parks contain portions of high value habitats while providing the general public a wide range of opportunities to experience these resources. The concept of regional parks and resource conservation is not a new idea. Many County Parks fit this mold whether within or outside

of the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan planning area. Examples within the planning area include:

- Almaden Quicksilver County Park
- Anderson Lake County Park
- Calero County Park
- Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear County Park
- Joseph D. Grant County Park
- Santa Teresa County Park
- Uvas Canyon County Park

**Relationship to
The Park Charter
Fund**

Though not binding until the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is adopted, in August, 2007 the Board of Supervisors accepted a recommendation by the Director of the Parks Department to use the Park Charter Fund to acquire land in lieu of paying impact fees for anticipated County-related impacts, including County non-park related impacts; and that the Park Charter Fund also be used to acquire reserve system land in lieu of the County paying impact fees for anticipated Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan impacts.



Hellyer County Park (photo by Ronald Horii)



ACCOMMODATING FUTURE RECREATION TRENDS AND NEEDS

Outdoor recreations needs, once identified, are generally accommodated in two ways:

- Acquiring parklands, developing access and use facilities within them, and operating them for use. Ideally these parklands are easily accessible to the user.
- Offering programs that encourage and support park use.

It is often the case that acquiring new parklands, particularly in highly urbanized areas, is not feasible. In these circumstances, or where existing parks are not easily accessible to nearby populations, sponsored access and use programs may become important tools in assuring that all residents may benefit from parks.

3.1 RECREATION TRENDS AND NEEDS

3.1.1 Formal Needs Assessments and Use Surveys

The outdoor recreation needs of Santa Clara County residents identified in Section 3.2 and Section 3.3 are based on the following:

- **Strategic Plan for Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation System:** The 2003 Strategic Plan included a comprehensive outdoor recreation needs analysis for Santa Clara County. This analysis involved recreation opinion telephone surveys; anonymous focus group sessions; round table discussions; a parks and recreation commissioners summit with all cities; public workshops; technical advisory group meetings; and a review of national, state, and regional trends.
- **Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey:** On a regular basis, the Department conducts a statistically accurate parks and recreation needs assessment survey. The latest of these, conducted by Godbe Research was completed in 2007. Previous surveys were conducted in 1999, 2001 and 2003.
- **State of California Outdoor Recreation Plan:** In 2009 the California Department of Parks and Recreation surveyed public opinions and attitudes on outdoor

recreation in California to help it inform its California Outdoor Recreation Plan.

- **The Outdoor Foundation. Outdoor Recreation Participation Report – 2010.** The Outdoor Foundation® produces an annual report to help the outdoor industry, federal officials, and state and local organizations better address the continuing inactivity crisis among children and the growing disconnect between children and the outdoors.
- **Outdoor Resources Review Group. Great Outdoors America.** The Outdoor Resources Review Group was an effort by leading conservationists from across the nation to provide advice on the best ways to preserve America’s outdoor resources. In report provided recommendations on how government and Americans everywhere can help preserve and benefit from the Great American Outdoors.

"I do, for the same reasons that all of you do; for the same reason families go outside for a picnic or campers spend a night in a national park, and sportsmen track game through the woods or wade deep into a river. It's a recognition passed down from one generation to the next, that few pursuits are more satisfying to the spirit than discovering the greatness of America's outdoors".
Barak Obama,
President of the
United States

3.1.2 Population Growth

Looking at population growth over the next forty years, the State of California projects the County's population to grow by an additional 787,239 people by 2050, a growth of nearly 42%. To sustain cohesive communities, acquire spaces that make Santa Clara County such a desirable place to live, and enable County Parks to continue to keep pace with this growth, the trends overviewed in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 should be recognized.

3.1.3 Park-deficient Urban Unincorporated Areas

Local governments in California play a critical role in the effort to set aside parkland and open space for recreational purposes. Cities and counties have been authorized since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. Originally, the Act was designed to ensure “adequate” open space acreage in jurisdictions adopting Quimby Act standards (i.e., 3-5 acres per 1,000 residents).

The majority of the cities in Santa Clara County identify the need for neighborhood and community parks following the Quimby Act standards. While the adopted standards do vary by city, parkland acquisition in virtually all cities within the County has not kept up with

population growth. Therefore, some areas, by definition, have remained "underserved".

3.2 NATIONAL AND STATE TRENDS

Nationally, there is a strong interest in the following general needs (see Section 3.1.1 for sources):

- Developing more trails and parks to connect urban and rural communities.
- Properly funding parks to create projects for encouraging visits by minority communities and low income families.
- Educating individuals and families on how to be responsible stewards of the outdoors.
- Assuring greater availability and the encouraged use of clearly marked bikes lanes in cities.
- Integrating the outdoors with classroom learning so it becomes part of the standard curriculum.
- Creating and promoting inexpensive ways for urban area youth to experience the outdoors.
- Increasing government support for making public lands more accessible to all people.

Outdoor recreation trends and issues identified by the State of California and that relate to parkland acquisition in Santa Clara County include:

- **Lack of Access to Public Park and Recreation Resources:** Providing more accessible and safer park settings can promote inspiration, discovery, learning and encourage outside activities, active living and a healthy lifestyle. Youth generally participate in activities in and around their neighborhoods or in their communities; therefore, providing safe and accessible local recreation activities for all youth should remain a high priority. Youth programs should continue to pay special attention to nature appreciation and wildlife viewing, celebrating heritage, camping overnight, and playing on a team. Because youth often appear to be "too busy" to participate in outdoor

recreation, accessible activities close to home and in safe environments should be provided.

- **The Lack of Linkages and Seamless Delivery of Recreation Opportunities Issues and Actions:** Parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services need better coordination. Providers differentiate between park and recreation entities at the expense of emphasizing the range of recreation opportunities available to the public. Strengthening the connections between all public, private and non-profit parks and recreation agencies and organizations that share common missions and goals can help furnish a seamless delivery of recreation opportunities to all Californians.
- **The Need to Protect and Manage Natural Resource Values:** The natural resource values that make California a special place to live and play are being subjected to unrelenting pressures. Repeated public opinion surveys show that natural resources are highly valued by park and recreation participants. Unless they are to become overused with resulting impacts on resources, more parklands need to be acquired.
- **The Need to Preserve and Protect Californian's Cultural Heritage:** There is a need to increase the use of diverse cultural heritage resources to create and strengthen the connections of community and families with each other and with their shared cultural heritages. Surveys indicate a high unmet demand for more cultural heritage recreational opportunities.

3.3 COUNTYWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS

Many of the needs identified in the Strategic Plan are consistent with broad trends identified by state and national studies and remain pertinent today. Translated into actions for the Department, these needs included:

- **Create Opportunities for the Future:** Existing regional parks that are popular now will face ever-increasing pressures unless new regional parks are created close to major population growth areas or existing parks are developed to a greater extent than is now the case. These

pressures include crowding, overuse, and potential degradation of park natural, cultural, and historic resources.

- **Expand the System:** Continued expansion of lands available for regional outdoor recreation, buffer areas around parks, and the preservation of natural resources is a significant quality-of-life issue throughout the Bay Area and particularly within Santa Clara County.
- **Provide for Basic, High Demand, Regional Recreation Opportunities:** Demands have consistently been shown for all types of trail activities (walking / hiking, running, and all types of bicycling) and group and family picnicking.
- **Provide Gateway Opportunities and Address Nature Deficit Disorder:** There is an overall downward slide in outdoor recreation among 6 to 12 year olds. Accessible trails and parks can help counter this trend.
- **Provide Regional Parks with Multiple Outdoor Recreation Opportunities directed to Small and Large Group Use:** Regional parks offering multiple outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly those appealing to all age groups and abilities, are most desirable for groups and families. In the future, cultures that traditionally place a high value on extended family relationships will be prevalent thus creating an even higher demand on group use areas than exists today.
- **Provide Places for Special Events:** These include: large multiple-use areas and accompanying parking and service access for festivals (e.g., cultural, arts, wine, food), outdoor concerts, and very large group activities; regional competitions such as sport tournaments, arena and trail-related equestrian events; and mountain bicycle races.
- **Provide Places with a Sense of Remoteness:** Many sought-after outdoor recreation experiences are related to relaxation achieved through exploration, remoteness, and self-renewal. Being totally separated from the image of the urbanized valley and from its sights and sounds is often important for relaxation. Being somewhere in nature enhances relaxation.

- **Provide Systemwide Strategy for Outdoor Recreation and Training Opportunities for People with Dogs:** Opportunities to be outdoors and take long walks with a dog, allowing a dog to run off-leash, or training dogs in an open space environment are diminishing.
- **Provide for Specific Recreation Opportunities:** Complementing general outdoor recreation demands, there are a number of specialized day and overnight use recreation opportunities that are dependent on open space areas and settings not available in municipal parks sports complexes, camping, bicycle racing and the like.
- **Preserve Natural Resources / Educate the Public about Park Resources and Park Stewardship :** Regional parks are where much of the County's wildlife habitat and cultural resources exist. Without the conservation of these resources, the quality of many recreation and outdoor educational experiences diminishes.
- **Provide Accessible Regional Recreation Opportunities:** Recreation close to home and work is important. The more regional parks and recreation facilities can be considered part of a seamless experience that begins at home or at places of work, the more those facilities will be used and the greater their value will be to the general public. To enhance access, future regional park improvements should be coordinated with mass-transit planning, where possible.
- **Provide Trail Links To and Between Regional Parks:** Implementation of trail routes, as identified in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan, is key in linking residents to regional park and recreation resources.
- **Hours of Operation:** Generally, existing regional parks are managed for day use from 8 AM to sunset. Extending day-use hours of operation at selected parks could both enhance the recreation experience and meet the needs of a dynamic urban population.
- **Maintenance and Stewardship:** The need for continuing maintenance and stewardship programs is particularly important as the County's population grows and brings with that growth an ever-increasing use of parks that could tax

the quality of both natural resources and developed facilities.

- **Balance Park Use:** Many recreation options that currently exist within the County remain unknown to potential users. Public information programs should be directed to disperse demand from parks that are operating at capacity to underutilized resources.
- **Provide a Sense of Safety:** For many park visitors, there is a perception that a well-maintained park produces a heightened sense of safety and a greater sense of a quality recreation experience.
- **Cooperate with Others:** Many proposals for enhancing park and recreation opportunities within Santa Clara County are seemingly unreachable tasks if approached on a piecemeal basis by one agency or interest group. Cooperation among agencies and recreation interests is critical.

3.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Land acquisition activities that would reflect outdoor recreation trends and needs include:

- Continuing to acquire resource lands that can be easily accessed, improved, and used for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits that accommodate the need for contact with the natural environment.
- Acquiring lands or easements for trails, and in particular urban trails connecting to regional parks, that are most useful in meeting today's expressed needs.
- Providing outdoor recreation opportunities for currently underserved urban areas that:
 - May entail working with agencies, such as cities, the Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Caltrans, and others that are involved with the acquisition, planning, development, and/or operations of safe multi-use trails, bicycle, and pedestrian trail systems that facilitate access to existing regional parks, and in and of themselves accommodate recreation needs.

- May include acquisition of lands that could be developed as a regional sports facility thus relieving pressures on existing neighborhood parks.
- May involve redevelopment of existing public lands as parks (assuming that such lands are prepared in advance for public park uses by other agencies) rather than acquisition of new parcels.



Guadalupe River Park, San José (photo by Ronald Horii)



Vasona Lake County Park: Festival in the Park (photo by Ronald Horii)

4

LAND ACQUISITION FRAMEWORK & CRITERIA

This chapter presents acquisition criteria, priority criteria, and a framework for rating land acquisition priorities.

Relationship to Eminent Domain Policy

All considerations for land acquisition are made within the context of the County's Eminent Domain Policy for parkland acquisition adopted by the Board of Supervisors (March, 1990) and qualified for trails with the adoption by the Board of the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update (November, 1995). The emphasis of these policies is working with a willing seller in acquiring lands.

4.1 ACQUISITION FRAMEWORK

Figure 4-1 presents a generalized decision model for considering the acquisition of candidate properties. It involves five steps. At any given step an individual property may be excluded from consideration.

Step 1 • Acquisition Opportunity: The process begins with virtually anyone proposing a parcel for acquisition, including an individual property owner. The general location, assessor and land use information about the property, and the owner status as a willing seller is documented. These considerations are further described in Section 4.1.1.

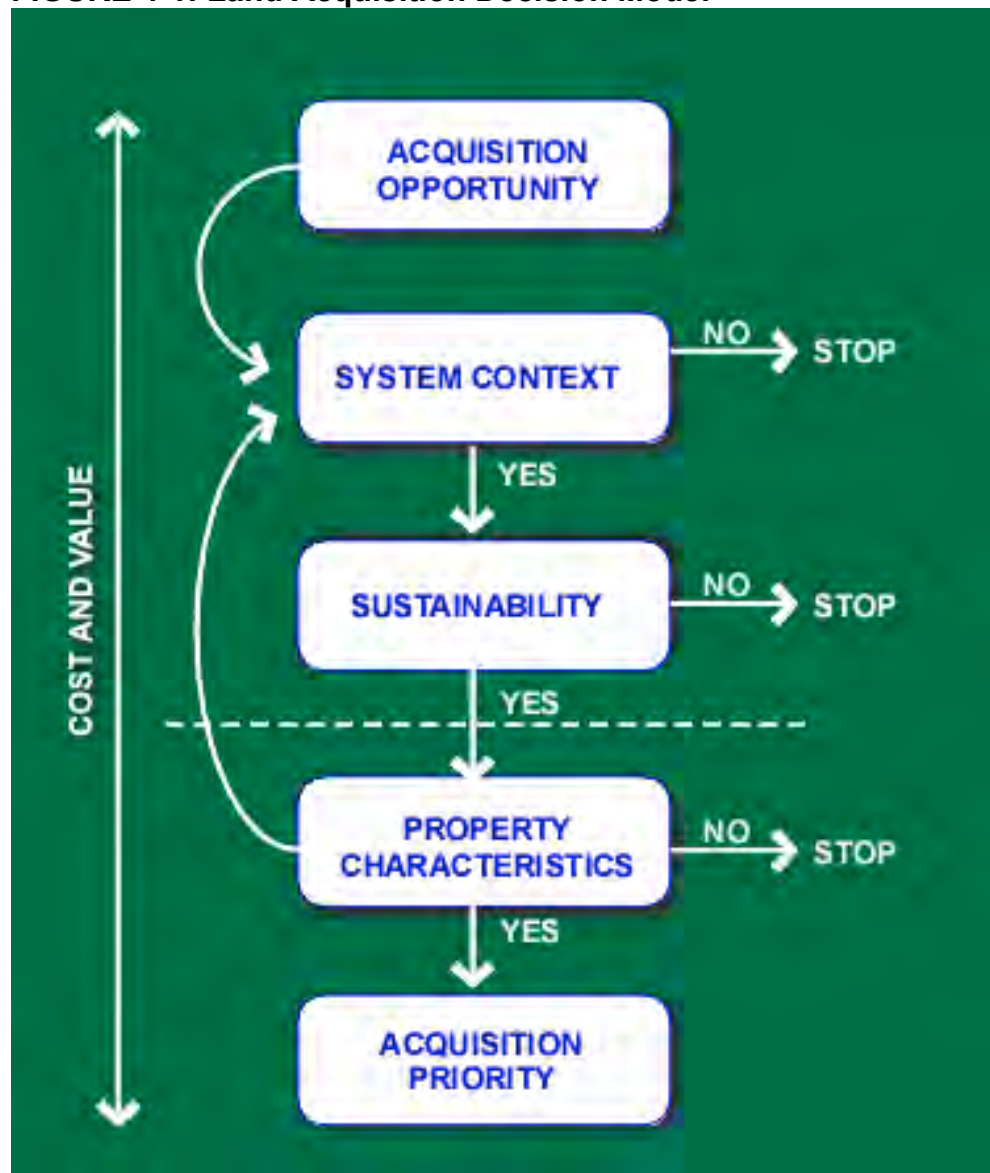
Step 2 • System Context: The potential acquisition is characterized relative to Board acquisition goals of the County defined by park and recreation needs, countywide significance, and partnership opportunities. These are further described in Section 4.1.2.

Step 3 • Sustainability: A sustainability analysis is conducted to determine if the existing County parks system can sustain the proposed acquisition. This analysis is further described in Section 4.1.3.

Step 4 • Property Characteristics: Detailed information about the parcel is characterized to determine if there are specific resources, access conditions, use opportunities, liabilities, or

other use constraints that would affect considerations about acquiring the property. This characterization is further described in Section 4.1.4. As more detailed information is obtained about a property, circumstances may come to light that warrant further deliberation as to the viability of that acquisition vis-à-vis the System Context and Sustainability considerations.

FIGURE 4-1: Land Acquisition Decision Model



Step 5 • Acquisition Priority: The potential acquisition is evaluated and considered relative to other potential acquisitions active at the time using specific priority criteria. This analysis is further described in Chapter 5.

Acquisition considerations for Steps 1 through 4 are presented in Tables 4-1 and 4-2.

Encompassing all steps is the consideration of balancing the land acquisition costs with the future value of the land in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of the County. The Park Charter Funds set aside for acquisition can be considerable, yet they are finite. It will be a challenge to balance competing opportunities when an urban parcel of 10 acres may be the equivalent cost of a rural parcel of 500 acres.

4.1.1 Owner Considerations

If a property owner contacts the County this indicates that there is a willing seller. An asking price is requested. If the County contacts the owner, and there is not interest on the part of the owner to sell either property or an easement, the inquiry is terminated.

4.1.2 A System Context

To allow the County to determine in a timely fashion if the particular property would benefit the County's overall regional park and recreation network consistent with the County General Plan, an early determination is made about partnership opportunities and countywide significance.

Following the guidance presented in the Department's Strategic Plan, land acquisitions that cumulatively over time provide a continuum of outdoor recreation opportunities for the County's urban populations are important. Expanding and balancing today's spectrum of recreation opportunities involves a wide range of partnerships that avoids the duplication of services and ensures a collaborative strategy among providers with slightly different niche roles. Considering the roles of each partner within in these environments, from densely populated urban areas to secluded wildlands, is important.

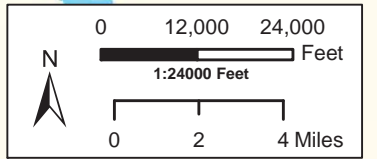
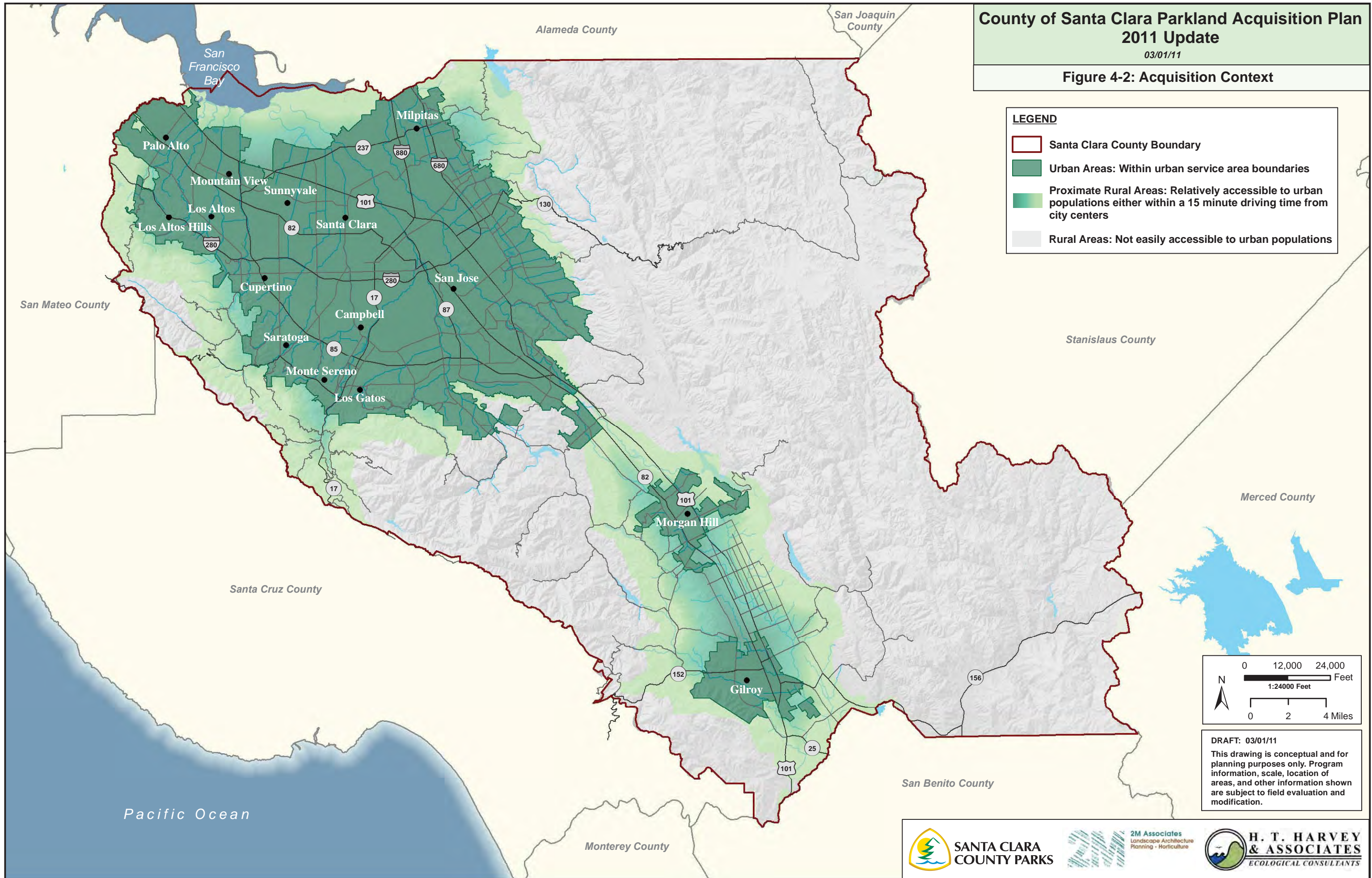
Figure 4-2. Acquisition Plan Context, illustrates the County divided into three general regions: urban areas and populations where neighborhood and community parks and trails are important; rural

**County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan
2011 Update**
03/01/11

Figure 4-2: Acquisition Context

LEGEND

- Santa Clara County Boundary
- Urban Areas: Within urban service area boundaries
- Proximate Rural Areas: Relatively accessible to urban populations either within a 15 minute driving time from city centers
- Rural Areas: Not easily accessible to urban populations



DRAFT: 03/01/11
This drawing is conceptual and for planning purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

areas that are proximate and relatively accessible to urban populations either by public transportation or the Countywide trail system; and rural areas where parks and trails allow the user essentially get away from it all. These generally follow the parkland classification identified for the Department in the Strategic Plan. These regions and the County's general land acquisition goals for each include:

Urban Areas:

- Assisting individual or multiple cities in acquiring lands and planning trails identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan.
- Assisting individual cities in acquiring lands for their trails, bicycle routes, or pedestrian systems, consistent with their adopted General Plans, that would directly link to the regional trail system identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan or facilitate interconnectivity from local neighborhood parks to Countywide parks and trail system.
- Assisting individual cities in providing outdoor recreation opportunities for residents within unincorporated island areas greater than 150 acres in size by:
 - Acquiring lands or trail easements for park-deficient neighborhoods that would directly serve residents of those areas while meeting the test of providing a regional nexus and partnering with an operating entity.
 - Facilitating, through planning and acquisition, stronger pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing regional parks. Acquisition priorities would be based on completing a planning effort so that acquisition proceeds in a thoughtful manner.
- Assisting multiple cities in coordinating the acquisition of urban lands whose subsequent development would accommodate demonstrated regional recreation needs that exist throughout the County and that no one agency could accommodate.
- Expanding existing County parks within urban areas should the opportunity for land acquisition arise so that adjacent seamless park facilities are created.

Proximate Rural Areas:

- Acquiring lands and planning trails identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan, particularly those that connect with existing County parks, other open space lands, or an urban trail network.
- Expanding existing County parks including lands identified within adopted County Park master plans.
- Partnering with other regional open space providers in expanding the overall park and open space network of the County consistent with General Plan policies.
- Creating new regional parks that offer unique outdoor recreation or interpretive opportunities.
- Attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County.

Other Rural Areas:

- Acquiring lands and planning trails identified on the Countywide Trail Master Plan.
- Expanding existing County Parks including lands identified within adopted County Park master plans.
- Partnering with other regional open space providers in expanding the overall park and open space network of the County consistent with General Plan policies.
- Attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County.

Acquisition and priority criteria differ within each of the three regions. The decision to move forward with considering a property for acquisition from a system perspective is really dependent on two general considerations: if the potential use of the property is of Countywide significance; and the type and level of partnership involvement. Table 4-1 illustrates the criteria that would be used to evaluate if there is a combination of these considerations that makes sense to move forward, or not.

4.1.3 Sustainability

When acquiring lands it is fair and reasonable to consider the general costs for staff, materials, equipment and security that will have to be provided in the Department's annual operations budget to operate and maintain the property at a selected standard, both in the undeveloped and developed states. Lacking an operational partnership of some sort, if the effect of operating the individual parcel will be burdensome

relative to the ability of the Department to maintain existing level-of-service standards for the whole park system, the acquisition must be questioned.

4.1.4 Specific Property Characteristics

An analysis of the unique park purposes possible for a potential acquisition is made by assessing the cultural, ecological and recreation attributes of each parcel.

TABLE 4-1: System Context Criteria (see Table 4-3 for definitions)

CRITERIA	URBAN	PROXIMATE RURAL	RURAL
PLAN CONSISTENCY			
Local and County General Plan Consistency	X		
County General Plan Consistency		X	X
Strategic Plan Consistency	X	X	X
Adopted County Park Master Plan Consistency	X	X	X
COUNTYWIDE SIGNIFICANCE			
Demonstrated Multi-City Need	X		
Urban Unincorporated Area Need	X		
Countywide Trail	X	X	X
Size of Area (Note: size varies based on circumstances; see Table 4-3 for refined definition)	X	X	X
Expansion of Existing County Park	X	X	X
Historic Value	X	X	X
Natural Resource Protection	X	X	X
PARTNERSHIP			
Lease or Acquisition Partner	X	X	X
Operations Partner (other agency or concessionaire)	X (required)*	X (optional)	X (optional)

* Note: In the next ten to twenty years the Department will be taking on a significant urban operations expansion in Martial Cottle Park. Additional urban operations by the Department need to be carefully considered.

4.2 OWNERSHIP AND GENERAL PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

Table 4-2 provides the types of information that are ultimately collected about a property prior to its acquisition. Often a potential property is evaluated using other criteria before any discussion of asking price. The “cost” of the property will therefore not necessarily be considered when a potential property is first evaluated.

4.3 ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Table 4-3 overviews the acquisition criteria and their definitions. Criteria are interrelated and no one is necessarily used in isolation. Some criteria would be evaluated on a yes or no basis. Others are used for more of a comparative consideration. For example, development costs may or may not be relatively high for a given property but would not be the sole criterion used to decide whether or not to move forward with acquisition.

TABLE 4-2: Ownership and Property Characteristics

CRITERIA	DEFINITION
CHARACTERISTICS	
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking value and identification of circumstances (all cash, life estate, reinvestment advantage, charitable remainder trust, deferred gift annuity, deferred capital gains tax, partial gift through bargain sale, partial sale, conservation easement, public access easement, assure future sale) • For comparative purposes, the value of recent transactions of a similar type where such information is readily available
Property Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessor Parcel Number • Location (inholding of existing park, adjacency to existing parks and/or open space areas) • Ownership information • Acreage • General Plan designation • Zoning designation • Williamson Act status • General description of property's natural features

TABLE 4-3: Acquisition Criteria

COUNTYWIDE SIGNIFICANCE	
Approved Plans for New Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property is included in a park master, site or capital improvement plan, County General Plans, South County Plan, 20-20 Open Space Plan, or other agency regional open space plans.
Expansion of Existing County Park Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property would expand an existing County park such as an in-holding, contiguous property, or extend a logical boundary of an existing park.
Countywide Trail Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property involves a segment of a trail route identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan, an element of the County of Santa Clara General Plan. These trail routes are designated as Regional, Sub-regional, or Connector Trails. • The property involves a City trail or park as identified in an adopted General Plan that is connected to a Countywide trail route.
Historic Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property associated with architecture, events, or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad archaeological or historic patterns of North America, California, the Central California Region, or Santa Clara County.
Regional Demand / Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property would either expand an existing County park or would create a new park that lends itself to activities and/or facilities that would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appeal to a broad cross-section of the regional population and would draw users from within and outside the County. - accommodate long-term outdoor recreation needs (i.e., more than 20 years) as identified through population projections, use surveys, and other recreation needs analyses. - represent a 'one-of-a-kind', or nearly so, opportunity not available from other recreation suppliers.
Multi-City Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property would accommodate the outdoor recreation needs of multiple cities that individually would not be able to secure the land.
Urban Unincorporated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with adopted City General Plan, the property is

TABLE 4-3: Acquisition Criteria

Need	within unincorporated islands greater than 150 acres in size and would help meet the outdoor recreation needs of residents within that area.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property would be accessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directly from the main transportation routes within the County (e.g., from the freeway / expressway / arterial system) - via public transportation - via a County trail • Access routes to the property would not be significantly limited in their capacity.
Size of Area (for park purposes; not related to trail route)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property is large enough to accommodate multiple regional uses in an open space setting. Size of area will be determined by general park classifications as referenced in the Strategic Plan. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Area: The Park is large enough to accommodate multiple regional uses in an open space setting. Size is typically greater than 500 acres in the aggregate - Rural Recreation Area: The Park would accommodate a few regional uses. Size is typically between 100 and 500 acres - Urban Recreation Area: The Park would only accommodate a single regional use and provides no significant open space experience. Size is typically smaller than 100 acres. - Historic Site: variable
Resource Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property has a direct relationship to attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County including the protection of scenic resources and areas with rich biological habitat that provide opportunities for appropriate resource-based recreation experiences of regional significance. Site characteristics to be considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listed species protection - Landscape connectivity - Natural communities representation - Watershed protection

TABLE 4-3: Acquisition Criteria

PARTNERSHIP CRITERIA	
Lease or Acquisition Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to leverage acquisition costs by partnering with other park or open space providers, cities, or local public agencies.
Lease / Easement Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to greatly reduce acquisition costs through lease and/or easement acquisition.
Operations Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to fund property acquisition that would expand park systems and/or recreational facilities where other agencies will take on operations responsibilities in perpetuity.
SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA	
Development Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized costs (assumed) for planning, design, and building improvements to open the park or trail for public use to its optimum intended use. • Effect on deferring needed infrastructure / life-cycle capital expenditures in other County parks and or new CIP projects indicated in adopted County park master plans.
Operation Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized costs (assumed) for staff, materials, equipment, and security that will have to be provided in the annual operations budget to open and maintain the property at a selected standard, both in the undeveloped and developed states. • Impact of operating the individual parcel will have on the ability of the Department to maintain acceptable level-of-service standard for the whole park system.
Revenue Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial estimate of revenue generation potential from the hypothetical optimum development and operation of the proposed property compares positively to the overall costs to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain.
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS	
Interpretive Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties with natural or cultural resources that lend themselves to interpretation. • Properties that embody a "representative landscape" exemplifying the natural diversity within the County.

TABLE 4-3: Acquisition Criteria

Site Specific Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties that would be acquired to implement a trail segment to link existing County parks, link existing parks to other parks or open space land, or link community parks with regional parks or trails that are not included in the Countywide Trails Master Plan. (Note: Linkages are often acquired “incrementally” so a single property acquisition as referenced in the Strategic Plan may be considered part of a Regional Park Resource Bank until later classification.
Recreation Usability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of configuration, topography, and lack of resource constraints, the property has significant flexibility in how it may be developed for multiple recreation uses. Resource opportunities / constraints would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water supply - habitat conditions - slope - microclimate - cultural resources
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the property helps assure that it will be accessible to a wide number of users. • Proximity to urban populations including: the property is accessed directly from the main transportation routes within the County (e.g., from the freeway / expressway system); accessible via public transportation; accessible via a city or County trail; the property is surrounded by a densely populated urban environment.
Population Growth / Recreation Needs & Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property would support the needs of future County residents based on latest needs and trends surveys. • The property could be developed for recreation to serve a high number of users, or address a lack of accessibility to a park and recreation area.
Consistency with Agency Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property use as a park or trail would be consistent with specific agency plans (master plans, General Plans, etc.)
Land Use Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property if used as a public park or trail would not impact the ability of an adjacent property from being developed/used based on existing zoning of the jurisdiction involved.

PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 PRIORITY CRITERIA

Acquisition criteria help the Department characterize a site and work with partners to determine a property's importance in meeting recreation needs. Near-term implications, such as cost, acquisition, and interim use, should be considered prior to purchase. It is important to recognize that parkland is intended to last for perpetuity. For this reason, long term considerations and clearly defined partnership roles should address the planning, development, and future operations and maintenance of the site.

Table 5.1 presents priority criteria. It is assumed that by the time priority criteria are being applied, any parcel being considered has previously been identified to be of countywide significance and consistent with the mission and vision for regional parks. The cumulative effect of applying the priority criteria will help differentiate between land acquisition opportunities. This evaluation will also support the Department's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of the critical lands to acquire when there are potentially more opportunities for acquisition than funds available.

TABLE 5.1: Priority Criteria

CRITERIA	DEFINITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that leverage acquisition monies from the Park Charter Fund with other funding sources (versus those that do not bring such funding).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threat of Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A property is the subject of a development application before the County Planning & Development Department, or the property is likely to be sold to another for development as indicated by written plans or options.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park or Trail Expansion and Operational Considerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion (or infill) of an existing regional park or trail that would provide enhanced outdoor recreation and interpretive opportunities for the residents of the County with a minimal increase in operation costs.

TABLE 5.1: Priority Criteria

CRITERIA	DEFINITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Plan Consistency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An acquisition opportunity that is conceptually identified on the County's General Plan map and is found to be consistent with General Plan policies as directed by the Park Charter language.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the owner is willing to reduce the market price of a property expressed in total estimated cost and percent of reduction from estimated or appraised value. Costs include those that arise from the steps taken to acquire the property, including appraisal, engineering evaluation, purchase price, and escrow and title fees. However, if the property has known environmental hazards that would entail a long-term management program to abate, that would be a strong consideration against acquisition

As an additional priority review and as part of a real estate negotiation, the Department will have the ability, through computer modeling, to generally compare and contrast how individual parcels might contribute to the park system as a whole. This comparative analysis would reflect the cumulative values of all acquisition criteria as presented in Chapter 4. It could include: the potential partnerships involved; significance to the County and the conservation goals of the General Plan; and the property's inherent qualities for providing quality outdoor recreation and interpretive experiences.

5.2 AREAS OF POSSIBLE ACQUISITION FOR REGIONAL PARKLANDS AND TRAILS

Figure 5-1, Areas of Possible Acquisition for Regional Parklands and Trails, presents an overview of suitable parkland acquisition areas that reflect: the policies of the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, including the Countywide Trails Master Plan; the Department's Strategic Plan's vision for an emerald web of parks and trails; and selected acquisition criteria listed above.

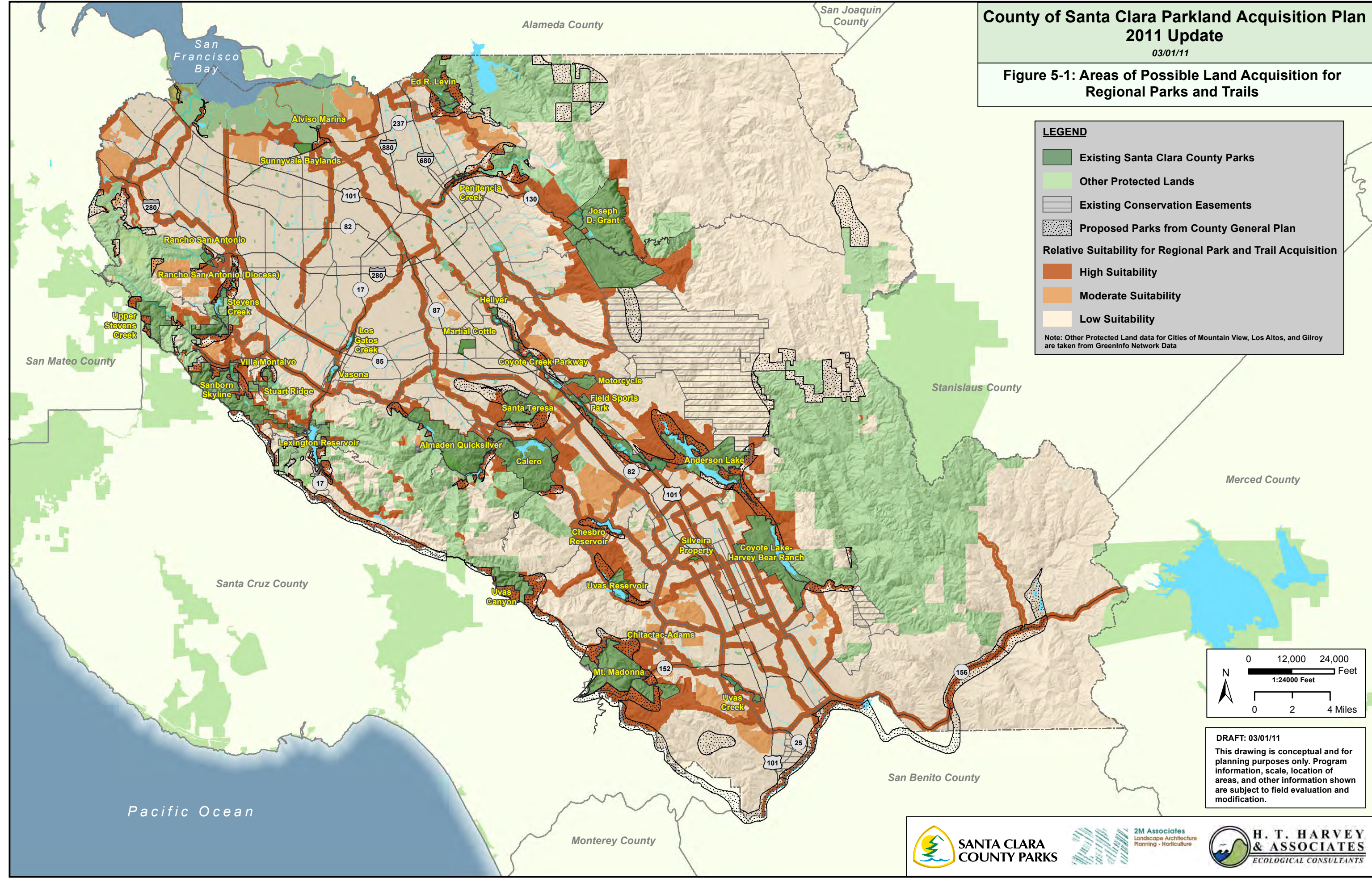
This map presents zones for possible acquisition; it does not represent an absolute plan for targeted properties. Illustrated are:

- Existing public lands and lands protected through easements (from Figure 1-2).

County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan 2011 Update

03/01/11

Figure 5-1: Areas of Possible Land Acquisition for Regional Parks and Trails



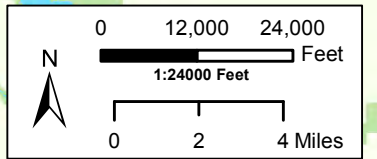
LEGEND

- Existing Santa Clara County Parks
- Other Protected Lands
- Existing Conservation Easements
- Proposed Parks from County General Plan

Relative Suitability for Regional Park and Trail Acquisition

- High Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability

Note: Other Protected Land data for Cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Gilroy are taken from GreenInfo Network Data



DRAFT: 03/01/11
 This drawing is conceptual and for planning purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

- Expansion of existing County Park boundaries, employing a logical boundaries approach, that are not already in public ownership or protected with a conservation easement.
- Countywide trail routes that are not already within existing parks or other publicly accessible lands (from Figure 3-1).
- Resource Conservation lands within areas identified as "Proximate Rural Areas" (excluding the San José Airport and the San Francisco Bay) that are:
 - within a 15-minute driving time (from Figure 4-2) or on a rail/bus/countywide trail route; and
 - are greater than 100 acres in size.

5.3 POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Regional Emphasis

The intent of the Park Charter Fund language is that the Department should focus on the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of "regional" parklands that are not feasible for or within the sphere of municipalities or local school districts. As a unique entity in a spectrum of park and open space providers within Santa Clara County, the Department should emphasize directing acquisition funds toward regional parks of countywide significance. Countywide significance criteria for regional parks and recreation were defined in the Strategic Plan and are presented in Attachment J.

Limits, Balance, and Sustainability

When originally passed by the voters in 1972, the Park Charter Fund directed 50% of its revenues to acquisition. Currently that amount is 15%. In great part this shift in the funding balance is due to providing the operational support necessary to allow the public to safely use and enjoy the lands that have been acquired.

One land acquisition goal is to secure lands that offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities that respond to the needs of an urban population. This requires a range of accessible parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. Urban land values are relatively expensive as is operating urban parks. Recognizing that there are limits to the Park Charter Fund and that land values vary widely throughout the County, a strategy of the Department has been to provide regional parks in rural areas where acquisition funds can provide greater acreage for public enjoyment. Continuation of this strategy allows acquisition of more expansive regional parklands. Although partnership is a valuable tool for any acquisition, partnerships will be increasingly important when the Department acquires urban land that will be more expensive than land in rural

parts of the County. The expenditure of acquisition funds toward any one project or any one area should be commensurate with the level of the partnerships related to the acquisition. For urban projects, the cities would lead land acquisition efforts with the County as a participant, assuming there is a regional nexus involved.

**Urban
Partnerships**

County policy now states that "the provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of the cities and other appropriate agencies" (General Plan Policy C-PR16 / R-PR18). This policy does not necessarily limit assistance from the County in acquiring lands within municipal jurisdictions if there is a regional nexus. Examples include the County contributing funds to acquire the Guadalupe River Park and the Three Creeks Trail. Chapter 8: Urban Trails, Parks and Open Space Strategies provides guidance for acquiring urban parklands that complement the Department's traditional role in acquiring properties of countywide significance.

Follow the Plans

In a sense, the County's General Plan and the Department's Strategic Plan are blueprints without which sustainable development and growth would not occur. Regional parks and trails are components of these plans that help provide to the residents of the County: managed and balanced growth; livable communities; responsible resource conservation; and social and economic well-being.

The County General Plan states that the countywide regional parks plan should periodically be reviewed and revised to reflect current conditions, anticipated future needs, long-term goals, and new opportunities (Policy C-PR6; R-PR6). The current Regional Parks and Scenic Highways Map of the General Plan should be updated to include:

- existing County Parks and other open space lands;
- the pattern of trails as portrayed on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update map
- proposed parks that would help achieve the long-term vision of an "emerald web" consisting of a continuous, interconnected network of parks, trails and open space areas as presented in the Strategic Plan.

When a keystone project is available for acquisition, the County and its partners should prioritize that acquisition over other potential acquisitions that may be competing for available funding.



ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

6.1 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County parkland acquisition operates under a legal framework, drawing from multiple federal, state, and local sources. The California Code of Civil Procedure that is derived from the U.S. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act may apply in some instances. For most property acquisitions, the County follows procedures contained within the California Government Code and Public Resources Code.

6.2 STEPS

A parcel evaluation is triggered by either the determination by the Department that the property is needed or by the owner's contact to see if the Department is interested in buying the property. If the evaluation results in the decision to purchase, the acquisition procedure is begun. The specific actions taken to acquire follow the legal requirements specified above and generally accepted professional standards for public real estate practices. The time periods shown are approximate and may be affected by the circumstances in an individual transaction.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Step #1
1 to 3 Weeks | The negotiator contacts the owner to determine willingness to consider sale to the County. (Owners also contact the Department and start the evaluation process.) The steps to be followed and the probable schedule are explained. Information about the owner's expectations is gathered. |
| Step #2
1 to 3 Weeks | The Board of Supervisors is asked to approve proceeding with an appraisal of the property. |
| Step #3
6-10 Weeks | The property is appraised by an independent contract appraiser. If necessary, an engineering study is ordered to analyze slope density and evaluate other development potential to determine the highest and best use under current market conditions. |

- Step #4**
1 to 3 Weeks The Board of Supervisors is asked to approve the offer of compensation based on the appraisal.
- Step #5**
1 Week The negotiator is provided with the appraisal and presents the offer to the owner.
- Step #6**
4 to 8 Weeks Negotiations continue until agreement is reached. State procedures include a thirty-day period for the owner to consider the offer before any further action is taken. A definite response from the owner can shorten this period. Impasse can result from the owner's unwillingness to sell at this time, dissatisfaction with the price offered, and/or disagreement with the basis of appraised value (typically the development potential under County planning ordinances and regulations). During negotiations, the willingness of the County to structure an agreement that meets the needs of the owner is emphasized (See Chapter 7, Owner Options).
- Step #7**
8 Weeks The purchase agreement is forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval. When approved, escrow proceeds until clear title is vested in County. Taxes are prorated and canceled as of the date of close of escrow.



Coyote Creek Parkway County Park



OWNER OPTIONS FOR SALE OF A PARCEL

The County of Santa Clara offers land owners the opportunity to contribute to the community while realizing the financial benefits of their holdings.

Sellers have many options when selling or donating land to Santa Clara County for park purposes. Listed below are options available for sellers to consider. The suitable choice will depend on individual preferences and needs. Sellers will want to consult their tax advisor, accountant or estate planner for advice on which option fits their individual situation.

The County can work with potential sellers and/or donors to find a mechanism for property transfer that will serve the public interest while accommodating the needs of the property owner.

The following options are not intended to be all-inclusive. These are some options that may be available for potential sellers or donors of property.

All Cash The County can pay the full purchase price in cash. Few buyers can finance a completely cash sale with no limiting conditions.

Life Estates In certain cases, the County is willing to purchase property subject to a seller's reservation of a life estate. A life estate provides the seller the right to keep certain rights and interests in the property for the life of the seller or another person. For example, it may allow an elderly family member to remain in the family home. The seller still realizes financial benefits from the property. An owner may also keep a life estate in a property and make a gift of land to the County that qualifies for a charitable deduction.

Reinvestment Advantage The Internal Revenue Service allows deferred tax treatment for the reinvestment of the proceeds of a sale to a public agency under the regulations on eminent domain. The deferral period depends on the use of the property.

Tax Deductible Gifts Gifts to the County are eligible for tax deductions in the same way as gifts to other charitable organizations.

Charitable Remainder Trusts	A charitable remainder trust is a trust generally exempt from income tax.
Deferred Gift Annuity	This arrangement allows the seller to take a charitable deduction now and defer income until a future date.
Deferred Capital Gains Tax	The County can structure a purchase with a long-term payment plan that is based on the wishes of the seller.
Partial Gifts through Bargain Sales	The seller can take the tax advantage of selling the land to the County below market value and claiming the rest as a gift. The seller's own appraisal establishes the market value to validate the claim.
Partial Sales	The County can purchase a portion of a parcel, leaving a portion of the property, such as a rural home site, without the responsibilities of the larger portion. The seller can also provide for sale of the remainder to the County at a future date.
Conservation Easements	<p>A conservation easement is a mechanism that is used to encumber a property by defining allowable uses.</p> <p>Charitable gifts of such rights may also qualify for charitable deductions.</p>
Public Access Easement	Areas needed for public access can be defined in carefully planned easements. The County will work with the owner to assure privacy, fencing and patrol of the easement area.
Assured Future Sale	Sale of land to County Parks can be assured through an agreement for a right of first refusal or granting an option for future purchase. This agreement may specify the terms of a future sale or call for the County to match a legitimate offer by a third party.



City of San José, Los Alamos Creek Trail, a component of the Countywide Trail System (photo by Ronald Horii)



URBAN TRAILS, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES

8.1 STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Since 1990, the Department has expended approximately 32% of the Park Charter Fund land acquisition budget within the Urban Service Areas of the County. Often, this land acquisition has been in partnership with individual cities. Strategies for urban trails, parks and open space acquisition continue that role but help better define the purposes for which acquisition funds should be allocated within urban areas. These strategies also provide the criteria to be used in considering land acquisition, and ways the County can coordinate with others in providing urban outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the County.

The focus of the urban trails, parks and open space acquisition strategies is on the “Urban Service Areas” of the County as illustrated in Figure B-1. Urban Service Area boundaries are established and adopted by cities with the concurrence of the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO). In the case of the 15 cities within the County, some of Urban Service Areas include both incorporated lands and unincorporated islands within the County’s jurisdiction. Figure 8-1 illustrates these areas and all the available park and open space lands available within the County and the Urban Service Areas of the County.

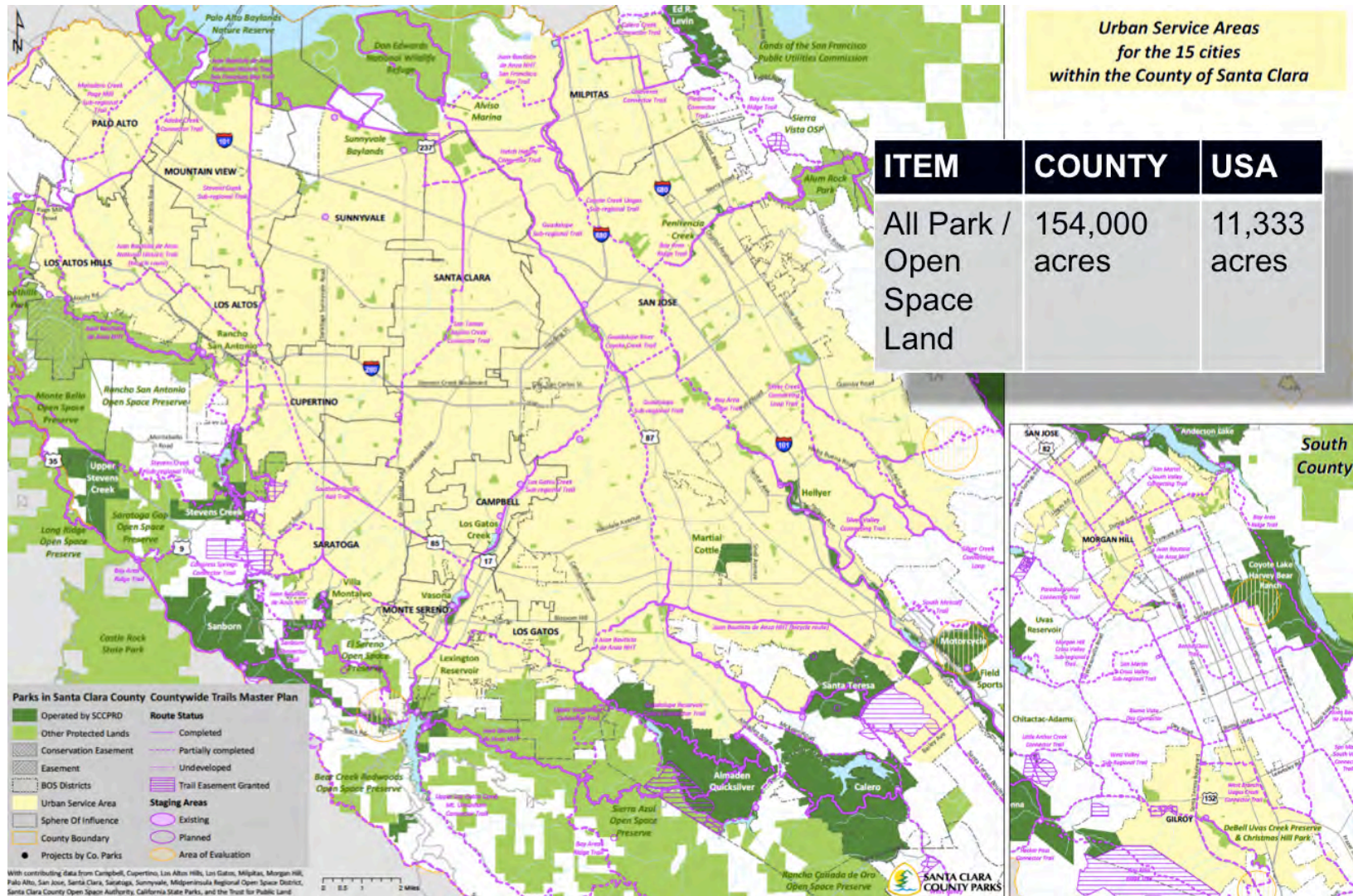
There are three core components of the urban trails, parks and open space strategies: connectivity; need; and coordination. Connectivity and need are related to system or acquisition criteria as identified in Chapter 4, Tables 4-1 and 4-3. Coordination involves the County in its leadership role in working with all suppliers of outdoor recreation opportunities within the County:

- **Connectivity:** placing an emphasis on land acquisition for trails consistent with the Countywide Trails Master Plan, its guidelines, and related City trail plans.
- **Need:** providing leadership in recognizing and providing access to parks and/or new park opportunities for residents within the urban

unincorporated areas of the County who otherwise have limited opportunities.

- Coordination: formalizing communications with cities, school districts and other recreation suppliers in clarifying urban recreation needs for trails, urban open space, or parklands and opportunities for land acquisition that would assist in responding to those needs.

FIGURE 8-1: URBAN AREAS



8.1.1 Connectivity

Trails support outdoor recreation, education, health, and transportation benefits in an urban area. Needs assessments conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation find that walking, running, and bicycling are by far the top recreational activities favored statewide. This conclusion supports the role of the County in completing the trails identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan and helping cities complete the trail network within the urban service areas of the County. Based on GIS data from the County and GIS data submitted by the cities, of 170 miles of trails called for in the Countywide Trails Master Plan, 70 have been developed.

The Department should strengthen and expand its focus and role in completing the Countywide Trails Master Plan recognizing that these routes provide “connectivity” of many types. Many of the trail routes within the urban area of the County identified on the Countywide Trails Plan follow the region’s water courses. Others are located along rights-of-way that are linear in character, such as rail routes, utility corridors, and in some instances streets. Many trail routes start from, or are linked to, nearby parks, open space areas, and schools. The connectivity that is inherent in the planned urban trail network should sufficient urban parkland acquisition occur includes:

- Connecting urban populations to parks of all types and schools.
- Providing wildlife corridors and habitat buffers from trails that are located along streams.
- Providing options for alternatives to motor vehicle transportation.
- Connecting health benefits with quality of life goals.

The Department’s overall strategies in land acquisition for urban trails includes:

- Strengthening Department partnerships with cities and others in completing the urban trails that are part of the Countywide Trails Master Plan where those trails are also included in a city’s adopted plans and policies.
- Reallocating existing Department planning efforts to focus on trails. This would involve a dedicated trails planner to assist

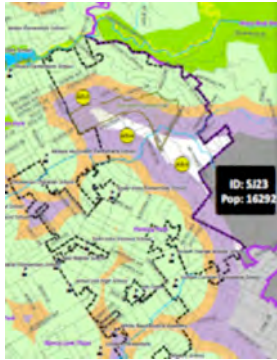
cities, when requested, by providing technical expertise for planning and acquisition. The cities would continue to be the lead for planning, design, and acquisition of land entitlements needed for trails within their jurisdiction. The County trails planner would coordinate with cities when planning trails in unincorporated island areas subject to future annexation and could work with cities planning trails to determine if other connections to the countywide system might be viable.

- Proactively working with cities to plan for acquisition of properties that would provide trailside amenities (e.g. picnic grounds and playgrounds) or also serve as a local trail staging area for regional and sub-regional trails as identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan.
- Seeking trail partnership opportunities with agencies that plan multiple-use transportation projects within the County (e.g., Valley Transportation Authority, California Department of Transportation).
- Seeking grant opportunities to help implement regionally serving trails.

8.1.2 Need

While there are over 87 urban unincorporated areas, often referred to as “unincorporated islands”, within the Urban Service Areas of the County, there are 15 (excluding Stanford) that are over 150 acres in size. Based on preliminary analyses, two areas, both within the City of San José, stand out as examples that fall short either in having sufficient urban parks to service nearby residents based on local standards, or having available access to parks. These are:

- The Alum Rock area that at approximately 1,422 acres in size is the largest unincorporated island within the County and the most populous with 16,292 County residents for a density average of 11.46 residences/acre.
- The Burbank area that is 391.46 acres in size with a population of approximately 4,432 for a density average of 11.32 residences/acre. Significant access barriers to parks exist such as interstate 280 highway and the Bascom Avenue interchange within the area.



Alum Rock and Burbank urban unincorporated areas. See Attachment M, Figures M-1 and M-2 for greater detail.

The County's General Plan policies are that these urban unincorporated areas within established Urban Service Areas should eventually be annexed into their respective cities. In the case of the above examples, although the City of San José and the County entered into an agreement for the City to pursue the annexation of unincorporated islands, because of their size, it is unlikely that the City will pursue annexation of these two islands any time in the foreseeable future.

The challenges with providing new parklands in the unincorporated islands are one of availability of land to acquire and the practicality of operations. The Department is structured to operate and maintain regional facilities that are located throughout the County. The Department is not structured to provide local urban park services that require a relatively high level of programming, site supervision, and maintenance.

Urban trail, park, and open space actions that address the recreational needs of residents within the County's large unincorporated islands are:

- Affirm that cities are the primary provider of neighborhood and community-serving park facilities and recognize that it is unlikely that many of the large (150+ acres) urban unincorporated islands will be annexed into adjacent cities in the foreseeable future. In some instances, of these islands' geography and development patterns have resulted in limited access to parks and recreational facilities.
- Recognize the Alum Rock and Burbank unincorporated islands as relatively large areas with populations that have limited access to park facilities. In consideration of the fact that there is no other provider of park services to the residents of these unincorporated islands, the Department will prioritize the search for property to be developed into trails and parks of countywide significance within or near each unincorporated island. Associated activities may include:
 - Conducting a joint park/trail needs assessment for these unincorporated islands that would incorporate City of San Jose Greenprint and County General Plan goals for providing parks and trails of countywide significance and jointly pursuing acquisition in partnership with the City of San Jose.

- Identifying public agency-owned land solely within the unincorporated islands with the potential to provide outdoor recreational features; or
- Identifying properties owned by the City of San Jose, school districts, and other public agencies which may be positioned within or in close proximity to the unincorporated islands and where expansion or enhancements may provide facilities of countywide significance as well as direct services to residents living in the islands.
- Purchasing property from willing sellers if applicable.
- Incorporate into any countywide analysis utilized to measure unincorporated island residents' need for outdoor recreation features (parks, trails, school sites) benchmarks utilized by the annexing city. For example, a park proximity analysis for the Alum Rock and Burbank unincorporated islands should reflect the 1/3 mile City of San Jose's Greenprint standard.
- Retain "regional parks" as a focus for urban parkland acquisition. The department will continue to evaluate potential acquisitions for features of countywide significance that will contribute to the County's regional system of parks and trails.

8.1.3 Coordination

Formalizing the urban trails, parks and open space strategies consistent with the County's role over the past twenty years in an effective manner involves a targeted effort to enhance the Department's working relationships with its public and private partners.

Coordination would be accomplished by:

- Clarifying the County's updated land acquisition criteria for cities.
- Working with cities on a regular basis to collaborate and determine joint park and trail acquisition priorities and strategies with cities to acquire neighborhood parks.
- Holding an annual cities meeting and subsequent individual "city focus" meetings to identify projects with an acquisition component.

- Requesting that the meetings of the Park Directors' Forum include an Acquisition Plan update from directors, identifying city priorities and future potential for collaboration on acquisition projects.

8.2 URBAN ACQUISITION CRITERIA

To help place the urban trails, parks and open space strategies in context, the past and current Parkland Acquisition Plan criteria responding to the mandates of the Park Charter Amendment have emphasized:

- **Expansion of an existing County park** – where the proposed property purchase involves an inholding within a County park, provides a logical boundary for the County park, or is contiguous to a County park.
- **Trail connectivity** – where a property would link County parks and other public lands, help complete a portion of the Countywide Trails Master Plan, or facilitate a rail-to-trail transit route.
- **New parkland** – if the proposed property purchase would create a new County park as envisioned in the County General Plan
- **Plan consistency** - where the proposed property purchase is part of a major open space plan.
- **Funding** – if sufficient acquisition funds are available.
- **Location** – if the proposed property to be acquired is in an unincorporated area of the County.

These criteria have not limited the Department's role in the past in acquiring land for urban parks and trails and are generally consistent with the urban trails, parks and open space strategies described above. For perspective, the System Context criteria identified in Table 4-1 are applicable to the urban trails, parks and open space strategies.

Ownership and Property characteristics as identified in Table 4-2 are also directly applicable to the urban trails, parks and open space strategies.

The acquisition criteria outlined in Table 4-3 are generally consistent with the urban trails, parks and open space strategies.

The history of land acquisition for parks and open space within the urban service area of the County since 1990 affirms that the existing

acquisition criteria support the parkland acquisitions for urban trails, parks and open space areas. Factors leading to this conclusion included:

- 14 of the County's 62 acquisition projects since 1990 are located within the urban service area,
- \$36,400,000 or 32% of funding dedicated to acquisition since 1990 were expended within the urban service area,
- County owns/operates/contributed to the purchase of 23% of the 11,333 acres of public parkland within the urban service area.



A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Attendees and Correspondents from General Public

Over 250 attendees and correspondents from the general public

Honorable Board of Supervisors

Dave Cortese, Liz Kniss, George Shirakawa, Mike Wasserman, Ken Yeager

Don Gage (former Supervisor, term expired 2010)

Parks and Recreation Commission

Greg West, John Gibbs, Sparky Harlan, Steve Munzel, Jan Hintermeister, Ann Waltonsmith, Mike Kasperzak

Office of the County Executive

Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive

Open Space Provider Partners

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Peninsula Open Space Trust
The Nature Conservancy

Cities of the County Providing Comments and Data

Campbell
Cupertino
Gilroy
Los Altos
Los Altos Hills
Los Gatos
Milpitas
Morgan Hill
Mountain View
Palo Alto
San José
Santa Clara

Saratoga
Sunnyvale

Parks and Recreation Department Project Team

Robb Courtney, Director
Julie Mark, Deputy Director
Jim O'Connor, Deputy Director (former)
Tim Heffington, Senior Real Estate Agent (Project Manager)
Brian Hartsell, Project Manager, UTOSP
Margaret Hastings, Associate Real Estate Agent
Ian Champeny, Associate Real Estate Agent
Jane Mark, Senior Planner
Elish Ryan, Planner
John Falkowski, GIS Analyst
Don Rocha, Natural Resource Management Program Supervisor

Consultants

Patrick T. Miller, Partner, 2M Associates
Jane E. Miller, Partner, 2M Associates
Steve Rottenborn, Principal, H.T. Harvey & Associates
Samatha Mouri, GIS Specialist, H.T. Harvey & Associates
Mark Lagarde, GIS Specialist, H.T. Harvey & Associates
Terrell Watt, AICP



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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment
A
COUNTY PARK
CHARTER
SECTION 604.11

11 Section 604: Amended and ratified by the Voters November 7, 1978; November 4, 1986; November 8, 1988; June 2, 1992; March 26, 1996; June 6, 2006.

(1) Beginning on July 1, 2009, through and including the 2021 fiscal year, the Board of Supervisors shall transfer from the general fund to the County Park fund an amount of money which shall not be less than an amount estimated by the Auditor-Controller to equal the amount that would be raised for that year by a tax of \$0.01425 per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of all real and personal property situated within the County of Santa Clara. In addition, the Board of Supervisors shall transfer into such fund all fees and revenues generated by the operation of county parks and all other monies received from the United States Government, State of California, or any other public agency or any person for county park purposes. Any interest earned on the investment of money in the county park fund shall be credited to the fund.

(2) The Board of Supervisors shall appropriate the money in the county park fund for the acquisition, development, or acquisition and development of real property for county park purposes and for the maintenance and operation of county parks. At least 15% of the funds transferred from the general fund shall be set aside and used for the acquisition of real property for county park purposes and at least 5% used for park development for county park purposes, and the remaining funds shall be used for county park operations.

(3) The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted county parks and recreation element of the general plan.

(4) This section shall be operative commencing with the 2009-2010 fiscal year (July 1, 2009) and shall be repealed at the end of the 2021 fiscal year; provided, however, any unobligated monies remaining in the fund on June 30, 2021, shall be used only for the purposes set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) The intent of this section is to ensure that a minimum amount of money will be placed into the county park fund for acquisition, development, operation and maintenance purposes. Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the amount of money the Board of Supervisors may transfer into the county park fund for county park purposes or otherwise appropriate for county park purposes.

Attachment
B 1993 COUNTY
ACQUISITION POLICY AND
COUNTY EMINENT DOMAIN
POLICY



PARK CHARTER FUND HISTORY

Vote/Renewal	Formula	Change(s) from previous period
June 1972 For FY 1973-1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.10 per \$100 assessed valuation • Minimum 50% for Acquisition • No funding for operations & maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
November 1978 For FY 1979-1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.10 per \$100 assessed valuation (equivalent to \$0.025 after Prop 13) • Minimum 50% for Acquisition • No more than 30% for operations and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for operations and maintenance established
November 1986 For FY 1988-1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.015 per \$100 assessed valuation • Minimum 20% for Acquisition • Remaining 80% for Development, Operations & Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% reduction in set-aside amount • 30% reduction in Acquisition reserve • Greatest use is for operations & maintenance costs
November 1988 For FY 1990-1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.015 per \$100 assessed valuation • Minimum 20% for Acquisition • Remaining 80% for Development, Operations & Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change
June 1992 For FY 1994-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.015 per \$100 assessed valuation • Minimum 20% for Acquisition • Remaining 80% for Development, Operations & Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change
March 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.015 per \$100 assessed valuation for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% decrease in set-aside

Vote/Renewal	Formula	Change(s) from previous period
For FY 1998-2009	FY 1998-2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.01425 per \$100 assessed valuation for FY 2003-2009 • Minimum 20% for Acquisition • 80% for development, operations and maintenance 	amount
June 2006 For FY 2010-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.01425 per \$100 assessed valuation • Minimum 15% for Acquisition • Minimum 5% for development • 80% for operations & maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% decrease in Acquisition reserve • Established a reserve for development (CIP)

From the inception of Proposition 13 when the Park Charter was recalculated at 0.025 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to the current 0.01425 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, the set aside has experienced a 43% reduction while the park system has grown to over 46,000 acres.



PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND COMMENT SUMMARY

Note: In addition to the following summary, there were numerous individual e-mails and comment letters submitted to the Department after the public workshops (Attachment D of the following *Summary of Public Workshop* report). These are available for review at:

Office of the Clerk
Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County
70 West Hedding Street
10th Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110



GENERAL PLAN
POLICIES AND
ACQUISITION CRITERIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA GENERAL PLAN * PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
Strategy #1: Develop Parks and Public Open Space Lands	
<p>C-PR 1; R-PR1 An integrated and diverse system of accessible local and regional parks, scenic roads, trails, recreation facilities, and recreation services should be provided.</p>	<p>New Regional Parks Expansion of Existing County Park Boundaries Consistency with Agency Plans</p>
<p>C-PR2; R-PR2 Sufficient land should be acquired and held in the public domain to satisfy the recreation needs of current and future residents and to implement the trailside concept along our scenic roads.</p>	<p>New Regional Parks Expansion of Existing County Park Boundaries</p>
<p>C-PR3; R-PR3 The County's regional park system should: a. utilize the county's finest natural resources in meeting park and open space needs; b. provide a balance of types of regional parks with a balanced geographical distribution; c. provide an integrated park system with maximum continuity and a clear relationship of elements, using scenic roads, bikeways, and trails as important linkages; and d. give structure and livability to the urban community.</p>	<p>Open Space Preservation Conserve Representative Diverse Natural Landscapes and Historic Resources</p>
<p>C-PR4; R-PR4 The public open space lands system should: a. preserve visually and environmentally significant open space resources; and b. provide for recreation activities compatible with the enjoyment and preservation of each site's natural resources, with trail linkages to adjacent and nearby regional park lands.</p>	<p>Open Space Preservation Conserve Representative Diverse Natural and Historic Resources</p>
<p>C-PR5; R-PR5 Water resource facilities, utility corridors, abandoned railroad tracks, and reclaimed solid waste disposal sites should be used for compatible recreational uses, where feasible.</p>	<p>Use of Abandoned Properties</p>
<p>C-PR6; R-PR6 The countywide regional parks plan should periodically be reviewed and revised to reflect current conditions, anticipated future.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
Implementation Recommendations	
<p>C-PR(i)1; R-PR(i)1 An assured, predictable source of annual funding should continue to be provided for regional park acquisition, development, and maintenance.</p>	<p>Note: Accommodated by Park Charter Fund.</p>

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA GENERAL PLAN * PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>C-PR(i)2; R-PR(i)2 Consideration, in parks and open space land acquisition planning and decision making, should be given to the open space preservation priorities proposed by the Open Space Preservation 2020 Task Force.</p>	Open Space Preservation
<p>C-PR(i)3; R-PR(i)3 Establish a program to review and revise the countywide regional parks plan.</p>	Note: Accommodated in Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
Strategy #2: Improve Accessibility	
<p>C-PR7; R-PR7 Opportunities for access to regional parks and public open space lands via public transit, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails should be provided. Until public transit service is available, additional parking should be provided where needed.</p>	Accessibility
<p>C-PR8; R-PR8 Facilities and programs within regional parks and public open space lands should be accessible to all persons, regardless of physical limitations, consistent with available financial resources, the constraints of natural topography, and natural resource conservation.</p>	Accessibility
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
<p>C-PR(i)4; R-PR(i)4 Provide public transit service to major regional parks, and develop hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails to provide access to regional parks from the urban area to provide alternatives to private automobiles for access to recreation. (Implementors: County, Cities, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, State of California, Santa Clara Valley Water District)</p>	Accessibility
<p>C-PR(i)5; R-PR(i)5 Design, and redesign where necessary, facilities and programs within regional parks and public open space lands to be accessible to all persons, regardless of physical limitations, consistent with constraints of the natural landscape and natural resources of each site. Include accessibility considerations in the development of site master plans.</p>	Accessibility
Strategy #3: Balance Recreational and Environmental Objectives	
<p>C-PR9; R-PR9 The parks and recreation system should be designed and implemented to help attain open space and natural environment goals and policies.</p>	Open Space Preservation Conserve Representative Diverse Natural and Historic Resources

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA GENERAL PLAN * PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>C-PR10; R-PR10 Recreation facilities and activities within regional parks and public open space lands should be located and designed to be compatible with the long term sustainability of each site's natural and cultural resources, with particular attention to the preservation of unique, rare, or endangered resources (including historic and archeological sites, plant and animal species, special geologic formations, etc.).</p>	<p>Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System</p>
<p>C-PR11; R-PR11 Park planning and development should take into account and seek to minimize potential impacts on adjacent property owners.</p>	<p>Land Use Compatibility</p>
<p>GC-PR12; R-PR12; R-PR34 Parks and trails in remote areas, fire hazardous areas, and areas with inadequate access should be planned to provide the services or improvements necessary to provide for the safety and support of the public using the parks and to avoid negative impacts on the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Accessibility Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System</p>
<p>C-PR13; R-PR13 Public recreation uses should not be allowed in areas where comparable private development would not be allowed, unless consistent with an adopted park master plan.</p>	<p>Consistency with Agency Plans</p>
<p>R-PR14 Privately-owned recreational land uses and facilities within rural unincorporated areas, including but not limited to golf courses, campgrounds, and similar uses, should be compatible with the landscape and resources of the areas in which they are proposed. To ensure such compatibility, potentially significant impacts often associated with such land uses should be avoided or reduced to less than significant levels, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. water demand; b. traffic generation; c. wastewater generation and disposal; d. alteration of natural topography, drainage patterns, habitat, or vegetative cover; e. use of harmful chemicals, such as pesticides, and herbicides; f. riparian area or heritage resource impacts; g. loss of prime soils or other impacts upon local agriculture; and, i. visual impacts. 	<p>Partnership Opportunity</p>
<p>R-PR15 In addition to review of environmental impacts, review of proposed golf courses and ancillary uses shall also take into account the following:</p>	<p>Partnership Opportunity Consistency with Agency Plans</p>

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA GENERAL PLAN * PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>a. any pertinent joint City-County area plans;</p> <p>b. applicable land use or other general plan policies of the proximate city(s);</p> <p>c. the location of the proposed site relative to city Urban Service Areas; and</p> <p>d. the intended scale or "service area" of the proposed golf course (i.e., intended to primarily serve a local community or intended to serve users from a larger service area).</p>	
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
<p>C-PR(i)6; R-PR(i)6 Include resource management plans within the master plans for individual regional parks and public open space lands. (Implementors: County, Cities, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, State Parks Department, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge)</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)7; R-PR(i)7 In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepare environmental assessments for proposed master plans and development projects within regional parks and public open space lands. (Implementors: County, Cities, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, State Parks Department, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge)</p>	Not Applicable
<p>R-PR(i) 8 Develop formal environmental guidelines for review of proposed golf course designs.</p>	Not Applicable
<p>Strategy #4: Facilitate Interjurisdictional Coordination</p>	
<p>C-PR14; R-PR16 Parks and recreation system planning, acquisition, development, and operation should be coordinated among cities, the County, State and Federal governments, school districts and special districts, and should take advantage of opportunities for linkages between adjacent publicly owned parks and open space lands.</p>	Partnership Opportunity Local Valley Habitat Plan Partners
<p>C-PR15; R-PR17 The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government.</p>	Expansion of Existing County Park Boundaries New Regional Parks Board Approved Plans
<p>C-PR16; R-PR18 The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of the cities and other appropriate agencies.</p>	Note: this policy separates the roles and responsibilities between regional parks and local parks.

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA GENERAL PLAN * PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
C-PR(i)8; R-PR(i) 9 Seek adoption of the County’s Regional Parks Plan by the cities to facilitate interjurisdictional cooperation in implementing the Plan. (Implementors: County, Cities)	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR(i)9; R-PR(i) 10 Establish joint programs or other procedures for identifying and capitalizing upon potential opportunities for joint land acquisition, development and/or management of parks and open space lands. (Implementors: County, Cities, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, State Parks Department, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge)	Partnership Opportunity
Strategy #5: Encourage Private Sector and Non-profit Involvement	
C-PR 17; R-PR19 The private sector and non-profit organizations should be encouraged to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. In rural areas, private recreational uses shall be low intensity.	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR18; R-PR20 Individual citizens, community organizations, and businesses should be encouraged to aid in regional parks and open space acquisition, development, and maintenance.	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR19; R-PR21 The potential for encouraging nonprofit organizations that own recreation lands to make them available for appropriate public use should be explored.	Partnership Opportunity
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
C-PR(i)10; R-PR(i)11 Identify potential outdoor recreation needs that could be met by businesses and/or non-profit organizations. Encourage businesses and nonprofit organizations to provide for these needs in appropriate locations.	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR(i)11; R-PR(i)12 Establish a program to solicit support from individual citizens, community organizations, and businesses to aid in regional parks acquisition, development, and maintenance. (Implementor: County)	Partnership Opportunity

COUNTYWIDE TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

The Countywide Trails Master Plan Update amended the trail policies of the General Plan as of November 14, 1995. It should be noted that the policies of the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update are shown in the published *Book A: Countywide Issues and Policies*. The previous policies, though updated, continue to be shown in *Book B: Rural Unincorporated Area Issues and Policies*. These outdated policies are not included below.

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
Strategy #1: Plan for Trails	
C-PR20 A countywide system of trails offering a variety of user experiences should be provided that includes: trails within and between parks and other publicly owned open space lands; trails that provide access from the urban area to these lands; trails that connect to trails of neighboring counties; trails that connect to transit facilities; trails that give the public environmentally superior alternative transportation routes and methods; trails that close strategic gaps in non-motorized transportation routes; trails that offer opportunities for maintaining personal health; trails that offer opportunities for outdoor education and recreation; and trails that could serve as emergency evacuation routes.	Link County Parks with Open Space / Other Public Lands Accessibility
C-PR20.1 Trail access should be provided for a range of user capabilities and needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations.	Unconstrained Recreation Usability
C-PR20.2 Trails should be established along historically significant trail routes, whenever feasible.	Conserve Representative Diverse Natural Landscapes and Historic Resources
C-PR21 The countywide trail system should be linked to provide for regional trails including the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Benito-Clara Trail; and the San Francisco Bay Trail systems encircling the urban areas of the County and the San Francisco Bay.	Partnership Opportunity Note: Affects potential locations for land or easement acquisition
C-PR21.1 Trails should be routed along scenic roads where such routing is feasible.	Note: Affects potential locations for land or easement acquisition
C-PR22 The Countywide Trails Master Plan Map in the County's General Plan should periodically be reviewed and revised to reflect current conditions, anticipated future needs, long-term goals, and new opportunities.	Not Applicable
C-PR22.1 Encourage private developers to incorporate trail routes identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map into their development project designs.	Partnership Opportunity
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>C-PR(i)12 Include in the General Plan a Countywide Trails Master Plan Map that indicates the proposed trail routes of countywide significance. (Implementor: County).</p>	<p>Note: This map illustrates trail routes in a generally way where land may be acquired</p>
<p>C-PR(i)13 Work with interested groups (including but not limited to: affected landowner groups; trail interest groups; and organizations representing persons with disabilities) in developing recommendations for specific design and management plans. The recommendations should be consistent with County, State, and Federal design and management regulations (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines), and reflective of environmental and safety constraints, community needs and the needs of the various user groups. (Implementor: County).</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>C-PR(i)13.1 Label historically significant trails, scenic route trails, and regional trail links as such on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map. (Implementor: County).</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>C-PR(i)13.2 Periodically, or concurrent with updating the General Plan, update the Trails Section of the General Plan. Modifications to the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map should take into account: additions to the existing trail system; acquired trail rights-of-way; and any new, proposed or modified trail alignments. Modifications to the General Plan text should take into account: long-term community needs and goals for trails; environmental constraints; and potential impacts on adjacent lands. (Implementor: County).</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>C-PR(i)13.3 Monitor proposed development, including General Plan amendments and zoning changes, and/or subdivision of properties with proposed trail routes, and work with property owners and/or their representatives to preserve the integrity of the proposed trail route in their project design. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SCVWD)</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Strategy #2: Provide Recreation, Transportation, and Other Public Trail Needs in Balance with Environmental and Land Owner Concerns</p>	
<p>C-PR23 Trail routes shall be located, designed and developed with sensitivity to their potential environmental, recreational, and other impacts on adjacent lands and private property.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>C-PR24 As provided for in the Resource Conservation Chapter, trails shall be located to recognize the resources and hazards of the areas they traverse, and to be protective of sensitive habitat areas such as wetlands and</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
riparian corridors and other areas where sensitive species may be adversely affected.	
<p>C-PR25 Trail Routes or Regional Staging Areas shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map in areas currently designated on the County General Plan Land Use Map as Agriculture shall not be required (including easements) or developed outside of County road rights-of-way until or unless:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the land use designation is amended to a non-Agriculture designation, or 2. there is specific interest or consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller. <p>Where there is a specific interest or consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller, trails in areas with prime agricultural lands shall be developed in a manner that avoids any significant impact to the agricultural productivity of those lands.</p>	Land Use Compatibility
<p>C-PR26 Trail Routes or Regional Staging Areas shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map in areas currently designated as Ranchland on the County General Plan Land Use Map and actively used for ranching or other agricultural purposes shall not be required (including easements) or developed outside of County road rights-of-way until or unless:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The County is notified of a non-renewal of Williamson Act contract affecting the land on which the trail route or regional staging area would be located; 2. such time as the active ranching and/or agricultural use has been permanently abandoned; 3. the land use designation is amended to a non-ranchland designation; or 4. there is specific interest or consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller. 	Land Use Compatibility
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
<p>C-PR(i)14 During trail design, notify and coordinate with affected landowners to incorporate measures into trail design and related management policies to accommodate the privacy, security and liability concerns of the landowner. Such measures could include, but are not limited to: fencing or barrier planting that discourages trespassing; signage; scheduling of maintenance; patrol scheduling; and indemnity agreements to protect the landowner and affected landowners from liability for injuries to trail users. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)15 Prior to developing any new trail route for public use, prepare design and management plans that ensure provision of services necessary to provide for the safety and support of trail users and affected landowners, and respond to the unique safety and use concerns associated with highway safety, traffic operations, public</p>	Development Costs Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
transit, and businesses such as quality water source development, intensive agriculture, grazing, mining, railroads, and defense research and testing industries. (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).	
C-PR(i)16 Develop design guidelines to ensure that new trails meet established safety standards and minimize user conflicts. (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). Prior to developing new trail routes for public use, ensure that services and improvements necessary for the safety and support of the public using the trail are provided. Such services and improvements should contain, at a minimum, adequate parking, potable water supply and sanitary facilities, and emergency telephones and access. Reasonable police and fire protection shall be available. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SCVWD).	Development Costs Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System
C-PR(i)17 Develop design guidelines that ensure sensitive species and the habitats they rely on shall be protected, and where possible enhanced, by trail development and trail use (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). (Implementor: County).	Development Costs Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System
C-PR(i)17.1 Provide a footnote on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map that repeats the above policies relating to areas currently designated as Agriculture, Ranchland, or Hillside on the County General Plan Land Use Map. (Implementor: County).	Not Applicable
Strategy #3: Implement the Planned Trails Network	
C-PR27 The proposed countywide trail network should be implemented using a variety of methods that take advantage of acceptable implementation opportunities as they arise.	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.
C-PR27.1 The County shall coordinate with landowners whose property may be affected by proposed trails identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map to include the landowner's interests and concerns related to trail implementation when detail design and management plans are prepared.	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.
C-PR28 Trail routes shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map that cross privately-owned lands shown as Agriculture, Ranchland or Hillside on the General Plan Land Use Map will only be acquired from a willing property owner/seller.	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.
C-PR28.1; R-PR35 Information shall be made available to landowners from whom trail easement dedications may be required or	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
requested concerning laws that limit landowner liability.	criteria.
<p>C-PR28.2 The County shall support amending state legislation that limits the liability of landowners immediately adjoining public trails for injuries to trail users to include language that defines entry for a recreation purpose to include any entry upon property from a public trail designated in a City or County General Plan. The text of the existing state law protecting property owners from liability to recreational users of private property is included in the appendix to the Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan Update. (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR28.3 In coordination with the County Parks and Recreation Department, cities, public entities, organizations, and private citizens should be encouraged to implement the trails plan where practical and feasible.</p>	Consistency with Agency Plans Partnership Opportunity
<p>C-PR28.4 Development projects proposed on lands that include a trail as shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map may be required to dedicate and/or improve such trail to the extent there is a nexus between the impacts of the proposed development and the dedication/improvement requirement. The dedication/improvement requirement shall be roughly proportional to the impacts of the proposed development. (Board of Supervisors Trail Easement Dedication Policies and Practices, Jan. 1992)</p>	Partnership Opportunity
<p>C-PR29 Annexation of lands that include trails shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map shall be conditioned on the annexing jurisdiction's adoption of relevant County trail plans and implementation of regional trail routes.</p>	Consistency with Agency Plans
<p>C-PR29.1 Trails shall be considered as development projects when on private land.</p>	Not Applicable
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
<p>C-PR(i)18 Prepare implementation plans indicating the proposed methods to be used to obtain, develop, operate, and maintain individual trail routes or trail segments. Revise these plans, as needed, to respond to new opportunities that may arise. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).</p>	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.
<p>C-PR(i)18.1 As a high priority, establish an evenly-balanced review committee, reasonably representative of the cultural diversity of the community, composed of property owners and trail interests, appointed by the Board of Supervisors to work with County staff to analyze the feasibility and acceptability of specific methods available to fund trail acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance including but not limited to the following:</p>	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>1) user fees for recreational services including equipment rentals, parking and use of facilities (e.g. picnic areas, etc.);</p> <p>2) gasoline, hotel or other tax increment for trail implementation;</p> <p>3) Landscaping and Lighting Act assessment district financing;</p> <p>4) development fee and/or dedication requirements based on the impact of proposed new development on trail needs;</p> <p>5) encouraging and accepting gifts; and</p> <p>6) creating incentives for trail dedication and improvement through density bonuses and transfer of development credits. (Implementor: County).</p>	
<p>C-PR(i)18.2 Take all steps necessary to implement acceptable funding methods approved by the Board of Supervisors (e.g. completion of studies pursuant to Government Code section 66000), development and adoption of ordinance(s), surveys, and elections, as necessary. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)18.3 Notify landowners in unincorporated County areas whose property may be affected by a proposed trail route identified as “high priority” on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map. Said landowners shall be informed of the process to be used in determining whether to proceed with acquisition, and consulted to determine their interests and concerns related to the proposed trail. If the County determines, based on its evaluation of trail needs and acquisition priorities, available funding, and other factors, that it wishes to purchase land along a proposed trail route, the County shall notify the affected landowners and initiate a dialogue regarding the County’s proposed acquisition. (Implementor: County).</p>	Note: Affects the land acquisition process, but not criteria.
<p>C-PR(i)18.4 Indemnify all grantors of trail easements and other owners of lands immediately adjoining County trails from liability for injuries suffered by users of the adjoining trails. The indemnity shall not apply to injuries caused by a landowner’s willful or malicious conduct. The indemnity shall include the costs of defending the landowner against all liability claims damage awards and other costs associated with such claims. (Implementor: County).</p>	Note: May affect the conditions placed on the acquisition of land and/or easements.
<p>C-PR(i)18.5 Provide funding and technical assistance for the completion of studies pursuant to Government Code section 66000, surveys, engineering reports, ordinances and other technical efforts that are prerequisites to trail funding mechanisms. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)18.6</p>	Not Applicable

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>Establish “Friends of the Santa Clara County Trails Plan” (Friends), comprising a balance of property rights advocates and supporters of trails, to assist the County Parks and Recreation Department in implementing the trails plan. Programs the Friends would have responsibility for could include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a corporate endowment fund; 2) an “adopt-a trail” program; 3) educational programs; 4) other fund-raising activities; 5) promoting bond issues to fund acquisition; 6) providing information and technical services to neighborhoods along trail routes; 7) trail maintenance, construction and patrol activities; and 8) utilization of volunteer trail patrol. <p>(Implementor: County).</p>	
<p>C-PR(i)18.7 Condition the development of new trails for public use on the availability of adequate resources in conformance with adopted trail management guidelines (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)18.8 Accept and require, to the extent necessary to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development, trail and pathway easements, right-of-way dedications and/or improvements as part of land development approvals in areas planned for inclusion in the countywide trail system of the General Plan. (Implementors: County, Cities).</p>	Resource Conservation
<p>C-PR(i)18.9 Negotiate conditions in annexation agreements to assure the implementation and maintenance of regional trail routes. (Implementors: County, Cities, LAFCO).</p>	Consistency with Agency Plans
<p>C-PR(i)18.10 Review proposed trails for their potential environmental impacts in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)18.11 Prior to trail development, ensure that all regulations and guidelines applicable to trails have been met, including noticing requirements as set forth in the Countywide Trails Master Plan - Trail Design and Management Guidelines. (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19</p>	Not Applicable

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
Decisions made by the County Parks and Recreation Department concerning trail routes and regional staging areas may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors. (Implementor: County).	
Strategy #4: Adequately Operate and Maintain Trails	
C-PR30 Trails shall be temporarily closed when conditions become unsafe or environmental resources are severely impacted. Such conditions could include soil erosion, flooding, fire hazard, environmental damage, or failure to follow the specific trail management plan (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines).	Not Applicable
C-PR30.1 Levels-of-use and types-of-use on trails shall be controlled to avoid unsafe use conditions or severe environmental degradation.	Not Applicable
C-PR30.2 The County Parks and Recreation Department shall provide adequate ongoing maintenance of its trail system.	Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System
C-PR30.3 Neighborhood volunteers and other groups should be encouraged to provide trail support services ranging from “trail watch” and clean up activities to annual maintenance and construction.	Not Applicable
C-PR31 Use of motorized vehicles on trails shall be prohibited, except for wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles.	Not Applicable
C-PR32 All trails should be marked. Signed information should be provided to encourage responsible trail use. Appropriate markers should be established along historically significant trail routes.	Not Applicable
C-PR33 Maps and trail guides should be made available to the public to increase awareness of existing public trails.	Not Applicable
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
C-PR(i)19.1 Develop a monitoring program for use by the lead agency in evaluating current conditions and determining whether or not new trails or trail management programs, including maintenance, reconstruction, education and use regulations, are effective in addressing user conflicts, safety issues and environmental impacts; and recommending changes if necessary. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).	Not Applicable

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>C-PR(i)19.2 Based upon trail monitoring, develop guidelines for procedures to temporarily close trails and implement steps necessary to correct problems requiring closure. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SCVWD).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19.3 Assign responsibility for the maintenance of County-owned trails to the County Parks and Recreation Department unless other trail managing organizations agree to assume the responsibility for maintenance consistent with County policies and guidelines. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, Transportation Agency, SCVWD).</p>	Partnership Opportunity
<p>C-PR(i)19.4 Condition the authorization of County funds to Cities for implementing trails shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map on their ability to operate and maintain the trail based on applicable County policies and guidelines (see Countywide Trails Master Plan – Design and Management Guidelines). (Implementors: County, Transportation Agency).</p>	Partnership Opportunity
<p>C-PR(i)19.5 Provide information and technical services to neighborhoods surrounding trails on how to establish adopt-a-trail groups. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SCVWD, CDRP, SFBNWR, non-profit organizations).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19.6 Design trail access points to ensure that off-road motorized vehicles do not use trails except for maintenance and emergency purposes or wheelchair access. (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19.7 Develop trail design criteria that discourage inappropriate use of trails. (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). (Implementor: County).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19.8 Clearly sign trails. Provide trail users with information regarding property rights in order to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing. (Implementors: County, MROSD, SCCOSA, CDRP, SFBNWR, non-profit organizations).</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i)19.9 Publish and periodically update maps and guides to existing public trails and pathways. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, CDRP, SFBNWR, non-profit organizations).</p>	Not Applicable

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
Strategy #5: Establish Priorities	
C-PR33.1 Trail routes shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map should be prioritized. (see Trail Priorities).	Countywide Significance
C-PR33.2 Criteria used to prioritize trail routes shall include: need for trail uses; compatibility of the trail route with adjoining property; trail usefulness; complexity of land acquisition; opportunities for a large number of users; safety concerns; financial considerations; need for trail settings; and opportunities for a sense of remoteness.	Population Growth / Recreation Needs & Trends Adjacent Land Use Compatibility Unconstrained Recreation Usability Acquisition Costs Development Costs Operation Costs / Sustainability of the Parks System Open Space Preservation
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
C-PR(i)19.10 Maintain a list of priorities for trail acquisition and development through purchase, dedication or other means. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA).	Note: this applies to all acquisition and affects the process rather than criteria
Strategy #6: Facilitate Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination	
C-PR33.3 Trail planning, acquisition, development, and management of trail routes shown on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map should be coordinated among the various local, regional, state and federal agencies which provide trails or funding for trails.	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR33.4 Trail acquisition responsibilities should be established on a project-by-project basis, and should be coordinated with all jurisdictions involved in each trail route.	Partnership Opportunity
C-PR33.5 Public improvement projects, such as road widenings, bridge construction, and flood control projects, that may impact existing or proposed trails should be designed to facilitate provision of shared use.	Not Applicable
<i>Implementation Recommendations</i>	
C-PR(i)19.11 Establish a Countywide Trails Technical Staff Group overseen by the County Parks and Recreation Department, with representation from participating county, city, special districts, and other agencies, for the	Not Applicable

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / NOTES
<p>purpose of coordinating the implementation of the County's trails plan and policies in a manner that is compatible with each participating jurisdiction's needs and desires and is reflective of the guidelines for implementing the countywide trail system. (see Countywide Trails Master Plan - Design and Management Guidelines). Among other duties, the Staff Group should be charged with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) establishment of consistent trail designs that benefit the user and affected properties; 2) coordination of specific trail routes' siting and design; 3) recommendations to appropriate agencies for creation of joint powers agreements for the acquisition, development and maintenance of specific trail routes; 4) development of implementation and management plans for inter-jurisdictional trail routes; and 5) prioritization of trail routes for funding purposes. <p>(Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, Transportation Agency, SCVWD, CDRP, CDF).</p>	
<p>C-PR(i) 19.12 Develop agreements for funding, interagency planning, acquisition, development and maintenance of countywide trails and trail segments with cities where the City has adopted relevant provisions of the Countywide Trails Master Plan and commits to implement and maintain a priority trail route. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, Transportation Agency, SCVWD).</p>	Partnership Opportunity
<p>C-PR(i) 19.13 Organize periodic meetings with adjacent cities and counties to coordinate the completion and management of regional trails which extend beyond County lines. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SFBNWR)</p>	Not Applicable
<p>C-PR(i) 19.14 Encourage the adoption of appropriate portions of the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map of the County's General Plan as part of local general plans, parks and open space master plans, and public facilities plans. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, Transportation Agency, SCVWD, LAFCO).</p>	Partnership Opportunity Other Agency Plans
<p>C-PR(i) 19.15 As additional public open space is acquired in the County, work with the appropriate entities to determine whether additional regional trail routes within the open space acquired should be identified on the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map as proposed trail routes. Propose amendments to the Countywide Trails Master Plan Map accordingly. (Implementors: County, Cities, MROSD, SCCOSA, SCVWD)</p>	Not Applicable

SCENIC HIGHWAYS

The General Plan also addresses Scenic Highways. Policies and implementation generally are directed to land use regulations. The policies that could affect acquisition are as follows:

POLICY	POTENTIAL ACQUISITION CRITERIA / Notes
<p>C-PR 40 The Skyline Scenic Recreation Route should be completed in accordance with the recommendations of the four-county Joint Powers Committee, including development of a riding and hiking trail system along the route, and acquisition of a 100-foot right-of-way for the unpaved section of the route from Loma Prieta Road to Mount Madonna Park.</p>	



INVENTORY / STATUS OF
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR
COUNTY PARKS

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
Almaden Quicksilver County Park	X		10/98	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails Master Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1998. Site Plan for Hacienda Entrance accepted by PRC on July 5, 2000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trail planning occurred within existing park boundaries. No effect on land acquisition.
Alviso Marina County Park	X		10/97	±50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Supervisors adopted Master Plan in October, 1997. Master Plan Phase II improvements being completed by the Department. Improvements include reconstruction of boat launch ramp from marina inlet and wetland mitigations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Master Plan proposes several improvements on land adjacent to the Marina but not then owned by the Santa Clara County Parks Department.
Anderson Lake County Park (Admin. Draft)		X	8/92	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Draft Master Plan prepared in April, 1990. Planning was placed on hold by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and thus never approved by Board of Supervisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning area extends well beyond existing County property with numerous suggestions for acquisition, as illustrated on Figure 19 of the Master Plan.
Calero County Park (Draft)		X	9/92	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Master Plan prepared in September, 1992. Planning was placed on hold by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and thus never approved by Board of Supervisors. NOTE: This reservoir park was at one time identified as the next Park Master Plan project for the Department to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and/easement acquisition is recommended to expand the park, for access improvements, for an equestrian stable, and for various trail connections between portions of the park and between Calero County Park and other open space areas nearby. It is noted that all such acquisitions would be from

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiate. 	a willing seller.
Calero County Park		X	Underway	95% complete with Stables Feasibility Study March 2010 initiating TMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended extending duration / scope of Equestrian Stables Feasibility Study at their November, 2009 meeting. Trails Master Plan work underway with anticipated completion in FY2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of the study includes only properties currently owned by Santa Clara County Parks.
Canada del Oro	X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource Management Plan and Trail construction document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data not available; not yet reviewed
Chesbro Reservoir County Park		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anticipated for planning. 	Not Applicable
Chitactac-Adams County Park	X		11/92	95%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan approved in 1992. Still need to construct the Round House and other Ohlone Village elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas where the park could be expanded are identified with the note that additional acquisition should only be considered where it would effectively fulfill the general scope of the Master Plan.
Coyote Creek Parkway	X		3/07	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) and Master 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6.2 identifies resource management plans that include

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
					Plan (MP) adopted by the Board of Supervisors in March, 2007. Funding has been approved for the implementation of a portion of Phase I improvements.	acquisition of adjacent areas to: enhance riparian buffers; increase stream stability and habitat connectivity; and allow relocating sections of the existing trail.
Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch	X		1/04	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous 1992 Coyote Lake MP project was placed on hold by the SCVWD (that Admin Draft was not approved by Board of Supervisors). • MP and NRMP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in January, 2004. • Phase I trails plan and portions of Phase II implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan is limited to area within park boundaries. • Potential off-site trail connections shown consistent with Countywide Trails Master plan
Ed. R. Levin County Park	X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resource Management Plan (RMP) was prepared in October, 1998 that also included an RMP for Grant Ranch County Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NRM plan addresses only lands within the Park boundaries
Field Sports Park		X		N/A	•	Not Applicable
Hellyer County Park		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Site Plan for Entrance and Reconfiguration of Group Picnic Areas 	Not Applicable
Joseph D. Grant County Park	X		MP 7/93 RMP 10/96	MP ±20% RMP ±25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan (MP) adopted in ____ August, 1993. A subsequent Resource Management Plan (RMP) was prepared in October, 1998 that also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Master Plan and NRM plan addresses only lands within the Park boundaries

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
					included an RMP for Ed R. Levin County Park.	
Lexington Reservoir County Park	X		6/86	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was placed on hold by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and thus never approved by Board of Supervisors 	Not Applicable
Los Gatos Creek Trail	X		11/02	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan jointly completed with the City of Campbell and SCVWD. Adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November, 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations for park expansion are provided, particularly to expand the park's visibility from Dell Avenue.
Martial Cottle Park		X	Currently underway	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with CA State Parks on completion of a State Park General Plan/County Park Master Plan and DEIR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No references are made to park expansion in the Draft Plan, Off-site trail connections are shown leading to the south of the park under Highway 85.
Motorcycle County Park	X			N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sedimentation/Erosion Control Plan completed in 1980? (Need to verify date) Site Plan for park improvements scheduled in FY2013 as part of Five Year CIP 	Not Applicable
Mt. Madonna County Park		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full park master plan/trails plan scheduled for FY2014 	Not Applicable
Penitencia Creek	X		7/77	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation in collaboration with 	Data not available; not yet reviewed

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
					City of San José. The trail is mostly complete as the City has been planning and implementing their portions over the last 5 years.	
Rancho San Antonio County Park	X		5/92	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved Master Plan in May, 1992. Master Plan does not include Diocese property which was not part of County Park. 	Data not available; not yet reviewed
San Tomas Aquino/ Saratoga Creek	X		6/99		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved Trails Master Plan in June, 1999. 	Data not available; not yet reviewed
Sanborn-Skyline Park-Day Use Area	X		7/87	95%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Plan completed. 	Not Applicable
Sanborn County Park	X		4/07	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Trails Master Plan presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval on May 22, 2007 and on October 21, 2008 for final approval. May 22, 2007 approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mater Plan predominantly involves trails within the park. A number of "future trail connections" are shown that mimic the trail routes identified on the 1997 Trails Master Plan for Sanborn.
Santa Teresa County Park	X		4/92	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved Master Plan in April, 1992. Trail built, acquisitions secured in Rancho Santa Teresa Historic Park Area, historic springs and Bernal- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park planning area included a number of parcels outside the then existing park boundaries. Opportunities for park expansion were noted. In addition a

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
					Gulnac-Joice Ranch restored.	number of off-site trail connections are illustrated.
Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area	X		12/09	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved Site Plan in December, 2009. Awaiting recommended funding for implementation 	Not Applicable
Silveira Area	X		3/89	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is leased to the City of Morgan Hill and City previously recommended improvements as part of City's 2000 Master Plan. Currently a portion remains leased to City of Morgan Hill but no future park development anticipated for the site. 	Data not available; not yet reviewed
Stevens Creek Creek County Park	X		9/93	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One trail was not approved by the Board of Supervisors 	Data not available; not yet reviewed
Sunnyvale Baylands Park	X		1/98	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Sunnyvale prepared MP in January, 1998. City of Sunnyvale manages and operates County-owned site. 	Data not available; not yet reviewed
Upper Stevens Creek County Park	X		4/93	±25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) in April, 1993. 	Data not available; not yet reviewed

Park	Plans Completed		Date Prepared/ Approved	Approx. % Implemented	Status / Comments	Relationship to Land Acquisition
	Yes	No				
Uvas Canyon County Park		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anticipated for planning. 	Not Applicable
Uvas Creek		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anticipated for planning. 	Not Applicable
Uvas Reservoir		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anticipated for planning. 	Not Applicable
Vasona and Los Gatos Creek County Park		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Improvements 1991, Phase I plans included day use improvements. Vasona Entrance Improvement Plans completed in 1992. No Master Plan was completed for the park. 	Not Applicable
Villa Montalvo		X		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anticipated for planning. 	Not Applicable



C O U N T Y P A R K
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PUBLIC PARK
PRESERVATION ACT OF
1971

SUMMARY OF RELATED AGENCY POLICIES

Information for each of the summaries below was obtained from a web site, brochure, or other source, or was provided by the individual partner.

1. Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

The Santa Clara County Open-Space Authority (the Authority) acquires land for local open-space preservation and greenbelting purposes. Priority for open-space acquisition should be focused on those lands closest, most accessible, and visible to the urban area.

Priority is given to acquisitions that are widely accessible, adjoin other open space, or are especially vulnerable to development. Favorable financing and partnerships are other important considerations. Lands that are visible to the urban area or can meet multiple preservation goals also have a high priority.

Acquisition Criteria

All lands being considered for acquisition by the Authority shall provide, or have the potential to provide through restoration and/or site development, at least one of the following open space benefits. Lands being considered for acquisition shall also be large enough to functionally provide the intended open space benefit, or have potential for future expansion.

General criteria used in identifying acquisition of properties include:

- **Environmental Preservation:** lands providing at least one of the following benefits:
 - Preserve prime examples of the natural geography representative of the region, such as:
 - wetlands/baylands
 - riparian areas
 - valley floor
 - hillsides
 - ridgelines
 - Preserve unique plant communities and diverse habitats
 - Preserve habitats of rare and endangered species
 - Preserve watershed

- **Scenic Preservation:** lands providing at least one of the following benefits:
 - Preserve unique scenic resources
 - Preserve viewshed
- **Greenbelts and Urban Buffers**
- **Agricultural Preservation**
- **Outdoor Recreation:** defined leisure activity lands for the use and enjoyment of the outdoors with minimal structures and environmentally compatible development of the land.
- **Connections:** lands providing non-motorized connections (trails) between open space lands of regional significance, or between urban areas and open space lands.

Acquisition Areas To develop an effective acquisition plan the Authority established ten study areas as a way of organizing information about land within its jurisdiction. Each study area has the potential to fulfill one or several of the Authority's conservation goals.

- **Baylands:** Shoreline along San Francisco Bay north of Hwy. 237 in San José. Acquisition of lands in this area are to preserve habitat for a number of protected species.
- **Milpitas-Berryessa:** This area is directly west of watershed lands of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and includes the primary watershed for Berryessa and Penitencia Creeks. Acquisitions would protect riparian corridors; protect scenic views from Ed Levin County Park, the City of Milpitas, and the Berryessa neighborhood of San José and establish trail connections to Ed Levin County Park.
- **Arroyo Aguague:** The southern portion of the Penitencia Creek watershed adjoining Joseph D. Grant County Park to the south and The Nature Conservancy's protected lands to the east. Because of its close proximity to the city of San José, land acquired in this area would provide easily accessible trails that connect to Alum Rock Park and Grant County Park while also protecting ridgeline views and habitat.
- **Evergreen:** Consisting of the east San José foothills and critical watershed lands for Silver Creek. Acquiring strategic parcels would preserve views to the foothills from the Evergreen and Silver Creek neighborhoods of San José, provide a significant wildlife corridor, and provide

potential regional trail connections to Joseph D. Grant County Park.

- **Coyote Ridge:** Consisting of the east Coyote foothills contributing to both the Anderson Lake and Coyote Creek watersheds, the area adjoins Coyote Creek County Park to the west and Anderson Lake County Park to the south. Acquiring parcels in this area will also provide high priority habitat protection, preserve ridgelines and scenic views, and provide potential for trail connections.
- **Santa Teresa Ridge:** Surrounded by a high level of urban development, this area lies northwest of Santa Teresa County Park. To the southeast, the ridge remains in its natural condition, representing an urgent preservation opportunity. Acquisitions in this area would preserve the ridge's view shed, protect habitat and support trail opportunities including potential connections to the county park.
- **South Coyote Valley Greenbelt:** Located just north of Morgan Hill, this region is identified as greenbelt or urban buffer by the general plans of Santa Clara County, the City of Morgan Hill and the City of San José. Essential parcels acquired in this area would help preserve the look and feel of open space and rural land uses.
- **Western Watershed:** Bordered by Almaden Quicksilver and Uvas Canyon County Parks and lands managed by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District this area encompasses Calero County Park. Acquisitions would extend continuous habitat and riparian corridors, offer the potential for a regional trail network, and provide ridgeline and view protection.
- **South County Agriculture:** Farm lands in southern Santa Clara County where acquiring conservation easements will help preserve the remaining prime agricultural soils and support the concept of "sustainable cities."
- **Upper Coyote:** Located in the primary watershed for the Pajaro River, it includes the foothills east of Gilroy, Palassou Ridge, and Cañada de los Osos located between Henry Coe State Park and Coyote Lake County Park. The area has high potential for maintaining uninterrupted wildlife corridors, preserving significant riparian and watershed resources, preserving the very visible ridgeline,

and offering potential trail connections to Henry Coe State Park and other public lands.

20% Funding Program Policy

The Authority administers a 20 percent funding program for urban park projects that may include land acquisition. Twice a year funds are allocated to participating cities and the County based on each jurisdiction's percentage of parcels within Authority assessment districts. Participating cities include Milpitas, Campbell, San José, Santa Clara and Morgan Hill. Criteria used include the Authority's acquisition criteria (above) plus consistency with the local jurisdiction's General Plans.

2. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) uses its available resources primarily to acquire or otherwise preserve land outside the Urban Service Area boundaries of cities that has regionally significant open space value and that might be lost to development if the District failed to act. MROSD's goal is to acquire lands within its own boundaries and Sphere of Influence. Acquisitions outside the District's boundaries would be considered only if exceptional purchase opportunities arise that clearly support the District's mission.

The MROSD *Regional Open Space Study*, prepared in 1998, illustrates areas worth considering for open space protection to achieve the District's vision for a continuous greenbelt. It is presented on the following page.

3. NON-PROFIT REGIONAL OPEN SPACE ORGANIZATIONS

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

The mission of the Peninsula Open Space Trust is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula and Santa Cruz Mountain range. POST encourages the use of these lands for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, low-intensity public recreation and agriculture for people here now and for future generations.

Since its founding in 1977, POST has been involved in the acquisition of 63,000 acres as permanent open space and parkland in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. POST leverages donor dollars and works with government agencies including Santa Clara County. POST's approach to land protection taps the power of both private and public sectors. Using funds from private donors, POST has the ability to move quickly to purchase open spaces as opportunities arise. Private dollars also enable matching funds to be leveraged from state and federal agencies.

POST has partnered with Santa Clara County Parks on the protection of nearly 5,000 acres of natural, recreational, and scenic

resource lands in the County. Overall, throughout its twenty-eight years of work in Santa Clara County, POST has matched every dollar from the County with nearly two dollars from private, state, and regional sources. Recent examples where the County and POST have partnered in acquiring parklands include:

- Rancho San Vicente: The County purchased this 966-acre ranch from POST in 2009, following POST's acquisition of the land from a developer. It will become part of Calero County Park, a park that POST had previously partnered with the County to expand in 2003.
- Clark Canyon Ranch: This 408-acre gem shares a boundary with both the City of Gilroy and connects to Mount Madonna County Park. The County purchased the property from POST in 2009.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy protects Earth's most important natural places — for you and future generations — through great science and smart partnerships.

The Nature Conservancy's Mount Hamilton Project covers an area of over 1 million acres in six counties, including much of eastern Santa Clara County. The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Over the last 12 years, as part of our Mount Hamilton Project we TNC has worked with public partners, including the County, and private landowners to secure permanent protection of over 50,000 acres in Santa Clara County.

Many lands acquired through the Park Charter Fund are part of the Mount Hamilton landscape including Coyote Creek, Santa Teresa, and Joseph D. Grant Park, among others.

4. CITIES

The following listing is not intended to be a complete review of the individual jurisdiction's policies about how park and open space lands are to be acquired, planned, or implemented. The narrative summarizes key policies and needs criteria provided within individual General Plans as they may relate to the County's partnership opportunities for parkland acquisition.

Campbell

A basic strategy of the Land Use and Transportation Element of the General Plan is to assist neighborhoods in retaining schools or incorporating open space features as a central focal point and giving

priority to park acquisition from surplus school sites in neighborhoods where the site is the only open space feature (Strategy LUT-5.2c). Strategies in the Open Space, Parks and Public Facilities Element of the General Plan include to seek out and "aggressively pursue" all forms of federal, State, County, Open Space Authority and private funding to assist in the acquisition, development and programming of park and recreation facilities (Strategy OSP-2.2d).

Cupertino The Land Use Element of the Cupertino General Plan, among other items, addresses the acquisition of open space and contains specific policies for how the County acquisition program should be directed. It states that the Santa Clara County Parks program should pursue the goal of connecting upper and lower Stevens Creek Parks; that the County of Santa Clara Park and Recreation Department's budget should pursue acquisition to the extent possible and emphasize passive park development in keeping with the pristine nature of the hillsides; and that the County should work to keep the watershed and storage basin properties of Stevens Creek (Policy 2-67).

The current City General Plan standard for parks is 3 acres for each 1,000 residents in all neighborhoods. The General Plan recognizes that the City does not have sufficient funds to buy enough parkland to meet the adopted minimum standard. An acquisition strategy is called for (Policy 2-82) that stretches limited funds by using school sites, expanding and revising existing park uses, taking advantage of State and other funds, and park dedication requirements for major new developments.

Gillroy The Public Facilities and Services Chapter of the General Plan identifies a park standard of 5 acres per 1000 population Policy 16.01). The General Pan identifies that new community and neighborhood parks in areas not currently served by parks should be established and the expansion of Uvas Creek Park Preserve, extending from Burchell Road in the Hecker Pass area downstream to Highway 101 and Gavilan College, via the Gilroy Sports Park. 9 (Policy 16.14).

Los Altos The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element of the Los Altos General Plan identifies a park dedication requirement for new subdivisions of 5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Existing park land in Los Altos is at a ratio of approximately 1.3 acres of dedicated park land per 1,000 residents. In an effort to expand park and recreational facilities and programs, the City will implement options to lease and/or purchase additional park sites.

Los Altos Hills

The Town of Los Altos Hills General Plan Update - Open Space and Recreation Element identifies that all residential areas should have public land available for recreation within approximately one-half to one mile distances and that acreage of public land available for recreation shall be not less than five percent of the residential area of the Town. This requirement may be met by open space preserve land recreation areas in public ownership. These areas should be located or distributed as equitably as possible throughout the Town. The Town also includes a Pathways Element in the General Plan Update. This identifies a system of paths that include trails identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan.

Los Gatos The Open Space Element of the General Plan identifies open space acquisition as a priority. Goal O.G.1.1 is "To acquire open space areas within the Town of Los Gatos, particularly lands which provide recreational uses and will protect the public health, welfare, and safety of residents and visitors (e.g.: lands in flood plains, watershed lands, or lands subject to fire or geologic hazards)." Policies promote coordination with all levels of government in utilizing available resources for the acquisition and development of open space (Policy O.P.1.1 through O.P.1.5).

Milpitas The current City General Plan standard for parks is to provide 5 acres of neighborhood and community parks for every 1,000 residents outside of the Midtown Specific Plan Area, and 3.5 acres of special use parks for every 1,000 residents within the Midtown Specific Plan Area (Implementing Policy 4.a-1-1).

New parks and parkland would be obtained by cooperating with other agencies, such as the County, to provide recreational opportunities to residents. (Guiding Principle 4.a-G-3), and requiring land dedication or in lieu fees as a function of subdivision regulations (Implementing Policy 4.a-1-1). Only historic sites are specifically targeted for acquisition (Implementing Policy 4.f-1-2).

Monte Serreno The City does not own or manage public parkland. The Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan includes policies to work with other jurisdictions, including designating to them any State Park funds allocated to the City, to serve the needs of Monte Serreno residents (Policy OSC-2.1; Policy OSC-2.2).

Morgan Hill The Community Development chapter of the General Plan identifies a standard for neighborhood and community parks of 5 acres for every 1,000 residents (Policy 18c). Policies also include: partnerships

with other agencies and organizations, including the Department, are encouraged to acquire and develop parks and recreation facilities (Action Policy 18.2).; and working with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to enhance appropriate community use of County parkland (Action Policy 18.6).

The Open Space and Conservation chapter of the General Plan calls out working with the Department and the Open Space Authority to incorporate a portion of El Toro Mountain into the Santa Clara County park system (Policy Action 4.4).

Mountain View

The General Plan cites the National Recreation and Parks Association Standards for evaluating open space demand at the neighborhood level. City-wide, Mountain View's ratio of open space per person exceeds national guidelines. However, most of this open space is at its Shoreline Park at Mountain View, in the North Bayshore District of the City. The City uses the California Government Code Section 66477, the Quimby Act, to require builders of residential subdivision to dedicate land at a ratio of at least 3 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. The Environmental Management Chapter includes a policy to establish a priority system for acquiring open space (Policy 1) and maintaining an inventory of vacant properties that could possibly be purchased and developed as public open space (Action 1f).

The Transportation Chapter of the General Plan includes a system of bikeways and urban trails (Figure 7) with a specific policy reference to bike paths in the Stevens Creek corridor, the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way, and rail corridors if feasible (Action 22.e).

Shoreline at Mountain View with a variety of facilities including the Shoreline Amphitheater, and the Stevens Creek trail are considered a regional facilities by the City.

Palo Alto

Because of the "built-out" nature of the community, the General Plan recognizes that "it is unlikely that many new parks will be created in Palo Alto". Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing facilities are the focus of General Plan policies relating to parks. The City uses National Recreation and Park Association Standards as guidelines for locating and developing new parks (Policy C-28). These guidelines are:

- Neighborhood parks should be at least two acres in size, although sites as small as one-half acre may be needed as

supplementary facilities. The maximum service area radius should be one-half mile. Two acres of neighborhood parkland should be provided for each 1,000 people.

- District parks should be at least five acres in size. The maximum service area radius should be one mile. Two acres of district park land should be provided for each 1,000 people.

New parks to meet the growing needs of residents and employees of Palo Alto (Policy C-27) are to be considered when preparing coordinated area plans (Program C-25) and in conjunction with new development proposals (Program C-26).

San José The "City of San José Greenprint – Strategic Plan", outlines park and recreation needs. Adopted by the City in 2000, a 2009 draft update to the Greenprint has been published but has yet to be adopted. The City's goals for parkland address both quantity and distribution. The General Plan service level objective is to provide 3.5 acres per 1000 population of neighborhood/community-serving parkland and provide equal access within a 3/4-mile radius of residents. It was estimated to meet these goals in 2020, an additional 930.64 acres of land would be needed. Given the high cost of property acquisition and limited amount of undeveloped land within the City, the Greenprint recognizes that "the City of San José will be unable to acquire the total additional acreage needed to achieve the goal by 2020". Therefore, the strategic plan examined access and distribution issues in underserved areas to determine how service could be improved.

The City utilizes a variety of financing mechanisms, including the Parkland Dedication Ordinance, Park Impact Fee Ordinance, and the Construction and Conveyance Tax to acquire and develop park land. The City is one of five jurisdictions that benefit from the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's 20% funding of urban projects.

Specific General Plan park land acquisition policies include:

- The City should continue to work cooperatively with local school districts in identifying and evaluating surplus school sites for potential park lands acquisition. In furtherance of this policy, the City should maintain and periodically update the School Site Reuse Plan (Park and Recreation Policy 10).
- The City should promote the enactment of Federal, State and local legislation intended to facilitate the acquisition of surplus property of public agencies for parks, open space and recreation purposes (Park and Recreation Policy 12).

Santa Clara In 2008, the City's Neighborhood and Community Parks served a population of approximately 115,500 residents, resulting in 2.4 acres of local-serving parkland per 1,000 residents. Included in this General Plan are policies to maintain that standard for residents as the City grows. No specific policies directed to parkland acquisition are within the General Plan. However a basic goal is that new parks, open space and recreation areas are to be provided with new development so that existing facilities are not overburdened (Goal 5.9.1-G3). The General Plan specifically recognizes the contribution the County has made in completing the San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail.

Saratoga The Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan references a park standard of 5 acres of developed municipal parkland per 1,000 residents. With a population estimated to be 33,300 in the year 2020, the City would require 165.5 acres of parks. Currently there are 87 acres within the City. The General Plan notes that high land costs and the limited amount of undeveloped land will pose challenges to the City in seeking to attain its goal.

Sunnyvale The General Plan contains no specific park standards. To provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities City General Plan policies for open space and recreation include:

- Acquisition of appropriate federal lands currently located at the former Moffett Naval Air Station (Policy 2.2.A.3).
- Support acquisition or joint use through agreements with partners of suitable sites to enhance Sunnyvale's open spaces and recreation facilities based on community need and through such strategies as development of easements and rights-of-way for open space use, conversion of sites to open space from developed use of land, and land banking (Policy 2.2.A.8.)
- Support the acquisition of existing open space within the City limits as long as financially feasible (Policy 2.2.A.11).
- Refrain from engaging in the development of open space and/or recreational facilities without prior assurance that ongoing maintenance needs will be addressed (Policy 2.2.A.9).



SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN
COUNTYWIDE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION

EVALUATION		
Minimal Countywide Significance	Possible Countywide Significance	Countywide Significance
Cultural Characteristics - Historic Value		
Not associated with architecture, events, or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad archaeological or historic patterns of North America, California, the Central California Region, or Santa Clara County.	Associated with architecture, events, or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad archaeological or historic patterns of a City or areas within the County.	Associated with architecture, events, or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad archaeological or historic patterns of North America, California, the Central California Region, or Santa Clara County.
Use Characteristics - Demand		
The activity and support facilities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accommodate the needs of a limited user group from a small geographic area. • accommodate short-term needs or recreational fads as identified through population projections, use surveys, and other recreation needs analyses. 	The activity and support facilities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accommodate the needs of an individual user group but one representing individuals from throughout the County. • accommodate long-term outdoor recreation needs (i.e. more than 20 years) as identified through population projections, use surveys, and other recreation needs analyses. 	The activity and support facilities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accommodate the needs of multiple use interests represented from throughout the County. • accommodate long-term outdoor recreation needs (i.e. more than 20 years) as identified through population projections, use surveys, and other recreation needs analyses.
Use Characteristics - Accessibility		
Because of its location, the Park site would not generally be useful in accommodating projected demand. Such factors would include: the Park is distant from main transportation routes within the County (e.g. greater than 15 minutes travel time from the freeway / expressway system); the Park is not accessible via public transportation; access routes to the Park are significantly limited in their capacity.	Because of its location, the Park site is somewhat useful in accommodating projected demand. Factors would include: the Park is relatively near to the main transportation routes within the County (e.g. less than 15 minutes travel time from the freeway/ expressway system); the Park is accessible via public transportation or is planned to be; and access routes to the Park are not significantly limited in their capacity.	Because of its location, the Park site would be useful in accommodating projected demand. Such factors would include: the Park is accessed directly from the main transportation routes within the County (e.g. from the freeway / expressway system); the Park is accessible via public transportation; access routes to the Park are not significantly limited in their capacity.

EVALUATION		
Minimal Countywide Significance	Possible Countywide Significance	Countywide Significance

Use Characteristics - Uniqueness of Use

The activity and facilities that support it are fairly commonplace.		The activity and facilities that support it represent a 'one-of-a-kind', or nearly so.
The activity and facilities that support it are available from other recreation suppliers.		The activity and facilities that support it are not available from other recreation suppliers.

Use Characteristics - Regional Appeal

The activity would draw users from the immediate area around the park or facility (appx. 0 to 5 miles) to engage in the activity.	The activity would appeal to a broad cross-section of the regional population and draw users from a broad area around the park or facility (appx. 6 to 15 miles) to engage in the activity.	The activity would appeal to a broad cross-section of the regional population and would draw users from within and outside the County.
The activity is typically found in neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities.		The activity is only found in regional facilities.
A combination of outdoor recreation opportunities or facilities typically available in parks.		A combination of outdoor recreation opportunities or facilities available together would create a regional draw.

Physical Characteristics – Size of Area

The Park would only accommodate a single regional use and provides no significant open space experience. Size is typically smaller than 100 acres.	The Park would accommodate a few regional uses. Size is typically between 100 and 500 acres.	The Park is large enough to accommodate multiple regional uses in an open space setting. Size is typically greater than 500 acres.
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Physical Characteristics - Natural Resources

The Park or facility has little or no relationship to attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County including the protection of scenic resources and areas or corridors with rich biological habitat that provide opportunities for appropriate recreation experiences of regional significance.	The Park or facility has an indirect relationship to attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County including the protection of scenic resources and areas or corridors with rich biological habitat that provide opportunities for appropriate recreation experiences of regional significance.	The Park or facility has a direct relationship to attaining the resource conservation priorities of the County including the protection of scenic resources and areas or corridors with rich biological habitat that provide opportunities for appropriate recreation experiences of regional significance.
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OUTREACH PROGRAM SUMMARY - MARCH, 2011 THROUGH AUGUST, 2012

K.1 Introduction

During the fall of 2011, the Department completed a series of public outreach meetings focused on urban recreation perspectives vis-à-vis land acquisition.

In addition the Department: hosted two focus group sessions with City and land agency staff representatives; presented information and discussed the County's role in urban land acquisition at the Park Directors Forum; solicited additional public input via an on-line internet survey; conducted a survey of school districts; and received miscellaneous e-correspondence.

This included:

- 2 City / Land Agency Focus Groups
- 4 Community Meetings (55 attendees)
- Park and Recreation Directors Forum
- Community Internet Survey (319 responses)
- School District Internet Survey (15 of 31 responses)
- E-mail comments (26)

The full content of the two survey tools and the content of input received via e-mail is found in the Attachment K-1.

K.2 Overview of Results

There were several important results of this outreach process. Criteria that were considered important included:

- Connectivity – habitat, community
- Trails – health, economic, environmental benefits
- Partnerships - leverage
- Schools

- Criteria / Guidelines
- Unincorporated Islands

A strong majority of participants believed that “connectivity” is the key guideline to be emphasized for use of urban acquisition funds. Broadly defined this would include trails, natural wildlife corridors with setbacks between habitat areas and trails, linear parks, and links between other area parks and school sites.

Strong support for trails in the urban environment was consistent, with specific mention of the Three Creeks Trail, Five Wounds Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Stevens Creek Trail, and the Bay Trail.

Support for continued partnerships with municipal and other land agencies is strong. However, specific project support seems to track with the degree to which that project is seen to be of countywide interest. That is to say, those types of projects with regional appeal seemed to gain the highest levels of support, those with modest impact enjoyed some support, and those of a more localized nature received the very least support. If acquired urban lands could have both countywide appeal and usefulness and help provide for local recreation needs, that is an ideal project for an urban acquisition under the Park Charter Fund.

Our research shows that the majority of schools allow for portions of their grounds to be used for public recreation during non-school hours. Several have indicated a willingness to explore partnership opportunities for enhancement of properties for increased community recreational value.

Community support exists for guidelines in the form of criteria that should be applied to determine what areas and sites should and could be acquired as future parks.

There were a number of other discussion topics that were brought up at the various meetings. Principal among these were:

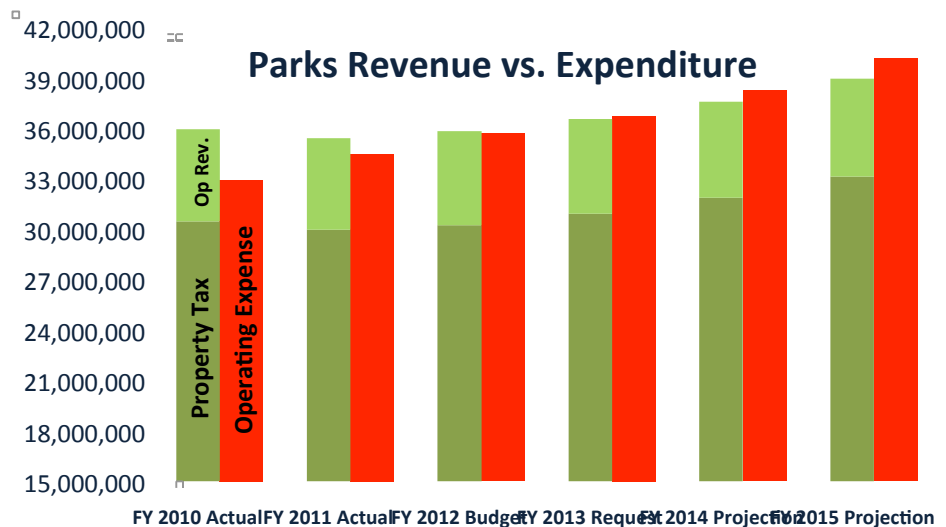
- Underserved Populations: We specifically asked the meeting participants about the County's role in provision of neighborhood parks to underserved populations. While there was no consensus, some agencies stated that they support the County by operating and maintaining regional facilities. Some community members expressed that in order for unincorporated islands to obtain urban neighborhood parks, these communities should initiate annexation procedures

with local cities, while a few community members stated that the County should take on this lead regardless of city annexation.

- There was strongest support for acquisitions of parks and trails within unincorporated County islands where they provide linkage or connectivity to existing facilities and serve a regional or countywide need. Current examples of parkland acquisitions within urban islands that were mentioned include Coyote Hellyer, Santa Teresa, Rancho San Antonio, and the future Martial Cottle Park.

In the spectrum of park services, ranging from vast wilderness parks to neighborhood parks, it is important to keep in mind that by working collaboratively with sister agencies, we collectively meet the community’s park and recreation needs. Positive validation of these partnerships to fulfill unmet needs such as addressing underserved areas is exemplified by the recent acquisition of the 3-Creeks Trail corridor in San José.

- Financial Sustainability: Virtually everyone was concerned about the long-term operations and maintenance costs for developed parks with general agreement that long-term sustainability of parks and trails should be considered prior to purchase of new parklands. The “economy of scale” concept was suggested for the Department in maintaining both continuous linear parks/trails and a smaller number of large acreage parks rather than acquiring small acreage parks.



A few local and regional trends came out of staff's research and discussions that should be noted.

- There are opportunities to work with school districts. For example, because of the identified need in the Alum Rock urban island, Parks staff met with representatives of the Alum Rock School District. The District was supportive of considering development of currently owned district properties where park improvements could enhance public recreational usage. Please note, however, this particular strategy of partnering on capital improvements would be outside the realm of acquisition funding and the Acquisition Plan. The Department will continue exploring opportunities for partnerships with school districts where full public park access could be provided
- The needs assessments conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation finds that walking, running, and bicycling are by far the top recreational activities favored statewide. This conclusion supports the role of the County in helping Cities complete the trail network within the urban service areas of the County. Of the 170 miles of trails called for in the County-wide trails master plan, 70 have been developed.
- Park agencies across the County report continuing demand for additional sports facilities. As identified last year in the development of the Parkland Acquisition Plan 2011 Update, there remains interest by cities and sports organizations in a potential lease or partnership for use of County parkland to site large sports facilities, such as soccer complexes and ball fields that provide facilities for league play. The idea of a facility with multi-city or regional appeal is consistent with existing criteria now in place that the Board accepted last March. In order to consider how best to evaluate such proposals, a future needs analysis and feasibility study could be conducted jointly with the cities to determine the perceived community need, the priorities for types of facilities, and the ability to finance operation of facilities.

K.3 Community internet Surveys

The general public was provided an additional avenue to provide input via an on-line survey. The survey tool was promoted both at the various community meetings, through a County Parks e-blast, and via the County Parks web page. The survey tool was available for input from October 18 through December 9, 2011. The intent of the tool was to provide an added point for input, specifically for those who could not attend one of the four community meetings on this issue. It is not considered to be statistically accurate. Three hundred nineteen (319) responses were received to the 11 question survey. The survey instrument and a summary of responses is provided and is found in Attachment K-1. General insights included:

- When asked what the County should consider its highest priority (2 selections allowed) for the purchase of urban parklands within their communities, the highest two responses were to preserve and enhance open space and creeks (78%) and to create new multi-use trails (63%). Of respondents, 12% indicated the creation of a new neighborhood or community park was of high priority.
- When asked how the respondents thought the County should spend parkland acquisition funds in the County's urban areas, the highest single response (44%) was for creek corridors for trails and passive use.
- When asked what particular amenities were of most importance in the planning and design of urban parks, those in incorporated areas and unincorporated areas selected the same top two responses, with combined totals of connecting to City or regional trails (70%) and walking paths (69%).
- When asked what discouraged their use of parks, the largest response group (57%) indicated the question did not apply to them as they were active park users. However, of those who indicated they were discouraged, 22% indicated the closest park lacked the desired amenities. A total of 10% respondents indicated that parks were located too far away and they had no way to get to the park. A total of 76 individual write in responses reflected the following items discouraged their use of parks:
 - Rules / regulations / park operating hours – 22%
 - Inadequate maintenance – 9%

- Safety concerns – 13%
- Cost – 4%
- Type of facility (urban vs. regional/open space) – 3%
- Lack of desired amenities – 26%

A copy of the full 11-question survey along with the numerical results to each question can be found in the following Attachment K-1.

K.4 School District Internet Survey

In an effort to gain insights from the 31 school districts within the County of Santa Clara in relation to outdoor space trends and needs, a 17 question survey was developed and distributed directly to school district administrators. The survey responses are provided in Attachment K-1.

The intent of the survey was to gain insights into future needs for open space for play or educational reasons, potential property dispositions, opportunities for collaboration and participation in Safe Routes to Schools Program. Fifteen of thirty one districts responded, providing the following information.

- After school sports and health related physical education were both seen as growing trends (73% and 60% respectively),
- 80% of respondents indicated their properties were open for public outdoor activities after school,
- 40% of respondents indicated it would be desirable to acquire additional urban properties for school use which could support public recreation in the next 5 years,
- 73% of respondents reported participation in the Safe Routes to Schools Program, with 67% indicating it is not desirable to have a recreational trail connected to their school.

A copy of the full 17-question survey, along with the numerical result to each question can be found in the following Attachment K-1.

K.5 Community Meetings

Table K-1 summarizes the meetings, locations and number of participants.

Table K-1: Community Meetings

MEETING DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
October 18, 2011	Mayfair Community Center 2039 Kammerer Ave., San José, CA	19
October 19, 2011	Cypress Senior Center 403 Cypress Ave., San José, CA	15
October 24, 2011	Rengstorff Community Center 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View	17
November 8, 2011	Joseph George Middle School 277 Mahoney Drive San José	17

PARTICIPATION: The listing below is of those individuals who signed in to the meetings. It is noted where individuals attended more than one meeting.

Name	Representing
Garnetta Annable (3 meetings)	Yes on Parks
Lawrence Ames	Yes on Parks
Brruce Baker	Campbell Parks and Recreation Commission
Stacy Beard	West Valley College
Steven Blomquist	Office of Supervisor Cortese
Scott Burley	West Valley College
Matt Cano	San Jose
Helen Chapman	S/HPNA, S.J. Park Foundation
Gordon Chace II	Taxpayers-Landowner
Heather Chase	Chace Ranch
Terry Christensen	Friends of Five Wounds Trails
Robb Courtney	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
Martin Delson	
David Dekruif	West Valley College
Sam Drake	
Jean Dresden	
Joel Gartland	
John Gibbs	Office of Supervisor Wasserman
Jeffrey Fenj	SISU

Name	Representing
Mike Flaugher	Bay Area Ridge Trail
Riley Frizzell	West Valley College
Richard Garcia	
Saratina Garcia	
Jessica Gonzales	
Matt Herbert	
Jan Hintermeister	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission
Virginia Holtz	Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Ronald Horii	FOSTP
Steve Jones	Northern California Veledrome Association
Shani Kleinhaus	Santa Clara Valley Audubon
Steve Kline	Burbank Del Monte NAC
Jason Kongas	
<u>Roland Lebrun</u>	Save Our Trails
Lance Lucero	
Robert McKibbin	
Gus Meyne	ROMP, BART, SBR
Kitty Monahan	CAC Open Space
Dorsey Moore	Sustainability for All
Vicki Moore	
Dee Murphy	
Steve Munzel	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission
Jack Nadeau (4 meetings)	Save Our Trails
Nina Nowak	Peninsula Open Space Trust
<u>John Perez</u>	San Jose State University
Bill Rankin (2 meetings)	Save Our Trails
Korey Richardson	Five Wounds Trail
Jooah Rivas-Cosby	SWBT NAC / Friends of Five Wounds Trail
Linda Ruthruff	Audubon
Jeanne-Michele Salander	Santa Clara Valley Audubon
Peter Shyverc	Citizen; Bay Area Ridge Trail Committee
Richard Silva	
Bern Smith	Bay Area Ridge Trail
Dean Stanford	
<u>Scott Strickland (3 meetings)</u>	Office of Supervisor Kniss
Bruce Tichinin	Save Our Trails
Linda Tuthruff	Audubon
Don Weeden	
Greg West	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission
Blake Woessner	West Valley Parks Management
Rita Wu	High schools

Note: Supervisor David Cortese attended the meeting on November 8, 2011.

PURPOSE: To solicit perspectives about "Guidelines" to be used by the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department in purchasing parks, trails, and open space lands in the urban areas of the County, particularly lands in undeserved areas.

INTRODUCTION: A presentation of the chronology of the Park Charter Amendment, the Park Charter Acquisition Fund, the development of the Park Acquisition Plan 2011 Update, and the direction given by the Board of Supervisors in March, 2011 upon accepting the Update was made by the Department's facilitator. A preliminary list of ideas developed at workshops with the County's partners in providing park, open space, and recreation services (Cities, MROSD, and SCOSA) held on October 12, 2011 and 13, 2011 was used as a meeting tool to facilitate a discussion focusing on ideas for formalizing an urban acquisition program.

COMMENTS

Three Creeks and Five Wounds Trails

A number of individuals advocating these specific projects stated that lands to accommodate them should be acquired by the County as doing so would meet many of the needs being discussed. These needs include connectivity of trails and community, health and wellness, transportation, and usability by a large regional audience. These trails are the hub of the "emerald necklace". These individuals feel that County funds should be used to complete the acquisition. The Five Wounds Trail is currently owned by the Valley Transportation Authority.

Connectivity, Urban Trails, and Adjacency

A strong majority of participants believed that "connectivity" is the key guideline to be emphasized for use of urban acquisition funds. Broadly defined this would include trails, natural wildlife corridors with setbacks between habitat areas and trails, linear parks, and links between other area parks and school sites. Trails are equal to neighborhood parks in their benefits to urban recreation. This is particularly valid if trails are viewed as a 'multiplying' factor connecting communities to existing parks or open space areas. Completing gaps in trails, such as the Coyote Creek Trail or the Bay Trail, would encourage and increase utilization. Within the valley floor any trail could be used for transportation and be an opportunity to actively reject motor vehicles thus reducing our carbon footprint while enhancing individual health and well being. Proximity to trails is important as thousands of people don't get out to the hinterlands. There is a connectivity need between people and nature; children are suffering from nature deficit. Access for underserved populations is important. Trails could provide that.

Park Scale: Urban / Suburban / Rural Balance

A vibrant discussion centered around the Board's referral of providing park services to

park-deficient urban and suburban areas and reference to the County's historic role.
Comments included:

- Many participants expressed concerns that an expanded urban emphasis would impact the County's abilities to continue its past pattern of acquisitions. It was questioned how the Park Charter Fund acquisition program will line up with the past acquisitions by the County such that a historic balance of acquisitions is maintained. It was questioned if a new direction for the Department and emphasis on urban acquisitions would be at the expense of other acquisition priorities that have been waiting for a long time, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- Is there a definition of urban, suburban, and rural?
- It was stated that the Board of Supervisors asked the Department to summarize the history of funds spent in past 20 years that have been allotted to cities for city parks. This should have been done by now. It was requested that a summary of past "urban" acquisitions and analysis of the criteria used to justify them be provided. It is imperative to establish a historic baseline for expenditures for urban parkland so the potential impact of new guidelines can be assessed.
- Skepticism was expressed that this process tacked onto last year's meetings includes a hidden agenda that seems to be that the Park Charter Fund is big pile of money and people are trying to access it. The program should involve no net increase from the Park Charter Fund for urban investment. If this is really an exercise to formalize how it is done, can't argue – but if it's a way to increase Park Charter Fund use in cities – people will have a problem.
- The more money spent on urban projects, particularly given their relative expense on a per-acre basis, the less available for greenbelt acquisitions.
- There was disagreement that increasing funding for urban acquisition is "stealing" (from the Charter Fund); more funds should be spent in cities as that is where the majority of people live.
- Is there a need for more urban parks when some are hardly used? Before spending more money on urban acquisitions assure that existing parks are used.
- A suggested guideline should include "**no net increase from historic levels**". It was noted by one individual that people may be surprised how much of the fund has actually been used in urban acquisitions; that it may be more than they think.

Island Perspective

Of all participants, 3 expressed direct support for spending Park Charter Funds for the acquisition and operations of parks at the neighborhood scale. Many stated that this is not

the intent of the Park Charter Amendment and that such acquisitions would erode the Park Charter Fund and the quality of services at existing County Parks. Some felt that parkland acquisitions could be used as neighborhood parks if they were adjacent to a regional trail and could serve multiple functions. Comments included:

- Why do the urban islands not have parks? People who do not pay for urban services should not expect they be provided. This is not an appropriate use of the Park Charter Fund and not why citizens voted for it.
- What is the status of converting these urban islands into the incorporated jurisdictions?
- Many individuals felt there could be a concerted effort for urban acquisitions, but only of a regional nature, not neighborhood or community parks, or just a playground.
- If a small park is acquired next to a trail, that is OK.
- One individual cited the history of growth in services within the unincorporated urban islands stating the need to address the “moral responsibility and historic obligation” to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of these County residents.
- One individual cited that in the east San Jose foothills there are no parks. Should those County residents be denied park services? A key issue isn’t size, it’s connection. Could they be “connected” better to existing parks?
- It is not appropriate to set aside specific amounts for small urban parks. There should be no earmarking.

Future Use

- Just because the County could buy it doesn’t mean the County should, unless the lands acquired could be used by many people.
- How would the lands that are acquired be used? Who’s deciding what type of urban parks are going to be built? The types of park development will influence how public feels about it. Sometimes urban parks are designed to actually discourage overuse like making it so that kids can’t congregate, or no basketball courts because neighbors complain about noise.
- If a partnership, there should be a commitment from the urban partner who will develop, operate, and maintain that parkland for specific facilities and uses. The County should have a list of what types of projects are allowable if its acquisition funds are used.

Measure A

- It was questioned if the Board of Supervisors has really taken into account the full text of Measure A and recognized that there are indeed restrictions on how that money should be spent. It is important to have soccer fields and the like but this use belongs in a City park. How is that of regional significance? This is at the heart of the Park Charter Fund.

Constraints of Operations

- Frustration exists in the San Jose urban areas in that many parks are on hold... Del Monte Park as an example is next to a trail system, sitting there with a sign; just a dirt lot because there are not resources to operate or maintain it. The people are living in that area need their park. Needs to be some wording to take advantage of existing opportunities in cities and take it to the County – for acquisition.
- Del Monte Park sounds like it's not the County's problem – it is between the City and a developer. County shouldn't care about that. This exercise should not be just a guise for getting at the Park Charter Fund due to City's lack of ability to follow through. Don't want County Park Charter Fund to become "fix-it-all" for cities.
- San Jose is considering selling a golf course because of the operational losses; some want to convert it to a park.
- Disagreement in that urban residents pay taxes to the County also – shouldn't have to look at dirt right across from their homes . . . those residents do not care who pays for it.
- MROSD is talking about spending less on acquisitions and more on operations and management; so its ability to pursue land acquisition opportunities is shrinking.
- Recognition that the lack of funding for operations is not only a Cities' problem and that this County urban acquisition program, depending on what it is, could affect the operations of existing County parks.

Acquisition Opportunities

- The San Jose wastewater treatment plant buffer lands and private lands around them should be considered for acquisition. If partnership is a criterion, then the California State Parks off-highway vehicle fund has acquisition monies and is interested in a 0-emission motorcycle park that could also be used by mountain bicycles, for habitat protection, and qualify under many other criteria now in the Acquisition Plan 2011 Update.

Lack of Meeting Participation

- Has the Department attempted to get those without cars involved in these meetings? To be pro-active by working with NGOs?.

Additional Theme Suggestions:

- **Operations:** No park should be acquired without an assurance of who will operate and maintain it.
- **Grassroots Support / Community Partnership / Community Participation and Buy-in:** Such as being demonstrated by the friends of the Three Creeks and Five Wounds Trails that have already advocated for land acquisition, conducted cleanups and people now use the right-of-way as a short cut. Commitments have been made to “adopt” sections of the trail by local businesses for litter removal. Such organizations would not necessarily require a 5013c non-profit status.
- **Multiple Partners – Single Partner:** An alternative to multiple partners is if the potential acquisition has no other funders. (facilitator noted: this scenario sometimes applies to acquisition of County Parks). Included in “partners” should be significant “community participation” in terms of support for operations.
- **Urgency / Opportunity or Opportunity Lost:** Some properties if not purchased now would be lost forever.
- **Regional Serving:** Appeal to residents throughout the County. (facilitator noted: this is already a criterion in the 2011 Update).
- **Safety:** Provide for safe routes of travel or be in an area that is accessible and visible (not inside a development). Safe routes may also mean some single-purpose trails such as hiking trails without bicycles going twenty miles per hour.
- **Naylor Act Opportunities:** Take advantage of surplus school lands. It was suggested that the County Office of Education be contacted to obtain a list of surplus school sites.
- **Ratios:** The urban acquisition program should consider:
 - Costs vs. anticipated use levels
 - Costs vs. size
 - Size vs. types of use
 - Size vs. intensity of use
- **Mission:** Consistency with County Park’s Mission should be considered as important.
- **Consistency with Prescribed Uses and Facilities:** How would the acquisition relate to a prescribed program of needed uses or facilities identified by the County? Or not?

- **Proximity of Public Transportation:** Within easy walking distance of public transportation (¼ mile). (facilitator noted: this is already a criterion in the 2011 Update).
- **Jobs:** The acquired lands, once developed, would create both construction and operations/management employment opportunities.
- **Targets:** The criteria in the land acquisition plan should be used to identify specific targets for acquisition.
- **Seller Incentives:** The County should not wait for the seller to make the first move. The County should have specific targets in mind and go to sellers. This approach might include not only acquisition at fair market value, but perhaps other incentives such as a tax breaks or, if it is an easement that is needed, an increase in development rights.
- **Specific Acquisitions:** A few areas were noted that might be acquired. These included the Pleasant Hills golf course and the United Technology Corporation Properties (facilitator noted: the UTC lands are not within the urban area and not the focus of this program).

K.6 E-Mail Comments

During the period of the community process and post process planning and report development, a total of 26 e-mail messages providing input were received. Copies of the individual e-mail communications can be found in their entirety in Attachment K-1. A listing of input by number and type is reflected below:

- 13 in support of completion of the Three Creeks Trail,
- 7 in support of expansion of the Motorcycle Park (Metcalf) with 4 of those specifically asking for acquisition of the United Technologies property,
- 2 in support of the development of a trail from Alum Rock Park to the summit of Mt. Hamilton,
- 2 in support of completion of the Coyote Creek Trail,
- 1 in support of trails (general),
- 1 asking the County to retain its regional perspective (countywide significance) in acquisitions.



OUTREACH PROGRAM SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

During the fall of 2011 the Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a community outreach effort focused on urban and suburban recreational needs, desires and opportunities. This attachment contains associated documentation, and is considered supplemental to Attachment K, Outreach Program Summary – March, 2011 through August 2012. Included are the following:





- Community Internet Survey
- School District Survey
- E-mail Comments

Community Internet Survey




1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

	Response Count
	319
answered question	319
skipped question	0



2. Do you live within one of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County or within an unincorporated area of the County? (please check only one)

		Response Percent	Response Count
I live within in a City.		79.9%	254
I live within in a City's limits, but in an unincorporated area within the City.		5.7%	18
I live outside of a City.		12.3%	39
I don't know.		2.2%	7
	answered question		318
	skipped question		1


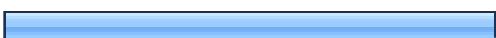
3. How far away do you live from a neighborhood, community, or regional park? (please check only one)

		Response Percent	Response Count
1/4 mile or closer (or about a 5-minute walk)		43.8%	138
1/4 to 1/2 mile (or about 10-minute walk)		23.5%	74
more than 1/2 mile		32.7%	103
		answered question	315
		skipped question	4

4. Are there school sites near your home that you or members of your household use for some type of outdoor recreation?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		47.6%	149
No		52.4%	164
		answered question	313
		skipped question	6

5. Are there school sites near your home that you or members of your household would like to use for recreation but cannot because the school site is closed some or all of the time?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		26.0%	81
No		74.0%	230
		answered question	311
		skipped question	8

6. What do you feel are the highest priorities for purchasing new urban recreation and/or open space areas within your community? Please choose two (2) high priorities; two (2) moderate priorities, and two (2) low priorities.

	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	Response Count
Creating a new neighborhood or community park	11.9% (35)	31.4% (92)	56.7% (166)	293
Renovating an existing neighborhood or community park	20.3% (60)	41.6% (123)	38.2% (113)	296
Creating new multi-use trails	63.4% (189)	24.8% (74)	11.7% (35)	298
Creating new sports fields for baseball, softball, football, and/or soccer	8.3% (24)	22.2% (64)	69.4% (200)	288
Preserving and enhancing open space and creeks	77.8% (231)	14.5% (43)	7.7% (23)	297
Protecting urban wildlife	36.6% (107)	44.2% (129)	19.2% (56)	292
			answered question	304
			skipped question	15





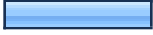


7. If you live within a City please answer this Question, then skip to Question #9. If you live in the County (outside a City limit), please skip this Question and go to Question #8. One aspect of purchasing parkland is determining the size of parcel that is needed for various activities. If new parkland were to be acquired in your neighborhood, what are your priorities for the purposes and features of that park? For each item please tell us if it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to you. Once completed please go to Question #9.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know	Response Count
Multi-use sports fields	16.1% (40)	31.5% (78)	24.6% (61)	26.6% (66)	1.2% (3)	248
Single-use sports fields (e.g. soccer, softball, cricket)	1.7% (4)	15.8% (38)	39.2% (94)	42.5% (102)	0.8% (2)	240
Open play areas (not for organized sports)	27.3% (67)	44.5% (109)	16.3% (40)	11.0% (27)	0.8% (2)	245
Playgrounds	21.1% (52)	40.7% (100)	20.7% (51)	17.1% (42)	0.4% (1)	246
Group picnic areas / shelters (more than 30 people)	12.6% (31)	33.3% (82)	28.9% (71)	24.4% (60)	0.8% (2)	246
Individual family picnic areas	21.3% (52)	38.9% (95)	27.0% (66)	11.9% (29)	0.8% (2)	244
Large dog parks	13.5% (33)	24.6% (60)	28.3% (69)	31.1% (76)	2.5% (6)	244
Basketball courts	2.9% (7)	23.0% (56)	33.3% (81)	37.0% (90)	3.7% (9)	243
Tennis courts	5.7% (14)	17.6% (43)	37.3% (91)	35.7% (87)	3.7% (9)	244
Places to sit and contemplate	35.0% (86)	42.3% (104)	11.0% (27)	10.2% (25)	1.6% (4)	246
Walking paths	70.7% (174)	20.7% (51)	4.5% (11)	4.1% (10)	0.0% (0)	246
Connections to a city or regional trail	71.6% (179)	16.4% (41)	8.0% (20)	3.6% (9)	0.4% (1)	250
Restrooms	50.2% (124)	28.3% (70)	13.4% (33)	7.3% (18)	0.8% (2)	247
answered question						252
skipped question						67

8. If you live in Santa Clara County (outside a City limit) please answer this Question. One aspect of purchasing parkland is determining the size of parcel that is needed for various activities. If new parkland were to be acquired in your neighborhood, what are your priorities for the purposes and features of that park? For each item please tell us if it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to you. Once completed please go to Question #9.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know	Response Count
Multi-use sports fields	12.1% (8)	28.8% (19)	22.7% (15)	33.3% (22)	3.0% (2)	66
Single-use sports fields (e.g. soccer, softball, cricket)	1.6% (1)	14.1% (9)	39.1% (25)	42.2% (27)	3.1% (2)	64
Open play areas (not for organized sports)	21.5% (14)	41.5% (27)	13.8% (9)	18.5% (12)	4.6% (3)	65
Playgrounds	23.1% (15)	30.8% (20)	20.0% (13)	23.1% (15)	3.1% (2)	65
Group picnic areas / shelters (more than 30 people)	15.6% (10)	32.8% (21)	32.8% (21)	15.6% (10)	3.1% (2)	64
Individual family picnic areas	26.6% (17)	31.3% (20)	26.6% (17)	12.5% (8)	3.1% (2)	64
Large dog parks	15.6% (10)	34.4% (22)	26.6% (17)	20.3% (13)	3.1% (2)	64
Basketball courts	1.6% (1)	25.0% (16)	28.1% (18)	42.2% (27)	3.1% (2)	64
Tennis courts	4.8% (3)	11.1% (7)	34.9% (22)	46.0% (29)	3.2% (2)	63
Places to sit and contemplate	38.5% (25)	32.3% (21)	15.4% (10)	9.2% (6)	4.6% (3)	65
Walking paths	72.3% (47)	15.4% (10)	4.6% (3)	6.2% (4)	1.5% (1)	65
Connections to a city or regional trail	67.2% (45)	19.4% (13)	6.0% (4)	6.0% (4)	1.5% (1)	67
Restrooms	49.2% (32)	27.7% (18)	12.3% (8)	9.2% (6)	1.5% (1)	65
answered question						69
skipped question						250

9. Which of the following discourages your use of parks (check all that apply).

		Response Percent	Response Count
Does not apply. I use parks regularly.		56.5%	165
Parks are too far away and I have no way to get there.		9.6%	28
It is not safe to walk or bike to the park closest to where I live.		7.9%	23
The park closest to where I live is not safe.		5.5%	16
The park closest to where I live does not have the facilities that interest me.		21.9%	64
I just do not go outside very much.		1.4%	4
Other (please specify - 140 character limit)		26.0%	76
		answered question	292
		skipped question	27

10. Please rank from 1 to 5 (with 1 being most important) how you think the County should be using your Parkland Acquisition Fund dollars to acquire lands within urban areas of the County.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
New urban parks for active and passive recreation	13.1% (33)	13.9% (35)	23.9% (60)	34.3% (86)	14.7% (37)	251
New urban trails linking to schools and parks	23.7% (58)	29.0% (71)	25.7% (63)	15.1% (37)	6.5% (16)	245
Creek corridors for trails or passive recreation opportunities	44.0% (111)	32.9% (83)	10.7% (27)	7.5% (19)	4.8% (12)	252
Protection of urban wildlife	19.5% (51)	18.0% (47)	24.5% (64)	24.9% (65)	13.0% (34)	261
Unique facilities addressing a multi-city need (e.g, sports park, large dog park, etc.)	8.4% (23)	7.6% (21)	13.8% (38)	16.0% (44)	54.2% (149)	275
				answered question		289
				skipped question		30

11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

	Response Count
	142
answered question	142
skipped question	177

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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25	95070	Nov 12, 2011 8:48 AM
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27	95127	Nov 12, 2011 7:58 AM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

28	93422	Nov 11, 2011 9:53 AM
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41	95127	Nov 10, 2011 7:41 AM
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43	95124	Nov 9, 2011 5:04 AM
44	95119	Nov 8, 2011 9:49 PM
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Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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162	95377	Oct 26, 2011 8:05 AM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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189	94088	Oct 25, 2011 9:01 PM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

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215	95020	Oct 25, 2011 5:53 PM
216	95037	Oct 25, 2011 5:45 PM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

217	95123	Oct 25, 2011 5:45 PM
218	95123	Oct 25, 2011 5:37 PM
219	95120	Oct 25, 2011 5:35 PM
220	95037	Oct 25, 2011 5:29 PM
221	95037	Oct 25, 2011 5:29 PM
222	95127	Oct 25, 2011 5:28 PM
223	95120	Oct 25, 2011 5:17 PM
224	95129	Oct 25, 2011 5:14 PM
225	95032	Oct 25, 2011 5:12 PM
226	95140	Oct 25, 2011 5:08 PM
227	95051	Oct 25, 2011 5:08 PM
228	95008	Oct 25, 2011 5:04 PM
229	95054	Oct 25, 2011 4:50 PM
230	95159	Oct 25, 2011 4:33 PM
231	95129	Oct 25, 2011 4:09 PM
232	95119	Oct 25, 2011 4:08 PM
233	95111	Oct 25, 2011 3:56 PM
234	95138	Oct 25, 2011 3:50 PM
235	95129	Oct 25, 2011 3:45 PM
236	95035	Oct 25, 2011 3:42 PM
237	95014	Oct 25, 2011 3:32 PM
238	95133	Oct 25, 2011 3:29 PM
239	95124	Oct 25, 2011 3:25 PM
240	95123	Oct 25, 2011 3:24 PM
241	95120	Oct 25, 2011 3:20 PM
242	94022	Oct 25, 2011 3:19 PM
243	95126	Oct 25, 2011 3:17 PM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

244	95125	Oct 25, 2011 3:17 PM
245	95136	Oct 25, 2011 3:15 PM
246	95123	Oct 25, 2011 3:15 PM
247	95014	Oct 25, 2011 3:15 PM
248	95139	Oct 25, 2011 3:13 PM
249	95120	Oct 25, 2011 3:11 PM
250	95121	Oct 25, 2011 3:02 PM
251	95051	Oct 25, 2011 2:59 PM
252	95127	Oct 25, 2011 2:54 PM
253	95014	Oct 25, 2011 2:52 PM
254	95129	Oct 25, 2011 2:52 PM
255	95035	Oct 25, 2011 2:46 PM
256	95020	Oct 25, 2011 2:44 PM
257	95124	Oct 25, 2011 2:37 PM
258	95128	Oct 25, 2011 2:36 PM
259	95111	Oct 25, 2011 2:34 PM
260	95050	Oct 25, 2011 2:32 PM
261	95139	Oct 25, 2011 2:32 PM
262	95120	Oct 25, 2011 2:31 PM
263	95054	Oct 25, 2011 2:31 PM
264	95124	Oct 25, 2011 2:27 PM
265	95125	Oct 25, 2011 2:26 PM
266	95051	Oct 25, 2011 2:26 PM
267	95127	Oct 25, 2011 2:24 PM
268	95118	Oct 25, 2011 2:23 PM
269	95020	Oct 25, 2011 2:22 PM
270	95128	Oct 25, 2011 2:18 PM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

271	95120	Oct 25, 2011 2:18 PM
272	95126	Oct 25, 2011 2:18 PM
273	95008	Oct 25, 2011 2:17 PM
274	95037	Oct 25, 2011 2:13 PM
275	95128	Oct 25, 2011 2:10 PM
276	95120	Oct 25, 2011 1:28 PM
277	95124	Oct 25, 2011 10:55 AM
278	95125	Oct 24, 2011 8:48 PM
279	95136	Oct 24, 2011 7:58 PM
280	95130	Oct 24, 2011 6:28 PM
281	95129	Oct 24, 2011 4:19 PM
282	95125	Oct 24, 2011 2:28 PM
283	95120	Oct 24, 2011 1:34 PM
284	95119	Oct 24, 2011 11:37 AM
285	95125	Oct 24, 2011 10:44 AM
286	94041	Oct 24, 2011 6:50 AM
287	95125	Oct 23, 2011 2:10 PM
288	95125	Oct 23, 2011 10:54 AM
289	95125	Oct 23, 2011 7:58 AM
290	95128	Oct 23, 2011 7:43 AM
291	95125	Oct 22, 2011 9:27 PM
292	95125	Oct 22, 2011 12:32 PM
293	94040	Oct 22, 2011 10:46 AM
294	95119	Oct 22, 2011 10:20 AM
295	95123	Oct 22, 2011 9:51 AM
296	95119	Oct 22, 2011 9:32 AM
297	95119	Oct 22, 2011 9:16 AM

Page 2, Q1. 1. Please enter your home ZIP code:

298	95014	Oct 22, 2011 8:30 AM
299	94301	Oct 22, 2011 7:51 AM
300	95125	Oct 22, 2011 7:28 AM
301	95125	Oct 22, 2011 6:50 AM
302	95125	Oct 21, 2011 11:21 PM
303	95119	Oct 21, 2011 11:15 PM
304	95008	Oct 21, 2011 9:25 PM
305	95125	Oct 21, 2011 8:41 PM
306	95125	Oct 21, 2011 7:10 PM
307	95133	Oct 21, 2011 5:53 PM
308	95116	Oct 21, 2011 8:46 AM
309	95116	Oct 21, 2011 8:36 AM
310	94303	Oct 21, 2011 8:33 AM
311	94089	Oct 21, 2011 8:20 AM
312	95116	Oct 20, 2011 9:41 PM
313	95116	Oct 20, 2011 9:18 PM
314	95116	Oct 20, 2011 6:42 PM
315	94301	Oct 20, 2011 4:39 PM
316	95148	Oct 20, 2011 4:10 PM
317	95112	Oct 20, 2011 3:35 PM
318	95070	Oct 19, 2011 7:31 AM
319	95126	Oct 18, 2011 2:20 PM

Page 10, Q9. Which of the following discourages your use of parks (check all that apply).

1	live near alviso. small wildlife refuge , a few trails, boat launch area. perfect area for expansion	Nov 29, 2011 6:56 AM
2	Access rules (i.e. closing of LG Creek trail in the late afternoons during the holiday season due to Vasona x-mas display).	Nov 26, 2011 9:40 AM
3	I enjoy open space, such as native grasslands, oak woodlands, and chaparral.	Nov 16, 2011 5:38 PM
4	I prefer regional parks where there is open space with hiking trails. I do not like urban parks and prefer large open, natural, settings.	Nov 15, 2011 6:18 PM
5	I don't visit Ed Levin because it's hostile to mountain biking and has a lousy trail network! (No offense intended.)	Nov 12, 2011 9:57 AM
6	Parks that allow mountainbiking only on fire roads. Park closes at dawn, which is too early in winter.	Nov 10, 2011 3:19 PM
7	Metcalf OHV park is too small.	Nov 10, 2011 1:09 PM
8	not being able to ride my bike on narrow trails	Nov 10, 2011 1:04 PM
9	I'm displeased with the inequality of trail users. I hike & mountain bike & I support multi-use trails especially at the single track level.	Nov 10, 2011 12:04 PM
10	Restrictions on use, such as ability to walk my dog or ride my bike inside the park area.	Nov 10, 2011 11:51 AM
11	No or limited mountain bike trails is the only thing that discourages my use.	Nov 10, 2011 11:35 AM
12	Closure of City Parks on Mondays discourages use on Mondays. :)	Nov 10, 2011 10:58 AM
13	lack of regional, MULTI-USE connector trails	Nov 10, 2011 10:40 AM
14	I'd like more regional connectors such as dedicated bike/walking paths that connect the various city and county parks/open spaces.	Nov 10, 2011 9:30 AM
15	Some parks don't allow biking on the trails.	Nov 10, 2011 9:29 AM
16	Park Acquisition funds should be spent on on rural land and open space outside the city, not on urban parks!	Nov 7, 2011 4:21 AM
17	Please do not spend park acquisition funds on urban parks.	Nov 3, 2011 5:09 PM
18	City parks have become unsafe due to there budget cuts. why do we want to create a bunch more urban parks for gangs and homeless people	Nov 2, 2011 3:16 PM
19	Lack of equestrian facilities	Nov 1, 2011 3:23 PM
20	open space that won't allow dogs on leach	Nov 1, 2011 12:47 PM
21	The lack of hiking trails leading to the Gilroy hills from Uvas Levee trail is bothersome. The current trail dead-ends at a gated community.	Nov 1, 2011 12:42 PM
22	Bicyclers do not think of others.This is unsafe, hazardous & ruins it for	Nov 1, 2011 6:15 AM

Page 10, Q9. Which of the following discourages your use of parks (check all that apply).

	others.Riding w/earphones is not a great idea for obvious reasons	
23	I use certain parks regularly, but some I don't feel are safe i.e. Santa Theresa upper parking lot.	Oct 31, 2011 9:42 AM
24	the absence of (wild, undisturbed or rehabilitated) nature and wildlife	Oct 30, 2011 7:26 PM
25	Park rangers need to be more visible to create a safe environment. Weekend traffic is not always the most desirable.	Oct 30, 2011 11:23 AM
26	I think County Parks should be in rural areas, not cities.	Oct 30, 2011 6:29 AM
27	Not enough natural land and wildlife in parks.	Oct 29, 2011 5:22 PM
28	Need parks for dogs. Small, barren dog pens are not the answer. We need trails that dogs can walk without a leash under owners control.	Oct 29, 2011 8:00 AM
29	my busy life schedule the not being available to go to parks during daylight hours.	Oct 29, 2011 2:40 AM
30	Limited sidewalks/bike paths to get there. Distance to county parks for hiking.	Oct 28, 2011 7:51 PM
31	would like a par course closer to home	Oct 27, 2011 8:01 PM
32	I haul my horses to Santa clara parks 5 he's because I love the Parks and appreciate the open space.	Oct 27, 2011 6:31 PM
33	Need clean rest rooms, water fountains and benches. Dogs dirty the grass. Need lighting between 6PM to 11PM.	Oct 27, 2011 10:21 AM
34	The Park Ranger at Santa Teresa Park. he does not allow Dogs or Bikes. When we walk we take the dog. He should be fired.	Oct 26, 2011 8:16 PM
35	seasonal trail closures	Oct 26, 2011 8:09 PM
36	I use parks regularly, but usually drive there. This means that the parks don't have to be necessarily within Santa Clara County.	Oct 26, 2011 4:39 PM
37	Many parks lack magnets of interest, such as living history farms, interpretive sites, etc. Many families desire education at the parks.	Oct 26, 2011 2:22 PM
38	The park daily entry fees are starting to get too expensive. How about low income family yearly passes at a reduced rate?	Oct 26, 2011 2:09 PM
39	I wish there were more parks to enjoy the shooting sports such as trap, skeet, and pistol target shooting. Thanks.	Oct 26, 2011 1:49 PM
40	fees are required.	Oct 26, 2011 9:13 AM
41	irresponsible bike riders	Oct 26, 2011 7:24 AM
42	Parks and facilities are poorly maintained.	Oct 26, 2011 4:23 AM
43	Closed at night when I am not working and could visit a park.	Oct 25, 2011 10:06 PM

Page 10, Q9. Which of the following discourages your use of parks (check all that apply).

44	There is alot of public park land in this County and the money should be spent on upkeep for the existing parks, not to purchase more land.	Oct 25, 2011 8:32 PM
45	Rancho Santa Teresa County Park does not allow Dogs. The Ranger in that Park should be fired.	Oct 25, 2011 8:12 PM
46	I like to walk my dog on leash and some areas do not allow dogs.	Oct 25, 2011 8:05 PM
47	Paying for parking. Dogs not allowed Mountain bikes not allowed	Oct 25, 2011 7:14 PM
48	I am interested in equestrian parks	Oct 25, 2011 7:12 PM
49	I am concerned about the rising number of murders in my city and that reduction of the police force	Oct 25, 2011 7:12 PM
50	I use Midpen open space trails almost everyday, so neighborhood parks don't interest me much.	Oct 25, 2011 6:50 PM
51	Ped bridge crossing the Los Gatos Crk at Cherry Ave & Race St would give Race St access to Willow St Pk and Cherry Av access to Lt Rail.	Oct 25, 2011 6:42 PM
52	Unhappy with undesirable activities I've seen. Drugs, alcohol, gang-like activity.	Oct 25, 2011 5:58 PM
53	Dogs not allowed on trails or in certain areas.	Oct 25, 2011 5:22 PM
54	bathrooms that are nonexistent or very dirty.	Oct 25, 2011 4:28 PM
55	Need to make paying for parking easier. http://us.parkmobile.com/	Oct 25, 2011 4:20 PM
56	No Restroom	Oct 25, 2011 3:49 PM
57	would like to see parks/areas for large family groups to meet, with low cost to rent.	Oct 25, 2011 3:38 PM
58	Lack of dog access, particularly off-leash	Oct 25, 2011 3:37 PM
59	The park that will be close to me (Cottle) will be adding too much car traffic and too much traffic noise.	Oct 25, 2011 3:19 PM
60	People who regularly let their dogs off leash!!	Oct 25, 2011 2:49 PM
61	This survey is worthless. It stops me from entering any reasonable comment.	Oct 25, 2011 2:45 PM
62	We have a very small playground in our neighborhood, but not for family gatherings, etc.	Oct 25, 2011 2:38 PM
63	lights are not always on in the late afternoon	Oct 25, 2011 2:37 PM
64	Parks close by are Not well maintained, either old, broken or unsafe equipment	Oct 25, 2011 2:29 PM
65	who in the world has the time for that stuff anymore	Oct 24, 2011 6:30 PM
66	Metcalf is very small. More OHV parks and larger areas to ride with family/friends. Buy UTC and open up Metcalf	Oct 24, 2011 4:24 PM

Page 10, Q9. Which of the following discourages your use of parks (check all that apply).

67	no one picks up after themselves, ang there is too much vandalism	Oct 24, 2011 11:43 AM
68	.	Oct 23, 2011 8:30 AM
69	Trails not open to bikes, like Calero county park.	Oct 22, 2011 9:57 AM
70	No BBQ areas or picnic benches	Oct 22, 2011 9:22 AM
71	If there is not a safe bike path to the park.	Oct 22, 2011 7:54 AM
72	Most people don't bother to enter Santa Teresa County park anymore and prefer to walk and cycle around the neighborhood.	Oct 21, 2011 11:26 PM
73	bathrooms, if a man gets a violation for peeing outdoors? kids nearly have accidents when restrooms close early! open 'til dark, not dusk.	Oct 21, 2011 8:51 PM
74	Dog droppings.	Oct 21, 2011 8:00 PM
75	No County Parks near Palo Alto	Oct 21, 2011 8:36 AM
76	park spaces are not maintained, have no facilities or interesting landscape, no trails or easy to walk. must drive and parking cost \$5.	Oct 20, 2011 4:15 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

1	I remember going to parks all the time when i was younger. Kids today rarely go to the park, they are usually sitting at home in front of a tv.	Nov 17, 2011 10:10 AM
2	if the county wants to acquire urban parkland, it should turn it into an area the encourages an increase in biodiversity in wildlife, invertebrates, and flora.	Nov 16, 2011 5:41 PM
3	Motorcycle park needs to be expanded greatly. Great revenues to be had with a bigger, better park.	Nov 16, 2011 2:34 PM
4	Needs to cost less to get in	Nov 16, 2011 11:30 AM
5	Buying land in urban areas is more expensive than buying land outside the city limits. There is potential to obtain a larger area with the same money to provide open space and recreation facilities for residents. Also, urban parks will not preserve as much wildlife as there would be preserved in a park outside the city limits. Having open space outside the city would also provide people a space to get away from the city life. Please use our tax dollars wisely!	Nov 15, 2011 8:03 PM
6	I do not want funds spent on urban parkland. I prefer the funds spent on open space for the protection of wildlife and natural scenery.	Nov 15, 2011 6:20 PM
7	don't use for urban parks, continue with large wildlife parks	Nov 15, 2011 5:47 PM
8	new land adjacent to existing parks would make trail usage better and not make new parking and facilities necessary. Multiuse trails should be priority as bikes and horses are being crowded out SC Co should stay close to it's rural roots	Nov 14, 2011 9:28 AM
9	Would like to have more motorcycle parks like Metcalf. Include zip line activities.	Nov 12, 2011 5:15 PM
10	More parks with easy hiking trails (not much elevation gains) and short loops are needed.	Nov 12, 2011 5:15 PM
11	Although I live outside Santa Clara County, I am a regular user of your park facilities. Mostly regional parks with larger trail systems for mountain bike riding. I also support the use and expansion of existing trail systems for mountain bikes (calero, upper stevens creek, etc.) and motorcycles (metcalf)	Nov 12, 2011 11:01 AM
12	Decisions need to be made based on input from all user groups. Special interest groups should not have sway in the process.	Nov 12, 2011 10:17 AM
13	Multi-use connector trails like Los Gatos Crk. Trail and Coyote Crk. Trail are great, and could use more.	Nov 12, 2011 8:15 AM
14	Allow more night usage in SCC parks. There are some other districts in the bay area that allow usage until 10pm. If you require night users to have lights, then this should be safe. Also create more access to single track for mountain bikes.	Nov 10, 2011 3:22 PM
15	More cycling options so I can stay away from cars while commuting. Connecting existing trails.	Nov 10, 2011 12:06 PM
16	I strongly prefer multi-use trails	Nov 10, 2011 10:42 AM
17	I'd like to see more regional connectors that can be used to link existing parks for	Nov 10, 2011 9:35 AM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

	travel by foot/bike. Thanks!	
18	Special emphasis should be put on acquiring land for regional trail connectivity	Nov 10, 2011 9:30 AM
19	you really need to listen to community groups, because the people that care have taken the effort to organize.	Nov 10, 2011 7:47 AM
20	Co. parks should concentrate on larger, regional parks: it is the purpose of cities to provide the smaller neighborhood parks	Nov 9, 2011 9:34 PM
21	Please do not invest in urban parks - purchase rural land and open space	Nov 7, 2011 4:27 AM
22	County funding should be used for county parks and not subsidizing city(ies) park development.	Nov 6, 2011 5:39 AM
23	Please do not spend park acquisition funds on urban parks; use the funds to buy land outside of cities.	Nov 3, 2011 5:12 PM
24	Branham Park and River Glen park in Willow Glen are model parks, create more just like that and you'll be doing everybody a favor.	Nov 3, 2011 10:28 AM
25	I'd like to see portions of the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek better maintained. Coordinated volunteer efforts could be used.	Nov 2, 2011 9:58 PM
26	Park Charter funds should be used for County Parks, not city parks!	Nov 2, 2011 6:44 PM
27	Use your current purchasing power to acquire regional lands which can serve the future needs of a growing bay area.	Nov 2, 2011 6:23 PM
28	We cannot even take care of the parks we have now and you want to make more??	Nov 2, 2011 5:05 PM
29	no	Nov 2, 2011 4:33 PM
30	I hope you will make provision for equestrian use.	Nov 2, 2011 4:15 PM
31	We have neough urban parks the school grounds need to opened up again so that they can be used for their fields. This was part of Kennedy's park plans in the 1970s urban parks are unsafe	Nov 2, 2011 3:18 PM
32	County park funds should NOT be spent on urban park facilities that the CITIES should be building with their OWN money.	Nov 1, 2011 9:40 PM
33	allow dogs on leach in all parks and open space	Nov 1, 2011 12:52 PM
34	Strive to protect the wilderness while allowing for settings and trails in order to enjoy it.	Nov 1, 2011 12:52 PM
35	The Park Charter Fund should be used in urban areas to link park features together. Trails are a great place to spend this money.	Nov 1, 2011 7:23 AM
36	Dogs are a must. we pay taxes also. 140 characters not enough!	Nov 1, 2011 6:17 AM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

37	Please do not spend park acquisition funds on urban parks.	Oct 31, 2011 7:02 PM
38	focus on significant open space, trail connections, programming for engaging the next gen., leveraging the \$ of ciyt, county, OSA, water district, prop. 84. Its all about linkages. Look also at where urban \$ have been spent to date as a guide to what is "underserved."	Oct 31, 2011 6:20 PM
39	I don't see that County parks should be investing in "active" or specialized athletic facilities - leave that to the local communities. Focus should be on making open space trails & parks available for the general public. I also think this survey uses a lot of technical terms that the general public is not familiar with such as "active & passive recreation". The survey should highlight that we are talking about County parks and not city parks. Also, what about non-English speakers? There is no option for taking the survey in another language.	Oct 31, 2011 3:20 PM
40	the Park Charter Fund money must be used for parks of regional significance. If the Board of Supervisors want to change this criterion they should do so with a vote of the people	Oct 31, 2011 1:22 PM
41	To use those finds for other than what eighty percent of the voting public wanted is not appropriate. There would have be a lot of changes that would have to be made in the Park Strategic Plan, the County master Plan, among others.	Oct 31, 2011 11:46 AM
42	It is time to get a bike/recreation/commute link from Coyote Creek to downtown!	Oct 31, 2011 9:44 AM
43	use the money we have to keep open existing parks and maintance if there is extra \$ than look at buying more land adjacent to current parks to make them larger	Oct 31, 2011 9:40 AM
44	This is a blatant attempt to pervert the original intent of the park's charter fund	Oct 31, 2011 8:27 AM
45	Areas with open access to all people, pets biking and hiking is very important	Oct 30, 2011 8:30 PM
46	Please do not use that funding to create new parks.	Oct 30, 2011 7:27 PM
47	Quit focusing on parks in downtown San Jose, which seem to be only safe for the drug addicts that use them.	Oct 30, 2011 11:24 AM
48	Please do not spend park acquisition funds on urban parks	Oct 30, 2011 7:44 AM
49	The county should leave urban parks to the cities.	Oct 30, 2011 6:31 AM
50	County Park charter funds should be used for regional parks/open space acquisitions. Local city municipalities should be charged with development of urban park amenities like ball-fields, tennis courts etc..	Oct 29, 2011 6:13 PM
51	I think the County should focus on rural lands and wildlife areas, while letting the cities deal with urban parks.	Oct 29, 2011 5:24 PM
52	I see no purpose for the County to be acquiring parks in urban areas. I want the County to focus on RURAL. I LOVE Sanborn and Grant, for example. More of them!	Oct 29, 2011 3:45 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

53	Creating a space with the least impacts possible (enviromental, noise, etc) is one of my key concerns.	Oct 29, 2011 9:56 AM
54	Let dogs play	Oct 29, 2011 8:01 AM
55	Spend funds to buy land that is wild and hilly, adjacent to urban areas. Build trails of all levels on it. Help turn El Toro in Morgan Hill into a nice county park.	Oct 28, 2011 7:54 PM
56	I would love to see a network of multi-use trails that would allow pedestrians and cyclists to get wherever they want to go and avoid vehicle traffic.	Oct 28, 2011 11:32 AM
57	Respect and protection of urban wildlife and integration with human use of parks to encourage awareness of animal life around us. eg a park designed to provide access to domestic animals or to attract birds.	Oct 27, 2011 10:07 PM
58	Having read the book "The Last Child in the Woods" preserving natural habitat seems extremely important for our children.	Oct 27, 2011 6:41 PM
59	Limited dollars would be better spent on open space preservation and multi-use trails. I'm not in favor of urban parkland acquisition.	Oct 27, 2011 12:41 PM
60	maintain and/or add more camping / backpacking sites	Oct 27, 2011 11:39 AM
61	Don't buy up space to shore up real estate values. Keep people with Conflict of Interest from influencing decisions.	Oct 27, 2011 10:25 AM
62	I believe our \$'s are best spent acquiring larger, non-urban parcels for multi-trail use.	Oct 27, 2011 10:13 AM
63	Urban parkland acquisition should be left to individual cities. County parks are more regional.	Oct 27, 2011 9:56 AM
64	What ever acquisition of land in made needs to be done in an appropriate manner, and the upkeep needs to be taken into consideration. All peoples, even those with dogs, should have access.	Oct 27, 2011 5:32 AM
65	Survey is way to slanted toward spending park funds for just urban acquisition. Funds should be used primarily for rural acquisitions, not city recreational responsibilities.	Oct 26, 2011 8:35 PM
66	Santa Teresa Park has too many rules and the Park Ranger needs to go. He and his rules discourage park usage.	Oct 26, 2011 8:20 PM
67	Is the county Only interested in acquisition is urban spaces? How about preservation of wild spaces?	Oct 26, 2011 8:11 PM
68	Why must the funds be spent on urban parkland? What about parks like Calero or Quicksilver? I would like to see funds going to increase the land and maintain these parks.	Oct 26, 2011 7:34 PM
69	I think it is critical to have more urban parkland for people of all abilities and interests. Thanks for putting forth this survey.	Oct 26, 2011 7:24 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

70	Morgan Hill need's a nice family camp ground neer lakes or streems	Oct 26, 2011 3:39 PM
71	I would like to see the camping facilities in the appropriate county parks expanded with more electric/water hookups.	Oct 26, 2011 2:59 PM
72	Historic places should be obtained and protected for future generations.	Oct 26, 2011 2:24 PM
73	More connecting trails please,and dont forget the shoooting sports. Even a .22 rimfire rifle range would be nice if located closer than Metcalf to population centers.	Oct 26, 2011 1:50 PM
74	We specifically like to camp. We would like to see improvements and additions to the Santa Clara County RV campgrounds.	Oct 26, 2011 11:00 AM
75	please keep county parks open for equestrians	Oct 26, 2011 10:56 AM
76	The county needs to do more to develop and maintain multi-use trails like Harvey Bear Park.	Oct 26, 2011 8:51 AM
77	I love having equestrian trails here and feel extremely lucky to have so many options. Only concern is safety with bikes. My horses are my kids and they love the trails too.	Oct 26, 2011 7:41 AM
78	Improve what we have first. Purchase land adjacent to current parks. Build connector trails between current parks.	Oct 26, 2011 7:27 AM
79	I like the idea of protecting, restoring, and providing access to our urban creeks. This has multiple benefits. Trails along creeks provide alternative transportation routes and recreation access. Restoration & protection of creeks provides wildlife habitat and protects our watershed. Any improvements to the watershed provides cascading benefits to the community and environment.	Oct 26, 2011 7:25 AM
80	We need to acquire and retain green belt areas.	Oct 26, 2011 7:23 AM
81	I feel very fortunate to live in a county with so many great parks. They have contributed to an improvement in my overall fitness (losing 70 pounds) and help me live a healthy lifestyle. The more parks in which I can walk my dog on a leash, the better. I use county parks more than city parks, such as Lake Cunningham and Alum Rock which are the closest to my house, because they allow dogs.	Oct 26, 2011 5:58 AM
82	We use and enjoy the bike trails that have been put in and would love to see more.	Oct 26, 2011 5:43 AM
83	I think that our parkland dollars should be spent to acquire open space. There should be more equestrian trails.	Oct 26, 2011 5:22 AM
84	Thanks for creating and maintaining them.	Oct 25, 2011 10:08 PM
85	As the city gets a higher population, we need to keep some open space for breathing room.	Oct 25, 2011 9:59 PM
86	How will we staff additional parklands with the current budget cuts? We need to	Oct 25, 2011 9:42 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

	upgrade the facilities at the current county parks. Add more campgrounds.	
87	County park money should not be used to acquire urban parkland; the cities should be using their funds to acquire and maintain any urban parks.	Oct 25, 2011 9:40 PM
88	My preference is for parks outside cities. Generally cities have both side walks and city parks. Outside of cities the cost of land is generally less and the need for recreational space is greater. We are very fortunate to have a park nearby. I only wish we'd had it sooner. We've been very active in supporting and encouraging establishment of this park (Bear Ranch). We used to drive to nearby cities and use their parks.	Oct 25, 2011 8:51 PM
89	More urban trails.	Oct 25, 2011 8:39 PM
90	We do not need more soccer fields, basball diamonds etc. We need to keep the wilderness WILD.	Oct 25, 2011 8:35 PM
91	Spend the money on park upkeep and don't purchase more land.	Oct 25, 2011 8:34 PM
92	Question #10 does not allow all #5 responses. The results you get from this survey are loaded to what you want as an answer.	Oct 25, 2011 8:17 PM
93	Parkland is one of the things that makes a great community. I see people from all walks of life using our parks. Healthy parks I believe do make healthy people and healthy communities. Parks must be free of charge for all people. I support multiuse trails with dog on leash and off leash areas where it is safe for all users.	Oct 25, 2011 8:10 PM
94	I really appreciate when my tax dollars are spent on parks and trees and trails - places for people and families to gather together and enjoy nature and each other. Everyone benefits!!!	Oct 25, 2011 7:43 PM
95	Would like many more trails so people can walk/bike more without competing with motor vehicles.	Oct 25, 2011 7:40 PM
96	Since our tax dollars pay for new land acquisitions, I believe the trails/parks should be open to all use, dogs, bikes, horses, etc. Restricting a specific user group is not fair to tax payers. Please support "share the trail"	Oct 25, 2011 7:17 PM
97	I would also like to see a community center.	Oct 25, 2011 7:14 PM
98	Ped bridge crossing the Los Gatos Crk would give the Race Street neighborhood (no park) very close access to Willow St Pk	Oct 25, 2011 6:46 PM
99	People and Families in our community use the parks very frequently as a form of economical entertainment and leisure. Limited income forces people to seek closer free facilities in their neighborhoods. Soccer is the number one sport in the Hispanic Community and providing semi-professional sport fields would alleviate the problems local neighborhood parks suffer when organized soccer teams take over their parks. I urge you to consider building a Multi-use or Soccer field parks to offer an alternate gathering space for everyone to enjoy.	Oct 25, 2011 6:17 PM
100	Almaden Lake Park is a great model for meeting a variety of needs.	Oct 25, 2011 5:46 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

101	Since I have to hike/bike/walk by myself, to feel safe I always take my dog with me. I do don't go to any of the parks that do not allow dogs.	Oct 25, 2011 5:24 PM
102	If you could combine your efforts with things like Safe Routes to School or other transportation planning, we could get more bang from every buck. Particularly true for trails that not only connect great recreational spots but feed into urban centers as well.	Oct 25, 2011 5:19 PM
103	I'd like to see us use/improve what we have before buying more and over committing our resources.	Oct 25, 2011 4:23 PM
104	Cleanliness and safety	Oct 25, 2011 4:02 PM
105	Increasing dog access is my primary concern, along with opening up the former Montebello School Elementary for recreational uses	Oct 25, 2011 3:40 PM
106	I would very much like to see an expansion of the urban trail network. The success of the Los Gatos Creek Trail shows how the community use and love these types of facilities. It attracts a cross section of the community.	Oct 25, 2011 3:32 PM
107	Please do not use parkland acquisition funds on urban landscapes - please purchase open space outside of the cities	Oct 25, 2011 3:24 PM
108	I also like parks to provide places to BBQ.	Oct 25, 2011 3:21 PM
109	I would like to see an addition to motorcycle park.	Oct 25, 2011 3:17 PM
110	Adding to trail network for biking/hiking should be a priority.	Oct 25, 2011 2:56 PM
111	Love walking in the parks - please keep them open	Oct 25, 2011 2:49 PM
112	I spent more time trying to limit comment length to 140 than I spend answering questions. That's ridiculous.	Oct 25, 2011 2:47 PM
113	Age group section, for example I have 4 grand children, the sand has flees and sharp objects, we need to get away from the sand or cover it an night. Water fountains available for dogs and humans. Interesting documentation through out park about birds, trees, history, updated now and then.	Oct 25, 2011 2:40 PM
114	The Parks Fund was voted on and is for "county" facilities ONLY!	Oct 25, 2011 2:21 PM
115	my parkland acquisition funds should not be used for urban facilities.	Oct 25, 2011 1:32 PM
116	Create connections to Coyote/Hellyer from trails, north and west county. Update facilities at the Velodrome to enable a greater set of programs open to more participants from regional and state participation.	Oct 24, 2011 8:05 PM
117	i no comprendo	Oct 24, 2011 6:30 PM
118	Buy UTC and open up Metcalf! We need more OHV areas.	Oct 24, 2011 4:25 PM
119	More is more! Thank you.	Oct 24, 2011 2:34 PM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

120	The people of Santa Clara County voted funds for acquisition of rural parklands. To help Cities the funds could be used for linking rural parks to trails within the Cities jurisdiction but NOT for buying City Parks.	Oct 24, 2011 1:43 PM
121	people who use the parks incorrectly should be cited for whatever they are doing wrong	Oct 24, 2011 11:44 AM
122	More trails! thanks!	Oct 23, 2011 2:13 PM
123	Trails are popular because they are multi-use -- cyclists of all ages, wheelchair users, walkers, runners, commuters.	Oct 23, 2011 11:00 AM
124	After seeing the immediate defacement of interpretive signs along the new section of the Guadalupe River Trail (starting at Virginia St.), I would prefer that money not be spent on this type of enhancement, e.g. art, benches, etc. that would be nice to have, but are not necessary to the enjoyment of the trail, and are easily damaged.	Oct 22, 2011 9:42 PM
125	Target connections - getting that last 5% completion of a trail, not just the easy parts. Watch for those high value spots to become available.	Oct 22, 2011 10:53 AM
126	Linking park lands with County and Open Space multi-use trails like Bay Ridge trail	Oct 22, 2011 10:01 AM
127	More multi-use trails for recreation and transportation, including getting to parks, top my list of desires.	Oct 22, 2011 8:42 AM
128	We need more safe bike paths that allow us to bypass busy intersections	Oct 22, 2011 7:55 AM
129	Most people no longer enter Santa Teresa County Park because the canal trail is closed.	Oct 21, 2011 11:29 PM
130	Don't think the options are reflective of issue at hand also when you begin the survey you refer to community within a 1/2 radius but your following questions don't seem to fit in that radius. Also you don't ask any thing about regional facilities. You didn't offer anything like the Campbell Community Center with it's lighted cushioned track.	Oct 21, 2011 9:35 PM
131	Try to link up the trails across the valley floor, & then, also with the perimeter Green Belt. Do mini-parks at the Guadalupe & Penitencia flood projects. 3 creeks trail. Add Soccer 8's fields, inc. lights. put dog parks near the highway such as 87 & alma where there's alot of unused land that'll eventually link up the the trail coming up river.	Oct 21, 2011 8:54 PM
132	Please give high priority to land acquisition that will allow the construction of trails to inter-connect with other trails, whether existing or planned.	Oct 21, 2011 8:03 PM
133	I like it when parks are able to have a lot of tree cover and shade. When going to a park, I want to experience the outdoors/nature.	Oct 21, 2011 6:01 PM
134	Please prioritize land acquisition to link the existing network of trails.	Oct 21, 2011 8:43 AM
135	County Parks should be looking to create County Parks in North County... very	Oct 21, 2011 8:37 AM

Page 12, Q11. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition (140 character limit).

	few facilities there. And Rancho San Antonio is basically a gateway to MROSD lands.	
136	Trails connecting neighborhoods can help to connect people as well as provide opportunities for a more healthful, active life.	Oct 20, 2011 9:46 PM
137	We need as much space as we can get for multi-use trails in our area- being downtown, this is very important to my family and me!!!!	Oct 20, 2011 6:48 PM
138	I would like to see a network of bicycle paths, for both commuting and recreation.	Oct 20, 2011 4:44 PM
139	this city/county has a unique opportunity turn creek and abandon rail lines into walkable parks and trails that interconnect with each other. this would allow residents to exercise, commute and interact within neighborhoods and between neighborhoods.	Oct 20, 2011 4:24 PM
140	Please add to criteria for acquisition: community involvement/partnerships.	Oct 20, 2011 3:39 PM
141	Thanks!	Oct 19, 2011 7:39 AM
142	Keep it as native looking as possible; i.e. preserving large oaks and native riparian vegetation,	Oct 18, 2011 2:25 PM




School District Survey

1. Which school district do you represent? (please check one)



		Response Percent	Response Count
Alum Rock Union School District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Berryessa Union School District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Cambrian School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Campbell Union High School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Campbell Union School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Cupertino Union School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
East Side Union High School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Evergreen School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Franklin-McKinley School District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Fremont Union High School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Gilroy Unified School District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Lakeside Joint School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Loma Prieta Joint Union School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Los Altos School District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Los Gatos Union School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union H.S. District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Luther Burbank School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0
Metropolitan Education District	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0%	0

Milpitas Unified School District		0.0%	0
Moreland School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Morgan Hill Unified School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Mount Pleasant School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Mountain View	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Whisman School District		0.0%	0
Mountain View-Los Altos Union H.S. District		0.0%	0
Oak Grove School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Orchard School District		0.0%	0
Palo Alto Unified School District		0.0%	0
San Jose Unified School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Santa Clara Unified School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Saratoga Union School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Sunnyvale School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
Union Elementary School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.7%	1
answered question			15
skipped question			0



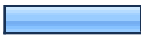
2. What are the top trends you are experiencing within your School District that need outdoor spaces? Such as: (check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Health related outdoor physical education		60.0%	9
After school sports		73.3%	11
Outdoor science programs		26.7%	4
Other (please specify - 140 character limit)			3
answered question			15
skipped question			0

3. Does your School District have any school site-based (versus journey-based) outdoor educational programs?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		53.3%	8
No		46.7%	7
answered question			15
skipped question			0

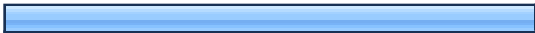

4. Does your School District have minimum requirements (number or acres) for outdoor school facilities (e.g., sports fields, playgrounds, and the like)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		60.0%	9
No		20.0%	3
Not sure		20.0%	3
answered question			15
skipped question			0


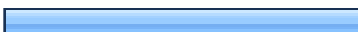
5. What standards and/or techniques does your School District use to define school-deficient areas and the need for outdoor physical educational facilities? (check all that apply)

	Yes	No	Response Count
California Department of Education Guidelines	100.0% (14)	0.0% (0)	14
Population projections	57.1% (4)	42.9% (3)	7
Distance radius (1/4 mile; 1/2 mile; 3/4 mile)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (6)	6
Specific facility type	75.0% (6)	25.0% (2)	8
Strategic plan	33.3% (2)	66.7% (4)	6
Some combination of the above	71.4% (5)	28.6% (2)	7
Other (please specify - 140 Character limit)			2
answered question			15
skipped question			0


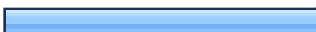
6. Are your School District's outdoor spaces open to public use when not being used for school programs?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		80.0%	12
No		20.0%	3
answered question			15
skipped question			0




7. Do you have a mutual use agreement with any city for use of city facilities in accommodating the outdoor physical education program needs of your School District?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		46.7%	7
No		53.3%	8
answered question			15
skipped question			0



8. Do you have school sites with outdoor facilities that may be duplicative with adjacent or nearby City or County parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		53.3%	8
No		46.7%	7
answered question			15
skipped question			0




9. Given enrollment trends, do you anticipate any surplus school lands being identified within your District in the next 10 years?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		6.7%	1
No		80.0%	12
Don't know		13.3%	2
answered question			15
skipped question			0




10. Given enrollment trends, do you anticipate any surplus school lands being OFFERED FOR SALE within your School District in the next 10 years?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		20.0%	3
No		80.0%	12
Don't know		0.0%	0
answered question			15
skipped question			0

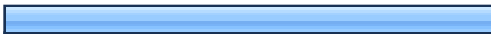

11. Is there a need for new urban school lands or facilities that would be desirable from your School District's perspective to acquire now or in the next five years that might also be used for public outdoor recreation?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		40.0%	6
No		46.7%	7
Don't know		13.3%	2
answered question			15
skipped question			0





12. The Naylor Act is legislation that allows school districts to recover their investments in surplus property, while requiring other agencies to have the first opportunity to acquire the property to prevent loss of recreational properties. Does your School District have specific policies about working with a City Park and Recreation Department in acquiring surplus school properties other than those required by the Naylor Act?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		13.3%	2
No		73.3%	11
Don't know		13.3%	2
answered question			15
skipped question			0




13. Is your School District involved with the Safe Routes to School Program?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		73.3%	11
No (please skip to question #15)		26.7%	4
answered question			15
skipped question			0



14. What criteria are used by your School District to prioritize safe-route program needs? (please list - 140 character limit)

		Response Percent	Response Count
<input type="radio"/>		100.0%	9
<input type="radio"/>		44.4%	4
<input type="radio"/>		11.1%	1
<input type="radio"/>		11.1%	1
answered question			9
skipped question			6

15. Is your School District integrated in any way with a City and/or County trail system?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		26.7%	4
No		46.7%	7
Don't know		26.7%	4
answered question			15
skipped question			0

16. Would it be desirable to have a trail that goes by schools in your School District?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		33.3%	5
No		66.7%	10
If yes, which schools:			3
answered question			15
skipped question			0

17. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition that could assist your School District meet physical fitness program needs. (140 character limit)

		Response Count
		5
answered question		5
skipped question		10

Page 2, Q2. What are the top trends you are experiencing within your School District that need outdoor spaces? Such as: (check all that apply)

1	After school sports year round and seven days a week. New sports lacrosse, cricket and rugby.....	Nov 18, 2011 6:44 AM
2	Community uses of all types	Nov 8, 2011 3:55 PM
3	We currently have a joint-use agreement with City of Sunnyvale for after hours community use(park space)	Nov 3, 2011 11:24 AM

Page 5, Q5. What standards and/or techniques does your School District use to define school-deficient areas and the need for outdoor physical educational facilities? (check all that apply)

1	We have more outside groups requesting use of our fields than we can accommodate.	Nov 18, 2011 6:53 AM
2	We have School Board Adopted Facility Standards which includes outdoor physical educational facilities	Nov 3, 2011 11:26 AM

Page 14, Q14. What criteria are used by your School District to prioritize safe-route program needs? (please list - 140 character limit)

O

1	local school priorities	Nov 19, 2011 5:13 PM
2	Send and collect information from parents using "first day" packets.	Nov 18, 2011 3:57 PM
3	jj	Nov 18, 2011 1:45 PM
4	7	Nov 15, 2011 6:31 PM
5	distance	Nov 8, 2011 4:57 PM
6	We follow the SR2S guidelines.	Nov 7, 2011 12:01 PM
7	Traffic volume	Nov 7, 2011 9:47 AM
8	Ability to walk or ride bicycles to neighborhood schools	Nov 4, 2011 8:02 AM
9	City of Sunnyvale Traffic Department and our School Board Adopted Facility Standards	Nov 3, 2011 11:29 AM

O

1	city priorities	Nov 19, 2011 5:13 PM
2	Work with the local Sheriff to support safe-route needs.	Nov 18, 2011 3:57 PM
5	type of roads	Nov 8, 2011 4:57 PM
7	Traffic control devices	Nov 7, 2011 9:47 AM

O

7	Bike path available	Nov 7, 2011 9:47 AM
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O

7	Walking distance	Nov 7, 2011 9:47 AM
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Page 16, Q16. Would it be desirable to have a trail that goes by schools in your School District?

1	Cabrillo	Nov 30, 2011 9:29 AM
2	Solorsano Middle School, Gavilan Early College Academy, Christopher High School	Nov 19, 2011 5:19 PM
3	All, if it provides a safer route to school.	Nov 7, 2011 12:04 PM

Page 17, Q17. Please provide any general comments you may have about urban parkland acquisition that could assist your School District meet physical fitness program needs. (140 character limit)

1	Additional field space would be helpful for the numerous requests we receive for a wide variety of sporting activities.	Nov 18, 2011 3:58 PM
2	o	Nov 15, 2011 6:31 PM
3	fields needed for youth sports, not necessarily school PE or fitness programs	Nov 8, 2011 4:58 PM
4	No other place to make this comment, but the Mountain View School District merged with the Whisman School District 10 years ago. We are now the Mountain View Whisman School District.	Nov 4, 2011 8:04 AM
5	Most of our elementary schools are adjacent to parkland. Future need is the Berryessa Flea Market area where a park is planned when BART is extended.	Nov 3, 2011 1:48 PM

E-Mail Comments

From: shawn gibbins
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 4:18 AM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Subject: metcalf motorcycle park

Hello

M.M.P is a really cool place to go . I have been going there for 12 years now and I know just about everyone that has gone there . I live very close to park . I know I vote for people that help my causes and I tell other people I work with and other riders who is doing what for us or to us. thank you

From: Jordan Patterson
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Subject: SC county acquisition of UTC property

Mr Hartsell,

Santa Clara County needs to acquire the land next to Metcalf. If we can expand Metcalf there will be a huge increase in park use revenue for the county. Many many people would choose to stay local as opposed to having to go the 60 plus miles to Hollister to ride decent OHV trails.

Jordan C. Patterson
Van Acker Construction

From: Fred Stanke
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2011 7:19 PM
Cc: Hartsell, Brian; ROMP; Cortese, Dave; Yeager, Ken
Subject: Re: [ROMP] County park acquisition comment

Such a trail would be spectacular. What a vision!

On Nov 10, 2011, at 10:34 AM, Ted Stroll wrote:
Subject: [ROMP] County park acquisition comment

Hi, Brian,

I understand from a gentleman who attended your November 8 public hearing that we're supposed to submit comments to you by November 18 on county park acquisition planning.

Here's mine. I'd like to see a signature trail that runs from Alum Rock Park to Mt. Hamilton's summit. I broached this idea to the Board of Supervisors in August or September of 2010 and certain board members, notably Dave Cortese and Ken Yeager, were interested in the idea. None of the supervisors disliked the concept; all seemed to favor it.

Mr. Cortese thought the main problem with developing this trail could be overcome. That problem is essentially jurisdictional.

East of Alum Rock Park and/or the airstrip that I understand SCCOSA's new trail extension at Sierra Vista approaches there are some miles of inaccessible land, although some dirt roads run through that area (Google Earth shows some, although it's difficult to figure out how that plays out on the ground both topographically and in terms of who owns the land). The impasse occurs either at the borders of Blue Oak Ranch Reserve, owned by the University of California, or at the boundaries of a combination of Nature Conservancy and private lands east of the Cherry Flat Reservoir. To the east of these lands is, of course, Joseph D. Grant County Park.

Then, to the east of Grant Park, at Kincaid Road, there's more inaccessible land. I'm less sure about the ownership of this land, but I would guess that much or all of it is private ranchland. To the southeast of this area, of course, is Mt. Hamilton, also owned by the University of California, I believe.

So my suggestion is to try to negotiate a right of way through these lands and join the public trail segments at Alum Rock, Sierra Vista (SCCOSA), and Grant Park together with currently inaccessible segments and create a landmark trail from the San Jose city limits to the Mt. Hamilton summit.

Thanks,

Ted Stroll

cc: Responsible Organized Mountain Bikers (ROMP) listserv & Messrs. Yeager and Cortese

From: Andrew Lesslie
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2011 11:29 AM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Subject: Parkland acquisition plan, Off Highway Vehicle Theme

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Parkland Acquisition process.

I would like you to consider a small and significantly underserved group in the Parkland acquisition and development process please, specifically off highway vehicle users.

With the recent and very unfortunate closure of large tracts of Forest Service and BLM land to OHV use, Santa Clara OHV enthusiasts are finding themselves confined to smaller areas or having to travel greater distances to enjoy their healthy, active and family oriented pursuit.

Metcalf Motorcycle park is an absolute jewel of a facility and regularly hosts large numbers of weekend riders and a number of competitive events each year. The park is very professionally run and is a great example of a County Facility catering to an important but relatively small community.

There is an opportunity to expand the scope of Metcalf Motorcycle Park into the adjacent United Technologies land and significantly expand the trail system. There are many potential users in our county who don't use MMP as much as they would, describing it as 'too small' or 'too

limited'. Expansion into the large, adjacent property would allow the park to reverse that limitation and offer a truly first class OHV facility, one that would draw from a wider population than just Santa Clara residents.

I would like to ask that you consider OHV use as a theme within the planning process and as alternative facilities are so limited or are great distances away to give this use additional weight.

Sincerely
Andrew

—

From: Danese, Robert
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 12:58 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Subject: park acquisition

Hi there, I'm sending you a quick note expressing my interest in the acquisition of additional park land for Metcalf motorcycle park. I like and use hiking and mt. biking trails, but it seems that the ability for families to use OHVs is very limited in the bay area. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Robert Danese
Investigator
U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
50 Beale Street, Suite 7200
San Francisco, California 94105
phone: (415) 486-5512
fax: (415) 486-5570

From: curtis matthews]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 2:05 PM
To: Heffington, Tim
Subject: Metcalf OHV Expansion

Hi- I hope the county will seriously consider the value of expanding the Metcalf OHV park. This county has a lot of acres set aside for hikers, mountain bikers and horses, etc., but not enough for off-roaders. Metcalf is a quality park, but is very small, and often crowded on busy weekends. Recreation opportunities shouldn't be limited to only walking and bicycling, and I believe that the money that OHV riders brings to this facility will increase exponentially should the property expand. In a time where places to ride are disappearing, Santa Clara county has the opportunity to buck the trend. Thanks. Curtis Matthews

From: Steve Jones [<mailto:stevejones@stanford.edu>]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:32 PM
To: Heffington, Tim
Cc: Champeny, Ian

Subject: Santa Clara County Parkland Acquisition Plan

Dear Tim,

Thanks for your time tonight to discuss the plans for the County to acquire and/or improve access to parks within the County. As I mentioned I'm involved with the Velodrome Association and of course have specific interests related to that, but in general have more basic interests as a cyclist within the County.

I live at Communication Hills, play at the Velodrome for track cycling, but train on my road bike at many locations within the County, and work at Stanford University. I can give my perception of where improvements are needed for cyclists use of County Parklands based on this.

The first is the only true parkland I can easily access from my house is by leaving our community and taking the 87 corridor trail towards downtown to Curtner, leave that trail and head to Willow Glen via surface streets as following the trail further is either unsafe at best and not maintained (broken glass etc). Once I'm in Willow Glen use of the Los Gatos Creek Trail is excellent and connects me to all the great parks the County has to offer along this trail corridor along with destinations beyond.

Reaching any other of the County from my house is almost impossible to do without braving the streets that are void of bike lanes. It's near impossible to find a reasonable path from my house to the Velodrome, and also to the Coyote Creek trail should I want to ride to Morgan Hill. I end up riding Santa Teresa instead, or through McKean/Uvas and back across through the hills.

Commuting to Stanford is also impossible. If there was a connector from our area to the Bay Trail I would ride to work far more often. As it stands now I ride out to Los Gatos, work my way around the foothills (via foothill) and follow that up to Stanford. It's a long trek around the valley instead of a more direct route.

I also don't ride out to Mt Hamilton from my house as again it's through a maze of bike unfriendly areas. In addition, I almost never take the ride up Metcalfe and beyond as the ride from East San Jose has limited safe options to return to our area.

I feel like we're on an island and we're unable to connect to many other islands within the County. Maybe I'm an anomaly as a 50-60 mile ride is a daily event along with at least 5 trips to a Santa Clara County Park facility every week of the year.

More on the meeting. As I mentioned I wasn't familiar with the acquisition plan or what may be available for trail connections or funds we can write proposals for related to the Velodrome. I'm very familiar with the lease and what is covered in that, what I'm more interested in are items outside the scope of that. The main item of course is making the Velodrome more accessible to County residents. We have many residents that make their way to the Velodrome on their bicycle and use bicycles we have at the facility or ones they've commuted on (after removing brakes). The main issue I've heard raised is the lack of a safe way to ride to the Velodrome from other areas, with them being pushed to ride on unsafe roads such as Capitol Expressway or into their car to haul their bike across town. I'm one of the later and only live 7 minutes away by car.

It would be great to see completion of the Three Creeks Trail as this may solve many of the problems people making their way to the Velodrome encounter in addition to making more parts of the County accessible by bike for myself and others.

I would also like to find out what types of improvements to Hellyer are possible to support items outside of the lease. One might be expanding or adding onto the restroom areas to include a shower area, whether it's indoor or an outdoor multi station unit similar to what you would see at the beach. Another might be a concession building outside of the gates where County approved vendors could provide food and/or beverage sales. These are just a few that come to mind, I'm trying to think outside the box and look at ways to increase ridership and use of the precious resource the County has made available to us.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Steve Jones

From: Meyner, Gus
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 9:13 AM
To: steven.blomquist@bos.sccgov.org; Robb.Courtney@pks.sccgov.org
Cc: Don Amador; Donny Schmidt; Curt McDowell; Dean Stanford
Subject: Parkland Acquisition Plan for the County of Santa Clara; public meeting 11/8/2011

Thank you for attending the meeting in east San Jose on Tuesday. It was great that Dave Cortese could share his experience, and give a concise explanation of what and why things were happening.

I am about to post this on several web things for motorcyclists and mountain bikers. This will be seen by tens of thousands of motorcyclists and bicyclists. This is one of the places:
<http://www.southbayriders.com/forums/showthread.php?t=116334&p=1637393#post1637393>

I went to the "Parkland Acquisition Plan for the County of Santa Clara" public meeting 11/8/2011. It was actually quite cool, though the subject is largely urban park planning right now.

Excuse any misrepresentations of what anyone expressed.

Everyone needs to go to <http://www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks/> and complete the Acquisition Plan survey under "Quick Clicks", ninth (9th) choice down.

We need to comment on the acquisition process, and that our concerns and wishes should be an integral part of the acquisition criteria. To do this, email your comments to Brian.Hattsell@prk.sccgov.org by November 18. My comment is that two new criteria need to be added to the Park Acquisition Guidelines or "Themes". These two items are

1. Grassroots support and Community desire should be give significant weight
2. Demand for an underserved activity should be given significant weight.

At the meeting last Tuesday there were 12 locals/ voters/ concerned citizens. About four folks were

watching and executing the show.

Most significant (to me) was Steve **Blomquist**, from Supervisor Dave Cortese's office, and Robb Courtney, the new (three days?) Santa Clara County Parks Director were there.

There was a specific agenda, but due to the small size of the participating public, it was very participant driven. People spoke, and we largely had specific recreation sites in mind. The current direction of the Acquisition Plan is based upon "themes", rather than "sites" we want for recreation areas.

Supervisor and President of the Supervisors, Dave Cortese, had shown up during this discussion of "themes" versus sites. He interjected his short experience with the board and what he saw what was needed, in his view. He stressed that it was just from his view, and that he thought it is his job to execute what we, his constituents, want and need. Dave gave us a nice summary of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in regards to County Parks Land Acquisition.

Basically, the land acquisition policy has changed from site specific to goal specific. The process we are going through now is to define and confirm those goals. At this community meeting, though the public wanted to address specific site desires, the goal was to define the "themes"

My personal agenda is expansion of the county motorcycle park into the adjacent 5000 acre United Technologies property. I know that motorcycle riding would be limited (but high quality), but the mixed use aspect and beauty and desolation can make this a spectacular park. The popularity of Motorcycle Park, and funding from the state OHV fund make this a unique possibility.

We have to make this happen by telling our elected and appointed officials and administrators that this is important to us.

We get the government we deserve. Please help.

Gus "Butch" Meyner
Motorcyclist, bicyclist, taxpayer, voter

From: dee murphy
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:23 PM
To: Heffington, Tim; Dee Murphy
Subject: Miles of trails

Hi Tim,

Please pass this on from tonight's meeting.

I said that I thought more trails needed to be dirt trails and not paved since there are so many paved trails in our county parks.

Information was gained from the county website.

Hike Only 40.7 miles (dirt)

Off dirt bicycle trails 65.5

There are 24.5 or so miles of shared trail paved for bikes/hike.

Miles of trails for bikes and hikes is listed as 125 miles.

I sure think that more trails need to be dirt so people are getting out in nature. I understand the disabled need trails but the walking public need access that is not always paved.

I was told there was more dirt trails than paved trails in our county parks but I sure believe we need more dirt trails they are kinder to animals and people.

Of course not all of the trails are listed on the county site as I see it.

Thanks,

Dee Murphy

From: Martin Delson

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 8:44 PM

To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Bill Rankin

Subject: Comments on urban parkland acquisition guidelines

Dear Mr. Hartsell,

Today I took a recreation bike ride with a friend to Morgan Hill. We went down Almaden Expressway, McKean and Uvas to Morgan Hill, had lunch there, and then cut over to the Coyote Creek Trail for the trip back to San Jose. A wonderful ride -- so far. The Coyote Creek Trail is a real treasure. But then, after the Coyote Creek Trail ended at Tully in San Jose we needed to get back home (near Bird Avenue & 280). There just is no good way to do that. We took Tully-Curtner to the Highway 87 Bikeway. AWFUL. But what are the alternatives? Alma-Minnesota? GHASTLY. Story-Keyes-Willow? TERRIBLE. The plain truth is, the County desperately needs a safe off-street cross-town path from the Coyote Creek Trail and points east into Central San Jose, Willow Glen, and points west. The UPRR right-of-way designated for the Three Creeks Trail is in exactly the right place and would perfectly meet this need. PLEASE GIVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAND FOR THE THREE CREEKS TRAIL YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY!

Sincerely yours, Martin Delson

From: dee murphy

Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 5:12 PM

To: Heffington, Tim; Elliott, Christian; Dee Murphy

Subject: Enlarge Metcalf

Just my same thoughts to go with tonight's meeting. Please use Green Sticker fees to purchase UTC land and expand Metcalf. The money is there and it will be a god send for thousands of people.

Good Morning,

I am writing in favor of having the County of Santa Clara promote the great motorcycle park we have Metcalf Motorcycle Park . Last year I attended several of the Parklands Meetings explaining why the county MUST support OHV programs here in Santa Clara County .

In May 2008, in San Benito County the Hollister Field Office Manager Rick Cooper closed the state's best OHV riding area Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA). With CCMA encompassing over 70,000 acres of land run by the BLM used by OHV'ers, rock "hounders", hunters, miners and land owners recreational pursuits. Last month the California Government decided to "steal" (again) over \$21 Million dollars from the OHV fund. These funds are from the 14% of California OHV owners registering their off-road motorcycles, quads and other off road vehicles. With the state sending almost of the required money to Metcalf Park for its yearly costs of running our county park any money taken by the State of California will greatly affect the park.

As you know, the State of California is also threatening to close the only OHV park that allows camping in Hollister, "Hollister Hills". If Hollister Hills closes then the only park for most Santa Clara County residents will be our 438 acre small day-use only park Metcalf. The closure of Hollister Hills along with the already closed Clear Creek Management Area will cause many OHV riders and owners to sell their off-road motorcycles to others. These new owners will most likely reside in another state since there will be so few places to ride that can be accessed within a few hours especially with gasoline hitting \$4.12 per gallon. I know that as an owner of 11 motorcycles I will not be able to ride anywhere near where I can drive within a days reach. I may after owning over 60 plus motorcycles in the last 23 years have to sell off my dirt bikes. I pay \$52.00 every two years for registration (11 * \$52.00= \$572.00) a total of \$572.00 I am just one of the 14% of California residents that are owners (most with several OHV's registered) of OHV's. If these owners sell off their bikes then there will be a much smaller amount of Green Sticker Fee's going in to the government pockets.

I have had both of my daughters enrolled in the Metcalf Junior Ranger Program where Ranger Mike did an excellent job at teaching the kids all about the environment, land, safety and even medical aide. These programs will be shut down. I have never heard a person (kid or parent) say that the program was not fun. The park is quite small for an area encompassing over a couple million residents and visitors. The Metcalf OHV Park must be EXPANDED for more trails, native areas for animals and parking for camping and events. The Green Sticker fee's already in the state coifers could easily purchase the UTC land for expansion of Metcalf which of course would bring in many more riders who in turn purchase gas, food, meals and stay in near-by motels.

If the State takes the Green Sticker Fee's Metcalf will NOT be able to stay open and numerous employees will be laid off and there will be nowhere to ride except illegal areas. This is not what anyone would really want. The only profitable program California has is the Green Sticker OHV Fee Program, this is amazing that it is a self-reliant program and it also promotes activity, recreation and togetherness (my daughters always ride with me).

I fully in favor of the OHV program continuing in all of California we as residents cannot afford to lose all of the registration fees if it closes or losses over \$21 Million dollars to help the budget. Why should I have to AGAIN pay fee's to pay for other's mistakes? Please support the California OHV Program.

If the California counties allow the State of California to raid our OHV program then there will also be huge ramifications in sales in almost all of the 58 counties in California . Off-roader vehicle users purchase a lot of goods, supplies and services to go riding. Please keep the money in the program.

Thank You,

Dee Murphy

From: Ruben Rosso
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 10:53 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim
Subject: Trails

Trails promote exercise and family time. I support the completion of a trail system. Thank you for your support and please allocate the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park-deficient East Side of San Jose!

Ruben Rosso Realtor / Mortgage Loan Originator / Broker DRE#01469951 & NMLS#358262
P.S. If you or a friend could use my services, please keep us in mind. Thank you.

From: Bill Rankin
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 12:24 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Cc: Heffington, Tim
Subject:

Dear Mr. Hartsell and Mr. Heffington,

I urge the County to allocate funds for the purchase of the Eastern Alignment of the Three Creeks Trail.

This trail will provide an East/West trail connection through the heart of San Jose. It will provide an off street connection from Morgan Hill to Palo Alto, and a connection from Los Gatos to Kelly Park and the Guadalupe and Coyote Creek trail systems.

The Three Creeks Trail is also the link to connect parks throughout San Jose; creating open space, transportation corridors and in particular access to the city, parks, and public transportation for the East Side residents of San Jose .

Please fulfill the mission of the Parkland Acquisition Plan for the County of Santa Clara , by affirming the County's, "role in providing park services to park-deficient urban and suburban areas in the County."

Thank you,
Bill Rankin
Vice President Save Our Trails

As a County resident who regularly bikes along the Los Gatos Creek and

Guadalupe River Trails, I urge the County of Santa Clara to take the lead in the acquisition of the eastern half of the Three Creeks Trail. Creekside trails provide so many benefits, including open space, increased awareness of riparian habitat issues, recreation and exercise, and car-free commuting. The Three Creeks Trail is the centerpiece of the trail system in Santa Clara County. Please allocate the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park-deficient East Side of San Jose.

Thank you,

Diana Foss
1571A Lincoln Ave
San Jose, CA 95125
408 971-7986

From: Patricia Toth
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim
Subject: Three Creeks Trail system

Please allocate funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail in the east side of San Jose.

We need an east-west connector in the San Jose trail system.

Thank you !!!

Patricia Toth

From: Shirley
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:20 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim
Subject: Please support ThreeCreeks Trail

Please allocate the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park-deficient East Side of San Jose.

This segment is key to the success and usefulness of the San Jose trail system as the east-west trail that connects others.

yours truly,
Shirley Worth

From: Louise P.
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim

Subject: YES - FUND Acquisition of Eastern half of the 3CT

Dear Brian Hartsell:

Please allocate the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park-deficient East Side of San Jose! This acquisition will provide the needed link to complete the east-west connecting portion of the county trail system.

Louise Parzanici
Willow Glen /San Jose Resident

From: Michael Mulcahy
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 11:10 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim
Subject: 3 Creeks Trail

Dear Mr Hartsell:

I am writing in support of the ongoing efforts to complete the 3 Creeks Trail (3CT) and am urging the County to allocate funds for acquisition of the Eastern half. The 3CT is a key piece of the County Trail system, and the only east-west connector in the San Jose system. As a property owner in central San Jose, my partners and I have done our part by allocating a 16' x 600' segment of our land acquired from UPRR for future trail development. We would love to see it put to good use in our lifetimes.

Sincerely

Michael Mulcahy
San Jose Resident Sent from MPMulcahy's Phone_

B: Karin Arrigoni
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 2:17 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Subject: Parkland

I am writing to request that the funds for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail be allocated as so many people would like. We've been waiting a long time for this part of the trail to be open. It will make our part of the city a much more vibrant place and provide a venue where people can walk and get exercise in a scenic location. A lot of people are really looking forward to the Three Creeks Trail!!

Thanks,

Karin Arrigoni
a Willow Glen resident

From: Vernon Ladd
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 5:45 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim
Subject: Please allocate \$ for Eastern portion of 3 Creeks Trail!!!

Please allocate the necessary money for the purchase of the Eastern portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park deficient East Side of San Jose. Poor people need trails and parks more than the rest of us because they have so little! They use these trails to actually go to work!!!

Vern Ladd
Willow Glen, former WG Neighborhood Assoc. Board Member **From:**

Taisia McMahan
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** 'SOT Board'
Subject: Eastern Portion of the Three Creeks Trail

Dear Mr. Hartsell,

My name is Taisia McMahan and I am the president of Save Our Trails.

I urge the County to allocate funds for the purchase of the Eastern Alignment of the Three Creeks Trail. This trail provides the only East/West trail connection right through the heart of San Jose. The Three Creeks Trail is also the link to connect the parks throughout San Jose creating open space, transportation corridors and in particular access to the city/parks/public transportation for the severely underserved East Side residents of San Jose. Please fulfill the mission of the Parkland Acquisition Plan for the County of Santa Clara, by affirming the County's, "role in providing park services to park-deficient urban and suburban areas in the County."

Very Truly Yours,
Taisia McMahan

From: Kirk Vartan
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 10:26 PM
To: Hartsell, Brian
Cc: Heffington, Tim
Subject: acquisition of the 3 Creeks Trail

Please allocate the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern Portion of the Three Creeks Trail for urban open-space in the park-deficient

East Side of San Jose!

From: gina america

ent: Monday, October 17, 2011 11:29 PM

To: Hartsell, Brian **Cc:** Heffington, Tim

Subject: Acquisition of the Eastern portion for the 3 Creeks Trail

Dear Mr. Hartsell,

I am writing to urge you to support the allocation of the necessary funds for the purchase of the Eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail. This much needed trail would be a huge benefit to all of the residents of San Jose. San Jose is becoming a much more densely populated city and a functional trail system linking all parts of the city would be an asset to bicyclists commuting to work, families coming and going to Happy Hollow from downtown SJ and Willow Glen and workers strolling during their lunch break.

I have lived in San Jose all my life and I am raising a young family with memberships to the Children's Discovery Museum and Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. How awesome it would be to hop on the trail and visit both in one day! I also own a restaurant in downtown SJ and see the enormous benefit it would bring to all businesses near the trail.

Please make sure that the trail is completed along the Eastern portion of the 3 Creeks Trail by allocating the necessary funds now for a better future tomorrow! Thank you for your attention and consideration in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Gina America



SUMMARY OF RECENT PARK CHARTER LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

County's Historic Role in Urban Parks Acquisition

The Department of Parks and Recreation conducted an analysis of its acquisition program since 1990. Since 1990 the department has participated in 62 acquisition projects; 14 of these fell within the urban service area of one of the 15 cities in the county. The department also analyzed what portion of public parkland within the urban service boundary of the County is owned or operated by the County, or in which the County participated in its purchase; determining that the County owns, or has participated in providing, 23% of the 11,349 acres of public parkland in the urban service area of the County. In addition the department found that approximately 32% of the dollars spent on acquisition since 1990 were spent on property within the urban service area.

Over the years there have been numerous land acquisition projects that were funded through the Park Charter Amendment. Since Fiscal Year 1990 there have been 62 parkland land acquisitions of various types costing a total of \$113M. Figure L-1 illustrates the project locations while Table L-1 provides a summary of the individual acquisitions.

Since 1990, there have been 14 major parkland acquisitions using Park Charter Fund monies within the Urban Service Areas of the county totaling 32% (\$36.4M) of the Park Charter Fund set aside for acquisition. Table L-2 lists these projects, their size, funds expended and, as appropriate, whether these acquisitions were with partners or were independent County acquisitions within the Urban Service Areas.

Table L-1: Parkland Acquisitions Fiscal Year 1990 to Present

ID #	Project	Associated County Park	Year Acquired	Sum of Acres	Acquisition Amount	Significance	Criteria		
							Regional, Community, or Neighborhood	Open Space 2020	Expansion to Logical Boundary
	Rural (48)			11,915.48	\$76,646,023				
20	Antonacci, Michael	Land Bank (Stuart Ridge)	1991	82.67	\$1,050,000	R	X	X	X
50	Arastradero Preserve		2005	13.00	\$1,000,000	R		X	X
21	Arata, Patricia J.	Mt. Madonna	1991	123.00	\$1,200,000	R	X	X	
18	Azzarello, James	Lexington	1990	178.00	\$2,540,000	R	X	X	X
31	Bear Ranch Trust eta	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear	1997	2,940.00	\$14,879,580	R	X	X	X
56	Beatty Property		2008	56.90	\$950,000	R	X	X	X
37	Birang, M. & N.	Calero	1997	31.85	\$0	R	X	X	?
55	Blair Property		2008	868.00	\$1,000,000	R	X	X	X
16	Boy Scout Mem.Found.	Land Bank (Stuart Ridge)	1990	177.00	\$2,225,000	R	X	?	X
23	Christensen, John L.	Sanborn	1993	57.66	\$750,000	R	X	X	X
26	Cooperage Dev. (Rosendin Property)	Anderson Reservoir	1993	116.00	\$0	R	X	X	
34	D'Anna, Desmond	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear	1997	1.18	\$69,000	R	X	X	X
27	Dickson, Robert J.	Sanborn	1994	24.07	\$260,000	R	X	X	X
8	Feehan, James	Lexington	1990	50.00	\$750,000	R	X	X	X
9	Foster, G. Trustee	Sanborn	1990	1.30	\$137,500	R	X	X	X
25	Giusto, Michael S.	Calero	1993	61.11	\$245,000	R	X	X	X
52	Hall Property		2006	100.00	\$550,000	R	X	X	X
35	Jackson Rnch Jt.Ventures	Anderson	1997	1,644.07	\$4,276,355	R	X	X	X

Table L-1: Parkland Acquisitions Fiscal Year 1990 to Present

ID #	Project	Associated County Park	Year Acquired	Sum of Acres	Acquisition Amount	Significance	Criteria		
						Regional, Community, or Neighborhood	Open Space 2020	Expansion to Logical Boundary	Regional Trail
	(Ungar)	Reservoir							
51	Keyani Property		2005	10.00	\$275,000	R	X	X	X
14	McLean	Uvas Canyon	1990	80.00	\$120,000	R	X	X	X
11	McNiel	Almaden Quicksilver	1990	4.00	\$122,500	R	X	X	
2	MROSD	Sanborn	1989	2.19	\$0	R	X	X	X
29	MROSD (Jamison)	Almaden Quicksilver	1995	372.00	\$2,940,000	R	X	X	X
32	Nielson, C. (TPL)	Mt. Madonna	1997	429.00	\$1,960,000	R	X	X	X
12	Norred	Santa Teresa	1990	16.00	\$2,000,000	R	X	X	X
53	Open Space Authority (Jackson Ranch)	Anderson Reservoir	2006	38.18	\$1,100,000	R	X	X	X
10	Peck, Wilis	Uvas Canyon	1990	12.47	\$25,000	R	X	X	X
3	POST	Sanborn	1989	117.00	\$700,000	R	X	X	X
60	POST (Clark Canyon Ranch)	Mt. Madonna	2009	408.00	\$3,400,000	R	X	X	X
47	POST (Diesel)	Sanborn	2004	20.76	\$150,000	R	X	X	
59	POST (Rancho San Vicente)	Calero	2009	966.00	\$16,245,000	R	X	X	X
17	Pourroy et al	Sanborn	1990	234.00	\$1,020,000	R	X	X	
61	Powell Property		2011	86.80	\$1,250,000	R	X	X	X
13	Quickland Develop. (Rossetto)	Santa Teresa	1990	187.00	\$2,070,000	R	X	X	X
43	Rancho Canada de Oro	Calero	2003	923.00	\$1,175,000	R	X	X	

Table L-1: Parkland Acquisitions Fiscal Year 1990 to Present

ID #	Project	Associated County Park	Year Acquired	Sum of Acres	Acquisition Amount	Significance	Criteria		
							Regional, Community, or Neighborhood	Open Space 2020	Expansion to Logical Boundary
54	Siep, Barbara	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear	2007	10.00	\$700,000	R	X	X	X
49	Sinclair	Anderson Reservoir	2004	33.66	\$250,000	R	X	X	X
62	Stanford University Trail Easement		2011	0.00	\$0	R			X
28	State of California (Garcia)	Mt. Madonna	1994	143.00	\$0	R	X	X	X
6	Strong, Raymond/Lois	Uvas Canyon	1990	38.67	\$65,000	R	X	X	
40	Sveadal (Swedish-American Patriotic League)	Uvas Canyon	2002	1.54	\$19,300	R	X	X	
4	Tax Default	Sanborn	1989	40.00	\$72,500	R	X	X	
36	Ter. I.& N. Espeland (Casa Grande)	Almaden Quicksilver	1997	6.11	\$2,650,000	R		X	
33	TPL/Mendoza	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear	1997	711.00	\$2,502,788	R	X	X	X
58	Tulare Hill	Coyote Creek Parkway	2009	140.72	\$1,890,000	R	X		
7	Wilets, Trustees	Santa Teresa	1990	217.40	\$1,445,000	R	X	X	X
1	Williams, Robt.,etal	Land Bank (Moody Gulch)	1989	138.81	\$612,500	R	X		X
19	Tax Default (Sanborn Rd.)	Sanborn	1991	2.37	\$4,000	R	X	X	
	Urban (14)			484.54	\$36,440,000				
38	Alviso Land Swap	Alviso	2000	-12.12	\$0	R		X	X

Table L-1: Parkland Acquisitions Fiscal Year 1990 to Present

ID #	Project	Associated County Park	Year Acquired	Sum of Acres	Acquisition Amount	Significance	Criteria		
							Regional, Community, or Neighborhood	Open Space 2020	Expansion to Logical Boundary
30	Bonetti-Pech, Pech	Santa Teresa	1995	9.11	\$985,000	R	X	X	
44	Diocese Property	Rancho San Antonio	2003	145.00	\$0	R		X	X
15	Filice, Craig	Uvas Creek	1990	15.61	\$2,000,000	R		X	X
5	Guadalupe River Park		1990-1997	11.29	\$20,000,000	R			X
22	IBM Trail Easement	Santa Teresa	1992	0.00	\$0	R			X
45	Martial Cottle	Martial Cottle	2003	287.00	\$0	R			
42	Mill St. Right of Way	Alviso Marina	2003	1.80	\$0	R	X	X	X
24	MJM Land Development Co.	Santa Teresa	1993	1.90	\$800,000	R		X	
48	Monroe Property-San Tomas Aquino Trail Staging Area		2004	2.49	\$2,700,000	R			X
41	Pyzak	Santa Teresa	2002	1.90	\$905,000	R		X	
46	Willow Glen Spur/Three Creeks Trail		2004 & 2010	7.56	\$3,000,000	R			X
57	Vasona Town of Los Gatos Parcel	Vasona	2008	13.00	\$6,050,000	R		X	X
39	Mt. Eden Rd./Tradewinds Trail Easement		2001	0.00	\$0	R			X
	Grand Total (62)			12,400.02	\$113,086,023				

Figure L-1: Parkland Acquisitions Since 1990 Within Urban Service Areas

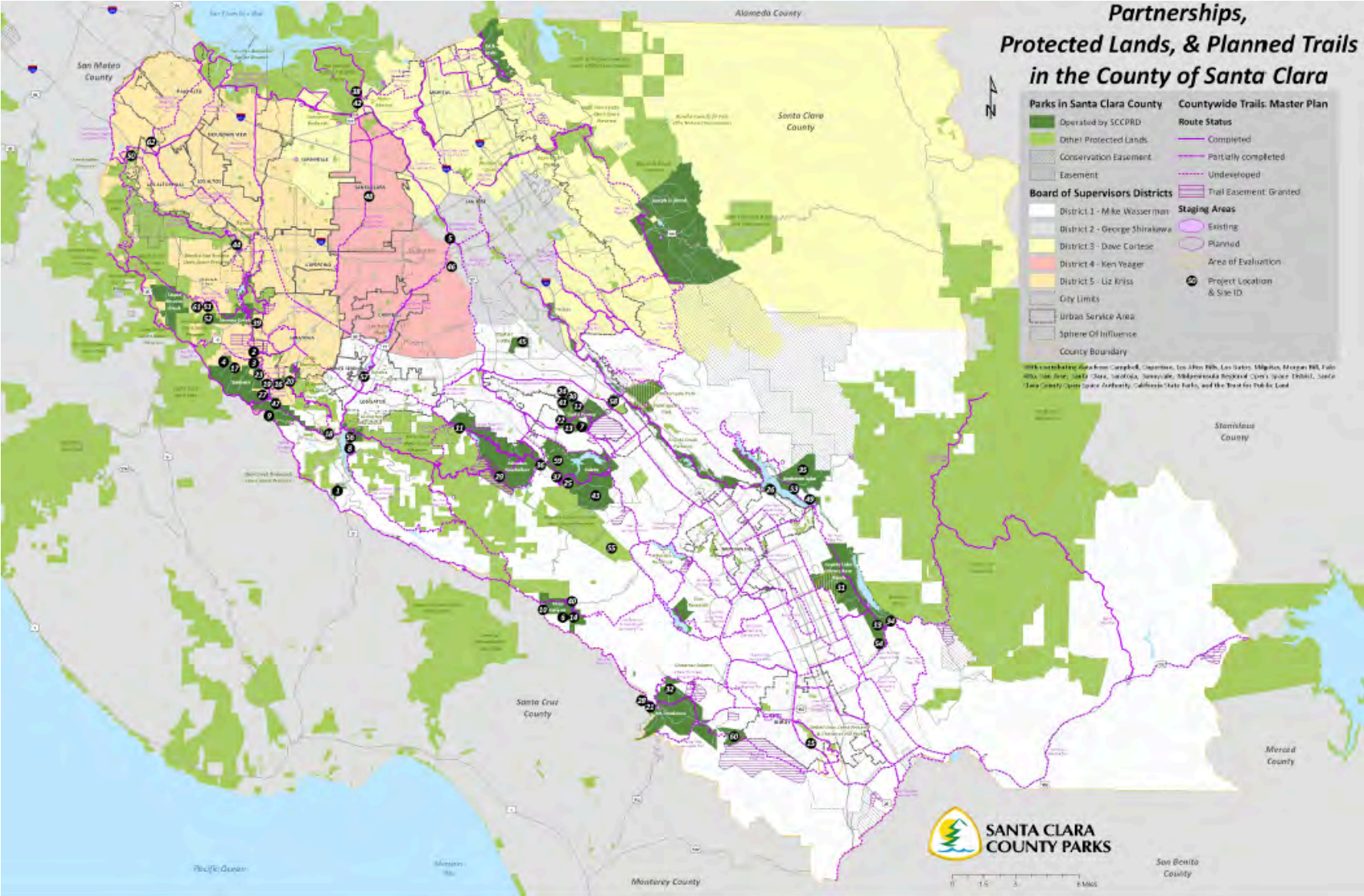


Table L-2: Parkland Acquisitions Since 1990 Within Urban Service Areas

Partnership	Project	Year	Acres	Acquistion \$
Y	Uvas Creek Park Preserve	1990	15.6	\$2,000,000
Y	Guadalupe River Park	1990-1997	11.3	\$20,000,000
N	Santa Teresa County Park	1993	1.9	\$800,000
N	Santa Teresa County Park	1995	9.1	\$985,000
Y	Alviso Marina (land swap)	2000	-12.1	\$0
N	Stevens Creek County Park	2001	0.0	\$0
Y	Santa Teresa County Park	2002	1.9	\$905,000
N	Alviso Marina	2003	1.8	\$0
Y	Rancho San Antonio	2003	145.0	\$0
Y	Martial Cottle Property	2003	287.0	\$0
Y	San Tomas Aquino Trail (staging area)	2004	2.5	\$2,700,000
Y	Willow Glen Spur/Three Creeks Trail	2004 & 2010	7.6	\$3,000,000
Y	Vasona County Park	2008	13.0	\$6,050,000
N	Santa Teresa County Park	1992	0.0	\$0
		TOTAL	484.6	\$36,440,000



U R B A N U N I N C O R P O R A T E D I S L A N D A N A L Y S I S

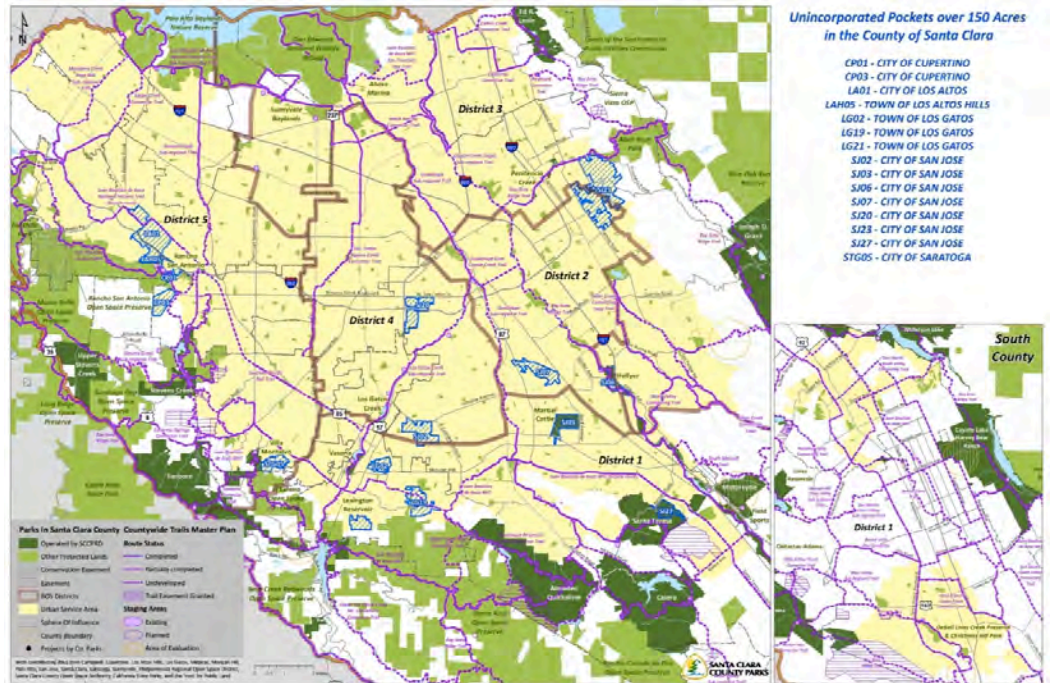
The Department conducted an analysis of unincorporated, urban islands. There were 15 islands identified that are 150 acres or greater in size within the County's Urban Service Areas. Staff then parsed the data to determine which islands could be classified as underserved. For the purposes of this analysis, underserved was defined as having a significant percentage of the population who were not within 1/4 mile of a public park or school. After eliminating areas without a residential population, two primary islands of concern were identified:

- San Jose 23 (Alum Rock) – 1,422 acres, 16,292 population, and 47% (4,790) underserved.
- San Jose 20 (Burbank / VMC) – 392 acres, 4,432 population, and 69% (3,058) underserved.

Although the City of San Jose and the County entered into an agreement for the City to pursue the annexation of unincorporated islands, LAFCO staff have advised that they think it unlikely the City will pursue annexation of islands 150 acres in size or larger any time in the near future.

While there are over 87 urban islands within the Urban Service Areas of the county, there are 15 (excludes Stanford) of these islands that are over 150 acres in size. These are illustrated in Figure M-1.

Figure M-1: Urban Islands



The County’s General Plan policies are that these urban unincorporated areas within established Urban Service Areas should eventually be annexed into their respective cities. While progress has been made and some of these areas have indeed been annexed since the General Plan policies were adopted by the Board nearly 20 years ago, as a practical matter there remain many areas that have not. Although the City of San Jose and the County entered into an agreement for the City to pursue the annexation of unincorporated islands, LAFCO staff has advised us that they think it unlikely the City will pursue annexation of islands 150 acres in size or larger any time in the foreseeable future.

Several of the islands are composed primarily of existing or future parks and were therefore dropped from further analysis. Examples include Santa Teresa County Park, Coyote Hellyer County Park and the Martial Cottle property.

The remaining 10 were compared and evaluated in detail from a set of common considerations that included: whether or not as a whole they present an area that is underserved based on easily accessible existing outdoor recreation opportunities (defined as within 1/4 mile of a park, trail, or school recreational area); their overall population; size; and density.

The County used a 1/4-mile radius as a common comparative tool for all unincorporated urban islands across the county. This distance is not representative of any established County standard. A map was produced that graphically illustrated the differences between the 1/4-mile radius (light green) used in the County analysis, the 1/3-mile radius (purple) used by the city of San Jose in its Green Print Update of 2009.

Of the unincorporated urban islands, two stand out. These are the Alum Rock and the Burbank areas. Both of these areas are within the City of San Jose. Figures M-2 and M-3 illustrate the multi-radius analysis focused on the Alum Rock and Burbank unincorporated island area analysis respectively.

The City of San Jose's own standards for parklands are presented in the City of San Jose Greenprint Update of 2009 (the Greenprint Plan).

For park planning purposes, the City of San Jose is divided into 12 Urban Planning Areas. Strategies for providing for recreation needs within each area are identified. The City's analysis that supports the Greenprint Plan included the populations, parks, and schools within the unincorporated island areas of the County.

The Greenprint Plan research and the Department's own staff analysis identified both of these areas as in need of additional neighborhood-serving facilities.

The Alum Rock unincorporated island is the largest within the County and at approximately 1,422 acres in size the most populous with 16,292 county residents for a density average of 11.46 residences / acre. Approximately 47% of this island does not fall within 1/4 mile of recreational services (park, trail or school ground) leading to an estimated 4,790 individuals termed "underserved" for the purposes of this analysis. This represents the highest number of underserved county residents within any of the 15 islands larger than 150 acres.

It is entirely within the Alum Rock Planning Area of the City of San Jose's Greenprint Plan. The Greenprint strategies to respond to the Alum Rock area's outdoor recreation need include:

- Developing some neighborhood-serving recreation facilities at Alum Rock Regional Park.
- Pursuing land bank opportunities for a future neighborhood park.

FIGURE M-2: Island Census Calculations (County Identification SJ23)- Alum Rock Urban Unincorporated Area

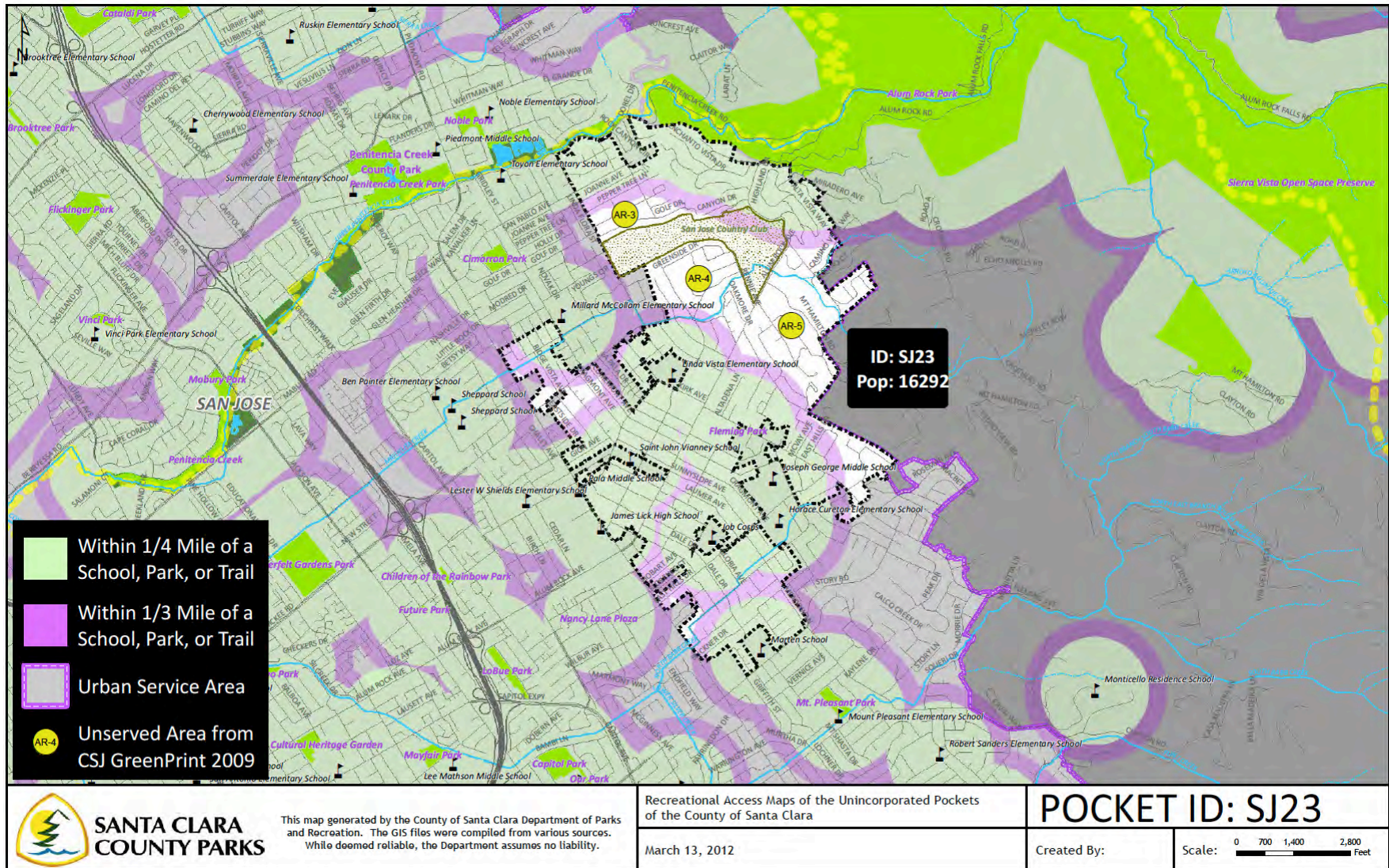
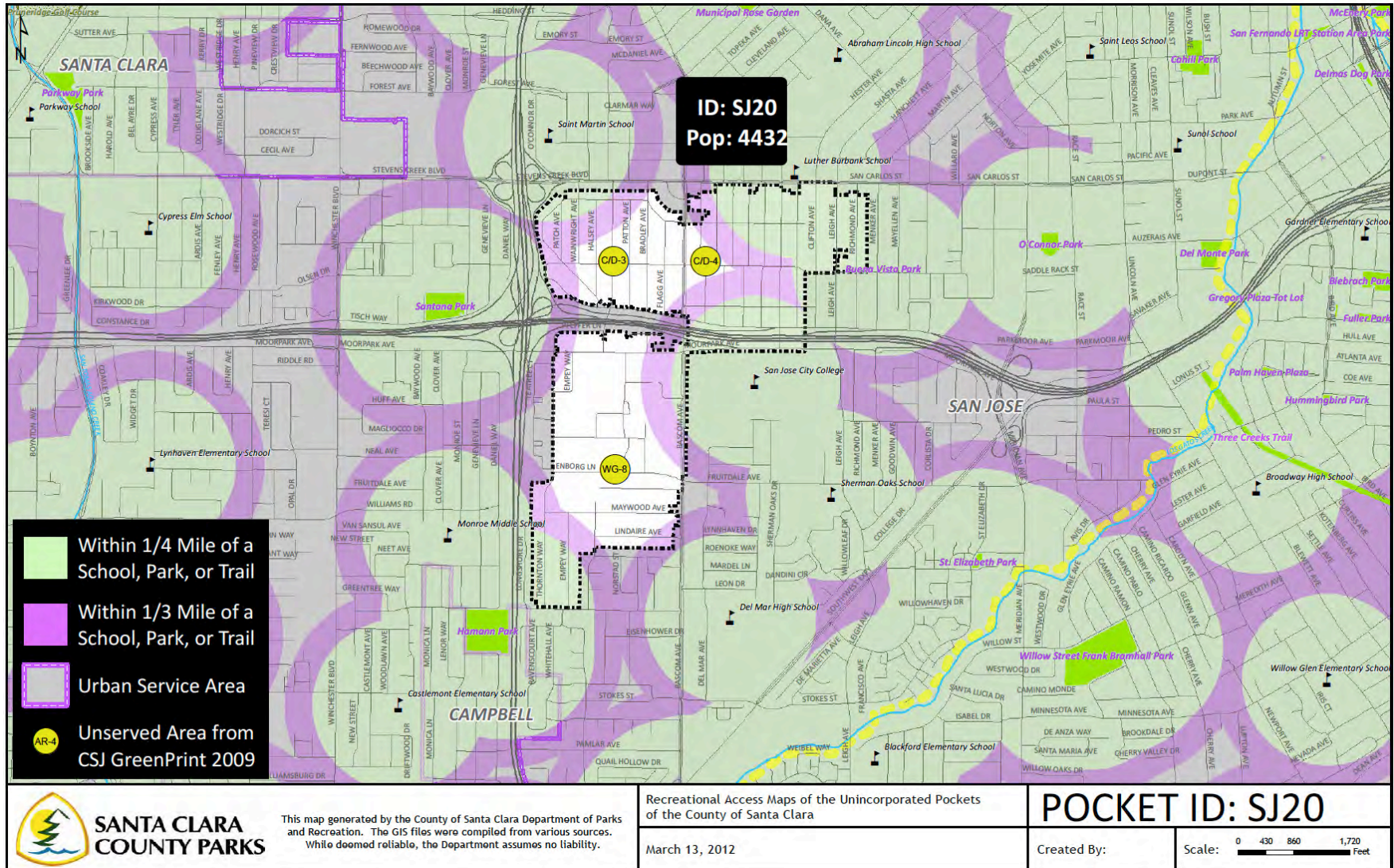


FIGURE M-3: Island School Census Calculations (County Identification SJ20) - Burbank Unincorporated Area



The Burbank unincorporated island is 391.46 acres in size with a population of approximately 4,432 for a density average of 11.32 residences / acre. Approximately 69% of this island does not fall within ¼ mile of recreational services (park, trail or school ground) leading to an estimated 3,058 county residents termed “underserved” for the purposes of this analysis. Significant access barriers exist within this island, such as Hwy. 280 and Bascom Ave. A portion of the island is covered by VMC.

The Burbank island is located within two of San Jose’s Greenprint Planning Areas. These are:

- the Central/Downtown Planning Area north of Interstate 280; and
- The Willow Glen Planning Area south of Interstate 280.

The Greenprint strategies to respond to the Burbank area’s outdoor recreation needs include:

- Exploring partnerships with private elementary schools, where feasible and appropriate, for access to recreation facilities.
- Enhancing pedestrian crossings to adjacent neighborhood facilities.

Attachment

N

U R B A N P A R K O P E R A T I O N S
A N D M A N A G E M E N T C O S T
A N A L Y S I S

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

COSTS AND IMPACTS OF DEVELOPING AND MANAGING AN URBAN PARK

GENERAL PARK OPERATIONS

Base Assumptions

- One of City of San Jose's neighborhood/community parks in the Cambrian/Pioneer Planning Area, Butcher Park, has been used as a comparable urban park operation. (Appendix A).
- The proposed park site would be approximately 10 acres and it is assumed for analysis purposes, the proposed park would be located in, or near, the East Foothills of Santa Clara County or the City of San Jose.
- The proposed park would be within 30 minutes of an existing park unit (e.g. a County Park).
- The proposed park would have one restroom that would need to be unlocked every morning and locked every night.
- All picnic areas would be first come, first served.
- The proposed park would have one large play field that could be reserved for team sports.
- There would not be any urban trail connections or pedestrian crossing improvements needed for the new proposed park.
- There would be no on-site parking lots – all curb-side parking would be along existing neighborhood streets and not under park management. Park Rangers and/or the applicable local law enforcement jurisdiction would enforce any on street parking issues that were park related.
- There would be no gates to open or close.
- Park Operations and Maintenance costs would be fully absorbed within the existing County Parks operational budget. There would be no additional staff added for the new urban park.
- Park Ranger patrol would be minimal, and focused primarily on securing the restroom at closing.
- There would be no after hour usage or lighting of park facilities or park fields.

Park Hours

Per County ordinance, County Parks are open 8:00am until sunset.

Because there would be uncontrolled access to an urban park from multiple entry points, it can be assumed that unwanted after hours activity would be difficult to control and would occur.

Park Visitation

The City of San Jose does not track the visitation for their urban parks. To estimate a visitation number, we chose one of the County's smaller satellite parks, Los Gatos Creek for comparison. Los Gatos Creek had 73,833 visitors in 2010. We have assumed that visitation to a County urban park would be similar.

Estimated Play Field Use

Representatives from City of San Jose Parks report that the multi-use soccer / softball field at Butcher Park is reserved year round with two separate seasons: spring/summer (March – August) and fall/winter (September – February). The following is their actual past and future reservation data for peak season use.

Actual Butcher Park Play Field Use				
	2011		2010	
	days	hours	days	hours
	in use		in use	
March	27	88.5	30	78.5
April	30	129	29	136
May	30	134	0	0
June	0	0	0	0
July	19	54.5	0	0
August	0	0	0	0

The park went under renovation last spring/summer which explains zero use in May through August 2010.

In order to minimize turf damage and associated turf repair costs, we would likely only reserve the fields during peak season. We have assumed that play field reservation at a County urban park during peak season would be similar to the above schedule.

Park Fees – Revenue Generation

Park vehicle entry fees would not be collected as there would be no parking lots.

County Parks does not charge for general park use. Instead, vehicle entry fees are charged for parking. The distinction is made in order to preserve our immunity under

the State's *Recreational Immunity Statute*. However, we would likely collect use fees for reserving the sports field.

The City of San Jose collects a variety of fees related to play field reservations including a *Field Reservation Application Fee \$40-\$120*, *Soccer Field Use Fee \$25-\$80.00 per hour*, and a *Field Preparation Fee \$175 per field / per day*. (see Appendix D).

- Typical charges from other agencies for soccer field use average \$15.00/hour for youth non-profit groups, and \$30.00/hour for for-profit groups.
- Based on an average estimated monthly use of 120 hours per month, times an average estimated fee collected of \$30.00 per hour, plus an average \$50.00 application fee, we could expect to collect approximately \$20,000 annually for sports field reservations at a County urban park.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Typical Urban Park

We reviewed the City of San Jose's park offerings and noted that the standard amenities in their urban park system included the following:

- One restroom
- Two Playgrounds (one area for 2-5 year olds, the other for 5-12 year olds)
- Family Picnic sites (picnic benches and BBQ pits)
- One of either a basketball or tennis court (and sometimes both)
- One turf area (usually designated for soccer use)
- One area designated for soft/hardball use (decomposed granite infield and backstop).

Based on these general amenities, we chose Butcher Park as a comparison.

Butcher Park Amenities

- Approximately 10 acres developed
- One dog park facility*
- One restroom
- Ten family picnic sites
- Two playgrounds (one for 2-5 year olds, the other for 5-12 year olds)
- Two basketball courts
- One soccer field (no lights)
- One softball field (no lights)

*The dog park facility is not part of the proposed park scenario for our analysis.

Park Maintenance Standards

County Parks follows maintenance standards defined by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) *Maintenance Standard Classification System*.

Service levels are defined as “Modes.” These modes determine the frequencies of service provided by the maintenance staff.

Mode 1 Level of Service (Appendix B)

The standard “Mode” is Mode 1. Mode I is defined as “State of the art maintenance applied to a high quality diverse landscape.

Mode 1 is usually associated with high traffic urban areas such as public squares, malls, government grounds or high visitation parks.”

- **Maintenance Staff Needed To Provide Mode 1 Service**

The estimated man hours needed to operate a Park similar to Butcher Park under a Mode 1 level is 3,844. These hours translate to 2 FTE Park Maintenance Workers II, and .5 of a seasonal position. The estimated cost for these positions is \$193,097.

- **Annual On-Going Costs Associated with Mode 1 Service**

To calculate costs, the Department used the PRNS WORKSHEET 5 (OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE) QUESTIONNAIRE provided by the City of San Jose. After inserting the known features of the park, the summary provided an estimate of \$156,595 (FY 11/12 figures) to operate the park on a yearly basis.

- **One Time Costs Associated with Mode 1 Service**

In addition to ongoing annual costs, there would be one-time costs for vehicles for the 2 FTE maintenance workers, a new ride-on mower and trailer for the Parks Grounds Crew, and small tools such as blowers and string-line trimmers. Approximate cost of these items is \$127,500.

- **Final Estimated Costs For Mode 1 Service**

\$477,192 for the first year

\$349,692 each year after (without considering inflation factors)

Mode 2 Level of Service (Appendix C)

Under “Mode 2” service levels, the maintenance tasks remain the same, but the frequency of maintenance is reduced. Significant areas of service level reduction include turf care and restroom cleaning. Turf care activities would be reduced by half and restroom cleaning would drop from 3 times a day to 1 time per day.

- **Maintenance Staff Needed To Provide Mode 2 Service**

The estimated staff hours needed to operate a Park similar to Butcher Park under a Mode 2 level is 3,333. These hours translate to 1 FTE Park Maintenance Worker II position and 1 Seasonal Park Maintenance Worker (1040 hours). The estimated cost for these positions is \$108,237.

- **Annual On-Going Costs Associated with Mode 2 Service**

To calculate costs, the Department reduced \$156,595 by \$30,000 to reflect a reduction in the amount of seed, fertilizer, sand, and top dressing for turf care and cleaning supplies for restrooms due to reduction frequency. The estimated ongoing costs for Mode 2 service is estimated at \$126,595.

- **One Time Costs Associated with Mode 2 Service**

Under Mode 2 Service, we have assumed that the Grounds Crew would take on the added task of mowing the urban park, so purchasing additional mow equipment for the park would not be necessary. After deleting the cost of the mower and trailer, one-time cost for Mode 2 service is estimated at \$27,500.

- **Final Estimated Costs Mode 2 Service**

\$262,332 for the first year

\$234,832 each year after (without considering inflation factors)\

City of San Jose Level of Service

As a point of comparison, the Department used the above mentioned assumptions and factors and inserted the City of San Jose's personnel costs. The following comparable costs were noted.

- **Maintenance Staff Needed Under City of San Jose Cost Structure**

The main difference between city of San Jose's cost structure and County Parks' cost structure is personnel costs. San Jose's estimated personnel cost for managing the 10-acre park with amenities assumed is approximately \$148,660.

- **Annual On-Going Costs Under city of San Jose Cost Structure**

Operational costs would remain the same \$156,595.

- **One Time Costs Under City of San Jose Cost Structure**

We estimated that one time costs would also remain the same at \$127,500.

MAINTENANCE COST COMPARISONS

Cost Structure	Personnel	Annual Costs	One Time Costs	1st Year	Annual
City of San Jose	\$148,660	\$156,595	\$127,500	\$432,755	\$305,255
County Parks Mode 1	\$193,097	\$156,595	\$127,500	\$477,192	\$349,692
County Parks Mode 2	\$108,237	\$126,595	\$27,500	\$262,332	\$262,332

Maintenance Program Impacts

The above analysis assumed County Parks had adequate funding to hire additional staffing and expand the maintenance services budget. However, we are unlikely to do either in the current economic climate. Therefore, maintenance of an urban park would come at the expense of shifting resources from existing resources in the County Parks maintenance program.

The following measures would likely be taken to operate one 10-acre urban park:

We factored the measures we would need to take to operate a 10-acre urban park based on a Mode II service level. Under this mode of operation, Park unit staff would be required to cover an additional 30.75 hours of weekly maintenance tasks at the new park. The Grounds Crew would be required to cover an additional 5 hours (both of these figures do not include travel time).

- **Changes In Responsibility For Maintenance Units / Crews**

Park Unit Level

The Ed Levin or Hellyer staff would likely be assigned responsibility for the new urban park. After considering an approximate one hour travel time each day, the main park unit would lose an estimated one FTE position to maintenance duties at the new park.

Grounds Crew

The Grounds Crew would likely be assigned the major landscape components. Currently, the Grounds Crew is fully engaged in mowing operations 4 days a week. The fifth day (Friday) is an assigned equipment maintenance day. With the addition of a minimum of 5 hours of mowing at the new park, the Grounds Crew would lose part of this critical equipment maintenance day.

- **Decrease in Maintenance Levels**

Park Unit Level

- The new park, operating at Mode 2 service, would suffer the following impacts:
 - Less clean restrooms (only cleaned once-a-day)
 - Eroded playfield turf and grounds (reduced maintenance level)
- The main park in the unit would suffer the following impacts from reallocation of staff time:
 - Reduction in Service level from Mode 1 to Mode 2
 - Less clean restrooms (only cleaned once-a-day)
 - Grounds and picnic areas less clean
 - More weeds (less labor available for manual weed abatement - IPM)
 - Less pruning to shrubbery / trees
 - Less squirrel control
 - Reduction in park renovation projects
 - Reduction in Trail Maintenance

Grounds Crew

The Grounds Crew would suffer the following impacts from reallocation of staff time:

- Reduced equipment maintenance would result in reduced equipment lifespan.
- Delayed repairs to infrastructure and irrigation systems resulting in brown / dead spots in lawns.

PARK OPERATIONS – PUBLIC SAFETY

Costs related to Park Operations for an urban park of approximately 10 acres can be attributed to staff time based on type of patrol response, patrol frequency, and patrol duration.

Patrol Standards

There are numerous factors that affect the patrol frequencies and duration:

- A proactive or reactive patrol model
- The size of the park
- Location or proximity of the park to its primary park unit

- Infrastructure within the park, such as play grounds, restrooms, reserveable group areas, trail connections, parking lot, and gates to open or close.
- Crime analysis for the area

Law Enforcement / Public Safety

The following are potential Enforcement / Public Safety Issues related to operating an urban park that would likely occur more frequently than in a regional park setting. The frequency of these types of issues would play a large role in dictating what level of patrol would ultimately be required for the park.

- Drug / Alcohol Use
- Vandalism
- Sex Offenses Against Children
- Misuse of the Bathrooms
- Parking Issues
- Dog Complaints / Bites
- Accident Reports
- Gang Activity
- Homelessness
- After Hours Use
- Noise Complaints
- Disputes Over Sports Field Reservations
- Adjacent Community Relations

Proactive Patrol Plan

Under a proactive patrol model, Park Rangers would actively patrol the park to enforce applicable park ordinances and for general law enforcement and vandalism deterrence. They would also respond to calls for service. The frequency of calls for service is unknown and is not factored, and would likely be covered by one or a combination of the three following methods: 1) Park Ranger response from an adjacent Park Unit; 2) mutual aid from City of San Jose Police; 3) and/ or mutual aid from the Office of the Sheriff.

- **Peak Season Patrol Standard – Proactive Model**

Weekends

The Park would be patrolled twice a day. One morning patrol check (1hr) and one closing patrol check (1.5 hrs). There would be an estimated 2 hours total travel time (30 minutes each way, 2 x a day) from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 4.5.

$$26 \text{ weekends} \times 2 \text{ (Sat/Sun)} = 52 \text{ days} \times 4.5 \text{ hrs} = 234 \text{ patrol hours}$$

$$234 \text{ hrs} \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} = \underline{\$12,615}$$

Holidays

The following holidays occur on weekdays during peak season: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. On these weekday holidays, the Park would be patrolled twice a day. One morning patrol check (1.5 hrs) and one closing patrol check (2.0 hrs). There would be an estimated 2 hours total travel time (30 minutes each way, 2 x a day) from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 5.5.

$$3 \text{ weekday holidays} \times 5.5 \text{ hrs} = 16.5 \text{ hrs patrol hours}$$

$$16.5 \text{ hrs} \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} = \underline{\$890}$$

Weekdays

On weekdays, the park would be patrolled once a day at closing (1.5 hrs). The time includes estimated 60 minute travel time, to and from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 2.5.

$$5 \text{ days} \times 2.5 \text{ hours} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = 325 \text{ patrol hours}$$

$$325 \text{ hrs} \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} = \underline{\$17,526}$$

Peak Season Patrol Cost – Proactive Model \$31,031

- **Off Season Patrol Standard – Proactive Model**

The Park would be patrolled once a day at closing (1hr), 7 days per week. The time includes estimated 60 minute travel from an adjacent park.

$$7 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ hrs} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = 364 \text{ patrol hours}$$

$$364 \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} = \$19,623$$

Off Season Patrol Cost – Proactive Model \$19,623

- **Total Annual Cost - Proactive Model \$50,654**

(Total excludes the cost for an unknown number of calls for service.)

Reactive Patrol Plan

Under a reactive patrol model, Park Rangers would respond only for calls for service during the day and to check the park and lock the restroom at night. The frequency of calls for service is unknown and is not factored, and would likely be covered by one or a combination of the three following methods: 1) Park Ranger response from an adjacent Park Unit; 2) mutual aid from City of San Jose Police; 3) and/ or mutual aid from the Office of the Sheriff.

- **Peak Season Patrol Standard – Reactive Model**

Weekends

The Park would be patrolled once a day on weekends at closing (1 hr). The time includes estimated 60 minute travel, to and from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 2.0.

$$\begin{aligned} 26 \text{ weekends} \times 2 \text{ (Sat/Sun)} &= 52 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ hrs} = 104 \text{ patrol hours} \\ 104 \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} &= \underline{\$5,607} \end{aligned}$$

Holidays

The following holidays occur on weekdays during peak season: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. On these weekday holidays, the Park would be patrolled at closing (1.5 hr). The time includes estimated 60 minute travel, to and from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 2.5.

$$\begin{aligned} 2.5\text{hrs} \times 3 \text{ days} &= 7.5 \text{ patrol hours} \\ 7.5 \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} &= \underline{\$404} \end{aligned}$$

Weekdays

On weekdays, the Park would be patrolled once a day at closing (45 minutes). The time includes estimated 60 minute travel, to and from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 1.5.

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \text{ days/wk} \times 1.75 \text{ hours} \times 26 \text{ weeks} &= 227.5 \text{ patrol hours} \\ 227.5 \times \$53.91 \text{ cost per hour} &= \underline{\$12,265} \end{aligned}$$

Peak Season Patrol Cost – Reactive Model \$18,276

- **Off Season Patrol Standard – Reactive Model**

The Park would be patrolled once a day at closing (30 minutes), 7 days per week. The time includes estimated 60 minute travel, to and from an adjacent park. Total hours per day 1.5.

7 days/wk x 1.5 hour x 26 weeks = 273 patrol hours
 273 x \$53.91 cost per hour = \$14,717

Off Season Patrol Cost – Reactive Model \$14,717

- **Total Annual Cost - Reactive Model \$21,268**

PARK OPERATIONS COMPARISONS

Patrol Type	Peak Season	Off Season	One Time Costs	1rst Year	Annual
Proactive Model	\$31,031	\$19,623	n/a	\$50,654	\$50,654
Reactive Model	\$18,276	\$14,717	n/a	\$	\$32,993

(Projected costs exclude the cost for an unknown number of calls for service.
 The ongoing annual cost does not consider inflation.)

Frequency Of Calls For Service – Urban Park

Park Rangers from the City of San Jose Parks report that they *do not* patrol the neighborhood parks, except for the regional Parks like Cunningham, Alum Rock and the Guadalupe River area. Instead, the City of San Jose Police covers the patrol in neighborhood parks as part of their routine patrol function.

In addition, they do not collect patrol or incident statistics for the urban parks. However, based on experience, the typical calls for service are related to alcohol, drug use and

sales, trash complaints, graffiti, vandalism and site disputes. Of these types of calls, graffiti and drug use/sales are the most prevalent.

Further, staff reported that the more regulations that were imposed, the more calls or complaints they would receive regarding violations or disputes -especially related to regulations effecting use of the picnic sites or play fields.

Typically, calls for service for similar violations, as noted above, occurs less frequently in a regional park. Noted reasons we could expect a higher level of calls for service in an urban include the following:

- No gates (open access vs. the controlled access of a regional park)
- No entrance/parking fees
- Easy accessibility (easy in easy out, walk / ride to vs. drive)
- Demographics / neighborhood influence
- No on site staff
- Limited or no reservations
- High use in a concentrated area

For comparison, Los Gatos Creek County Park has an average of one call per service per day during peak season (usually dog off leash). If we assumed we would have at least one call a day at our urban park during peak season that would add an additional, 1.25 hours of patrol a day (1 hour travel, 15 minute contact). Over a 6 month season, that would amount to an additional 227 patrol hours.

This additional time has not been factored into our analysis. However, if it were, it would require additional shifting of resources from the adjacent unit which would further impact Park Operations at the adjacent unit to a greater extent than as discussed below.

Park Operations Program Impacts

Since we have assumed that no additional staff would be hired and no additional funds would be made available, patrol of an urban park would come at the expense of shifting resources from existing County Parks within the current Park Operations division.

The following measures would likely be taken to patrol one 10-acre urban park:

- **Changes In Responsibility For Park Units**

Park patrols and public safety response would likely become a shared and coordinated responsibility of the Ed Levin and Hellyer County Park units due to their proximity to the proposed park.

- **Changes In Shift Assignments For Park Units**

The following additional measures would likely be taken to provide patrol coverage and emergency response:

Peak Season

Opening shifts - would be assigned the new area of responsibility and opening staff would be required to patrol at least one time during the day under a proactive model. Opening staff would also need to be available for an undetermined amount of calls for service.

Closing shifts - would be adjusted (moved later) to compensate for the additional time needed to cover the new area of responsibility (i.e.: travel time, close bathrooms).

Off Season

Opening shifts - would be assigned the new area of responsibility but would not patrol the areas. They would, however, need to be available for an undetermined amount of calls for service.

Closing shifts - would be adjusted (moved later) to compensate for the additional time needed to cover the new area of responsibility (i.e.: travel time, close bathrooms).

The following impacts would likely occur by taking these measures:

- **Existing Parks Patrol Schedules**

The current staffing levels for the Ed Levin and Hellyer County Park units is at a minimum for the level of activity and coverage expected by staff assigned to these park units. The staff for both park units must cover shift assignments 7 days-a- week, 8 am to Sunset, year round for a large geographical area.

Ed Levin Unit Staffing / Coverage

There are six FTE Park Rangers assigned to the Ed Levin unit.

The current area of responsibility for Ed Levin staff includes Ed Levin, Grant, Penitencia Creek and Alviso County Parks.

Hellyer Staffing / Coverage

There are five FTE Park Rangers assigned to the Hellyer Unit

The current area of responsibility for Hellyer staff includes Hellyer, Coyote Creek Trail North Section, Santa Teresa, Joice Bernal Ranch, and Martial Cottle County Parks.

- **Reduction In The Level Of Patrol At Existing Parks**

The added responsibility of a new urban park would require a minimum of 10 hours of extra patrol time a week during the peak season, and 7 hours of patrol time a week in the off season.

This does not factor an undetermined amount of calls for service and associated travel time to respond to those calls.

The additional patrol needs of the new park will reduce the time spent in the current areas of responsibility.

- **Increase In Response Time**

Due to the larger geographic area of responsibility, the response time to calls for service will be extended and more time will be spent traveling between Parks. Travel time is non-productive time.

- **Decrease in Resource Management and Interpretive Activities**

The increase in geographic and patrol responsibility would mean less time was available for other tasks such as resource management projects and interpretive programs for the Park Rangers assigned to the two park units.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Planning/ Public Participation/ Environmental Review Process

The following describes the basic steps (pre-construction) that would be needed for the planning and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the development of a 10-acre neighborhood park. All actions noted below assume that the County would take the lead on planning and public participation process and CEQA work.

- **Preferred Concept Plan Development**

Conduct site analysis for opportunities and constraints. Develop preliminary draft park development program, goals and objectives. Complete a preliminary environmental scan of the project site for any potential environmental concerns. Develop a preferred concept plan for the neighborhood park and seek public participation and input on the draft planning documents.

Based on public input received, present preferred concept to the Advisory Commissions (Parks and Recreation Commission), HLUET Committee, and other bodies deemed appropriate and incorporate changes as may be required.

Depending on the complexity of issues presented in this review, it may be necessary to seek input from the Board of Supervisors and City Council. The desired end product from this phase would be authorization to proceed with the preparation of CEQA and lease documents.

- Public Outreach and Input

From the onset of the planning process, we would need to invite the public to participate in the planning of the park facility. Public outreach would include a forum for evaluating the project's goals and objectives, opportunities and constraints, and facility design and management. The desired end product from this phase would be to develop a preferred concept plan that addresses public and agency needs.

- CEQA and Lease Documents Preparation

Develop an initial study and appropriate CEQA analysis (e.g. Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report) for the preferred concept plan. Conduct public notification process for public review and comments and State Clearinghouse submission process. At the end of the public comment period, complete CEQA document. If needed, negotiate a lease or maintenance agreement with the County real estate staff and respective parties (e.g. City) to meet all parties' needs and objectives.

- Final Approval

Present final plan and CEQA document for adoption/approval by the Board of Supervisors. We may be required to present the final documents to the County Parks and Recreation Commission and HLUET Committee, depending on the level of public interest in the process. If applicable, present lease or maintenance agreement to County and City approving bodies at this time for approval.

Estimated Costs for Public Planning Process and CEQA Compliance

- Planning & public participation process \$150K - \$200K
(depending on level of public outreach and facilitation process)

- CEQA preparation and compliance costs \$50K - \$100K (depending on level of CEQA analysis)
- Completion of a master plan, public process, CEQA review and compliance would typically take about 20-25% of a Planner's time to manage the project and planning process.

Range of Estimated Planning Costs	\$200K - \$300K
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CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

Design Development and Construction Document Preparation

The following describes the basic steps (pre-construction and construction) that would likely be needed for the implementation of a park master plan for a 10-acre neighborhood park.

- Design Development

Transition from Master Plan, working with internal planning staff to determine scope of work. Prepare scope of work for design contract with consultant, negotiate and execute Project Agreement. Convene project team meetings, site visits, public meetings, coordination with utilities and other public agencies, prepare permit documents and coordinate with consultant.

- Construction Documents

Transition from Design Development, working with internal planning staff to verify tasks, products, specifications, permit requirements, user and staff needs to develop scope of work. Prepare scope of work for construction document and construction administration contract with consultant, negotiate and execute Project Agreement. Consultant to prepare plans and specifications. Convene project team meetings, site visits, public meetings, coordination with utilities and other public agencies, prepare permit documents and coordinate with consultant.

- Construction

Prepare construction document package for submittal to BOS for approval and authorization to bid. Convene pre-bid meeting, respond to any requests for information (RFI) from prospective bidders, assist consultant in preparation of addenda, plan revision for "Issue for Construction" plan set. Prepare bid report to BOS for award of contract, contract paperwork, convene pre-construction

meeting, convene weekly site meetings (prepare agendas and minutes for each meeting), schedule/coordinate inspections, collect and file daily reports, document progress of project, file paperwork, respond to RFIs, prepare and distribute bulletins and field modifications, coordinate work with utilities, evaluate proposed change orders, respond to contractor, issue change orders, review schedules and schedule updates, process contractor invoices, conduct inspections, prepare punch lists, certify project as complete, review close-out paperwork including as-builts, prepare for BOS Notice of Completion, respond to any claims, close out permits. This work typically takes about 20-25% of one project manager's time.

Estimated Costs for Design Development and Construction Management

- Design Development Consultant \$75K (depending on level of public outreach
Staff time (approx 10% time) \$10K (6 months)
- Construction Documentation Consultant \$200K
Staff (approx 15% time) \$15K (6 months)
- Construction
 - Construction Permits \$20K (inspections, misc costs)
 - Environ Permits \$5K
 - Construct contract \$10 million (@ \$1m/ac from City of SJ)
 - PMs time (approx 25% time) \$40K (9 months)
 - Sr Inspector (approx 25% time) \$30K (9 months)

Total Estimated Construction Costs \$10,395,000

City of San Jose Development Cost Comparison

The City of San Jose estimates their development and construction costs between \$1 million to \$1.5 million per acre. The estimate includes both hard and soft costs. The \$1.5 million per acre is for smaller land sizes, which tend to be more highly developed. The \$1 million per acre is for 5 acre and above, which is comparable to our 10-acre model. The lower cost for a larger parcel is associated with landscape features. Large landscape areas and soccer fields are less expensive to develop than .more intensified facilities found in smaller parks.

REAL ESTATE, LAND ACQUISITION

According to currently available data, it costs about \$1 million per acre to buy land in San Jose, depending on the area.

- Acquisition of urban park lands, and the associated contracts and deed restrictions, would typically take about 15-20% of a Sr. Real Estate Agent's time to manage the acquisition process.

Total Estimated Acquisition Costs \$10,000,000

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Special Events

County Parks would need to expand our special events management to include events in a city park, and sports field reservations. We would need to absorb these additional uses and operational impacts through shifting resources from existing Park programs within our Customer and Business Services division.

Park Ordinances

County Parks would need to revisit our Park ordinances and the Park fee schedule. Our current Park ordinances have been drafted for a regional park system with a regional park focus. There may be additional ordinances that would need to be developed related to an urban park environment, including but not limited to permissible park activities, street parking issues, and fees related to sports field reservations.

Integrated Pest Management Ordinance (IPM)

The IPM ordinance limits the Department's ability to use chemical weed abatement. Maintenance staff must rely on labor intensive methods for controlling weeds. When maintenance hours are cut from a park unit, weed overgrowth is a major impact.

Hazardous Tree Program

Due to the concentration of activity and Park visitors in a smaller park setting, our efforts to assess, monitor and manage park trees would need to increase in order to protect the natural resources and limit liability. The cost per acre to manage trees in an urban park would be more than in a regional park setting. If the operational budget does not increase to accommodate this additional expense, Department resources would need to be shifted from current tree management activities in existing parks, to the urban park.

BUTCHER PARK – AERIAL MAP



**ESTIMATED ANNUAL STAFF HOURS
MAINTENANCE SERVICE
MODE 1**

Task	Unit	Number of Units	Staff Hours per unit	Times per year	Total Time per Year
Mowing	1 acre	8	0.35	44	123
Fertilizing	1 acre	8	0.43	2	7
Top Dressing	1 acre	8	0.43	2	7
Overseeding	1 acre	8	0.8	2	13
Aerating	1 acre	8	2	2	32
Irrigation check	1 acre	8	0.5	44	176
Irrigation repair	1 acre	8	1	44	352
Line Trimming	1000 Lnft	1	1	52	52
Restroom Cleaning	1	1	0.5	1095	547.5
Picnic Site Cleaning	1	10	0.25	365	912.5
Litter Pick-up	1 acre	10	0.25	365	912.5
Hedge Trimming	100 lnft	1	1.5	12	18
Weeding (hand hoe)	1000 sqft	1	1	52	52
Basketball Court Maint	1	2	1	52	104
Ballfield infield maint	1	1	8	2	16
Blow-off Paths	1000 sqft	7	0.1	104	73
Playground Daily Inspect	1	2	0.25	301	150.5
Playground Weekly Inspect	1	2	0.5	52	52
Playground Monthly Inspect	1	2	1.5	12	36
Gopher Control	1 acre	8	0.5	52	208
				TOTAL	3844

Maintenance Costs – Mode 1 Service

Cost**Annual**

Operating*		\$156,595
Staffing^		
PMW - Park Unit	FTE	\$92,496
PMW - Grounds Crew	FTE	\$92,496
Seasonal Maint Worker	0.5 =520 hrs	\$8,105
	TOTAL	\$349,692

One Time**Vehicles**

1/2 Ton Pick-up		\$25,000
3/4 Ton Pick-up		\$30,000

Equipment

Toro 4000		\$60,000
Trailer		\$10,000
Small Tools		\$2,500

	TOTAL	\$127,500
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Total Start-up Costs	=	\$477,192
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**ESTIMATED ANNUAL STAFF HOURS
MAINTENANCE SERVICE
MODE 2**

Task	Unit	Number of Units	Staff Hours per unit	Times per year	Total Time per Year
Mowing	1 acre	8	0.35	32	90
Fertilizing	1 acre	8	0.43	2	7
Top Dressing	1 acre	8	0.43	1	3
Overseeding	1 acre	8	0.8	1	6
Aerating	1 acre	8	2	1	16
Irrigation check	1 acre	8	0.5	32	128
Irrigation repair	1 acre	8	1	32	256
Line Trimming	1000 Lnft	1	1	26	26
Restroom Cleaning	1	1	1	365	365
Picnic Site Cleaning	1	10	0.25	365	912.5
Litter Pick-up	1 acre	10	0.25	365	912.5
Hedge Trimming	100 lnft	1	1.5	12	18
Weeding (hand hoe)	1000 sqft	1	1	12	12
Basketball Court Maint	1	2	1	52	104
Ballfield infield maint	1	1	8	1	8
Blow-off Paths	1000 sqft	7	0.5	52	182
Playground Daily Inspect	1	2	0.25	301	150.5
Playground Weekly Inspect	1	2	0.5	52	52
Playground Monthly Inspect	1	2	1.5	12	36
Gopher Control	1 acre	8	0.5	12	48
				TOTAL	3333

Maintenance Costs - Mode 2 Service

Cost**Annual**

Operating*		\$126,595
Staffing^		
PMW - Park Unit	FTE	\$92,028
Seasonal Maint Worker	1040 hrs	\$16,209
	TOTAL	\$234,832

One Time**Vehicles**

1/2 Ton Pick-up		\$25,000
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Equipment

Small Tools		\$2,500
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	TOTAL	\$27,500
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TOTAL START-UP COSTS = \$262,332

Leininger Center - Citywide Sports

1300 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112

Tel (408) 794-6527 Fax (408) 286-3682 Rain Out Hotline (408) 794-6532



Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Field Reservation Fees (Fees subject to change at discretion of Director of PRNS)	*User Type I (Youth, Seniors or Disabled Only)	*User Type II (Adult - Resident)	*User Type III (Non Resident)
Application Fee - Per each field request (non-refundable)	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00
Standard Practice Field Informal- No backstops, dugouts, goals or lines marked Formal Ball Diamonds/Turf Fields- Ball diamond with a backstop and/or dugouts	\$4.00 per hour	\$20.00 per hour	\$40.00 per hour
High Use Competitive Field (RAMAC & Watson 2 turf) Softball & Soccer Fields	\$25.00 per hour	\$60.00 per hour	\$80.00 per hour
Premiere Synthetic Turf Field (Leland & Watson) Stadium, East, West Fields, & Watson 1	\$50.80 per hour	\$125.00 per hour	\$125.00 per hour
Softball/Baseball/Field/Turf Sports Tournaments 1 or 2 fields, 1 or 2 days, no lights, no field prep, no staff	\$200.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Additional fields for softball/baseball/field/turf sport tournaments	\$100.00 each field	\$250.00 each field	\$250.00 each field
Non-Lit Tennis Courts Outdoor Tennis Courts rental is per court, all outdoor facilities, Non- lit tennis courts	\$2.00 per hour per court	\$5.00 per hour per court	\$8.00 per hour per court
Lighted Tennis Courts Outdoor Tennis Courts rental is per court, all outdoor facilities, Lighted tennis courts	\$4.00 per hour per court	\$7.00 per hour per court	\$10.00 per hour per court

Additional Field Costs & Information

Outdoor Park Lights - Not all parks have lighting for night rental Fee is in addition to hourly reservation fee Two (2) hour minimum required	\$40.00 per hour
Field Prep - Field/Turf Sports One time lining of field with applicable meeting	\$175.00 per field / per day
Field Prep - Ball Diamonds One time lining of diamond with applicable meeting	\$45.00 per field / per day
Portable Toilets- Berryessa and Roosevelt and other fields as deemed necessary	\$105 per month
Snack Shack - An Additional fee with scheduled use of a sports field	\$225.00 per day with \$100.00 Damage Deposit.
Must provide proof of liability insurance if field is reserved for more than one day use	

Cancellation, Change & Rush Fees

More than ninety (90) days prior to reservation date	\$50.00 fee
Within ninety (90) or fewer days of reservation date	25% of estimated fees
Within thirty (30) or fewer days of reservation date but prior to 48 hour notice	50% of estimated fees
Less than 48 hours notice	100% of estimated fees
There are NO REFUNDS for inclement weather	
Changes made to reservation per change per permit	\$20.00 per change
Rush Fee in addition to Application Fee received less than 30 days prior to event (non-refundable)	\$30.00 each application
All changes MUST be in writing	

**TOTAL URBAN PARK BUDGET
MODE 2 MAINTENANCE / REACTIVE PATROL**

DESCRIPTION	REVENUE	ONE TIME COSTS	ONGOING COSTS
Revenue			
Sports Field Reservations	<u>\$20,000</u>		
Acquisition			
10 acres x \$1 Mil		\$10,000,000	
Planning & Environmental Review		\$300,000	
Design, Development & Construction Management		\$10,395,000	
Maintenance - Mode 2			
Tools / Equipment		<u>\$27,500</u>	
Staffing			\$108,237
Supplies			\$126,595
Park Operations			
Public Safety - Reactive Mode			
Staffing			<u>\$32,993</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$20,000</u>		
TOTAL ONE TIME COSTS		<u>\$20,722,500</u>	
TOTAL ANNUAL COST			\$267,825
Less Revenue			<u>\$20,000</u>
Net Estimated Annual Operation Cost			\$247,825
Estimated Acquisition / Development Costs			\$20,695,000
One Time Operations Cost			\$27,500



S U P P L E M E N T A L
L E T T E R S O F I N T E R E S T



**SUGGESTED MOTION FOR ADOPTION BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING THE USE OF THE COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND WITHIN URBAN AREAS**

We urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt the following motion in order to:

- a. Honor the intent of the voters who approved the extension of the County Parks Charter Fund,
- b. Maximize the beneficial uses of the Charter Fund for current and future generations, and
- c. Help address the needs of parks-deficient urban neighborhoods,

MOTION	NOTES
<p>1. Accept the following recommendations of the County Parks Department staff, as amended by the Board's Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee on April 12, 2012:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Enhance the County Parks Department's leadership and support of urban trails [Staff Recommendation #1]b. Enhance the County Parks Department's activities to coordinate with cities to address urban parks needs [Staff Recommendation #2]c. Amend the Parkland Acquisition Plan: 2011 Update and 2012 Update to reflect and be consistent with this motion [Staff Recommendation #4]	<p>These are Staff Recommendations endorsed by HLUET</p>
<p>2. Reaffirm the central role of "regional/countywide significance" in County parks and trails activities and the use of the County Parks Charter Fund</p>	<p>This is based on a HLUET recommendation.</p>



MOTION	NOTES
<p>3. Within urban areas, focus on activities that will facilitate the completion of existing gaps in the urban trail network – including the Coyote Creek Trail, Three Creeks Trail, Five Wounds Trail, Penitencia Creek Trail, and trail connections to the Berryessa BART station, among others</p>	<p>This is consistent with the overwhelming wishes of those who participated in the community outreach efforts of the County Parks Department, at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.</p>
<p>4. Replace Staff Recommendation #3 regarding unincorporated urban islands with the following: “Address the needs of parks-deficient urban neighborhoods, such as Alum Rock and Burbank, through the provision of trails and parks of countywide significance within or near these neighborhoods”</p>	<p>This would acknowledge and address the needs of parks-deficient neighborhoods, without having to change long-standing County plans, policies, and practices – and without having to amend the General Plan.</p>
<p>5. Delete Staff Recommendation #5 regarding amending the General Plan</p>	<p>Staff Recommendation #5 is unnecessary, in light of item #4 of this motion</p>





Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

MAY 22 2012

May 22, 2012

To: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
From: Garnetta Annable, Spokesperson
Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Re: **COUNTY PARKS ACQUISITION POLICIES WITHIN URBAN AREAS**

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of many community leaders, elected officials, and organizations who have a long history of supporting the creation of an outstanding system of regional parks, trails, and open space lands here in Santa Clara County, we are writing in response to the Board of Supervisors' request for public comment regarding the County's Parks acquisition policies within urban areas.

We have heard that this subject will be agendized for Board action at its June 5th meeting. Given the great importance of the issues involved, we did not want to wait until the agenda has been posted before making our views known to you.

We are sending you our comments and recommendations now, so that you will have ample time to consider them.

PART 1: SUMMARY OF OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggested Criteria for County Decision Making Regarding Urban Parks and Trails: Integrity, Effectiveness, and Vision

Although there are a number of different issues involved, we believe that ultimately there are three basic criteria that should guide the Board of Supervisors' decision making with regard to the County's roles in urban area parks and trails acquisition:

1. Integrity,
2. Effectiveness, and
3. Implementing the vision of an excellent countywide system of regional parks and open space lands, linked by a network of regional trails.

Summary of Our Recommendations

Our basic recommendations are as follows:

1. Reaffirm the central role of "countywide significance" in County parks and trails activities and the use of the County Parks Charter Fund
2. Within urban areas, focus the County's limited Charter Fund resources on completing critical missing links in existing trails – including the Coyote Creek Trail, Three Creeks Trail, and the Five Wounds Trail – which will provide the greatest overall public benefits
3. Address the needs of parks-deficient urban neighborhoods with parks and trails of countywide significance
4. Enhance the County's leadership and support for urban trails
5. Enhance coordination with cities to address urban parks needs





PART 2: SUGGESTED BASIC CRITERIA FOR DECISION MAKING

Basic Criteria for County Decision Making: Integrity, Effectiveness, and Vision

Although there are a number of different issues involved, we believe that ultimately there are three basic criteria that should guide the Board of Supervisors' decision making with regard to the County's roles in urban area parks and trails acquisition:

1. Integrity,
2. Effectiveness, and
3. Implementing the vision of an excellent countywide system of regional parks and open space lands, linked by a network of regional trails.

Integrity

The role and importance of integrity arises in at least two different ways

1. The Integrity of Adopted County Plans and Policies

Over the past four decades, virtually every major parks and trails plan and policy adopted by the County has affirmed and reaffirmed that the County's role with regard to meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County's residents has been that of providing of parks and trails of countywide significance.

[see Attachment A: "An Introduction to the Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund and Current Issues Regarding Its Use"]

Regional or countywide significance has been the cornerstone for County parks and trails policy in such documents as:

- a. "A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County" – which was adopted as part of the County's General Plan in 1972 and has provided the vision that has guided the implementation of the countywide parks and trails system ever since.
- b. The "Parks and Recreation" chapter of the County General Plan (revised and adopted 1995) – with which proposed parkland acquisitions using the County Parks Charter Fund must be consistent, as specified in voter-approved ballot measures.
- c. The "Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System" (adopted 2003) – which defines the mission of the County Parks Department, the vision it is seeking to implement, and how it will seek to implement that vision.





In addition to being a long-standing cornerstone of County parks and trails plans and policies, countywide significance has also guided the County's actual use of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The "Acquisition History" report recently prepared by the County Parks Department concluded that of the 62 land acquisition projects within the urban area that received funding from the County Parks Charter Fund since 1990, all of them were projects of countywide significance.

So neither long-standing County policies nor actual County acquisitions over the past twenty years support the use of the Charter Fund for small neighborhood parks, lacking in countywide significance.

Every Board of Supervisors over the past twenty years has upheld the integrity of adopted County parks and trails plans and policies through their decisions regarding the use of the Charter Fund. It is important that the current Board do so also.

2. The Integrity of the County's Obligations to the Voters

The County Parks Charter Fund – the primary source of funding for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of the County park system – exists because voters throughout Santa Clara County have approved its creation and extension in six separate elections over the past forty years.

Each time the Board of Supervisors has put countywide ballot measures before county voters to create or extend the County Parks Charter Fund, the ballot language has required that the Charter Fund be used only for projects that are consistent with the County General Plan.

The most recent County Parks Charter Fund extension ballot measure, approved in 2006 by 71% of the voters, included the following provision:

"The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted county parks and recreation element of the general plan."

According to the County Parks Department, all of the 62 urban area parks and trails land acquisitions funded by the Charter Fund over the past 20 years have been projects of countywide significance. There is no reason, therefore, that the voters would have expected that the money they were approving for the Charter Fund would be spent for small neighborhood parks. That would be a major departure from 40 years of consistent, adopted County policy – and at least 20 years of consistent County practice.



Since it is likely that the County may seek voter approval for further extensions of the County Parks Charter Fund in future years, it is important that the County maintain the integrity of its commitment to honor the will of the voters.

Asking the voters to approve public funding for one purpose, and then using the money for something else, would be a violation of the public's trust.

In all of the public forums and online polls conducted by the County Parks Department over the past two years, the public has repeatedly responded overwhelmingly that the completion of existing planned trails was its highest priority for County involvement within urban areas (along with protection and enhancement of riparian areas).

It would be another breach of faith with the residents of Santa Clara County if the Board were to ignore this clear direction from the public – which the Board solicited – by diverting County Parks staff and financial resources into providing small neighborhood parks within unincorporated islands – for which there was very little public support during the past two County Parks Department outreach processes conducted over the last several years.

Effectiveness

In addition to maintaining the integrity of adopted plans and policies and commitments to the voters, County decision making regarding the Parks Charter Fund should be guided by the goal of maximizing the effectiveness of the Fund's use.

Although it may currently appear that there is a substantial amount of unspent money in the Charter Fund, it is insufficient to fund all of the urban trail projects of countywide significance that are currently waiting to be implemented – including several important trail projects near parks-deficient neighborhoods.

These projects, when completed, will provide not only significant recreation benefits, but also significant transportation, air quality, and climate change mitigation benefits, due to their potential to be used by large numbers of county residents, both for recreation and transportation purposes.

Diverting County staff and financial resources to create small neighborhood parks within unincorporated islands – which may entail ongoing, long term County funding – is not an effective use of the limited amount of money available in the Charter Fund.

If the County wishes to provide enhanced leadership in meeting urban parks and trails needs, it should focus its attention on urban trails projects of countywide significance that have not yet been completed. These are the projects that have the potential to provide the greatest recreation, transportation, and public health benefits and most effectively meet the needs of Santa Clara County's current and future residents.





Implementing the Vision of a Countywide System of Regional Parks and Trails

Great parks, trails, and open space systems are often the result of big, bold visions and plans, that are implemented, piece-by-difficult-piece over a number of years, and even decades.

Such has been the case with regard to the regional parks and trails system in Santa Clara County.

Four decades ago, visionary leaders from throughout Santa Clara County came together to develop a master plan for an interconnected, countywide system of regional parks and trails, within both urban and rural areas, that would meet the long term needs of our ever-growing population.

That vision was expressed in "A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County," which has provided the basic blueprint for the great regional parks, open space, and trails network that has evolved in this county over the intervening years – and continues to evolve.

It has been a vision that has served Santa Clara County well and has withstood the test of time.

As Santa Clara County's population continues to grow, and as many places in Santa Clara County continue to transition from suburban toward urban, it is important that County parks and trails efforts continue to be guided by and focused on the critical elements of that big, bold vision of a regional parks and open space system, linked by a network of trails of countywide significance – in both urban and rural areas.

Now more than ever, the County needs to be focusing its attention, its leadership, and its limited resources on the "Big Picture" – by working to support and facilitate the completion of the major elements of the countywide system, and avoiding the distractions, diversions, and lost opportunities that would result from the County becoming involved with the provision of small, neighborhood parks.

PART 3: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. REAFFIRM THE CENTRAL ROLE OF "COUNTYWIDE SIGNIFICANCE" IN COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS ACTIVITIES

The Board of Supervisors should clearly and unequivocally reaffirm long-standing County plans, policies, and practices that state that the County's role in meeting Santa Clara County's current and future parks and recreation needs is that of providing parks and trails of "countywide significance."





For the past four decades, the County has consistently articulated the importance of countywide significance as the guiding principle for the County parks system and the County Parks Department. That principle has been reaffirmed in every major plan and policy the County has adopted regarding parks and trails – including the County’s General Plan and the County Parks Department’s Strategic Plan.

And for at least the past twenty years (the timeframe for the Parks Department’s recent analysis), every Board of Supervisors has adhered to these plans and policies through the actions it took with regard to the expenditure of funds from the County Parks Charter Fund (i.e. the parks and trails acquisitions they authorized within urban areas of Santa Clara County were only for projects of countywide significance).

There is no compelling reason that the current Board of Supervisors should now make a radical departure by abandoning or modifying these long-standing plans and policies that have been repeatedly reaffirmed by previous Boards through the plans and policies they adopted and the acquisitions they have authorized.

2. WITHIN URBAN AREAS, FOCUS THE COUNTY’S LIMITED RESOURCES ON COMPLETING CRITICAL MISSING LINKS IN EXISTING TRAILS

Santa Clara County’s “Plan of Regional Parks,” which was first adopted four decades ago, set forth a very bold and ambitious vision for a countywide system of parks and trails to meet the needs of Santa Clara County’s growing population.

The vision of that ambitious plan has served as the basic blueprint for countywide parks and trails acquisition and development activities ever since.

As a result, with the active involvement of the cities and other agencies, great progress has been made toward building an outstanding, interconnected system of regional parks, trails, and open space areas for current and future generations.

But, despite the significant progress that has been made over the years, much remains to be done to complete the implementation of that grand blueprint, particularly with regard to completing the missing trail links within the urban area.

Among the important urban trails with critical gaps that should be receiving priority attention by the County Parks staff are the:

- Coyote Creek Trail,
- Three Creeks Trail – that will provide a much-needed east-west connection between the Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and the Los Gatos Creek Trails, and
- Five Wounds Trail



In addition, now is the time the County should be working to assure that there are safe and convenient trail links to the Berryessa BART station that is currently being planned near Coyote Creek. These trails can serve both transportation and recreation purposes.

All of these urban trails have the potential not only to provide important recreational benefits for a great many people, but will also provide transportation, air quality, and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits as well.

Parks Department staff time and/or funding spent looking for small neighborhood park sites in unincorporated areas is time that will be taken away these other important projects which have the potential to benefit far more people and provide a wider array of public benefits.

The County does not have sufficient financial or staff resources to do everything that may be requested of it. It needs to prioritize how it uses its limited funds and staff resources so that they provide the maximum public benefit.

Both of the public outreach processes conducted by the County Parks Department over the past several years have received the same feedback from the public – Give highest priority to completing the gaps in the existing urban trails system.

The Board asked the public for this feedback, now it should heed it.

3. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PARKS-DEFICIENT URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH PARKS AND TRAILS OF COUNTYWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

Some urban neighborhoods (both in cities and unincorporated areas) are parks-deficient.

The County Parks Department has identified two unincorporated islands (unincorporated areas that have not yet chosen to annex into the surrounding city), portions of which are parks-deficient, according to the Department's analysis. The total number of parks-deficient residents within these two islands account for less than 1% of Santa Clara County's total population.

The question before the Board, if it wishes to improve access to parks and trails in these two areas, is whether it should change 40 years of consistent County policies and at least 20 years of consistent actions by Boards of Supervisors in order to do so.

Or, can recreation opportunities in those areas be improved in ways that are consistent with the policies and practices that have guided the County for the past several decades – and which will simultaneously improve recreation opportunities for many thousands of others?



We strongly believe that, for numerous reasons we have already articulated in this letter, that it is preferable to do so in ways that are consistent with existing County plans, policies, and practices.

The County's General Plan very clearly states that:

"The provision of public regional parks and recreation facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government." (Policy C-PR 15)

and

"The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreation facilities should be the responsibility of cities and other appropriate agencies." (Policy C-PR 16)

And the "Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System" states that the mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is:

"to provide, protect and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations."

If the County were to begin providing small neighborhood parks, it would be contrary to these and various other adopted County plans and policies.

To provide consistency between the County's policies and its actions, these plans and policies would need to be amended to allow exceptions for the County to provide small neighborhood parks.

Going through the process of making these changes in County plans and policies would divert staff resources or funding in the County Parks Department that could otherwise be used for other, more beneficial purposes – such as working on the completion of missing links in our urban trails network (as discussed above).

It would also divert County Planning Office staff from their current work on the Health Element of the County's General Plan.

Rather than diverting County staff resources to look for small neighborhood park sites for the County to acquire and to amend various existing plans and policies to allow for such acquisitions, it would be far preferable for the County to focus on the completion of parks and trails projects of countywide significance that are located within or near parks-deficient urban neighborhoods.

For example, several of the incomplete major urban trails of countywide significance mentioned earlier (Coyote Creek, Five Wounds, Three Creeks) are located in the general vicinity of the Alum Rock area.



Completing these trails, and connecting them into neighborhoods of East San Jose, would help to address parks deficiencies in these areas – without having to create permanent changes in longstanding County plans, policies, and practices.

Instead of diverting County Parks staff and funds into further studies and activities related to the provision of small urban parks, the County should direct the Parks Department to prepare a report on the status of implementation efforts on major urban trails of countywide significance and how their completion could help address the needs of parks-deficient urban neighborhoods.

4. ENHANCE THE COUNTY'S LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR URBAN TRAILS

We have not yet seen the final recommendations that came out of the Board's Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee.

But we support the recommendations regarding this subject that were contained in the County Parks staff report to the HLUET Committee on April 12, 2012.

5. ENHANCE COORDINATION WITH CITIES TO ADDRESS URBAN PARKS NEEDS

We have not yet seen the final recommendations that came out of the Board's Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee.

But we support the recommendations regarding this subject that were contained in the County Parks staff report to the HLUET Committee on April 12, 2012 – with the proviso that the County's role in meeting urban parks needs should only involve the provision of parks and trails of countywide significance.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: An Introduction to the Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund and Current Issues Regarding Its Use
- Attachment B: Basic Principles for County Parks Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions Within Urban Areas
- Attachment C: Endorsements for the Basic Principles Proposed by the Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space





**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND
AND CURRENT ISSUES REGARDING ITS USE**

November 2011

Part 1: OVERVIEW

**The County is Seeking Public Input Regarding
the Appropriate Uses of the County Parks Charter Fund in Urban Areas**

At the direction of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the County Parks Department has been seeking public input regarding appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund in urban areas.

Long-standing County Parks Policies are Threatened

The County Parks Charter Fund is the primary source of funding for the County Parks Department's acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations activities within both rural and urban areas.

Since its initial creation by the voters forty years ago, the County Parks Charter Fund has only been used for parks and trails projects of countywide significance, that provide benefits to residents throughout Santa Clara County. The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreation facilities has been the responsibility of the cities, and other agencies such as local school districts.

Some members of the Board of Supervisors are seeking to change these long-standing County policies and practices to eliminate the requirement that projects funded by the Charter Fund must be of countywide significance. They would like to be able to use the Fund for small neighborhood parks within their supervisorial districts.

**Maintaining the Integrity of the County Parks Charter Fund
and the County General Plan**

The proposed changes to the County Parks Charter Fund acquisition policies would undermine the integrity of the Charter Fund by allowing it to be used for purposes the voters have never been asked to approve when extension of the Charter Fund has been put before them.

This could erode the widespread public support that the Charter Fund has had from voters over the years – and reduce the prospects for voter approval in the future. (In 2006, the Charter Fund extension received 71% approval from the voters.)

The proposed changes would also undermine the credibility of the County's General Plan and the County Parks Department's Strategic Plan – both of which clearly state that the County's role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of our county's residents is that of providing **regional** parks and trails that are of **countywide significance**.



Meeting Current and Future Countywide Needs

Santa Clara County currently has a population of around 1.8 million people. Projections from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) indicate that our county's population may grow by almost half a million more residents over the next twenty years.

During that same time period, we will be facing increasing challenges in responsibly managing our county's natural resources, as climate change alters our natural environment.

In an era of limited financial resources for local governments – and for the County Parks Charter Fund – it is important that the Charter Fund's resources be used wisely in order to maximize its benefits in meeting both current and future countywide needs in urban and rural areas.

Expenditure of funds from the Charter Fund for small, neighborhood parks that would benefit relatively few people would divert money that would otherwise be used for parks and trails of countywide significance that would benefit far more people. It would also divert money needed to meet the increasing challenges of responsibly managing our county's diverse natural resources as climate change continues to occur.

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space is an informal coalition of individuals and organizations that believes the creation of a countywide system of interconnected rural and urban parks, trails and open space areas is essential to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Santa Clara County – for the benefit of current and future generations.

With the financial resources needed to create that countywide system rapidly shrinking during the present economic downturn, it is more important than ever that the County Parks Charter Fund be used wisely – in accordance with long-standing County policies.

And it is also more important than ever that the many organizations and individuals that support the creation of that countywide system let the Board of Supervisors know that we are united in our commitment to seeing that the Charter Fund is used only for parks and trails of countywide significance – in both urban and rural areas.

We welcome your support in that effort through your endorsement of the "Basic Principles" for the appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund prepared by the Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space.

We also encourage you to make your views known to the Board of Supervisors through your own letters, emails, and calls.





Part 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Plan of Regional Parks

Since 1972, when the County adopted “A Plan of Regional Parks for Santa Clara County” as part of its General Plan, the County’s role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County’s residents has been to provide “regional” parks that are of countywide significance, i.e. that serve the recreational and open space needs of residents from throughout the county.

The provision of neighborhood and citywide parks has been the responsibility of the fifteen cities, working with other agencies – particularly school districts, whose many school sites throughout the urban area have afforded opportunities for joint use by both students and other residents of their nearby communities.

The Plan of Regional Parks – and its division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities – has served as the basic blueprint for the outstanding countywide system of regional parks and trails that residents of Santa Clara County enjoy today.

County General Plan

The fundamental policies regarding the division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities for the provision of parks and recreation lands and facilities have been adopted or reaffirmed by prior Boards of Supervisors as part of the County’s General Plan in both of the comprehensive General Plan reviews that have occurred since the Plan of Regional Parks was adopted.

The “Parks and Recreation: Countywide Issues and Policies” section of the County’s current General Plan clearly articulates the division of roles and responsibilities between the County and the cities in the following policies:

- C-PR 15: The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government.
- C-PR 16: The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of cities and other appropriate agencies.

[Note: The reference to “other appropriate agencies” in policy C-PR 16, as explained in the background text for that section of the General Plan, does not include the County.]



If the Board of Supervisors were to begin providing neighborhood parks of only local significance, it would be contrary to these General Plan policies and would undermine the credibility of both the County and its General Plan.

County Parks Charter Fund

In order to assure a predictable, ongoing source of revenue for the County's regional park system, the Board of Supervisors in 1972 asked County voters to approve an amendment to the County Charter – the "constitution" that provides the basic framework for the functions of County government.

That amendment, which was approved by the voters in a countywide election, established the County Parks Charter Fund which annually sets aside an assured amount of money from the County General Fund to support County parks land acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance.

The ballot measure approved by the voters assured funding for a specified number of years. In six separate elections since its initial approval, voters have overwhelmingly supported the extension of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The most recent extension approved by voters occurred in June 2006 when voters approved County "Measure B," which extends the Charter Fund through the end of FY 2021. This extension was approved by an overwhelming 71% of the voters countywide.

The Voters Guide mailed to the homes of all registered voters prior to the June 2006 election regarding Measure B included the following "Impartial Analysis from the County Counsel":

"The purpose of this measure is to ensure that a minimum amount of money be placed into the County park fund for acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of County parks."

The text of the ballot measure approved by the voters includes the following provisions:

- (2) "The Board of Supervisors shall appropriate the money in the county park fund for the acquisition, development, or acquisition and development of real property for county park purposes and for the maintenance and operation of county parks."
- (3) **"The county shall not acquire real property for any park purpose until the Board of Supervisors has determined that the acquisition is in conformity with the adopted county parks and recreation element of the general plan."** [emphasis added]



With regard to the latter provision of the ballot measure requiring consistency with the parks and recreation element of the County General Plan, it bears repeating that the General Plan states that:

- C-PR 15: The provision of public regional parks and recreational facilities of countywide significance both in urban and rural areas shall be the responsibility of county government.
- C-PR 16: The provision of neighborhood, community, and citywide parks and recreational facilities should be the responsibility of cities and other appropriate agencies.

Use of the County Parks Charter Fund monies for neighborhood parks – as has been proposed by some members of the Board of Supervisors – would not only violate the provisions of the County Parks Charter Fund ballot measure approved by voters, but would also violate the policies of the County General Plan.

County Parks Strategic Plan

In 2003, following over 2½ years of effort and community outreach, the Board of Supervisors adopted a “Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System.”

The mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, as stated in the adopted Strategic Plan is:

“to provide, protect and preserve **regional** parklands [emphasis added] for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.”

The vision statement of the Strategic Plan reads as follows:

“We create a growing and diverse system of **regional** parks, trails, and open spaces **of Countywide significance** [emphasis added] that connects people with the natural environment, offers visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, and balances recreation opportunities with resource protection.

The County’s role in meeting the parks and recreation needs of Santa Clara County residents was very clearly articulated as being that of providing regional parks of countywide significance – not of duplicating the role and the efforts of the cities by providing neighborhood parks of only local significance.

Arbitrarily changing or ignoring these policies would essentially negate the “Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System” adopted by the Board of Supervisors after over 2½ years of effort and extensive community outreach.





County Parks Charter Fund Acquisition Priorities Community Outreach Process - 2009

In June 2009, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Parks Department to undertake a review of the acquisition priorities of the County Parks Charter Fund.

The County Parks Department, together with a hired consultant, conducted an extensive review of County parks and recreation plans and policies and held five community workshops throughout the county to receive public input regarding the parks acquisition priorities for the County Parks Charter Fund.

The overwhelming feedback obtained from those public outreach sessions, reported to the Board in 2011, was that the County should continue to focus on the provision of parks and recreation areas of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.

Many people, from throughout the county, participated in this community outreach process. Failure of the Board of Supervisors to follow the guidance provided by the public during this outreach process will call into question the sincerity of this – and future – County efforts to obtain community input.

County Parks Charter Fund Acquisition Priorities Community Outreach Process - 2011

Apparently not satisfied with the community input that was received from the public outreach process initiated in 2009 and concluded in 2011, the Board of Supervisors subsequently directed the County Parks Department to conduct another round of public outreach, focused on the use of the County Parks Charter Fund within urban areas.

The motion adopted by the Board at that time, although claiming to reaffirm long-standing County policies regarding the use of the Charter Fund, notably omitted the phrase “of countywide significance,” which has been the cornerstone of County parks policy for the past four decades.

By omitting that cornerstone phrase, it has opened the door to allowing the use of the Charter Fund for small, neighborhood parks which will divert resources away from meeting far greater countywide needs.

CONCLUSION

We are at a very critical juncture in Santa Clara County’s decades-long efforts to create an interconnected system of regional parks, trails, and open space lands – a system whose importance will continue to grow over time.

To meet current and future challenges, we need to continue to focus the County Parks Charter Fund expenditures exclusively on regional parks and trails of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.

File: Friends Fact Sheet 04.indd





Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS WITHIN URBAN AREAS

About the Friends

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space is an informal coalition of individuals and organizations that believes that the creation of a countywide system of interconnected rural and urban parks, trails and open space areas is essential to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Santa Clara County.

Purpose of These Basic Principles

The Basic Principles in this document were prepared in response to a request by the County Board of Supervisors for public input regarding appropriate uses of the County Parks Charter Fund for parkland acquisitions within urban areas of Santa Clara County.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS WITHIN URBAN AREAS

The Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space supports the following Basic Principles and urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt them as part of the County of Santa Clara Parkland Acquisition Plan.

Principle #1: Consistency with Voter Intent and with County Plans and Policies

The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used in ways that are consistent with:

- a. The Charter Fund ballot language approved by the voters,
- b. The County General Plan's parks and urban development policies
- c. The County Parks Department's Strategic Plan

Principle #2: Countywide Significance

The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used for parks and trails – in rural and urban areas – that are of countywide significance.

Principle #3: Parks Deficient Areas

High priority should be considered for proposed urban parkland acquisitions of countywide significance within or near areas that are parks deficient.

BACKGROUND

The County Parks Charter Fund

The County Parks Charter Fund is the primary source of funding for the Santa Clara County Parks Department. Over the past forty years, it has been one of the major sources of funding for the expansion of Santa Clara County's regional parks, trails, and open space system – both in rural and urban areas.

It was initially authorized by voters throughout Santa Clara County in 1972 for the purpose of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining lands for the County parks system. Voters have subsequently authorized the extension of the Charter Fund on six separate occasions – most recently in 2006, when its extension was approved by an overwhelming 71% of county voters.

Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions

Historically, the County Parks Charter Fund has been used to fund acquisition of lands for parks and trails – of countywide significance – in both rural and urban areas.

The County has used the Charter Fund to work with numerous other agencies and organizations to create a growing network of regional parks and open space areas within rural areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Diablo Range, and their foothills, connected by a regional trails network that includes the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Within urban areas and along the Bayfront, the Charter Fund has been used by the County to work with the cities and others in creating a major urban trails network that includes the Bay Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Penitencia Creek Trail, San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail, and the Guadalupe River Park and Trail. Many of these trails provide connections to the regional parks, trails, and open space areas in the hillsides and Baylands – or are planned to do so in the future.

While much has been accomplished over the past forty years to create an outstanding countywide system of interconnected regional parks, trails, and open space areas in Santa Clara County, much remains to be done – both in rural and urban areas.

This important unfinished work includes efforts to complete the missing gaps in the countywide trail system within urban areas, through projects such as the Three Creeks and the Five Wounds Trails in San Jose, and others that will link the urban area to hillside parks, trails, and open space lands. It also involves a number of important land acquisitions and trail connections in the hillsides and mountains.

As Santa Clara County's population, recreation, and natural resource management needs continue to grow, it is critical that:

- a. The Charter Fund's integrity is maintained – i.e. that it be used only for purposes that are consistent with what voters authorized – so that it retains widespread public support, and
- b. Its limited resources are used wisely – on projects of countywide significance – to maximize their benefits for both current and future generations.



ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE "BASIC PRINCIPLES" PROPOSED BY THE FRIENDS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

Former County Supervisors

Blanca Alvarado
Dianne McKenna
Joe Simitian
Susie Wilson

Organizations

Committee for Green Foothills
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
Friends of the Coyote Valley
Greenbelt (FROG)
Greenbelt Alliance
New Almaden Quicksilver County
Park Association
Santa Clara County League of
Conservation Voters
Thrive! Morgan Hill

Others

Larry Ames
Garnetta Annable
Eric Carruthers
Gloria Chung Hoo
Larry and Pat Coons
Tom Ferrito
Jim Foran
Julie Hutcheson
Trixie Johnson
Pete Kutras
Bob Levy
Kitty Monahan
Vicki Moore
Connie Rogers
Don Weden
Beth Wyman



April 4, 2012

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street
10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Parkland Acquisition Plan - 2011 Update: Urban and Suburban Park Needs

Dear Chairman Shirakawa and Supervisors:

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority appreciates the opportunity to offer comment on the County Parks and Recreation Department's *Parkland Acquisition Plan – 2011 Update* regarding development of a formalized acquisition program to address urban and suburban park needs.

Since 2000, the County Parks Department and the Open Space Authority have successfully partnered on a number of regionally significant park and open space projects in both the unincorporated areas of the County and within urban and suburban areas. These park and open space projects were successful because they attracted multiple funding sources, including the Park Charter Fund, the Authority's District 1 benefit assessment, voter-approved state bond funds (Prop. 84) and contributions from cities and foundations. Leveraging funding has been key to completion of projects such as Rancho Canada del Oro (2000) and Blair Ranch (2008) in the unincorporated area and Santa Teresa Historic Park (2003), Martial Cottle (2006) and Three Creeks Trail (2012) in the urban and suburban areas. In these challenging economic times, it is critical that we be as efficient as possible with limited public funds. This means leveraging resources and funding to make strategic public investments, prioritizing projects with a large community benefit, and creatively addressing the operation and maintenance of park, open space and trail projects.

A recent analysis by County Parks showed that 32% of County parkland acquisition expenditures have been on properties within the Urban Service Area. This is an impressive record of accomplishment considering that many special districts in the Bay Region, including the Open Space Authority, typically spend about 20-25% of their acquisition dollars in urban areas.

As the County develops a formalized acquisition program to address urban and suburban park needs, it will be critical that the program include specific guidelines and criteria to prioritize park charter fund expenditures which emphasize the following themes: *connectivity, partnerships and sustainability*.

- *Connectivity* – Connecting existing parks and open space across the County and closing the critical gaps in the regional and subregional trail network called for in the Countywide Trails Master Plan, Bay Area Ridge Trail, and Bay Trail; coordinating with cities to acquire and complete the region's urban trails network, including Penitencia Creek, Three Creeks Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Guadalupe River Trail and the proposed Five Wounds Trail.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

April 4, 2012

Page 2

- *Partnerships* – Increasingly, public and private funders are prioritizing investment in park, open space and recreation projects that demonstrate regional or community-wide benefit, pool multiple sources of funding, and can demonstrate creative approaches for both acquisition and long-term management and stewardship.
- *Sustainability* – Finding creative funding partnerships to care for our existing parks, open space and trails facilities which have and will continue to benefit public health and the quality of life in the County; emphasizing those urban projects that contribute to sustainable communities by linking parks and trails to existing and future transit and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Parkland Acquisition Plan Update.

Sincerely,



Andrea Mackenzie

General Manager

Cc: Board of Directors, Open Space Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Space Authority



Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space

MAY 22 2012

May 22, 2012

To: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
From: Garnetta Annable, Spokesperson
Friends of Santa Clara County Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Re: **COUNTY PARKS ACQUISITION POLICIES WITHIN URBAN AREAS**

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of many community leaders, elected officials, and organizations who have a long history of supporting the creation of an outstanding system of regional parks, trails, and open space lands here in Santa Clara County, we are writing in response to the Board of Supervisors' request for public comment regarding the County's Parks acquisition policies within urban areas.

We have heard that this subject will be agendaized for Board action at its June 5th meeting. Given the great importance of the issues involved, we did not want to wait until the agenda has been posted before making our views known to you.

We are sending you our comments and recommendations now, so that you will have ample time to consider them.

PART 1: SUMMARY OF OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggested Criteria for County Decision Making Regarding Urban Parks and Trails: Integrity, Effectiveness, and Vision

Although there are a number of different issues involved, we believe that ultimately there are three basic criteria that should guide the Board of Supervisors' decision making with regard to the County's roles in urban area parks and trails acquisition:

1. Integrity,
2. Effectiveness, and
3. Implementing the vision of an excellent countywide system of regional parks and open space lands, linked by a network of regional trails.

Summary of Our Recommendations

Our basic recommendations are as follows:

1. Reaffirm the central role of "countywide significance" in County parks and trails activities and the use of the County Parks Charter Fund
2. Within urban areas, focus the County's limited Charter Fund resources on completing critical missing links in existing trails – including the Coyote Creek Trail, Three Creeks Trail, and the Five Wounds Trail – which will provide the greatest overall public benefits
3. Address the needs of parks-deficient urban neighborhoods with parks and trails of countywide significance
4. Enhance the County's leadership and support for urban trails
5. Enhance coordination with cities to address urban parks needs



Miller, Melissa

From: Clysta <clysta@igc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2012 6:42 PM
To: BoardOperations
Subject: Park Charter Fund and trails

THIS RELATES TO
8/21/12 Item No. 14
Supplemental Information No.
3

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please continue to use the County Parks Charter fund for parks and trails of countywide importance and not dilute these funds by any change to support parks in local neighborhoods.

I am following up to my previous letter to let you know that I consider the August 21st vote an important vote.

Please carefully follow issues with multi-use trails. It is imperative that trails are safe, especially for young children, their mothers, seniors and people using canes and wheelchairs. Often walking is the only form of exercise these populations can afford. Needs must also be met for those with a love of walking in and enjoying nature safely. Standing still and watching wildlife or flora is a part of a trail walk. Our uses are not for competitive training or commuting and we want our needs met.

Citizens must not be scared off the trails by packs of speeding or inattentive cyclists, snarling dogs or predators -- figure out ways to keep us safe in urban neighborhood trails to connect to our wonderful county trails.

Thank you.

Clysta Seney McLemore

Miller, Melissa

From: Jan Fenwick <fenwickjan@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 2:43 PM
To: BoardOperations
Subject: Agree with Comm. for Green Foothills position

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Changing the Charter Fund's primary purpose of Funding parks and trails of countywide significance should not be changed; however, a policy of prioritizing funding for trails located in urban areas that are deficient in park resources, sounds every reasonable.

Also we urge you to adopt the Planning Office's recommendations for winery regulations.

Thanks you!

Jan Fenwick
28011 Elena Rd.
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
FenwickJan@aol.com

Miller, Melissa

From: jomanoogs@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 4:49 PM
To: BoardOperations
Subject: County Parks Charter Fund

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to uphold the County's longstanding policy of using the County Parks Charter Fund for parks and trails of countywide significance, not for small neighborhood-serving parks. Please prioritize funding for urban trails that are in or near parks-deficient unincorporated areas so that everyone can enjoy walking, running and biking on the County's famed trails network. Your actions on August 21 can help the County achieve its goals of promoting healthy outdoor activity, reducing traffic-related air pollution and greenhouse gases, and supporting walkable and sustainable communities.

Sincerely,

Jone Small Manoogian
759 Maplewood Place
Palo Alto, CA 94303
jomanoogs@comcast.net

Jone Small Manoogian
jomanoogs@comcast.net
650-493-0214



August 17, 2012

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
70 W. Hedding St., 10th floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Parkland Acquisition Plan

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Committee for Green Foothills (CGF) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Parkland Acquisition Plan (Agenda item #14). CGF is a regional organization advocating for the protection of open space and natural resources in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. We have supported the County Parks Charter Fund throughout its history and believe fundamentally in its mission to, in the words of the ballot argument for the 2006 reauthorization of the Parks Charter Fund, “protect watersheds and wildlife, purchase natural areas of outstanding scenic quality, rehabilitate and maintain park facilities, expand access to urban and rural trails, and provide adequate staffing for all County parks.”

CGF opposes the Parks Department Staff’s Options A and B, which propose that the County Parks Charter Fund should be used for the provision of small, neighborhood-serving parks in urban unincorporated areas such as Alum Rock and Burbank. Although we certainly recognize that residents of these areas deserve to have access to parks and trails just like anyone else in the County, we believe that a better way to accomplish this goal is for the County Parks Charter Fund to be used for the provision of regional parks and trails of county-wide significance that are in or near those parks-deficient areas. Therefore, we support Option C, which proposes that the Parks Department prioritize the search for property to be developed into trails and parks of countywide significance within or near the unincorporated islands.

Options A and B are inconsistent with the General Plan, the intent of the voters, and the history of the County’s parkland acquisition role, all of which have always stated that the Parks Charter Fund may only be used for parks and trails “of countywide significance.” Small, neighborhood-serving “pocket parks” do not fit this description and are not an appropriate use of the County Parks Charter Fund, not even on a “one-time basis” as proposed by Option A, and certainly not as a permanent change in policy as proposed by Option B.

Fortunately, it is not necessary to divert the County Parks Charter Fund to the acquisition of small neighborhood parks. The Parks Department’s community outreach process determined that “there was the greatest support for acquisition of parks and connective trails in unincorporated urban areas to link existing parks and recreational facilities and to facilitate public access to recreational resources.” In addition, walking, running and biking are among the top preferred recreational activities in the County, and the best way to support these activities is through provision of trails, especially in urban areas where residents can easily access them. For example, there are currently gaps in the trail network in San Jose that could be completed through funding of such trails as the Coyote Creek Trail, the Three Creeks Trail, and the Guadalupe River Trail.

Option C would have the added advantage of rendering unnecessary the time-consuming and complex process of amending the General Plan. Such an amendment process would take between 6 to 12 months and would occur at a particularly inopportune time, when Planning staff has just embarked on the overall General Plan update process.

The County's longstanding commitment to completing the urban trail network benefits the community in multiple ways, including promoting healthy and active lifestyles, encouraging sustainable and walkable neighborhoods, and reducing greenhouse gases and traffic. We believe that in focusing on provision of regional trails of countywide significance rather than on neighborhood-serving "pocket parks," the County will not only be benefiting healthy and green communities, but will be upholding the longstanding policy pertaining to the Parks Charter Fund and fulfilling the wishes of the voters who authorized it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice Kaufman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alice Kaufman
Legislative Advocate, Committee for Green Foothills