



San Ramon

Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan

June 2020





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1 | Plan Summary

PLAN PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION

Since its incorporation in 1983, the City of San Ramon has valued parks and open spaces as part of residents' quality of life. Located in Contra Costa County in the Tri-Valley area of the eastern San Francisco Bay area, the city's mix of rolling hills, valley floor, and views of Mount Diablo create a scenic backdrop for its residents. In addition to the surrounding open spaces, the city is home to 57 parks, four community centers, two aquatic facilities, two performing arts theatres, and two gymnasiums.

Established in 1985, the Parks and Community Services Department has completed three ten-year Master Plans to provide guidance for parks, facilities, and program development and offerings over the last 34 years. The most recent plan was completed in 2008 and updated in 2016. Since that time, the city has continued to grow and diversify. Outdoor recreation trends underscore the need for access to trails and the value people put on open space. To address these changing needs, trails and open space are included as part of the ten-year parks and recreation master plan.

The Master Plan's primary purpose is the development of a clear set of objectives that provide direction to City staff, the Parks and Community Services Commission, the Planning Commission, and the City Council for development, re-development, expansion, and enhancement of the City's parks system, trails, open spaces, recreation facilities, and programs for short-term (5 year) and long-term (10 year) planning, in accordance with General Plan 2035 Implementing Policy 6.5-1.14.

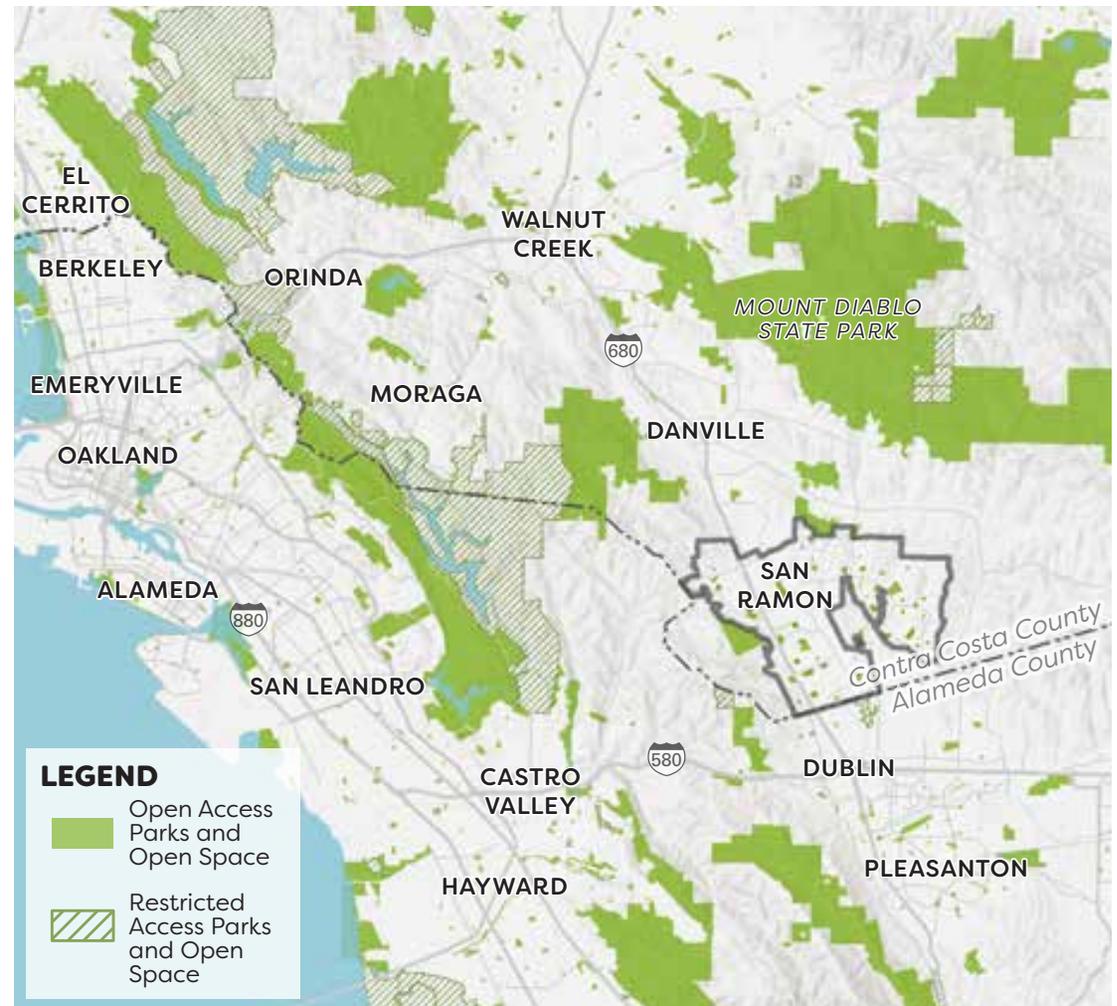


Figure 1: City of San Ramon Surrounding Context

Vision

San Ramon Parks and Community Services creates community through people, parks, partnerships, and programs.



HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

ORGANIZED BY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles are broad initiatives describing what the City of San Ramon aspires to achieve. The four principles evolved out of assessment of the parks, trails, open space, and recreation system and community input received throughout the planning process. Together, the Department's mission, vision, and guiding principles chart a course toward ensuring long-term sustainability and the ability of park resources to contribute to community wellness.

The Master Plan has four guiding principles (the order listed below does not indicate priority):

1. Interconnected
2. Conservation of and Connection to Nature
3. Inclusive
4. Balance Quality and Quantity

Each principle is presented in greater detail in Chapter 3. Content associated with each theme includes:

- Why is this Important and Key Takeaways
- Community Input
- Opportunities for Improvement

Chapter 4 provides implementation considerations for the projects and program opportunities described in Chapter 3. The timeframe and priority for recommendations are provided. Order of magnitude capital improvement costs and impacts on operation budgets are summarized.





Interconnected

Improving and expanding trails and enhancing the shade and seating opportunities along the Iron Horse Trail provides connectivity to parks and open spaces, removes barriers, and encourages walking and biking. These recreation activities can help improve public health.



Conservation of & Connection to Nature

Balancing the stewardship of natural resources with providing access to open space and natural areas provides benefits to emotional and physical well-being. Residents treasure the hills, ridges, creeks, canyons, and open space resources of San Ramon. In addition to conserving and providing access to open space, parks and programs can incorporate nature-based features and sustainable practices.



Inclusive

Providing parks, trails, open spaces, facilities, and programs that are welcoming to all of San Ramon's existing and future residents encourages use by all people and can improve wellness and community cohesion. San Ramon's demographic is aging and diversifying. Amenities, programs, and communications need to adapt to changing needs, trends, and technology in order to offer recreation experiences for residents of all ages, abilities, and cultures.



Balance Quality & Quantity

Creating positive recreation experiences for the residents of San Ramon is the Department's most important task. This commitment requires planning for the future to ensure appropriate acreages of parks, facilities, trails, and open spaces are available. It also requires adequate financial resources and operational methods to maintain and renew facilities and equipment and to offer quality programming and customer service.

COMMUNITY INPUT

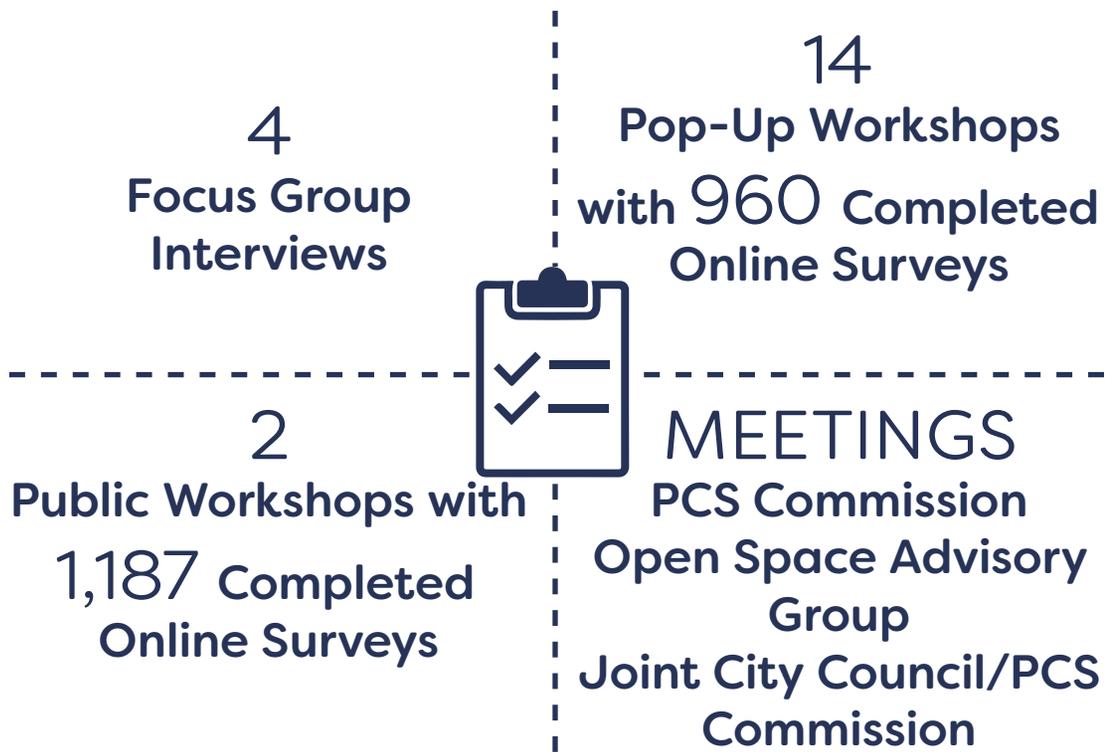
OVERVIEW

Starting in the fall of 2018, the master planning process kicked off robust community engagement efforts to understand residents' recreation needs and interests. Community engagement events included stakeholder focus group interviews, online surveys, pop-up workshops, joint Parks and Community Services (PCS) Commission and City Council meetings, and large community workshops. Outreach efforts were also dovetailed with engagement activities related to programming and community interests for the future of Crow Canyon Gardens.

To allow for broad representation and input, efforts focused on meeting people where they were gathering and providing on-line engagement opportunities. City staff took workshop materials to 14 community events and gathering places throughout the fall of 2018 to gather feedback from the public. Materials were translated into Mandarin and Hindi to create a welcoming atmosphere, remove potential barriers for communication, and invite all residents to participate.

The investment in public engagement underscores the City's commitment to align with community desires and identify opportunities for improving the parks, trails, open space, and recreation system. The Master Plan's four themes of Interconnected, Conservation of & Connection to Nature, Inclusive, and Balance Quality & Quantity evolved directly out of these planning efforts and community input.





Focus Group Interviews Topic Areas

- PARKS AND RECREATION USERS
- OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS
- DIVERSE/MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TOP PRIORITIES COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEYS AND WORKSHOPS:

- “A balance of updating existing parks/ venues and acquiring new lands and venues while trying to be fiscally responsible.”
- “Access to nature will foster an appreciation for our earth and will help us be better stewards of this one earth.”
- “Large shade trees to help with shade and helping with climate change.”
- “Bike paths and hiking trails.”
- “Maintain existing facilities and bring in innovative play ideas. And bring the community together with music and arts.”
- “Trees along Iron Horse Trail.”
- “Re-engineering many parks to be designed to better serve our aging population all weather trails should replace crushed granite or hard-packed dirt; more benches located in both shade and sun. Restrooms in parks.”

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

RECOMMENDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Opportunities for improvement are overarching recommendations that reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for potential Master Plan improvements. As the City continues to adapt to changing economic, environmental, community, and recreation trends, care has been given to provide recommendations that offer direction but also remain flexible to meet the changing needs and recognize the City's finite resources.

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following criteria should be used to guide the organization and prioritization for funding and implementation.

- Provides the greatest impact to address community needs and preferences. The project receives community and stakeholder support.
- Has a funding source or a funding source can be identified.
- Fills a gap in the current system. The project completes a trail system or provides parks and open space in an area that is needed.
- Has moderate to low impact on maintenance and operations expenses.
- Improves facilities that have reached end-of-life usability.
- Aligns with City partners' planning efforts. The City will work with partners to prioritize future projects that overlap and align with regional planning efforts.
- Offers a high return on investment or maximizes public resources.
- Addresses needs associated with growth and increased demand.
- Provides multiple benefit for both parks and recreation and other community and environmental needs.

FEASIBILITY

For close to 35 years, the Department has provided recreation facilities to the community. As the decades pass, facilities age and need repair. Some facilities and properties are also used under partnership with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) and are not owned by the City. With limited funds and Bay Area construction costs increasing annually, the City carefully chooses projects for upgrades and repair.

TOP TEN OPPORTUNITIES

Page 8 lists a summary of the opportunities for improvement and page 9 describes a top ten priority list of potential project types that the City will consider implementing. Some projects require coordination with regional partners and continued support from the community for sustaining current levels of funding. See Master Plan prioritization on page 6 for information on how these potential projects have been selected.



SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES



Interconnected

- Enhance the Iron Horse Trail
- Create a network of connected and inviting trails
- Develop a Framework Plan for a Walking District near the City Center
- Improve signage and wayfinding to trails
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity across I-680



Conservation of & Connection to Nature

- Acquire, preserve, and maintain open space and its natural resources for future generations
- Define and measure the City's open space and trails system
- Provide facilities and programming that connect people to nature
- Increase use of sustainable maintenance practices



Inclusive

- Reflect and meet the needs of an aging and diversifying city
- Develop park amenities and events that promote wellness and community connectedness to reduce social isolation and relieve stress
- Utilize partnerships to increase use of park facilities
- Use technology to increase park use and participation in recreation programs



Balance Quality & Quantity

- Maintain existing park and maintenance service levels to sustain the city's visual quality and access to parks and recreation (consider increased levels, if paid for by users)
- Add amenities to parks where distribution needs indicate
- Renew existing facilities to increase use, address trends, and diversify amenities
- Accommodate the demand for sports field use
- Utilize technology and tracking and performance measures to establish and execute programming, operations, and maintenance
- Increase financial resources to meet maintenance and service level needs

TOP 10 OPPORTUNITIES



Shade & seating along the Iron Horse Trail



Paved walking loops in parks



Preserve open space



Biking & walking path connections



Unpaved loop trails in open spaces



Cricket pitch



Iron Horse Trail overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon



Lighted basketball court



Facility renovations



Nature-based play equipment & programming



2 | Background

HISTORY OF SAN RAMON PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

According to the City's documented interview with Byron Athan in 2015, the ability to develop neighborhood and community parks was one of the three primary reasons San Ramon residents voted for incorporation in 1983. The first Parks Advisory Committee was appointed in 1983 and was instrumental in working with the Dublin-San Ramon Service District (DSRSD) to approve a park dedication ordinance requiring development to set aside a minimum of 3 acres of parks per 1,000 people.

Two years after incorporation, the Parks and Community Services Department was formed. A year later, in 1986, the City's first general plan was adopted and the Park and Recreation Element set the level of service standard of 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This goal reflected the desire for park access.

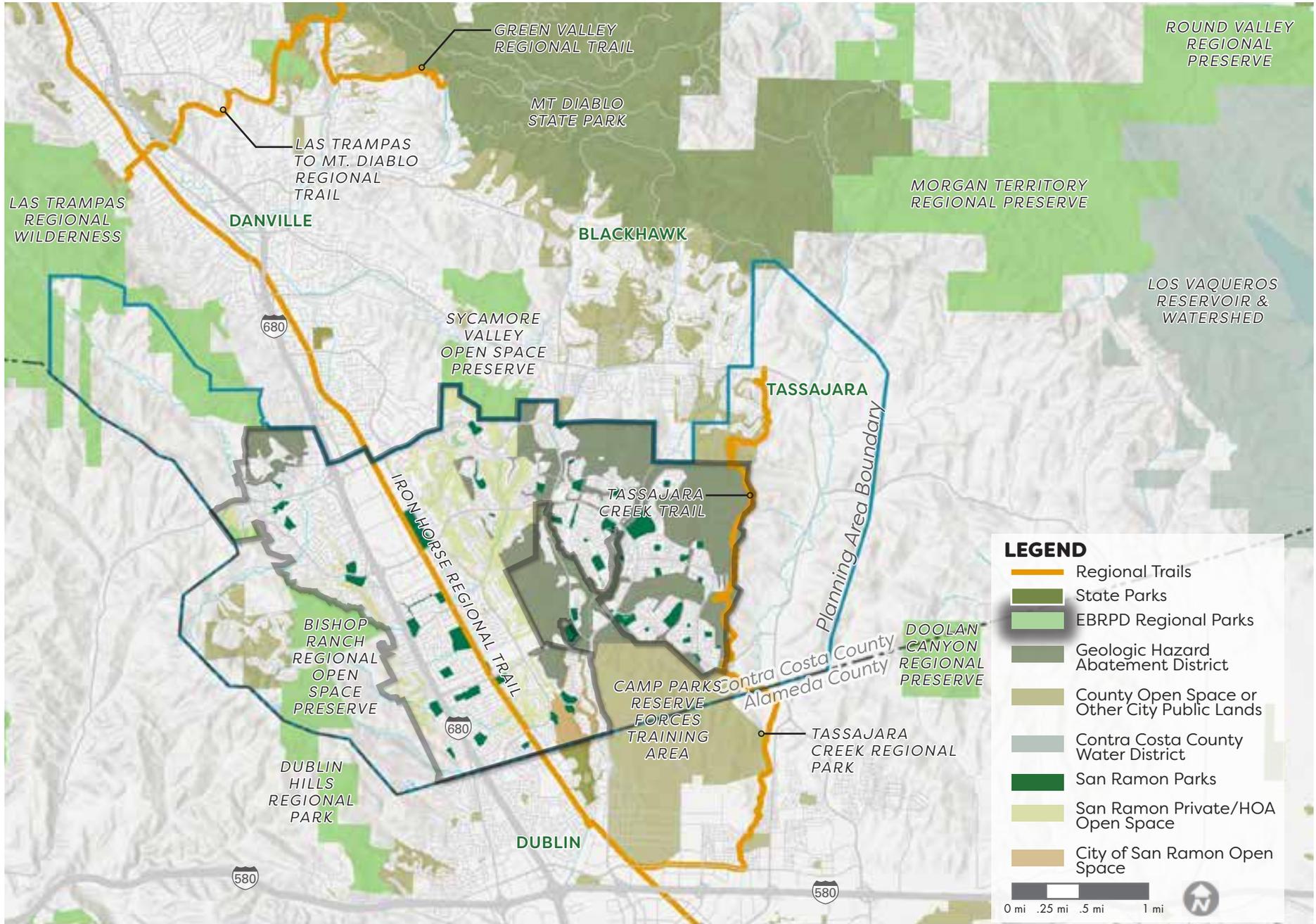
The importance of parks and recreation motivated early planning and development and is still a core value for residents. The first Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 1987 and two subsequent 10-year master plan updates have regularly been developed.

The City's first park, Central Park (originally named Vista San Ramon Park), was also developed in 1987. The parks and recreation system has grown from 40 acres in 1983 to 377 acres in 2019. The cooperative joint use agreements with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) developed in 1987 play a significant role in the parks provided today.

In addition to parks, San Ramon is home to a variety of recreation facilities. Residents have access to regional open spaces managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The EBRPD also manages the Iron Horse Trail, a regional trail running north/south through city.



REGIONAL CONTEXT



PEOPLE WE SERVE

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY GROWTH TRENDS

Updating the Master Plan allows City staff and decision-makers an opportunity to evaluate how parks, trails, open space, and recreation programming are aligned with community needs. As neighborhoods grow and change, their demands for recreation access differ. It is important to consider both the current demographic makeup and projected future changes. Looking toward the future helps inform recommendations to prepare for potential needs.

The population projections and estimates and demographic data presented in this section is taken from the City of San Ramon's 2035 General Plan population build-out projection, the California Department of Finance (DOF) 2019 Population Estimates, and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst reports using American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates and U.S. Census data.

The population numbers, projections, and demographic data is provided as a reference. It does not represent highly detailed estimates and projections. Rather, the information is used to identify trends that can be applied to guide planning decisions. Significant local, regional, national, and global events can impact projections. For example, the boom in the Bay Area's tech industry influences growth pressures in San Ramon. Throughout the life of the Master Plan, the City should biannually review demographic projections and identify significant variations that may influence the plan's recommendations.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH

San Ramon has consistently experienced high rates of population growth over the last decade. According to the California Department of Finance (DOF) population estimates, the city grew from 44,722 residents in 2000 to 72,148 residents in 2010 and to 83,957 residents in 2019. The city's growth rate between 2010 and 2019 was 14.1 percent, over 150 percent higher than Contra Costa County and Alameda County's growth rates (9.2 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively). And 210 percent higher than the statewide average of 6.7 percent growth.

A large portion of the previous years' growth was accommodated with development in Dougherty Valley. During this time, a number of new parks were constructed as part of developer agreements to meet the growing demand for parks.

As the city continues to grow, the acreage of park development must also expand to meet park level of service goals. Applying the city's annual growth rate between 2018 and 2019, over the next 10 years San Ramon will likely add 7,556 more residents. By 2035, the San Ramon General Plan estimates a population build-out of 96,174 residents. A summary of level of service goals and related population projections is provided on page 22.



Figure 2: Population Growth Projection

Source: California Department of Finance (DOF) January 1, 2019 City Population Estimates. The 2018 to 2019 annual growth rate estimated by the DOF on January 1, 2019 was applied over a 10 year period to project population growth. The San Ramon 2035 General Plan anticipated a 2035 buildout population of 96,174.

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY TRENDS

AN AGING POPULATION

Similar to regional and national trends, community growth is anticipated to be higher in older adults. As a whole, the state and the nation are aging. In the next five years, there is anticipated to be relatively flat growth for youth and adults, while the number of people aged 65 and older is growing more rapidly.

Although there will be a greater increase in the number of older adults than young adults, the city's overall age distribution will still reflect its high number of youth and young adults. As seen in Figures 3 and 4, the overall

number of residents between the ages of 18 and 49 is projected to remain steady. However, over 27 percent of the population will consist of youth and children under the age of 18.

Therefore, as the city adjusts to meet demands and provide facilities and programming for its older residents, it should continue to provide services and amenities for the younger generations.

2024 POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTION BY AGE GROUP

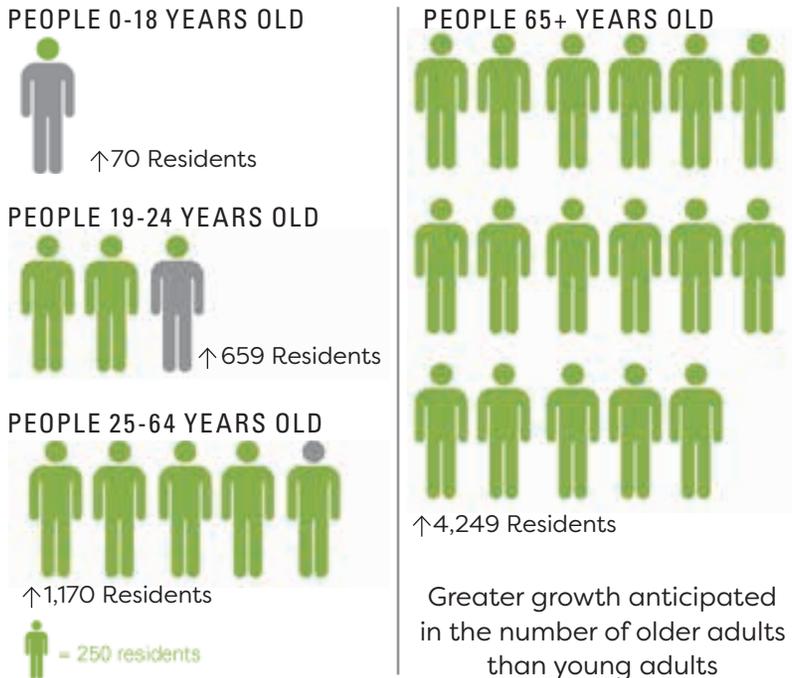


Figure 3: Population Growth Projection By Age Group

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Summary File; ESRI Business Analyst Forecast for 2024. Report generated July 17, 2019.

2010-2024 PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF AGE RANGES

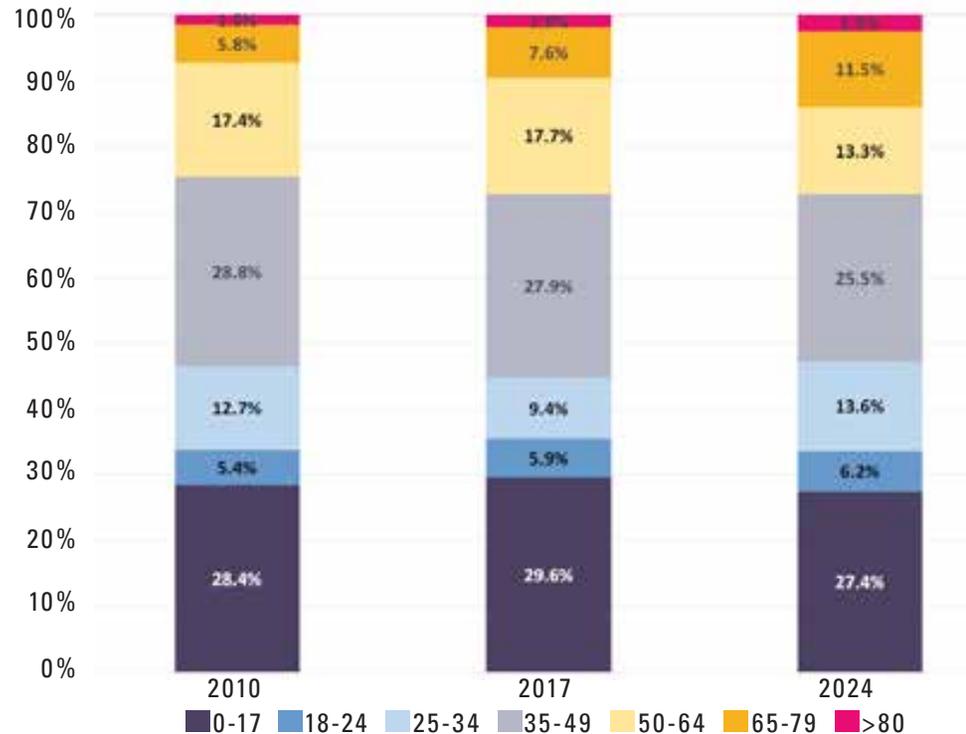


Figure 4: Percent Distribution of Age Ranges in San Ramon 2010-2024

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates Report and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Summary File; ESRI Business Analyst Forecast for 2024. Reports generated July 17, 2019.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Over the last 20 years, San Ramon shifted from a white majority to a city with a mix of cultures and identities. The change is most pronounced with the increase in residents who identify as Asian. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of Asian residents increased from 14 percent to 41 percent of the population.

A further evaluation of the ethnicity makeup within the Asian demographic shows a majority of Asian residents identify as Asian Indian. This significantly differs from

the county and state as a whole. However, it is aligned with other cities within the Tri-Valley area, such as Dublin.

The city celebrates its cultural diversity with community events and programming. It has also proactively worked to provide facilities, such as cricket pitches, to address recreation demands. Moving forward, cultural diversity should remain a strength of the parks and recreation system.

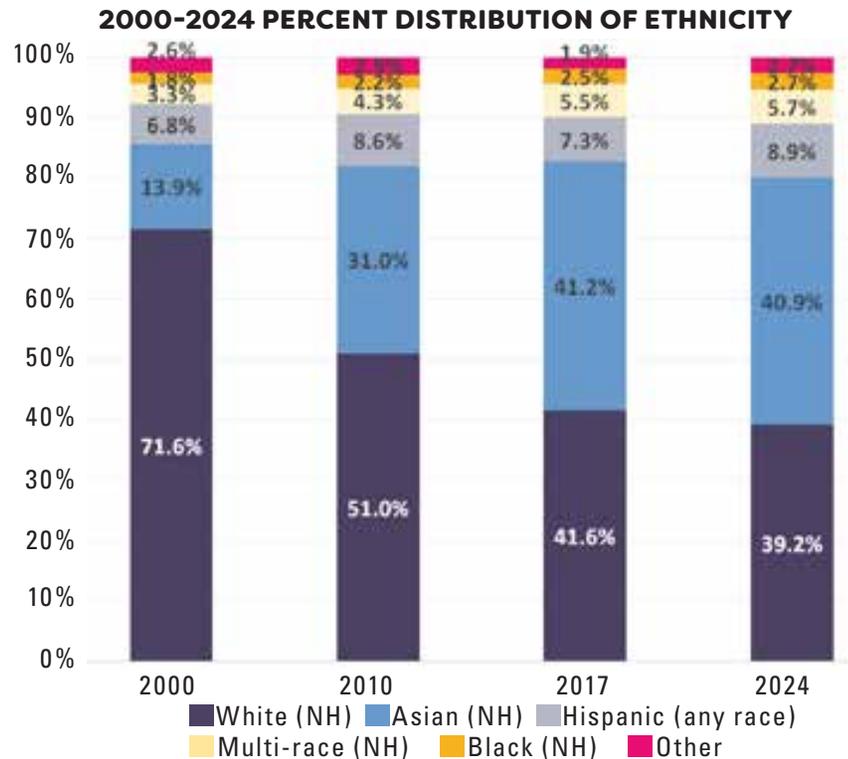


Figure 5: Percent Distribution of Ethnicity in San Ramon 2000-2024

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates Report and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Summary File; ESRI Business Analyst Forecast for 2024. Reports generated July 17, 2019.

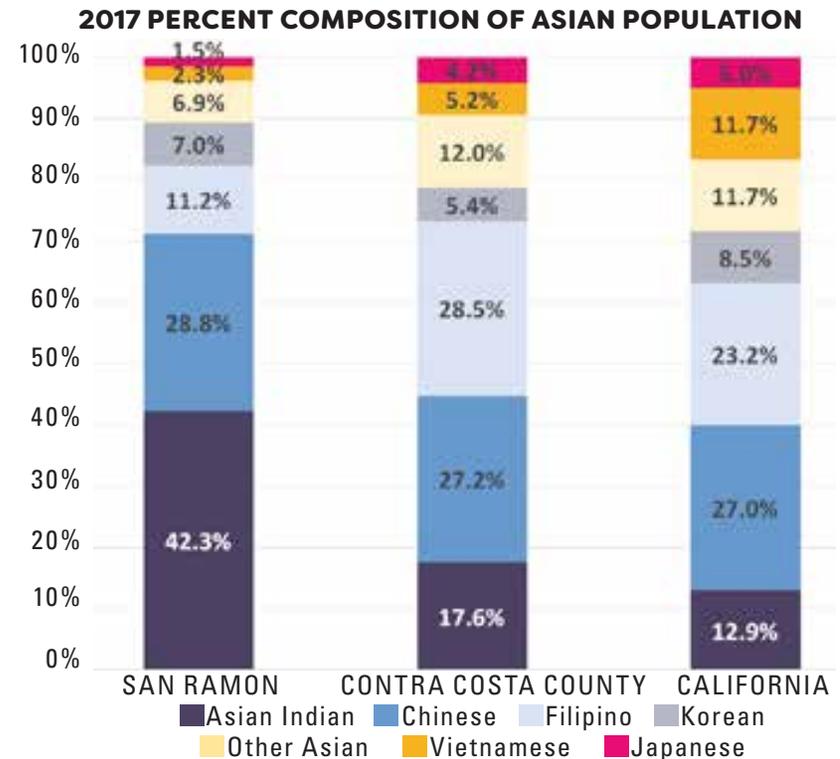
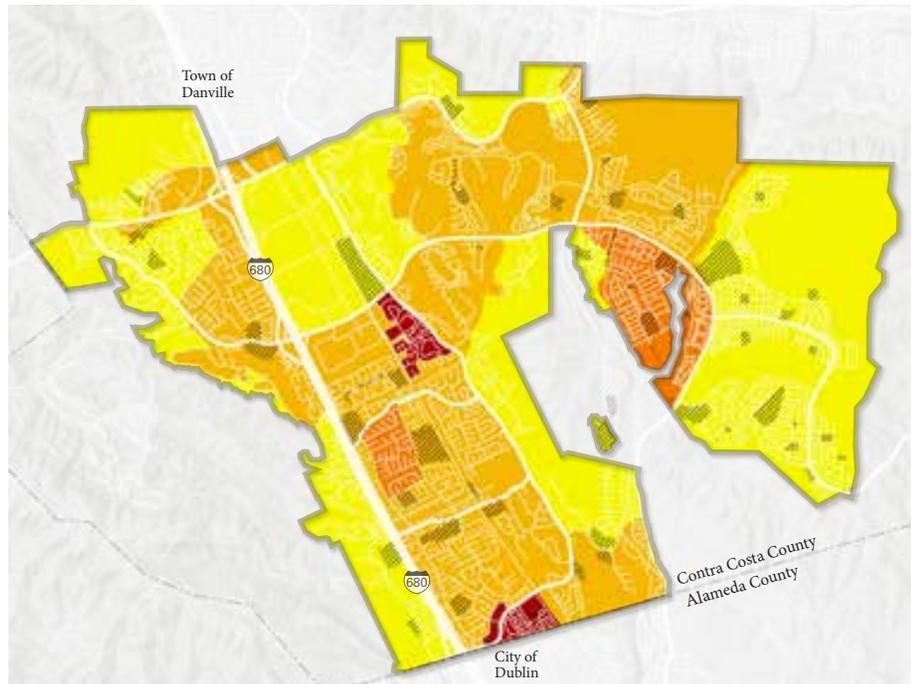


Figure 6: Comparison of Percent Composition of 2017 Asian Population

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates Report and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Summary File; ESRI Business Analyst Forecast for 2024. Reports generated July 17, 2019.

DEMOGRAPHICS MAPPING

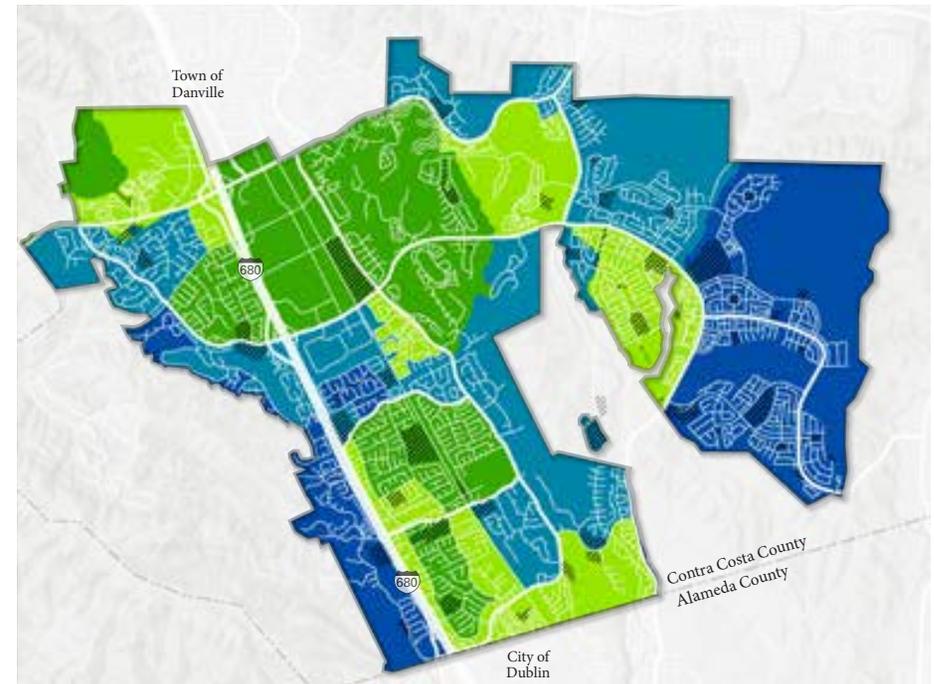
Population Density By Block Group



Population density is determined by dividing the number of people living within a block group by the block group acreage.

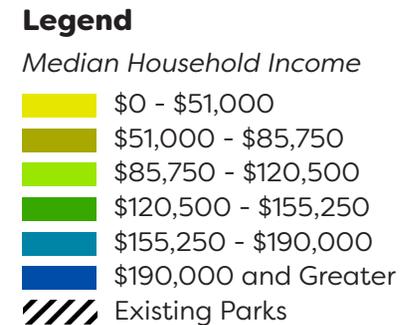


Median Income By Block Group



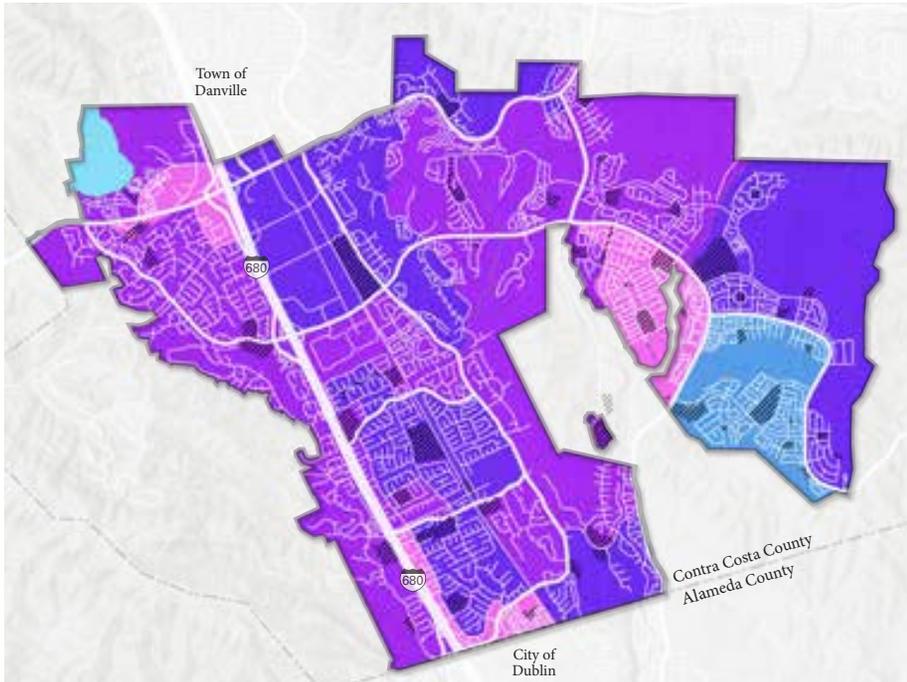
California's median household income as of July 2019 is \$74,520. The median household income in San Ramon is \$159,473.

Median household income characteristics of San Ramon can be explained by the proximity of the city to the San Francisco Bay Area and higher wages. The cost of living and median price of housing is also higher than other areas of California.



Source: ESRI Business Analyst mapping generated July 2019. Note that actual conditions may have changed and were not yet incorporated into the mapping system. Therefore, maps may not be representative of current conditions. They are provided to show overall trends.

Diversity By Block Group



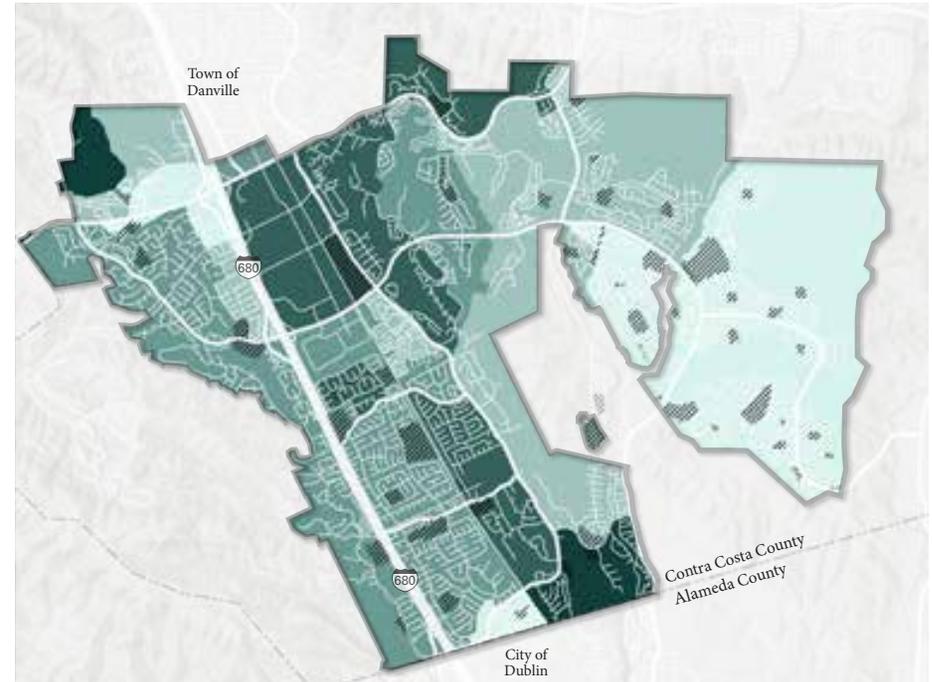
This map summarizes racial and ethnic diversity in San Ramon. The Diversity Index shows the likelihood that two persons chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups. The index ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

Legend

Diversity Index	
■	30 - 40
■	40 - 50
■	50 - 60
■	60 - 70
■	70 - 80

▨▨▨▨ Existing Parks

Median Age By Block Group



The median age of San Ramon is 38.0 years. California's median age as of July 2019 is 36.3. The map shows the distribution of older versus younger populations throughout the city.

Legend

Median Age (Years)	
■	30 - 35
■	35 - 40
■	40 - 45
■	45 - 50
■	50+

▨▨▨▨ Existing Parks

Source: ESRI Business Analyst mapping generated July 2019. Note that actual conditions may have changed and were not yet incorporated into the mapping system. Therefore, maps may not be representative of current conditions. They are provided to show overall trends.

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

In total, San Ramon's park system consists of 57 parks, four community centers, two aquatic facilities, two performing arts theatres, and two gymnasiums. In addition to park areas, the public open space acreages associated with accepted and future Geographic Hazard Area Districts (GHAD) totals 3,092 acres. The City owns 169 acres of open space lands and East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) owns 7,245 acres of nearby regional public lands. A golf course, homeowners association recreation areas, and other private protected lands combine to total 1,264 acres.

The Iron Horse Trail, a regional shared-use path, runs almost north/south through the city. The paved pathway is managed by EBRPD and extends from Walnut Creek south for almost 32 miles to the Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area outside of Pleasanton. The trail is regularly used for walkers, joggers, and bikers for commuting, recreation, and exercise. In total, the City has 46 miles of public trails, 18 miles of access roads used for recreation, and 14 miles of non-City trails.

The hills and ridges surrounding San Ramon form the foundation of city's landscape character. Conservation of these open spaces for visual quality and recreation access has been a priority for residents, as evidenced by passage of Measure G in 1999. A key component of Measure G's mandate was planning for the acquisition of adjacent ridgelines for open space preservation. EBRPD and other agencies and organizations play a significant role in acquiring and managing the surrounding open space lands. Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness are located on the city's western and northwestern edges. Mt. Diablo State Park is a prominent visual and recreation resource to the northeast.

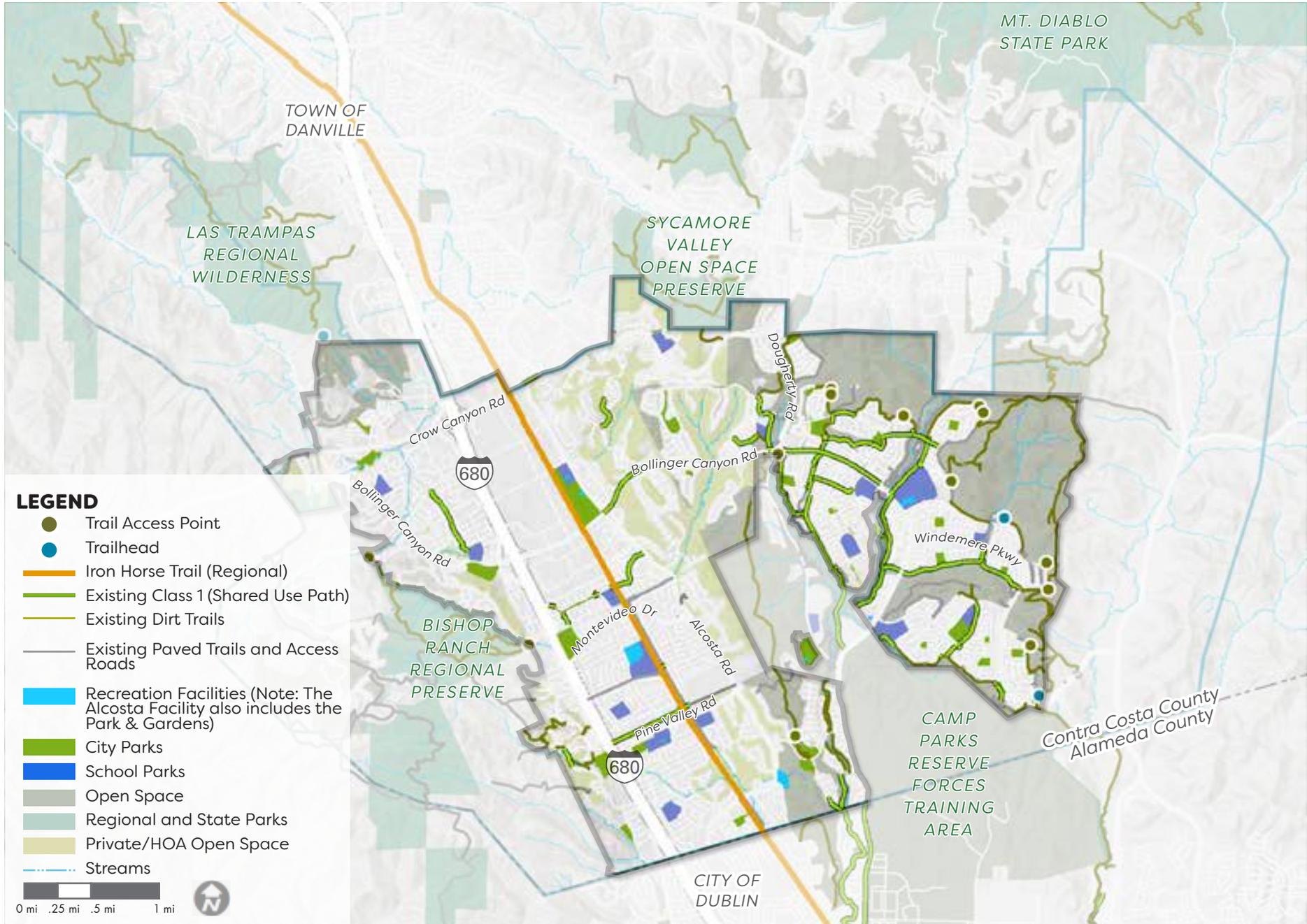


Views of Mt. Diablo

Image by Hitchster

To increase map legibility, the maps on the following pages depict subset categories of the park system. City-owned facilities categorized as neighborhood parks, community parks, and specialty parks are labeled on page 25 and school parks and other recreation facilities such as the aquatic facilities and senior/community centers are labeled on page 27. Both maps show all of the existing parks and facilities.

PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MAP



PARKS & RECREATION LEVEL OF SERVICE

WHAT IS LEVEL OF SERVICE?

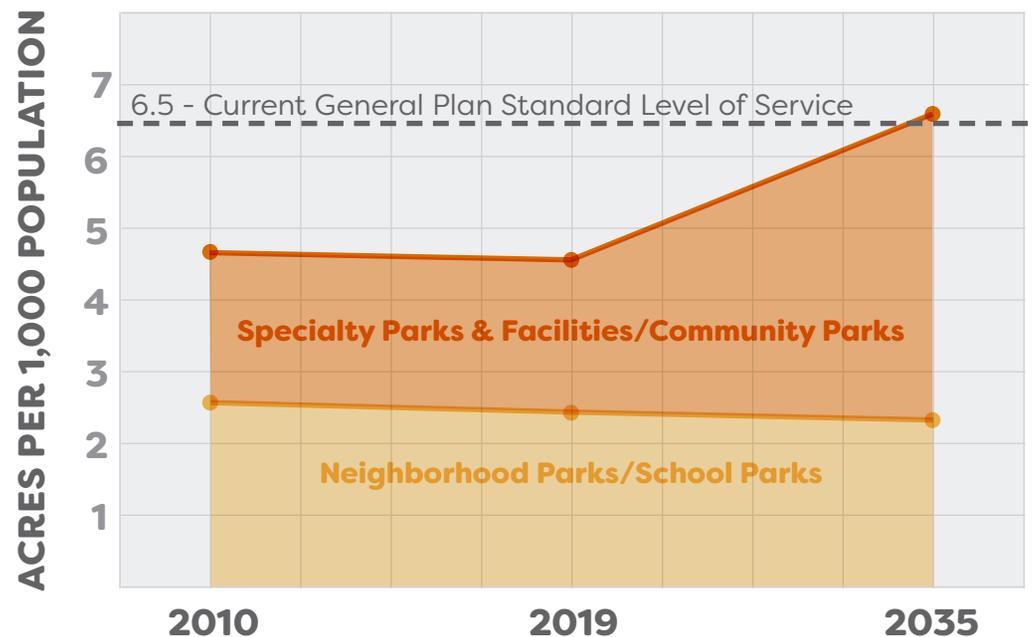
Level of service (LOS) is a national standard measure that parks and recreation providers use to monitor the amount of services provided to their citizens. Used in conjunction with community outreach, this tool can help describe the amount and type of park facilities being offered and to identify gaps. It should be noted, however, that although the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) uses LOS to track metrics, they have moved away from promoting it as being the only metric for planning park systems. Every community is different and their park and recreation needs vary depending on demographics, resident desires, land planning, geography, and proximity to open space.

The planning team looked at acres per capita, quality, and distribution factors to help determine service gaps. Ultimately, San Ramon has established levels of service goals comparable to other cities in the Tri-Valley and East Bay. Danville, Dublin, Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, and Palo Alto all have park LOS goals of 5 acres of park per 1,000 residents. San Ramon's established LOS goal is 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This goal is divided into goals of 4.5 acres of neighborhood and school parks per 1,000 residents and 2 acres of community and specialized parks/facilities per 1,000 residents.

The City's 2019 parks and facilities LOS of 4.5 is below the target goal 6.5. Previous planning has identified potential future parks that can bring San Ramon's LOS up to its target and meet the demands of the General Plan's projected population growth through 2035. However, the City must be proactive in acquiring and developing those, or other, lands to meet LOS goals. The parklands identified for future development are also primarily specialty parks and facilities. Although those facilities may be desired, the City should keep its LOS for neighborhood and school parks between 2.5 and 3.

Table 1: San Ramon Park Level of Service 2000 to 2035

	2010 Acreage	2019 Acreage	2035 Acreage	'19 - '35 % Change
San Ramon Parks & Recreation Facilities				
Specialty Parks & Facilities/ Community Parks	151.51	182.48	409.81	+125%
Neighborhood Parks/Schools Parks	184.74	194.47	226.57	+17%
Total	336.25	376.95	363.38	+69%
Level of Service (acres/1,000 people)	4.7	4.5	6.6	+69%



PARK INVENTORY

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City’s General Plan 2035 includes six classifications of park facilities. The City has examples of city-owned facilities in all but two of the categories (regional parks and public spaces). Regional park needs are served by the East Bay Regional Park District’s lands surrounding the city. Future mixed-use development proposals near the City Center may consider plazas and other types of public spaces as part of their park offerings.

A summary of the park classifications, general sizes, and examples is provided in Table 2. The quantification of 2019’s park inventory by park classification is shown in Table 3.

Table 2: San Ramon Park Classifications and Examples

Park Classification	Description	Size	Examples
Neighborhood Parks	Serves recreation needs of residents within a 1/2 mile	At least 2 acres	Boone Acres, Valley View Park
School Parks (SP)	Developed and maintained on school grounds for joint use	At least 2 acres	Twin Creeks SP, Hidden Hills SP
Community Parks	Serves recreation needs of residents within 3 miles	10 to 60 acres	Central Park, Rancho San Ramon
Specialized Park and Recreation Facilities	A park or facility devoted to a very specific activity or use	No	Forest Home Farms, Sports Park, Del Mar Dog Park
Regional Park	Has a wide range of improvements and 70 percent of the land is natural	Over 200 acres	No city-owned facilities
Public Spaces	Includes plazas and passive or active uses for mixed-use developments	Varies	No city-owned facilities

Table 3: 2019 Inventory of Park Acreage by Park Classification

Park Classification	Number	Acreage
Neighborhood Parks	29	116.18
School Parks	17	78.29
Community Parks	4	101.00
Specialty Parks	7	61.37
Dog Parks		
Trailheads/Staging Areas		
Community Gardens		
Historic Parks		
Specialized Rec Facilities	11	20.11
Aquatic Center		
Senior/Community Center		
Community Theater		
Community Gymnasium		
Tennis Court & Track		
Total	68	376.95

PARK INVENTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY, AND SPECIALTY PARKS

The City's 29 neighborhood parks are intended to serve nearby residents within walking distance. Examples include Boone Acres and Fire Truck Park. The majority of the City's neighborhood parks were developed in association with residential development in eastern portions of the city. Therefore, areas such as Dougherty Valley have higher concentrations of newer neighborhood parks.

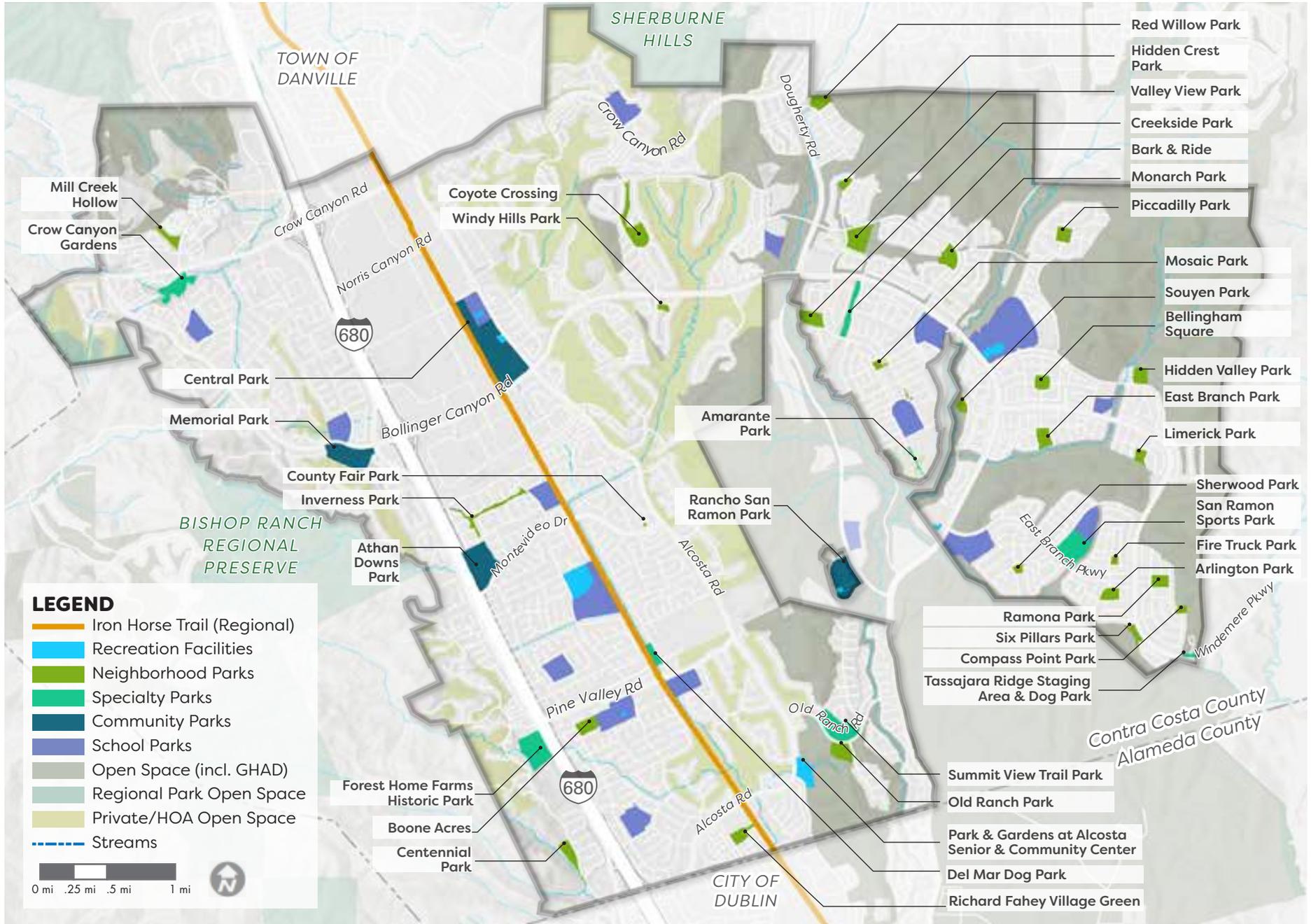
In contrast, three of the city's four community parks are located west of Alcosta Road. These parks are larger, have a greater variety of amenities and are intended to serve a wider range of residents both within walking and driving distance. Central Park is aptly named for its central location near City Hall and the recently built City Center. It is home to a number of community events.

Seven specialty parks are located throughout the city. These parks include amenities and facilities, such as dog parks or BMX parks, that are not typically provided in the majority of neighborhood parks. The park may also serve a specific purpose, such as the Sports Park, which has a high concentration of sports fields and courts.



Central Park

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY, AND SPECIALTY PARKS



PARK INVENTORY

SCHOOL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

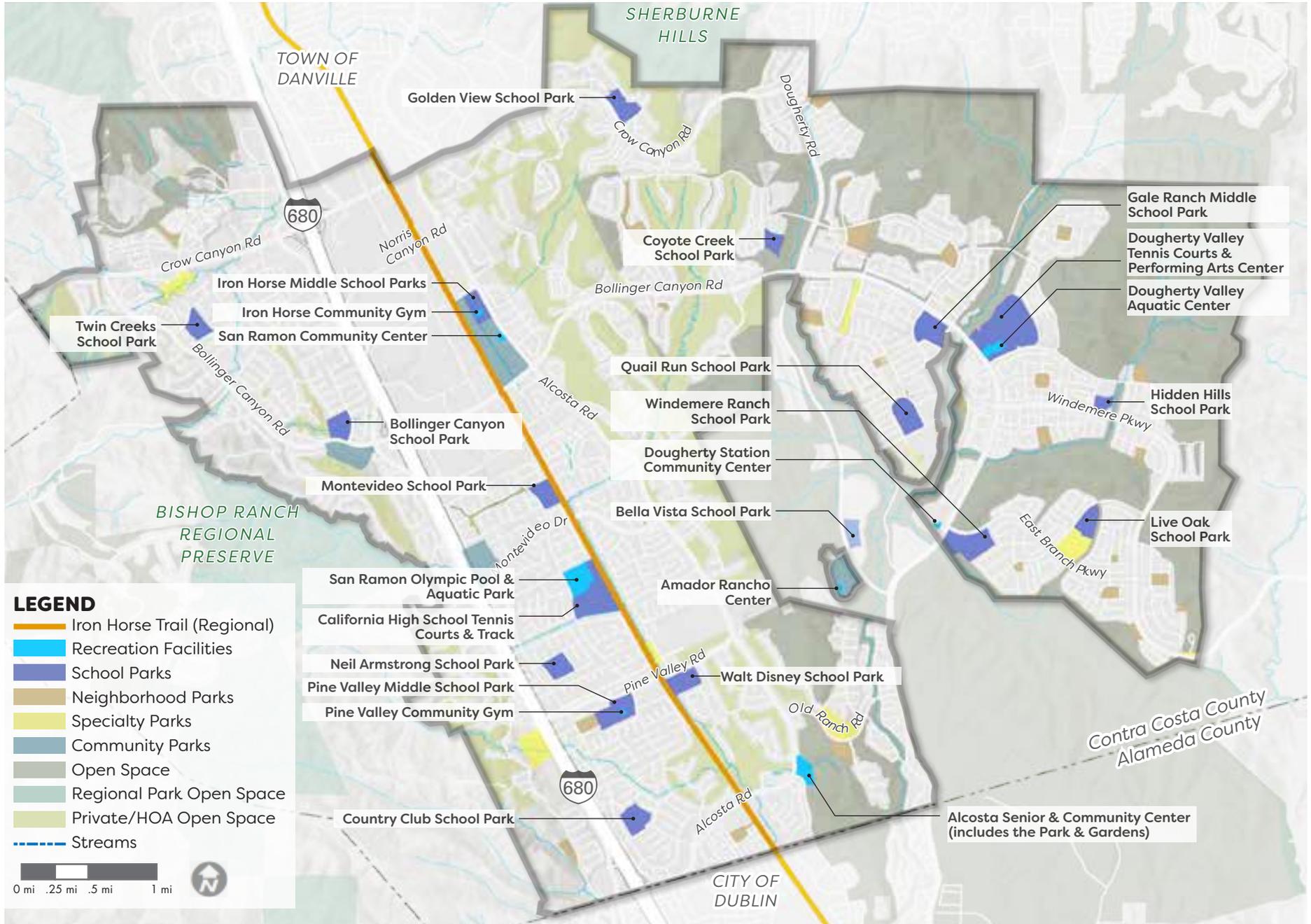
The City partners with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) to allow school grounds to be used as neighborhood parks after school hours. This partnership was established early after San Ramon's incorporation and remains an important element for helping the city meet its goal for providing park resources for residents. Seventeen school parks contribute to over 20 percent of the City's park acreage. The percentage is even higher when partnerships for recreation facilities such as the Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center are considered.

This relationship is beneficial for San Ramon residents. It reduces duplication of services and provides greater park and recreation access. The partnership increases use of facilities and parks which, in turn, increases maintenance needs. Scheduling can also create friction when facilities are in high demand. Overall, the partnerships have been successful and agreements should be renewed to ensure park access in the future.



Neil Armstrong Elementary School Park

EXISTING SCHOOL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENTS

The consultant team conducted qualitative site assessments of the City's parks system to evaluate the overall condition of park amenities and offerings. In addition, the team reviewed maintenance manuals and scheduled repairs. Parks were rated according to a three tier scale: good condition, fair condition, and poor condition. The rankings serve to identify where flaws exist that could impact the overall use of the facility.

THREE TIER SCALE

Good Condition (3): Are fully functional and do not need immediate repairs. Facilities are playable and inviting to users. Minor flaws may exist but they do not impact use of the amenity.

Fair Condition (2): Facilities are functional but require repairs that can impact use or discourage users from visiting the park.

Poor Condition (1): Facilities are need major repairs to the point that the facilities are unusable and discourage use of the park.

Overall, the majority of parks are in good condition. Parks identified for enhancement were primarily associated with facilities that lacked shade and were less desirable as places to visit. For example, the dog parks are functionally designed. But most lack shade or areas of interest for dog owners to socialize while their dog exercises. The BMX park was also identified as an opportunity for improvement to attract greater use. Crow Canyon Gardens was the one park identified to be in poor condition. Much of the park could be renovated and renewed to encourage greater use.

On the following pages, tables list the inventory of City parks with amenities and condition assessment scores.



Example of park in good condition.



Example of park in fair condition.



Example of park in poor condition.

PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

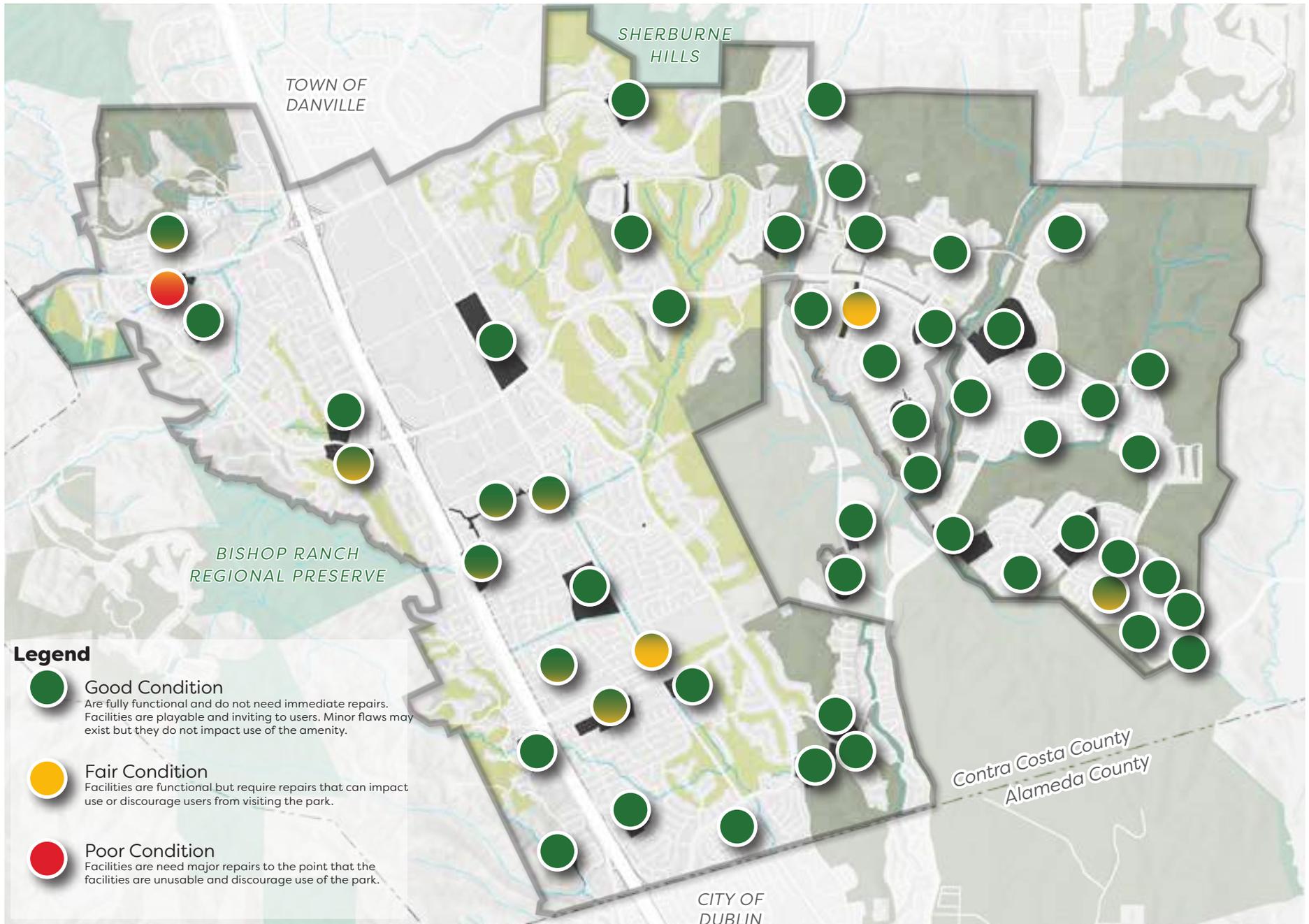


Table 4: Park Inventory and Condition Assessment | Community and Neighborhood Parks

Park Name	Acres	Amenity Condition	Hardscape Condition	Turf Condition	Playground	Diamond Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Volleyball Courts	Cricket	Shade Structure	Water Feature	Restroom	Dog park	Parking Lot on site
Community Parks																
Athan Downs	20.00	3	2	3	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X
Central Park	45.00	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Memorial Park	16.00	3	3	3	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	X
Rancho San Ramon Community Park	20.00	3	3	3	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		X
Total	101.00															
Neighborhood Parks																
Amarante Park	2.32	3	3	3												
Arlington Park	4.10	3	3	2	X	X	X							X		X
Bellingham Square	4.06	3	3	3	X		X			X				X		
Boone Acres	5.47	3	2	2	X					X						
Centennial Park	5.25	3	3	3	X									X		X
Compass Point Park	1.40	3	3	3	X											
Country Fair Park	0.25	3	3	3	X											
Coyote Crossing	11.73	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X					X		X
Creekside Park	5.97	3	3	3	X		X		X					X		X
East Branch Park	5.07	3	3	3	X	X	X		X					X		X
Fire Truck Park	1.15	3	3	3	X											
Hidden Crest Park	2.07	3	3	3	X											
Hidden Valley Park	4.54	3	3	3	X	X	X					X		X		X
Hummingbird Playground	0.50	3	3	3	X											
Inverness Park	5.83	2	3	3												
Limerick Park	2.76	3	3	3	X				X			X		X		
Mill Creek Hollow	3.52	3	3	3	X									X		X
Monarch Park	6.34	3	3	3	X		X				X	X		X		X

Park Name	Acres	Amenity Condition	Hardscape Condition	Turf Condition	Playground	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Volleyball Courts	Cricket	Shade Structure	Water Feature	Restroom	Dog park	Parking Lot on site
Neighborhood Parks (continued)																
Mosaic Park	1.61	3	3	3	X											X
Old Ranch Park	6.73	3	3	3	X	X	X		X					X		X
Piccadilly Square	4.14	3	3	3	X	X	X		X					X		
Ramona Park	4.08	3	3	3	X							X		X		
Red Willow Park	4.94	3	3	3	X	X	X							X		X
Richard Fahey Village Green Park	4.35	3	3	3	X	X	X							X		X
Sherwood Park	1.49	3	3	3	X							X				
Six Pillars Park	2.74	3	3	3	X				X					X		X
Souyen Park	2.40	3	3	3	X			X				X		X		X
Valley View Park	10.01	3	3	3	X	X	X	X						X		X
Windy Hills Park	1.36	3	3	3	X											
Total	116.18															

Table 5: Park Inventory and Condition Assessment | School Parks

Park Name	Acres	Amenity Condition	Hardscape Condition	Turf Condition	Playground	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Volleyball Courts	Cricket	Shade Structure	Water Feature	Restroom	Dog park	Parking Lot on site
School Parks																
Bella Vista Elementary School Park	2.61	3	3	3	X	X	X							X		X
Bollinger Canyon Elementary School	3.36	3	3	3	X	X										X
Country Club Elementary School Park	7.11	3	3	3	X	X	X		X							X
Coyote Creek School Park	5.25	3	3	3	X	X	X									X
Dougherty Valley High School Tennis Courts	2.95	3	3	3				X						X		X
Gale Ranch Middle School Park	6.52	3	3	3		X	X		X		X			X		X
Golden View Elementary School Park	4.96	3	3	3	X	X	X		X							X
Hidden Hills Elementary School Park	2.96	3	3	3	X	X										X
Iron Horse Middle School Park	-	3	3	3		X	X		X	X				X		X
Live Oak Elementary School Park	1.50	3	3	2	X		X		X			X		X		X
Montevideo Elementary School Park	3.68	3	3	3	X	X	X		X							X
Neil Armstrong Elementary School Park	4.17	3	3	2	X	X	X		X							X
Pine Valley Middle School Park	9.35	3	3	2		X	X		X							X
Quail Run Elementary School Park	6.49	3	3	3	X	X	X							X		X
Twin Creek Elementary School Park	3.66	3	3	3	X	X	X		X							X
Walt Disney Elementary School Park	4.72	3	3	3	X	X	X		X							X
Windemere Ranch School Park	9.00	3	3	3		X					X					X
Total	78.29															

NOTE: Facilities that do not show an acreage are included in total area calculations of adjacent parks/facilities.

Table 6: Park Inventory and Condition Assessment | Specialized Recreation Areas and Facilities and Specialty Parks

Park Name	Acres	Amenity Condition	Hardscape Condition	Turf Condition	Playground	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Volleyball Courts	Cricket	Shade Structure	Water Feature	Restroom	Dog park	Parking Lot on site
Specialized Rec Areas and Facilities																
Alcosta Senior & Community Center Park & Gardens	7.83	3	3	3								X		X		X
Amador Rancho Center	-	3	3	NA	X									X		X
Cal High Tennis Court and Track	-	3	3	NA				X						X		X
Dougherty Station Community Center	1.78	3	3	NA										X		X
San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park	6.00	3	3	NA								X	X	X		X
San Ramon Community Center at Central Park	-	3	3	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center	2.95	3	3	NA									X	X		X
Iron Horse Community Gymnasium	-	3	3	NA					X	X				X		X
Pine Valley Community Gymnasium	-	3	3	NA					X	X				X		X
Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center	1.55	3	3	NA										X		X
Front Row Theater	-	3	3	NA										X		X
Total	20.11															
Specialty Parks																
San Ramon Sports Park	14.80	3	3	3		X	X		X			X		X		X
Crow Canyon Gardens	9.66	1	1	2												X
Del Mar Dog Park	1.21	2	2	2								X			X	
Forrest Home Farms Historic Park	14.50	3	3	3										X		X
Bark and Ride	6.68	2	2	NA											X	X
Summit View Trail Park	13.49	3	3	3												
Tassajara Ridge Staging Area	1.03	3	3	3										X	X	X
Total	61.37															

NOTE: Facilities that do not show an acreage are included in total area calculations of adjacent parks/facilities.

DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS | PARK NEED

WALKABILITY ANALYSIS

Research shows that most people are comfortable walking a half-mile distance to reach a destination like a park. The Trust for Public Land has established a goal to have a park within a 10-minute, or half-mile, walking distance of every home in the U.S.

San Ramon’s park system was designed with park access in mind. The description of neighborhood parks shows an intent for them to serve residents living within a half-mile. To evaluate how well the park system meets that goal, the planning team developed access maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Network Analyst to study true walking distances. The analysis uses sidewalks, street crossings, Class 1 bike paths, and park entries to identify the walking network. Barriers; such as streams, I-680, buildings, and fences; were considered in the analysis.

The resulting walkability map is shown on this page. Areas in green indicate neighborhoods within the half-mile walking distance. Areas in red are more than five miles walking distance from any city park. Note that the model only evaluates the walkability to city parks and facilities. Some of the areas shown in red could be served by private homeowner

association facilities or may be near open space areas.

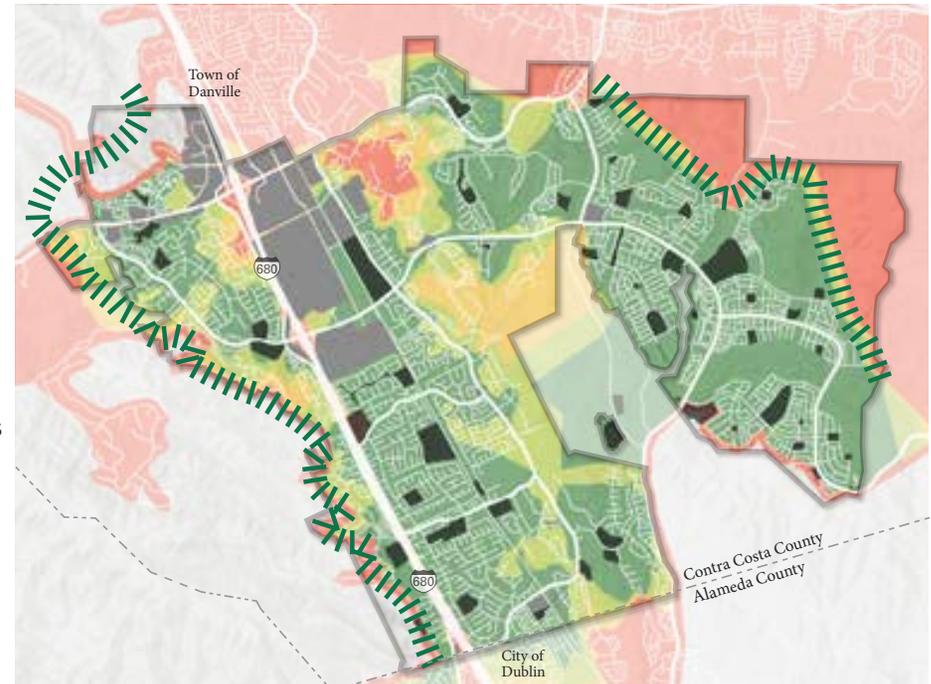
The analysis reveals an opportunity for additional parks needed to serve the western portion of the city and the opportunity to create connections to parks to enhance walkability. Walkscore.com reports that San Ramon has an average Walk Score of 24 out of a possible 100. This is a result of not having a many bike lanes or shared use paths and almost all errands require a car for to reach their destinations.

OVERLAY ANALYSIS

Park need is correlated with both walkability and neighborhood characteristics. Areas of greater density, indicated both by land use and by mapped population density, may have greater need than neighborhoods with large lot sizes and low population density.

These factors were accounted for in a weighted overlay analysis. Using GIS, the planning team utilized city zoning maps, ESRI Business Analyst population density mapping, and the previously discussed walkability mapping. Values were assigned to the different categories and a composite map, shown on page 37, identifies areas of need.

WALKABILITY SERVICE AREA



Legend

Assigned Value	Service Area Classification
0	Existing City-Owned & School Parks
0	Commercial, Office
0	1/4 Mile (5 Min Walk) - 1/2 Mile (10 Min Walk)
1	3/4 Miles (15 Min Walk)
3	1 Mile (20 Min Walk)
5	1+ Miles
	Adjacent Eastern and Western Open Space Resources

LANDUSE



Legend

Assigned Value Landuse Classification

0	Existing City-Owned & School Parks
0	Commercial, Office
0	Parks, Open Space, Agriculture,
1	Mixed-Use
2	Residential Estate
3	Low Density Residential
4	Medium Density Residential
5	High Density Residential

POPULATION DENSITY



Legend

Assigned Value Pop Density Classification

0	Existing City-Owned & School Parks
0	Commercial, Office
1	0 - 5
2	5 - 10
3	10 - 15
4	15 - 20
5	20 - 25

ANALYSIS | PARK NEED

PARK NEED COMPOSITE MAP

The park need composite map is the result of the previously described mapping analysis. Areas of yellow, orange, and red indicate zones of higher park need. Similar to the walkability analysis, it should be noted that some of the areas indicated in yellow and orange are served by HOAs/private recreation facilities. For example, Canyon Lakes Golf Course borders many of the homes associated with that development.

It is also recognized that the surrounding open space areas west and east of the city offer recreation access to many residents living near those lands. These areas are indicated in a bold black hatch along the city edges.

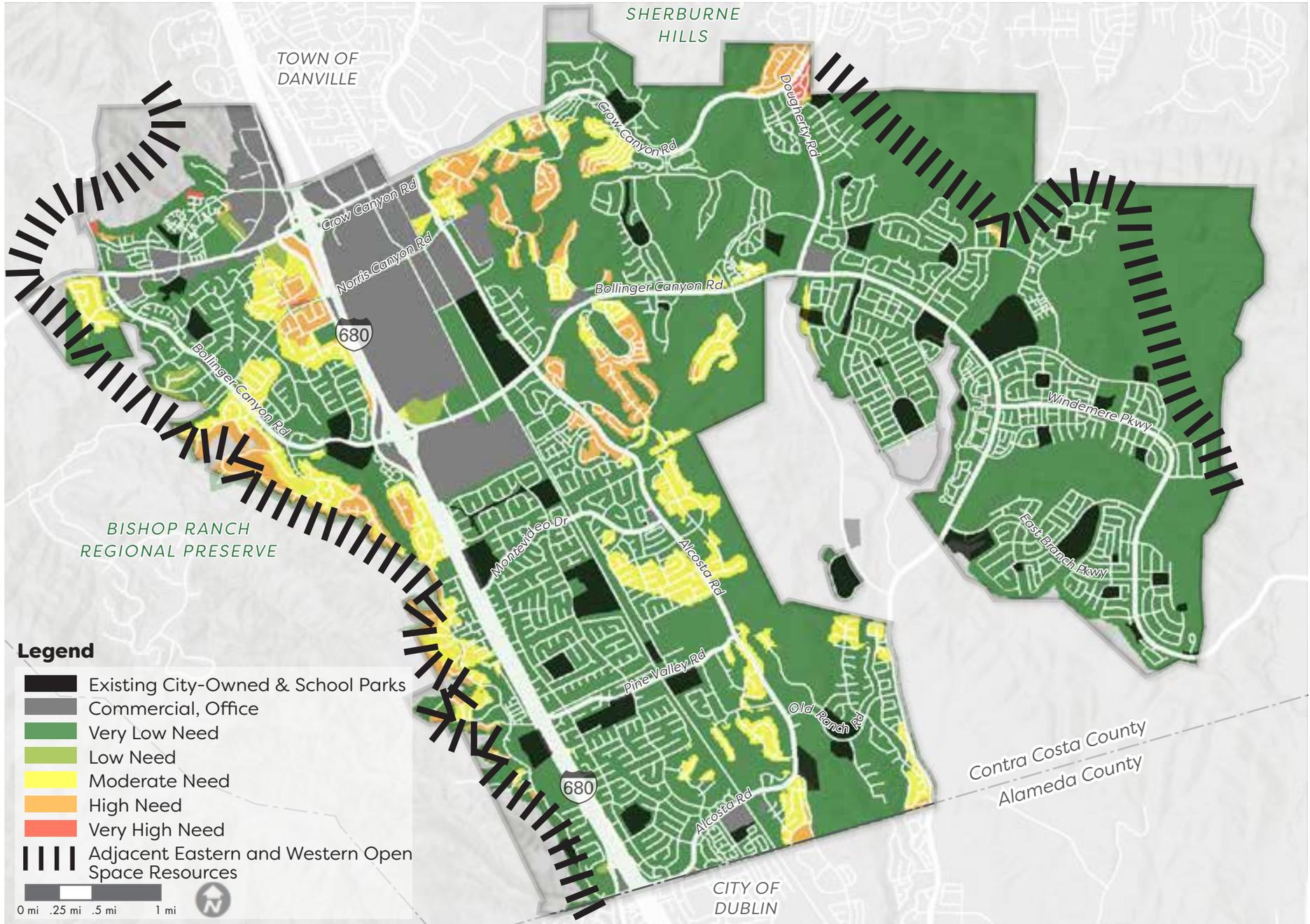
The mapping indicates park need in the northwest portion of the city. In particular, the neighborhoods along Norris Canyon Road would benefit from improved park access.

PARK AMENITY DISTRIBUTION

In addition to the location and walkability of overall parks, key amenities within parks were mapped to evaluate distribution patterns. These eight maps, shown on pages 38-39, reveal that most amenities are fairly well distributed throughout the city. However, a water play feature could be considered as part of park development in the western portion of the city.

The maps show how school parks play a significant role in providing many of the traditional park amenities, such as fields, courts, and playgrounds. Specialty park amenities are not anticipated to be in every park. However, facilities such as dog parks and water elements are typically in high demand and should have relatively good distribution.

PARK NEED

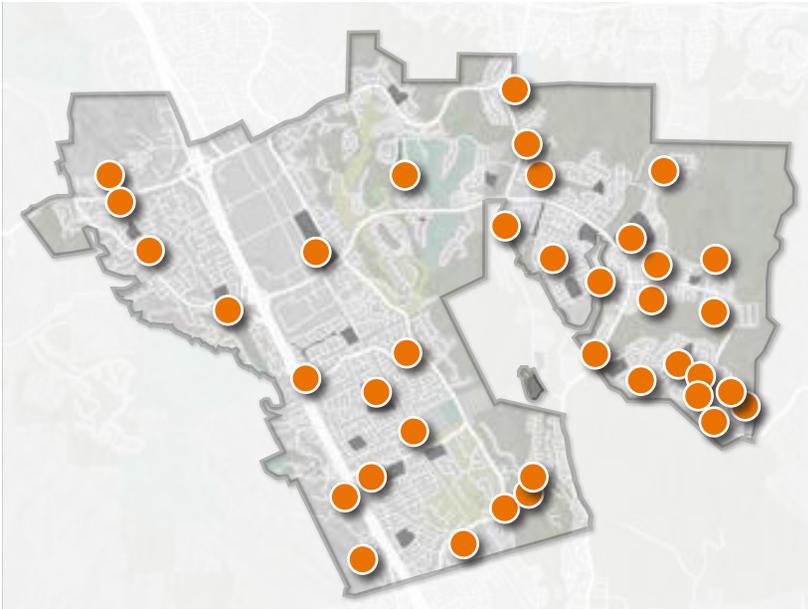


Legend

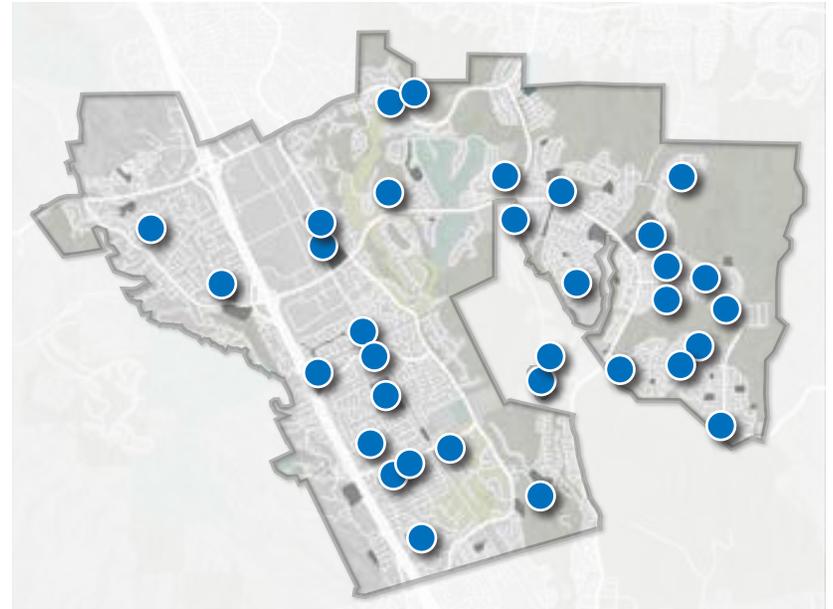
- Existing City-Owned & School Parks
 - Commercial, Office
 - Very Low Need
 - Low Need
 - Moderate Need
 - High Need
 - Very High Need
 - Adjacent Eastern and Western Open Space Resources
- 0 mi .25 mi .5 mi 1 mi

DISTRIBUTION | TRADITIONAL PARK AMENITIES

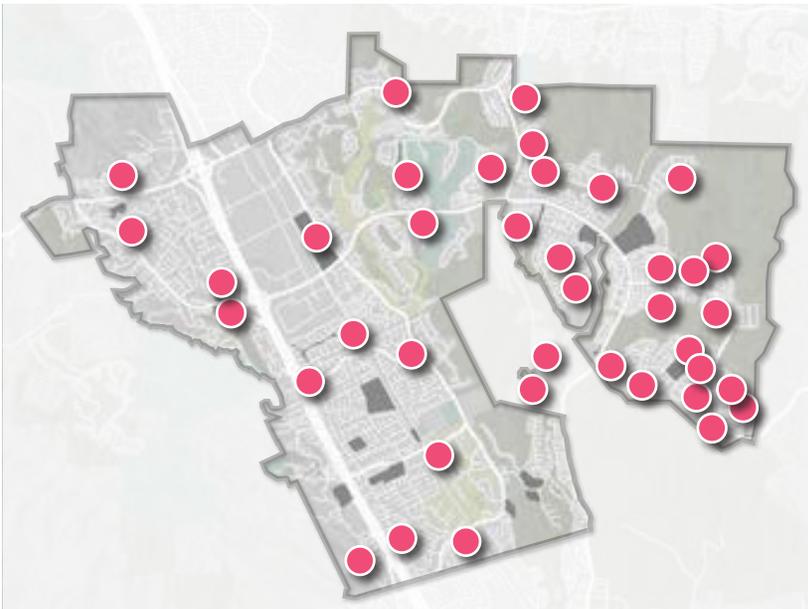
PICNIC AREAS



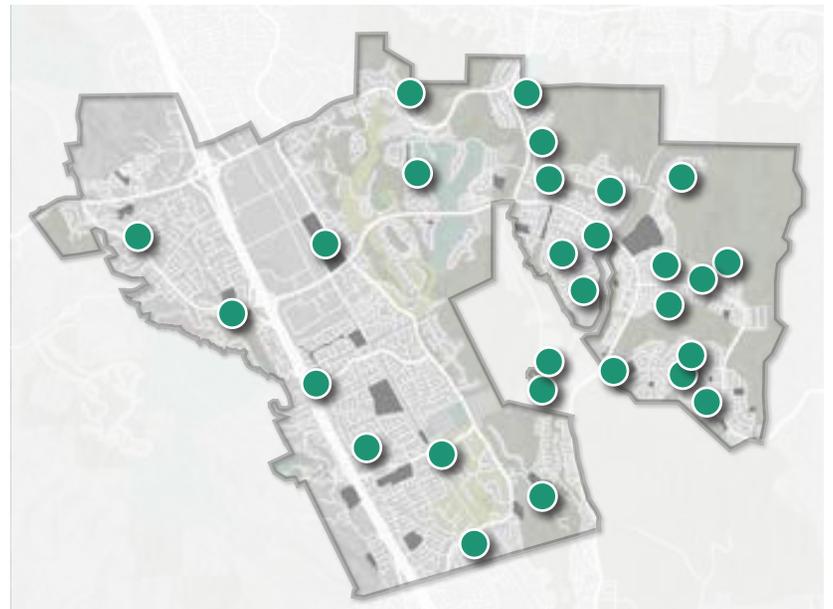
SPORT COURTS



PLAYGROUNDS



SPORT FIELDS



DISTRIBUTION | SPECIALTY PARK AMENITIES

AQUATICS & WATER PLAY



**COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTERS,
COMMUNITY GYMS & THEATRES**



**COMMUNITY GARDENS &
FOREST HOME FARMS**



**DOG PARKS, BMX TRACK, &
SKATE PARK**



FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

The City of San Ramon currently operates a number of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that provide opportunities for diverse recreation programs and services to occur. The following is a general assessment of existing recreation facilities that are provided by the City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department.

- The Department operates four community/recreation centers, two aquatic centers, two gymnasiums, a performing arts center, two community gardens, and an historic farm. They also schedule athletic fields for community use.
- The City has partnered financially with SRVUSD for the development and operation of the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center, and two gymnasiums. This partnership has provided additional recreational amenities for the community in a cost-effective manner. The San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park was built on school property to serve the needs of both organizations. The tennis courts at both California and Dougherty high schools are joint-use as are the sports fields on elementary and middle school campuses.
- The City has done an excellent job of co-locating recreation facilities with parks and other public facilities (schools, libraries, and City Hall). This increases visibility and cross use of amenities.

FACILITIES

- Alcosta Senior and Community Center
- Dougherty Station Community Center
- San Ramon Community Center



- Amador Rancho Center
- Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center
- San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park
- Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center
- Pine Valley and Iron Horse Community Gymnasiums
- Forest Home Farms Historic Park

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

- Public Works is responsible for park and facility maintenance and park maintenance standards are in place. There is also a capital asset inventory for all facilities.

- The parks and recreation facilities in the City are well maintained and Parks and Community Services and Public Works have a good working relationship.
- Public Works has a dedicated sports fields maintenance team.
- There is a facility maintenance and renovation plan for all the indoor facilities, plus a 10-year estimate of funding needed to implement the plan.
- Asset Essentials is utilized to track maintenance tasks and work orders.
- Condition assessment studies were completed for the major recreation facilities by EMG in 2017. Dougherty Station Community Center and Amador Rancho Center were assessed to be in good condition. The remaining facilities were documented as being in fair condition.
- All of the major indoor facilities are contract cleaned with some light cleaning and room set ups and take downs being accomplished by staff.
- Safety and security measures are in place as well as an emergency action plan. There is also a safety committee.
- Facility rentals are important to the community and a point of emphasis for almost all recreation facilities.
- Comprehensive athletic field use guidelines provide directives on priorities of use, fees, and use requirements.
- Changing recreation program and service demands primarily through cultural shifts in the population, puts pressure to adapt facilities to meet these needs.
- While co-locating recreation facilities with school district facilities is beneficial, it impacts both use and maintenance of facilities. For example, the City does not have a gymnasium space they can program without working with the school district.
- Most recreation facilities are located on sites where there are limited opportunities for expansion of structures or for parking.
- Operating and capital funding is constrained and staff to manage and maintain facilities is limited. There has been increased funding for capital investments in the last two years in comparison to the limited investments in the previous three to four years. Upgrading facilities is constrained with the limited resources.
- Water conservation and management is an on-going issue.
- Most of the indoor facilities have an emphasis on activities related to passive recreation and cultural arts. There are limited active recreation programs for fitness and indoor sports.
- There is a significant demand for additional athletic fields in the community. This is true for cricket and emerging sports. Demand is driven by prime-time usage needs. This could be helped with more focus on hourly scheduling and the addition of more synthetic fields that could be utilized during the winter months.
- Providing gender neutral restroom opportunities could be challenging in a few of the facilities.

CHALLENGES

- The number of individual recreation facilities spread throughout the city makes both management and maintenance more difficult.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

The City of San Ramon provides a varied and comprehensive offering of recreation programs and services. There are very few program areas where there is a deficiency of services being offered by the Department or their program partners. Takeaways from the assessment include:

- The Parks and Community Services Department focuses the majority of its programming efforts on youth and seniors, which is common for recreation agencies.
- The Department is known for the following:
 - High quality programs
 - High level of customer service
 - Good facilities
 - Professional staff
- Areas of programming strengths include:
 - Aquatics
 - Summer Camps
 - Seniors
 - Cultural Arts
 - Youth Programs
- Over 90 percent of program participants are city residents. This is a very high percentage.
- The Department has a sponsorship program for events and activities that generate \$100,000 or more a year. Four non-profit foundations collectively provide support in excess of \$50,000 per year.
- The Department has a strong volunteer program to augment paid staff.



PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTRACT SERVICES

- Most programs are provided by contract service providers utilizing Department facilities or they occur at the contractors' facility. Contract percentages vary between 40 percent and 50 percent of revenue going to the City for programs taking place in Department facilities and 30 percent for activities occurring in the contractor's facility. The national average is 30 percent.
- The Department conducts most summer camps and youth programs through contract instructors who utilize City facilities.
- Youth team sports are primarily provided by youth sports organizations that are in the community.

- Recreation programs and services are generally located at recreation/community/senior centers and at school facilities to be responsive to varying needs and expectations.
- There are an extensive number of other recreation, sports, aquatics, fitness, youth, and cultural arts providers in San Ramon. The Department recognizes the value of other program providers and seeks to leverage and not duplicate services.

ADMINISTRATION, PLANS, AND GUIDELINES

- Existing Plans and Guidelines
 - Administrative record keeping, including monthly reports on Department functions
 - Annual program evaluations
 - Safety plans and an emergency action plan
 - Needs assessment surveys to determine satisfaction with current services and future priorities
 - Marketing guidelines
 - Business plans for program units
 - Master plan to provide general direction
 - Fee policy and scholarship program
- Needed plans
 - Formal plan to guide program and service directions
 - Marketing plan

CHALLENGES

- The Department must meet an ever-increasing demand for recreation programs and services to a diverse population base in a cost effective and efficient manner.

- The geography of San Ramon divides the community into three distinct areas, making it more difficult to provide programs and services equitably in all areas.
- Full-time staff is limited for the number of facilities and programs that are offered. The restrictions on how many hours part-time staff can work is also a handicap at times. It also can be difficult to recruit and keep part-time staff.
- Transportation for some programs and services can be an issue and the City is limited in what can be provided. The City offers a Senior Express Van that serves residents age 55 and greater. It transports program users from any residence in San Ramon to and from the Alcosta Senior and Community Center. Public transportation is also provided by Contra Costa County Connection. Youth programming could benefit greatly from transportation from elementary schools to the community centers.
- Compared to other cities, San Ramon has few indoor fitness/wellness programs. This is a result of limited facilities to support these activities and a large number of private fitness related businesses located within the City. As a result, the City focuses more on outdoor fitness/wellness programs and fitness/wellness programs geared to seniors.





3 | Opportunities for Improvement

OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

Four themes structure the opportunities identified for improvement and focus for the next 10 years. This chapter presents recommendations for improvements and action steps that can be implemented to achieve the goals. An overview of each theme presents key takeaways from the inventory, assessments, and community input as it relates to each category. Next, a series of opportunities are summarized along with a series of strategies to achieve the recommendations. Following the summary list, examples and more detailed descriptions, content, maps, and imagery are presented to help describe the intent of the opportunity areas.

Priority levels were derived from community input, professional assessment, a review of currently programmed improvements, and input from City staff, Open Space Advisory Committee members, PCS Commission members, and City Council. Time frames were established in consideration of priority level and budget impacts.

Chapter 4 provides considerations for prioritization and implementation. The opportunities are reorganized and the action steps are presented as projects in order of time frames for implementation and prioritization.

Budget implications for capital improvement projects and operations are provided in Chapters 3 and 4. The numbers represent high level, order of magnitude opinions of cost and is to be used for planning purposes only. The information is based on recent project costs. However, final costs will likely vary depending on the final design and desired quality and finish levels.

Figure 7: Master Plan Recommendations Structure



THEMES

Interconnected



**Conservation of &
Connection to Nature**



Inclusive



**Balance Quality
& Quantity**





INTERCONNECTED | OVERVIEW

THEME

Improving and expanding trails and enhancing the shade and seating opportunities along the Iron Horse Trail provides connectivity to parks and open spaces, removes barriers, and encourages walking and biking. These recreation activities can help improve public health.

INVENTORY

The Iron Horse Trail forms the backbone for paved Class 1 shared use paths in San Ramon. Examples of bicycle facility classifications are shown on this page. Class 1 and Class 4 networks provide the greatest user comfort and invite use from the widest range of possible users. In addition to the Iron Horse Trail, Class 1 facilities in San Ramon are located primarily in eastern San Ramon and near Pine Valley Road.

Multi-use natural surface trails are primarily found in the open space areas along the western and eastern city edges. These systems promote hiking and mountain biking. The City has recently completed trail mapping efforts and has made public trails easily accessible on the City's website.

Interconnected Trail and Park Systems

Connecting San Ramon's parks, open spaces, and trails through a contiguous network provides residents comfortable options to bike and walk to destinations. An interconnected system refers to a consistent, citywide approach where bike paths connect to each other and users are not forced to transition from separated bike paths into a high-volume or high-speed roadway. Instead, the biking and walking network should function like a person's circulatory system. Separated bike paths and cycle tracks are the arterial facilities providing access across the city. They link to bike lanes and sharrows on lower volume neighborhood roadways.



An interconnected trail system is represented by the bold blue and orange lines on the above map. At a conceptual, and visionary level, it provides the primary separated biking and walking network that connect the city east to west and north to south. Lower volume roadways link to the arterial system and may include Class 2 bike lanes, Class 3 sharrows, and sidewalks.



Example of a Class 1 Shared Use Path



Example of a Class 2 Bike Lane
Image by Grid Engine

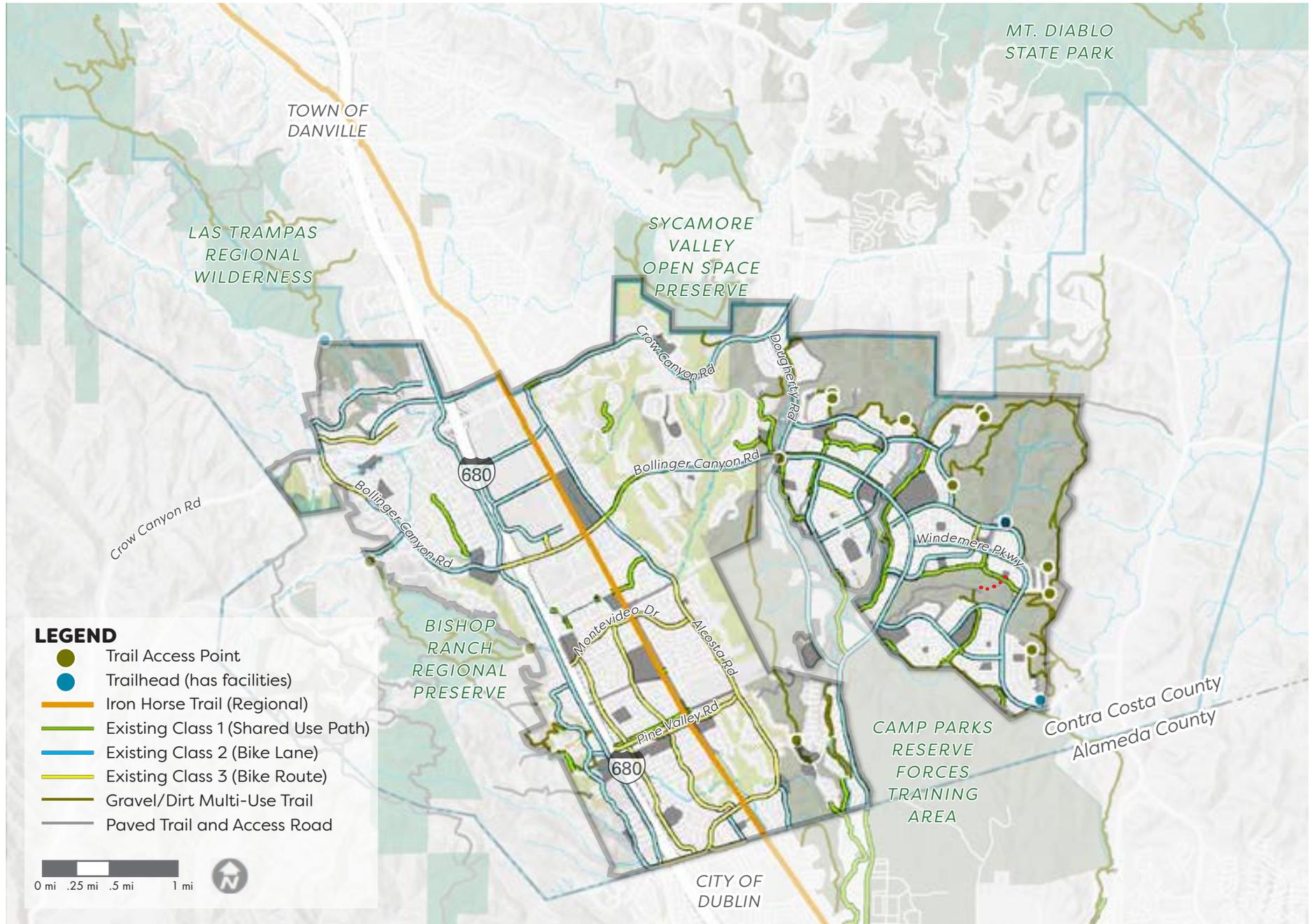


Example of a Class 3 Bike Route/Sharrows



Example of a Class 4 Cycle Track
Image by Paul Krueger

EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK





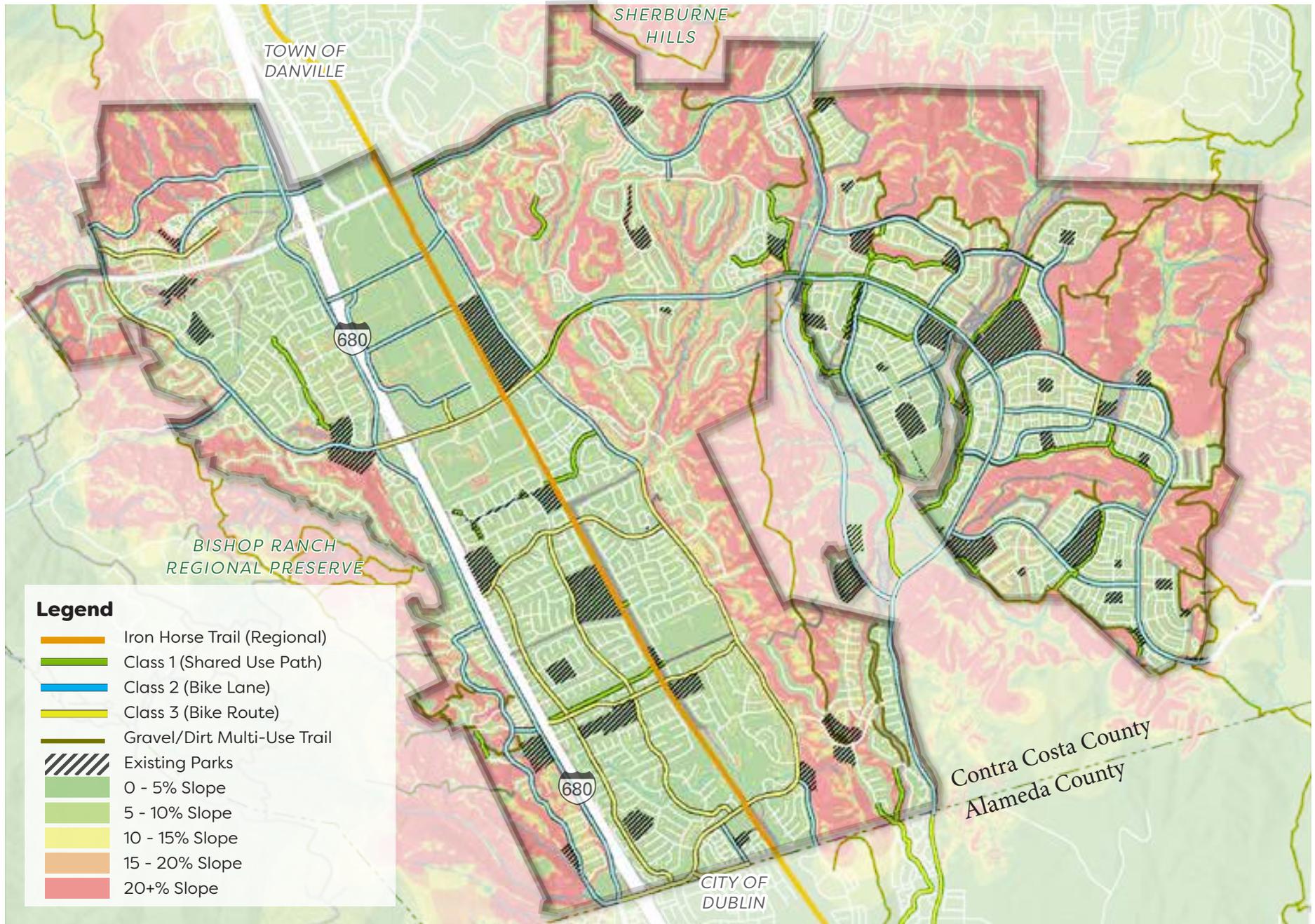
INTERCONNECTED | KEY FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS

- The Iron Horse Trail is a key community resource, but it lacks shade and seating opportunities for much of the trail.
- Signage from adjacent parks and other trail connections to the Iron Horse Trail could increase network connectivity.
- Central San Ramon is relatively flat, making it easy to walk and bike. The western and eastern most portions of the city are hilly. Steeper roads discourage walking and biking. In the future e-bikes will make it easier to bike on steeper roadways.
- Higher bicycle and pedestrian activity is indicated along San Ramon Valley Road and Dougherty Road than on Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road which experience high traffic volumes.
- I-680 creates a major barrier for east/west bicycle and pedestrian connectivity across the city.
- At-grade intersections with I-680 typically have high traffic volumes and are less desirable for cyclists and walkers to use.
- Pedestrian activated signalized intersections exist where the Iron Horse Trail crosses Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road. The signals allow for bicyclists and pedestrians to safely cross the roadway, but they can create significant traffic delays on high volume roadways.
- San Ramon's Bike Master Plan identifies potential improvements for the bicycle network. This master plan builds from those recommendations, with a focus on opportunities for both bicyclists and pedestrian.



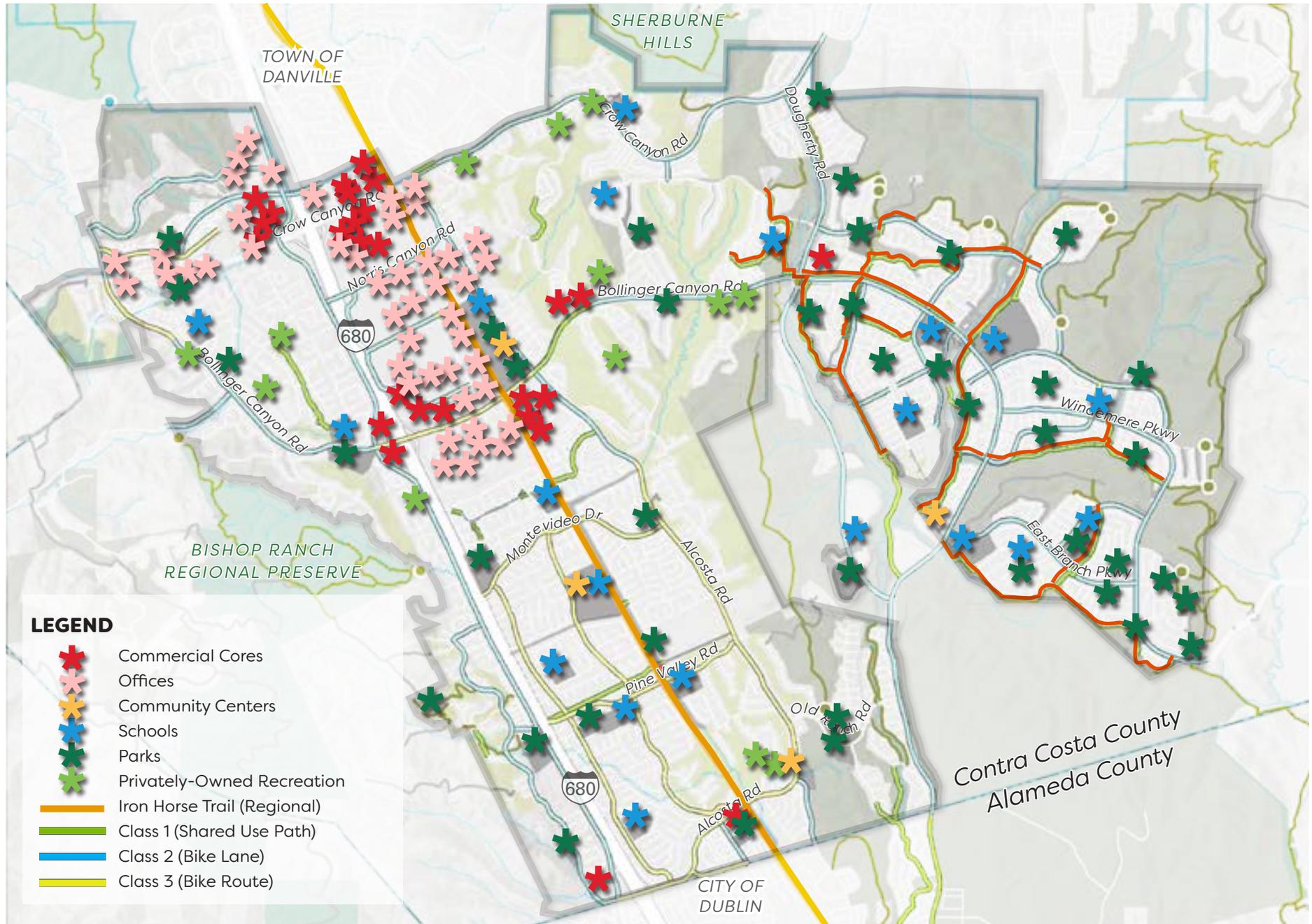
SLOPE ANALYSIS



TREE SHADE ANALYSIS



ATTRACTORS & DESTINATIONS



STRAVA BIKE & PED HEAT MAP





COMMUNITY INPUT

Trails and trail connectivity were frequently cited by residents as a priority for desired improvements. Sixty percent of survey respondents indicated that connecting parks and the community through paved trails and pathways was a top trend for consideration. Over 90 percent of respondents hiked or walked in the past 12 months.

When considering the importance of undertaking different improvements, opportunities that enhanced overall trail connectivity ranked high. Over 70 percent of respondents felt that the following activities were Very Important or Essential for the City to complete:

- Connect existing trails together
- Provide paved trails that connect the city east to west and connect to the Iron Horse Trail
- Provide new trails and paths in parts of the city that are lacking trails
- Connect trails to community parks and destinations
- Improve the maintenance and care of existing trails

PARTICIPATION IN TRAIL RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

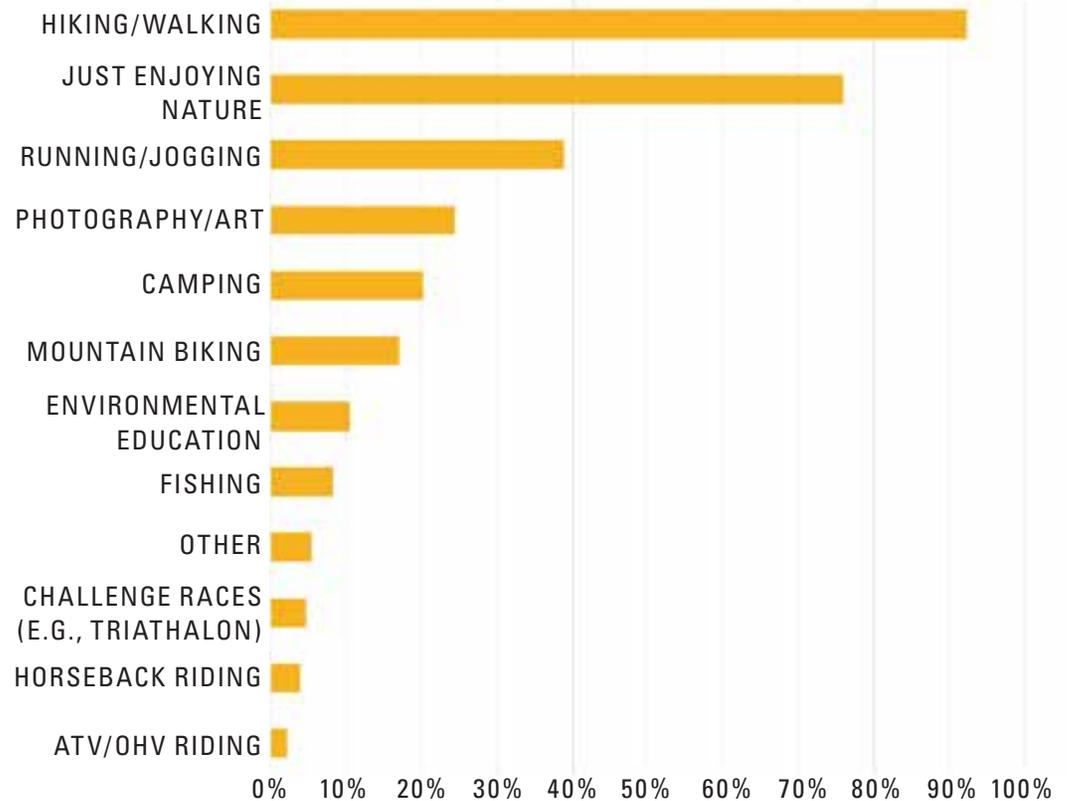


Figure 8: Percent of Respondents Participating in Trail Related Activities in the Past 12 Months

Source: Online community survey results from the first citywide online survey.



INTERCONNECTED | COMMUNITY INPUT

Residents were presented with a draft set of potential trail improvements and asked to select which three projects should be a high priority for the City.

- Over 40 percent of online survey respondents want the City to develop a formal walking district.
- Over 30 percent of respondents desired shade and seating along the Iron Horse Trail.
- The themes of Interconnected and Conservation of & Connection to Nature were both ranked as the top initiatives in regards to their importance for them and their family.

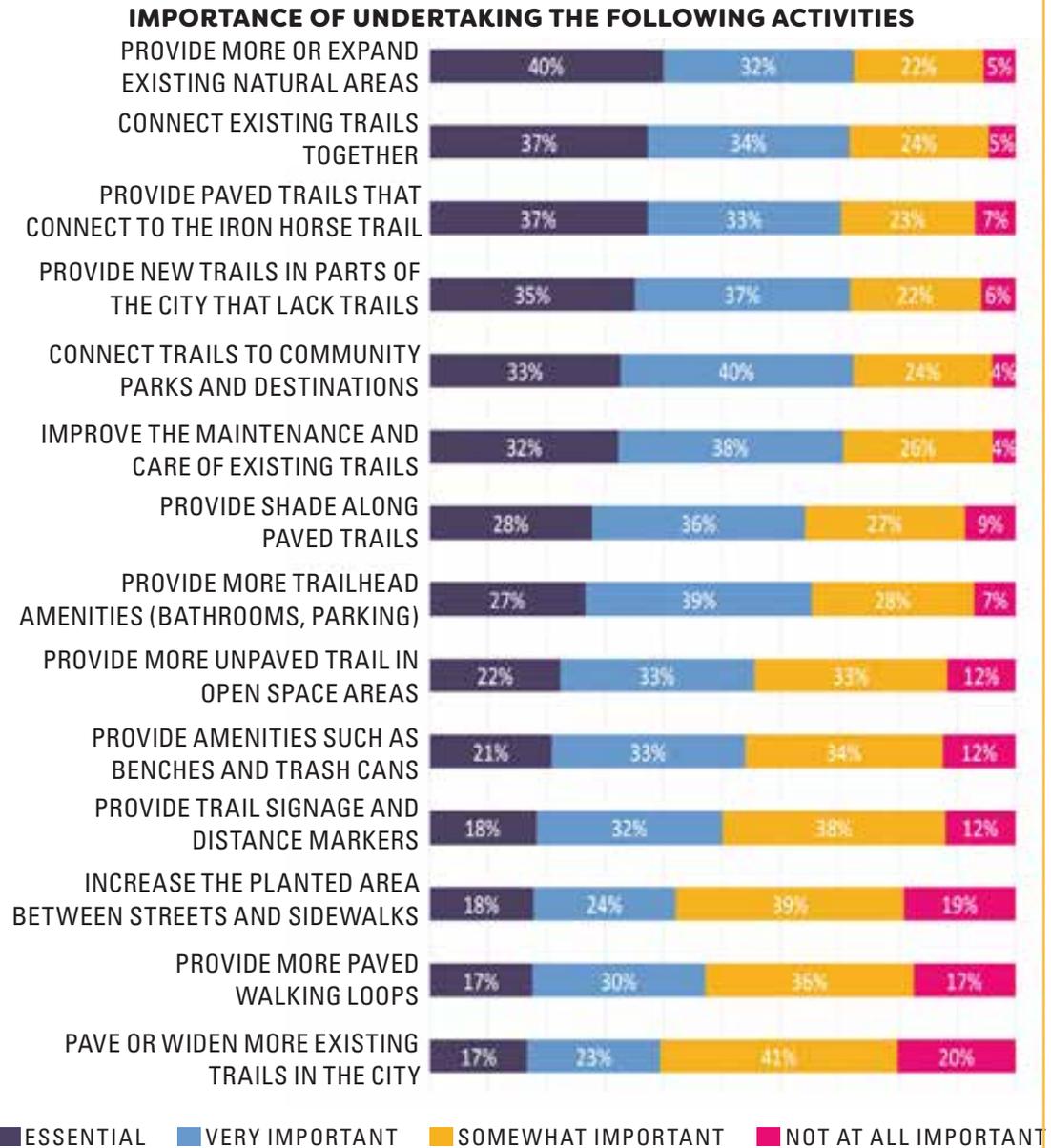


Figure 9: Importance of Completing Trails and Open Space Related Projects
Source: Online community survey results from the first citywide online survey.

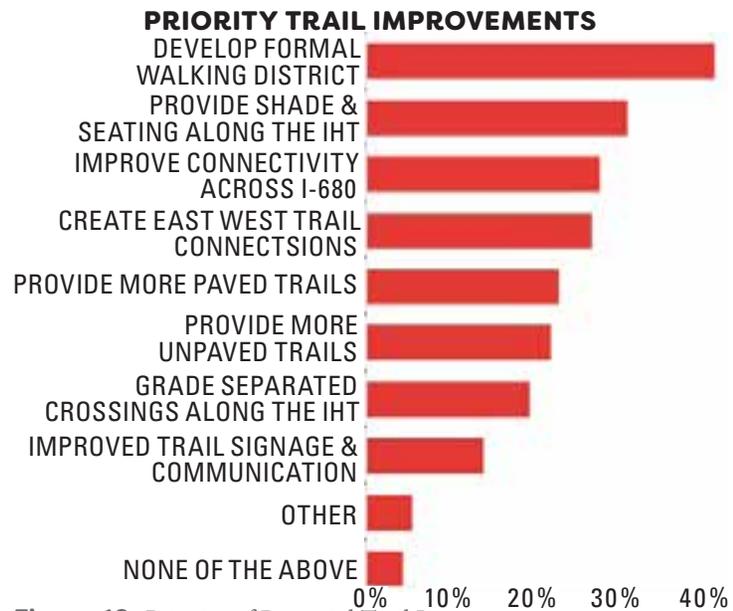


Figure 10: Priority of Potential Trail Improvements
 Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to three responses could be selected.

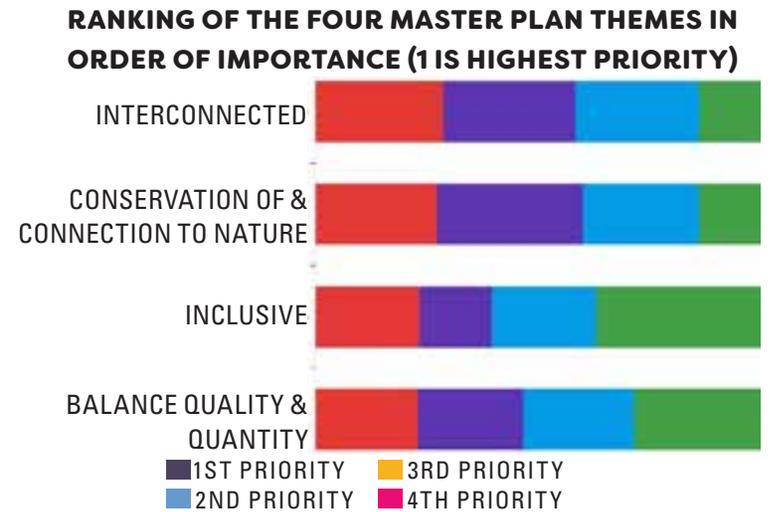


Figure 11: Ranking of Master Plan Themes
 Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey.



INTERCONNECTED | OPPORTUNITIES

FORMAT

Opportunities

Numbered 1-5, these are the overarching opportunities for the theme and reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for improvements.

- Action Steps

These strategies provide more detailed tasks to help achieve recommendations.

Supporting Content

Organized by the Opportunity List, it includes background information and descriptions, maps, and character images to help describe the opportunity.

1.1: Enhance the Iron Horse Trail

- 1.1A Minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists
- 1.1B Make the trail more inviting and comfortable in all seasons and for all abilities of users
- 1.1C Expand the City's partnership with multiple partners, such as East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, SRVUSD, Bishop Ranch, and PG&E, to facilitate the implementation of trail improvements and coordinate roles and responsibilities

1.2: Create a network of connected and inviting trails

- 1.2A Complete high-priority paved, shared-use path projects
- 1.2B Maintain and support a comprehensive vision for future trails within and around San Ramon
- 1.2C Provide secure bike parking at parks and recreation facilities

1.3: Develop a Framework Plan for a Walking District near the City Center

- 1.3A Develop a plan that defines conceptual walking route locations and guidelines for the aesthetics and function of the routes

1.4: Improve signage and wayfinding to trails

- 1.4A Create a pedestrian and bicyclist signage plan
- 1.4B Maintain and continually update website and app-based trail planning
- 1.4C Install trail directional signage (at trailheads and intersections)

1.5: Improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity across I-680

- 1.5A Improve facilities to reduce perceived safety concerns of “interested, but concerned” bicyclists and pedestrians at intersections with I-680
- 1.5B Enhance existing and/or develop new grade-separated crossings
- 1.5C Work with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Caltrans to program improvements into appropriate planning documents and coordinate enhancements with existing planned projects



1.1 ENHANCE THE IRON HORSE TRAIL

1.1A Minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists.

The Iron Horse Trail crosses two busy roadways: Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road. Constructing bikeable overcrossings can improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians while minimizing the traffic delays caused by motorists waiting for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross.

Conceptual studies have been completed for overcrossing structures at both sites. State environmental documentation (CEQA) is complete for both locations and federal environmental documentation (NEPA) is substantially complete for the Bollinger overcrossing. The City has hired Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) to help administer the project and final design for the Bollinger Canyon Road overcrossing will begin 2020.



Bollinger Canyon Road Conceptual Overcrossing Design Option 1A

Image by BCA Team



Bollinger Canyon Road Conceptual Overcrossing Design Option 1A - View from Deck

Image by BCA Team

1.1A-1 Bollinger Canyon Road Overcrossing

CIP Budget
Implications: \$21.5M

Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years



Crow Canyon Road Conceptual Overcrossing Design - View looking East

Image by BCA Team



Crow Canyon Road Conceptual Overcrossing Design - View looking West

Image by BCA Team

1.1A-2 Crow Canyon Road Overcrossing

CIP Budget
Implications: \$18M

Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

1.1 ENHANCE THE IRON HORSE TRAIL

1.1B Make the trail more inviting and comfortable in all seasons and for all abilities of users.

Cal Adapt climate change modeling predicts the number and duration of heat waves in San Ramon will increase. The modeled number of annual extreme heat days (temperature above 98.5 degrees Fahrenheit) is anticipated to increase from 6 days per year (during the historical modeling years of 1976-2005) to 18 days per year by the 2035-2050 model years. The number of four day heat waves is anticipated to increase from 0.3 to 2.0 per year.

Increasing shade through planting large shade trees or installing shade structures can help encourage walking and biking during the summer.

Similarly, providing seating opportunities can increase trail use by people who may need to rest while using the facility.



Image by Shakata Ga Nai

1.1B-1 Increasing shade

CIP Budget Implications:
\$250,000 - \$750,000 per mile (varies with trees versus structures)

Priority: High

Time Frame: In Progress



1.1B-2 Increase seating opportunities

CIP Budget Implications:
\$10,000-\$15,000 per mile

Priority: High

Time Frame: In Progress

1.1C Expand the City's partnership with multiple partners, such as East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, SRVUSD, Bishop Ranch, and PG&E, to facilitate the implementation of trail improvements and coordinate roles and responsibilities.

East Bay Regional Parks District manages the Iron Horse Regional Trail. Improvements need to be coordinated with the District and other agencies and organizations. The trail is also aligned with a major utility corridor. Therefore, tree planting may have some restrictions due to conflicts with public utility corridor access requirements and similar issues associated with power, gas, and petroleum pipelines. The City has planted trees on the drainage easement parallel to the trail in some locations. Acquiring additional rights to the land for public access may help address the constraints.

As San Ramon establishes their vision for the role of the trail through the city, the partnership with EBRPD, Contra Costa County, SRVUSD, Bishop Ranch, and PG&E should be clarified to ensure the partners support the vision and can help identify funding and operation dollars.

CIP Budget Implications:
N/A

Priority: High

Time Frame: Short



1.2 CREATE A NETWORK OF CONNECTED AND INVITING TRAILS

1.2A Complete high-priority paved, shared-use path projects.

The Bike Master Plan identifies several high priority trail connections. The planning process also revealed significant support for east-west connections to the Iron Horse Trail as a means to increase overall connectivity in the city. The map on page 65 identifies the location of high priority pathways.

① 1.2A-1 Cross Valley shared use path extension

CIP Budget Implications:
\$1.3M - \$1.75M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

② 1.2A-2 Old Ranch Road shared use path

CIP Budget Implications:
\$750,000 - \$1.2M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

1.2A-3 East-west shared-use path connections to the Iron Horse Trail

③A 1.2A-3A-Crow Canyon Road
CIP Budget Implications:
\$2M - \$2.5M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

③B 1.2A-3B-Norris Canyon Road
CIP Budget Implications:
\$250,000-\$500,000
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

1.2A-3 East-west shared-use path connections to the Iron Horse Trail (cont.)

③C 1.2A-3C-Bollinger Canyon Rd
CIP Budget Implications:
\$3.5M-\$4M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

③D 1.2A-3D-Montevideo Drive
CIP Budget Implications:
\$1.25M-\$1.5M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

③E 1.2A-3E-Alcosta Road
CIP Budget Implications:
\$350,000-\$500,000
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

1.2B Maintain and support a comprehensive vision for future trails within and around San Ramon.

A connected trail system allows residents to walk or bike to their neighborhood park. More Class 1 and Class 4 bike facilities are provided to encourage both biking and walking. Separating trails from high volume roadways allows people who typically are not comfortable riding a bike in the roadway to feel more confident and less stressed about bicycling to their destinations. In open spaces, looped trail systems are preferred over “out and back” paths. The exception is for trails that lead to vista points and where terrain and other elements may restrict the ability to create a looped trail.

1.2B-1 Connect neighborhoods to parks via trails and walkways

CIP Budget Implications:
\$1M per 1 mile of Class 1 shared use path
Priority: Med
Time Frame: Ongoing

1.2B-2 Focus on creating more Class 1 (shared use paths) and Class 4 (cycle track) facilities

CIP Budget Implications:
\$1M per 1 mile of Class 1 shared use path
\$150,000 per 1 mile of Class 4 cycle track
Priority: Med
Time Frame: Ongoing

1.2B-3 Develop looped trail systems in open spaces

CIP Budget Implications:
\$50,000 - \$75,000 per 1 mile of unpaved trail
Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

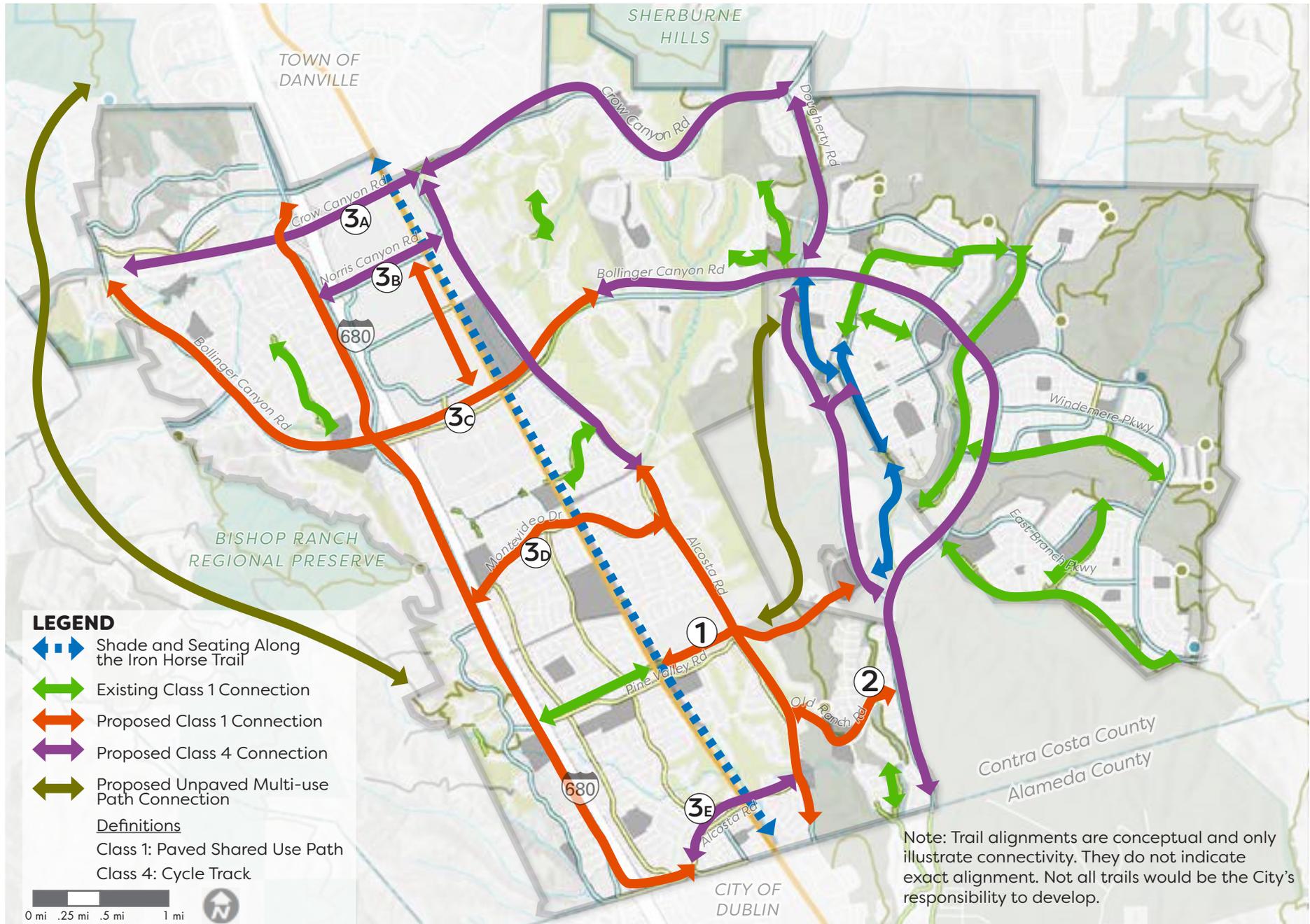
1.2C Provide secure bike parking at parks and recreation facilities.



Bike parking at parks and recreation facilities

CIP Budget Implications:
\$1,500-\$3,000 per rack
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

PROPOSED CONNECTIONS





1.3 DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK PLAN FOR A WALKING DISTRICT NEAR THE CITY CENTER

1.3A Develop a plan that defines conceptual walking route locations and guidelines for the aesthetics and function of the routes

A walking district near Central Park and the newly developed City Center is envisioned by a number of stakeholder groups. The idea received community support and private developers expressed interest in aligning proposed projects with the goals of the walking district. The purpose is to create a walkable city core that promotes San Ramon's healthy community activities.

As part of the planning process, the project area will be formalized and a set of goals established to support the project's vision.

Conceptual walking route locations will be identified and guidelines will direct the look and function of the routes.



Walking District Project Area from the Request for Proposals

Walking District Framework Plan

CIP Budget Implications:
\$75,000
(Budget is for developing the plan. Construction costs (\$10-\$18/SF varies

depending on materials and the use of existing walkways.)

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years





1.4 IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING TO TRAILS

1.4A Create a pedestrian and bicyclist signage plan.

Signage should be consistent and reinforce a user’s connection to the landscape and visual character of San Ramon. Development of an overall signage plan establishes the look and feel for trail signage, the hierarchy of sign types, and priority locations for signage.

Trail Signage Plan

CIP Budget Implications: \$50,000

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

1.4B Maintain and continually update website and app-based trail planning.

Sharing trail loop and route information helps residents know where trails are located, which paths allow public use, and appropriate trail etiquette. The City is contracted with a provider that has made existing route information available on the City’s website. The information is also downloadable on a mobile application. Updating the information ensures residents will have current route data and increase confidence in how to find and access local and regional trails.

Trail map maintenance

CIP Budget Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: Ongoing

1.4C Install trail directional signage (at trail-heads and intersections).

Strategically placing signs informing people of trail route options and connections increases awareness and reduces the stress of potentially getting lost. Trail signage should focus on directional information and indicate routes and destinations.

Trail directional signage

CIP Budget Implications: \$1,500-\$5,000 per sign

Priority: High

Time Frame: Ongoing





1.5 IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST CONNECTIVITY ACROSS I-680

1.5A Improve facilities to reduce perceived safety concerns of “interested, but concerned” bicyclists and pedestrians at intersections with I-680.

High volume intersections, such as I-680 and Crow Canyon Road and I-680 and Bollinger Canyon Road, are stressful for many bicyclists and pedestrians to navigate. It can take more time to cross the roadway and there can be significant wait times because typically the highest priority for transportation managers is reducing travel delays for motorists.

The Bike Master Plan identifies a number of physical improvements to help address intersection design at these and other locations. Increasing visibility of the cyclist, reducing the length of crossings, providing islands, and separating bicycle and pedestrian facilities from the roadway are some of the suggested enhancements. Components of the recommendations have been installed or are in progress. Others are long range projects.

CIP Budget Implications:

Varies for each project

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: Ongoing with some long range projects

1.5B Enhance existing and/or develop new grade-separated crossings of I-680.

Lower volume intersections and existing undercrossings of I-680 provide opportunities to enhance connectivity of bicycle and shared use facilities. The Norris Canyon Road overpass at I-680 has fewer cars than intersections such as Crow Canyon Road. The existing sidewalk could be upgraded to a more separated path facility to increase connectivity. The I-680 undercrossing facilities at Pine Valley Road and Montevideo could also be enhanced through lighting and widening to make them more inviting to use.

Overcrossings and/or undercrossings of I-680

1.5B-1 Pine Valley Road Undercrossing Enhancement

CIP Budget Implications: \$500,000 - \$750,000
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

1.5B-3 Norris Canyon Road Overcrossing Enhancement

CIP Budget Implications: \$8M - \$10M
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

1.5B-2 Montevideo Drive Undercrossing Enhancement

CIP Budget Implications: \$500,000 - \$750,000
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 11-20 Years



1.5C Work with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Caltrans to program improvements into appropriate planning documents and coordinate enhancements with existing planned projects.

Improvements that encroach or cross Caltrans’ right-of-way require encroachment permits. Funding for projects is typically prioritized for projects that are listed in jurisdictional transportation plans. The City should begin coordination with the CCTA to appropriately include improvements in the transportation plan and in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

CIP Budget Implications:

N/A

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

BARRIERS & CROSSINGS





INTERCONNECTED | PROPOSED TRAILS NETWORK

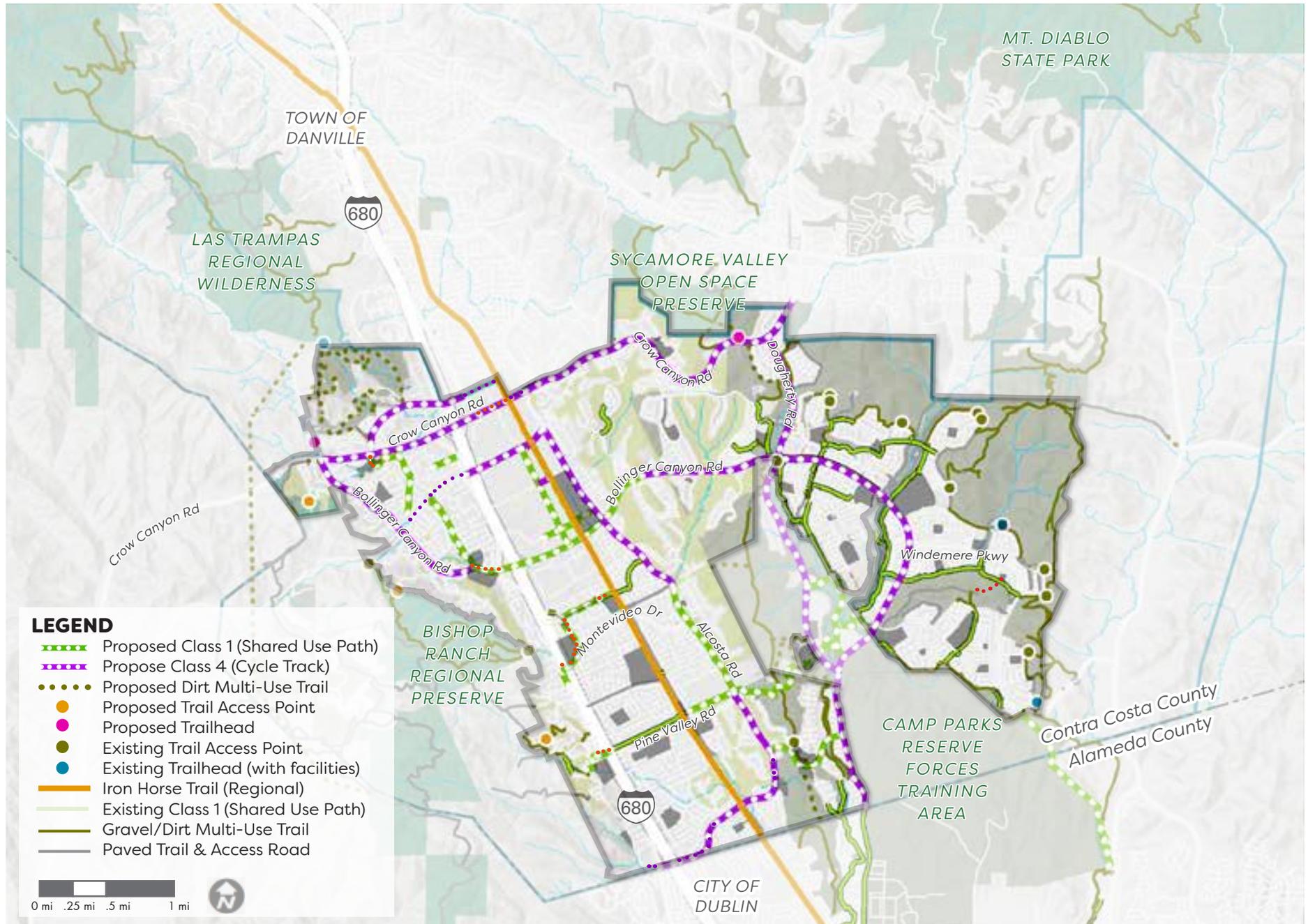
VISION

San Ramon residents value the ability to access the outdoors. Participation rates for walking, hiking, and biking show trail use is one of the top recreation activities in the city. Similar demands for trail connectivity and access to trails is also seen at regional and national levels. Research by RCLCO, a national real estate advisory firm, shows that trails and corridors for walking, jogging, and biking are consistently one of the top features that set apart top-selling master-planned communities. At the state level, the California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies 64 percent of Californians mostly participate in walking and 55 percent would like to participate in walking more often.

Similarly, significant community support exists for enhancing San Ramon's trail system and connectivity. The ultimate vision is for a well-designed network that invites residents to walk and bike to community destinations and to use the trail system for fitness and meeting neighbors. The envisioned network will connect east to west across the city with enhancements along the north-south spine created by the Iron Horse Trail. East-west connections are made possible through a series of Class 1 and Class 4 bike facilities to separate bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic and make walking and biking a more enjoyable experience. These improvements will welcome walkers and cyclists of all age ranges and abilities to go outdoors.



PROPOSED TRAILS NETWORK





CONSERVATION OF AND CONNECTION TO NATURE | KEY FINDINGS

THEME

Balancing the stewardship of natural resources with providing access to open space and natural areas provides benefits to emotional and physical well-being. Residents treasure the hills, ridges, creeks, canyons, and open space resources of San Ramon. In addition to conserving and providing access to open space, parks and programs can incorporate nature-based features and sustainable practices.

INVENTORY

San Ramon and its partners have proactively planned and preserved much of the surrounding hillsides and ridges. The 2035 General Plan and several specific plans set aside a significant amount of their planning areas as open space. According to the General Plan, more than 3,500 acres of land is designated as open space within the city limits. This equates to almost 30 percent of the land within the city limits. In the surrounding sphere of influence, additional lands are conserved as open space, regional preserves, and regional wilderness. Figure 12 shows the open space lands per the General Plan.

KEY FINDINGS

- Partnership with EBRPD and other organizations is important in the planning, acquisition, access, and management of natural areas.
- Open spaces are defined for a range of uses. Some lands allow recreation and trail uses. Others restrict uses for the preservation of natural resources.
- All open space lands provide benefits, either through scenic and visual preservation, recreation, or environmental protection.

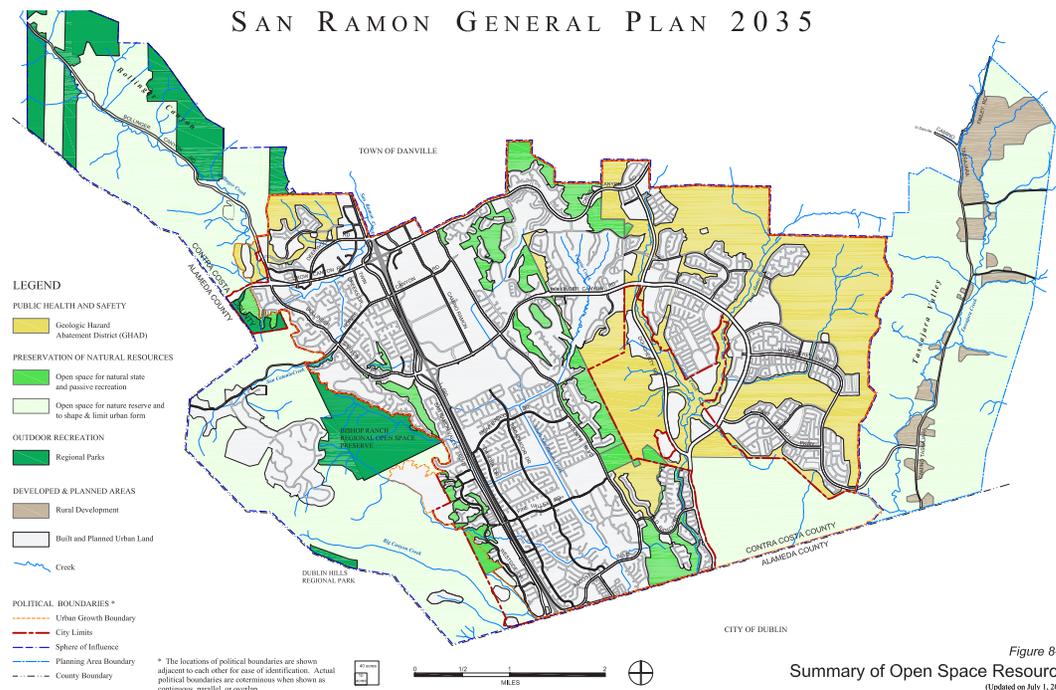
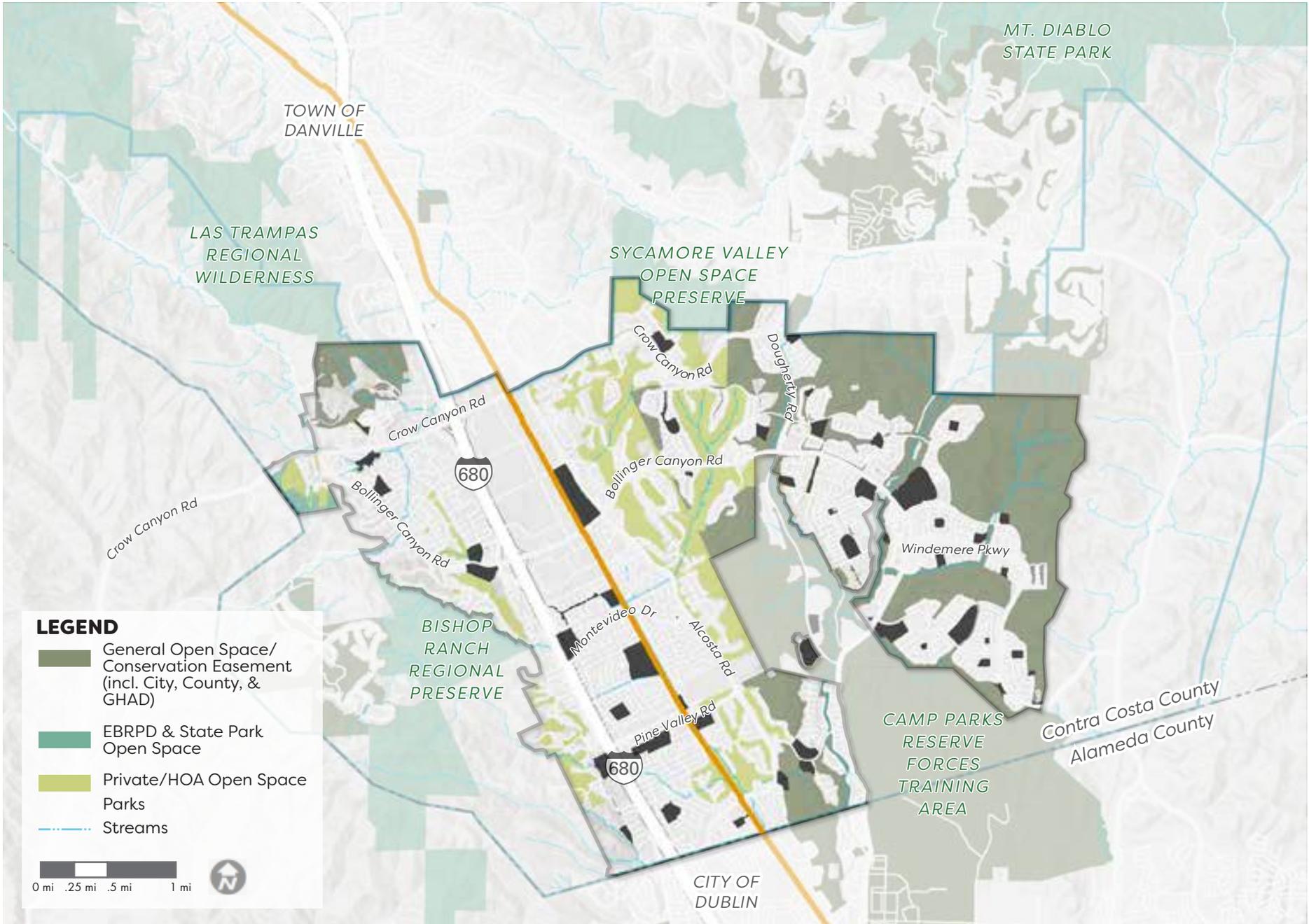


Figure 12: City Open Space Lands per 2035 General Plan Designations

Figure 8-2
Summary of Open Space Resource
(Updated on July 1, 2017)

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM





CONSERVATION OF AND CONNECTION TO

COMMUNITY INPUT

The move to provide a master plan update that also emphasizes trails and open space underscores the importance residents place on conserving the surrounding hills and ridges and on providing access to recreate in natural areas. Feedback gained through workshops, stakeholder meetings, and surveys confirm residents' desire to connect with the outdoors.

Preserving open space was the top priority expressed by survey respondents. The importance of natural areas and accessible open space was also identified by survey responses. Ninety-one percent of respondents described natural or passive parks with walking paths as being "Essential" or "Very Important" and 87 percent identified accessible open space as being "Essential" or "Very Important".

In response to a draft set of physical, programming, and operational ways for enhancing residents' connection with nature, online survey respondents selected the following methods as being a primary focus for the City:

- Providing trailheads
- Increasing outdoor programs like nature hikes and camps
- Enhancing conservation of natural areas.

Overall, residents supported facilities, activities, and programs that allow them and their families to appreciate and recreate in the natural landscapes of San Ramon.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

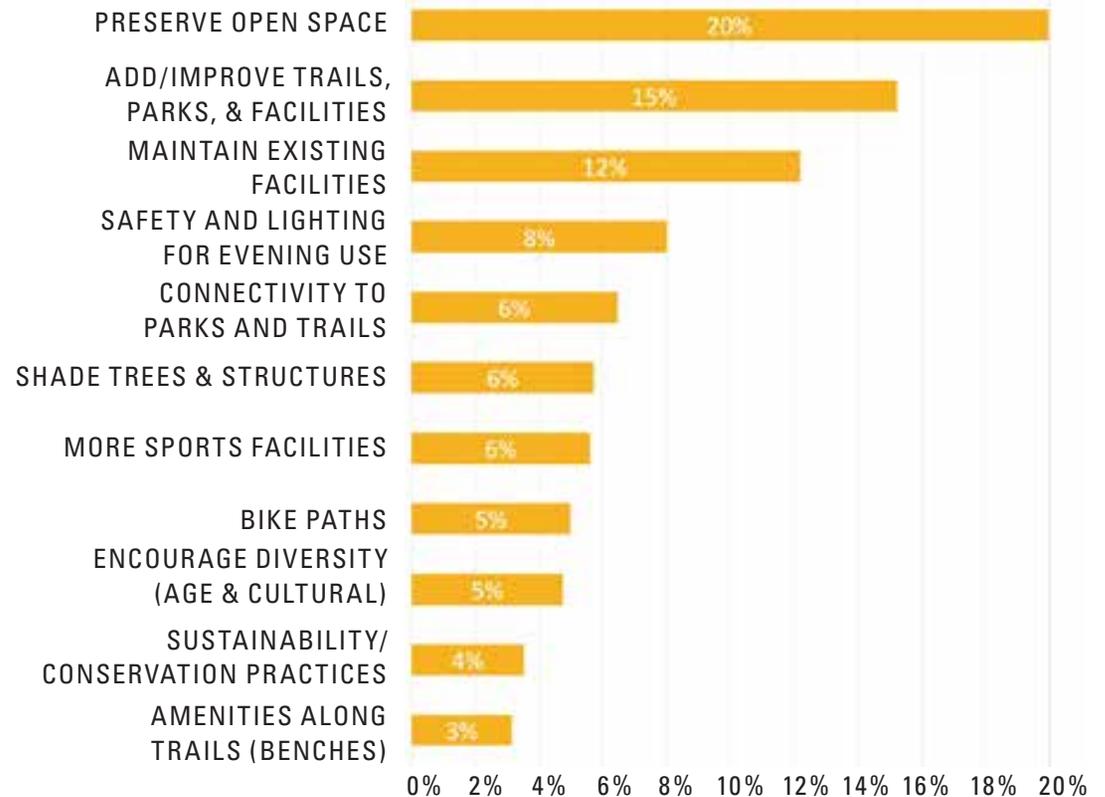


Figure 13: Survey Write-in Responses for Top City Priorities for the Next 10 Years

Source: Online community survey results from the first citywide online survey.



NATURE | COMMUNITY INPUT

IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION FACILITIES

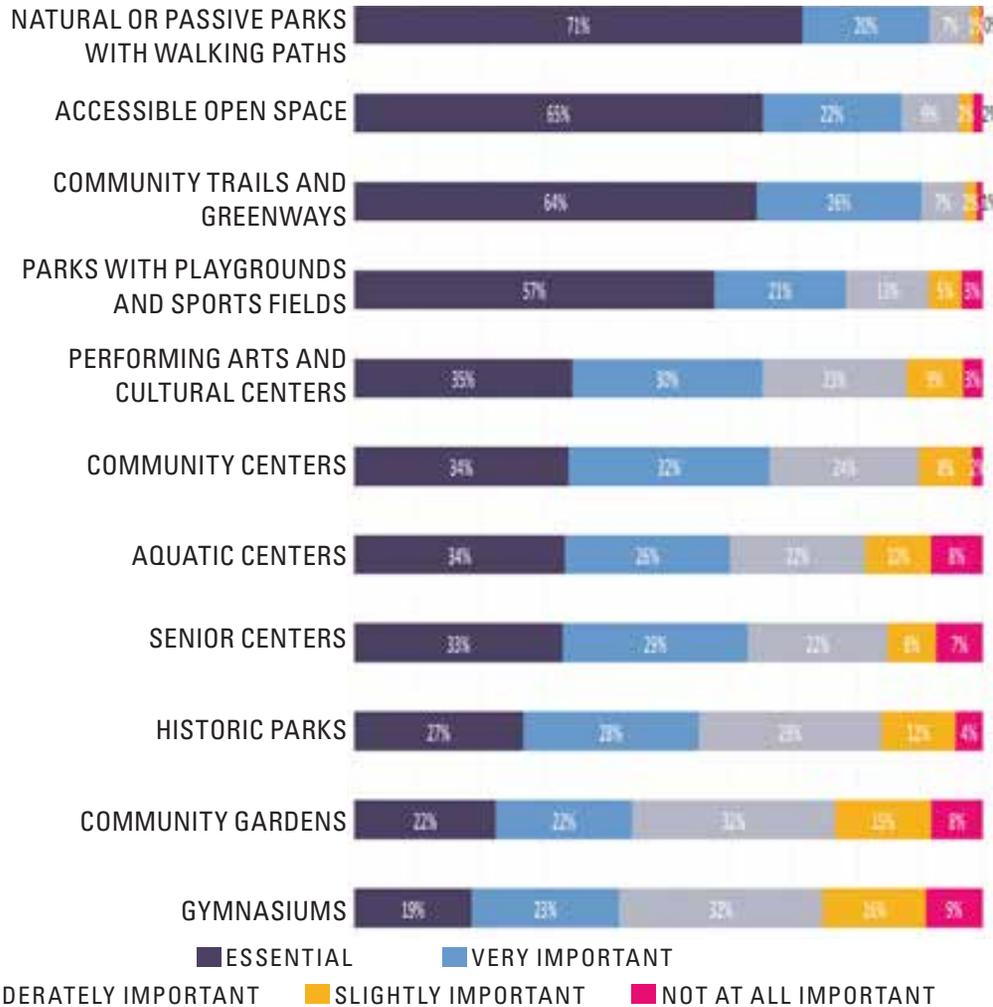


Figure 14: Importance of Different Types of Recreation Facilities
Source: Online community survey results from the first citywide online survey.

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP PEOPLE

CONNECT TO NATURE

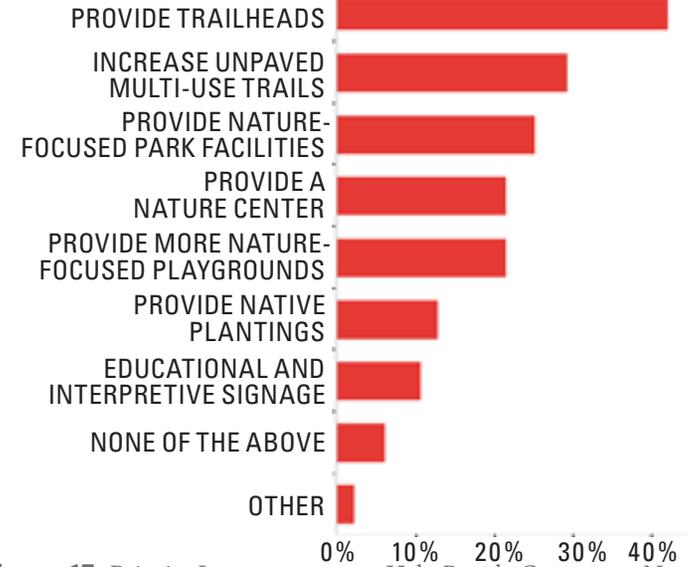


Figure 15: Priority Improvements to Help People Connect to Nature
Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME OUTDOORS

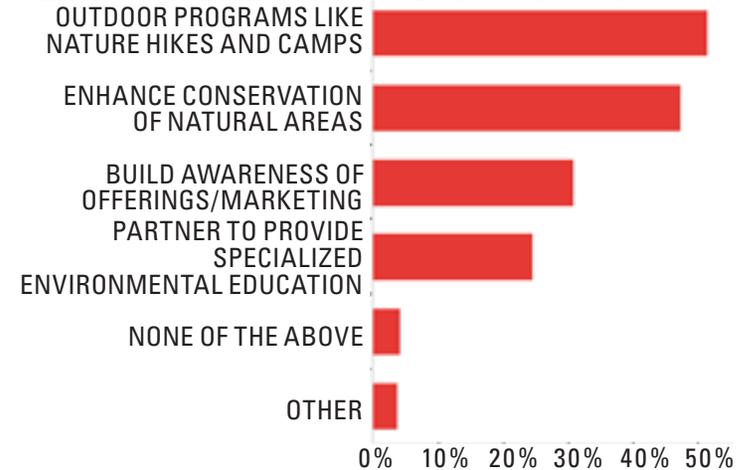


Figure 16: Priorities for Other Actions to Encourage People to Spend More Time Outdoors/In Nature
Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.



CONSERVATION OF AND CONNECTION TO

FORMAT

Opportunities

Numbered 1-4, these are the overarching opportunities for the theme and reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for improvements.

- Action Steps

These strategies provide more detailed tasks to help achieve recommendations.

Supporting Content

Organized by the Opportunity List, it includes background information and descriptions, maps, character images and projects to help describe the opportunity.

2.1: Acquire, preserve, and maintain open space and its natural resources for future generations

- 2.1A Work with developers to incorporate the preserved ridgelines and provide large, contiguous open spaces and natural resources as part of new development
- 2.1B Expand the ridgeline and hillside open space system in the City's Planning Area by joint efforts with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and nonprofit trustee agencies
- 2.1C Strengthen the City's partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and other jurisdictions and private organizations
- 2.1D Identify, evaluate, and preserve the archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources that are found within the City's parks and open spaces, where possible

2.2: Define and measure the City's open space and trails system

- 2.2A Use open space classifications to define their purpose and maintain the quality of resources, while balancing recreation needs and access
- 2.2B Research development of open space acreage targets that reflect the desire for preservation of San Ramon's hills, ridges, creeks, canyons, and agricultural resources and the associated City's visual character and quality of life
- 2.2C Research development of mileage targets for the City's trail system that reflects a connected and convenient paved trail network and a looped and accessible diverse unpaved multi-use trail network

2.3: Provide facilities and programming that connect people to nature

- 2.3A Increase the number of defined access points to open space trails systems
- 2.3B Support the development of an unpaved and paved trail system in Faria's open space and Preserve Park
- 2.3C Consider the opportunities for future and renovated parks such as Henry Ranch, Woodlot, Crow Canyon Gardens, and Laborer's to provide more nature- and adventure-based recreation amenities such as trails, disc golf, mountain biking, and nature walks



NATURE | OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.3D Increase the use of nature-based, exploratory play elements in parks
- 2.3E Continue to provide broad-based outdoor education programming such as guided trail hikes
- 2.3F Leverage volunteers from local cycling groups, mountain bike clubs, hiking organizations, and open space groups to create and maintain trails and to lead guided hikes
- 2.3G Partner with EBRPD and other nature-based organizations to increase access to and offerings of other outdoor education programs
- 2.3H Encourage the development of more specialized, science-based programming by partner agencies and organizations
- 2.3I Develop agreements with private organizations to formalize public access for walking, biking, and visual access to the waterbodies in Bishop Ranch
- 2.3J Encourage EBRPD's development of additional unpaved, multi-use trail loops and trailheads
- 2.3K Utilize industry standard trail guidelines, such as the U.S. Forest Service or EBRPD standards, for the creation and maintenance of unpaved trail systems

2.4: Increase use of sustainable maintenance practices

- 2.4A Implement water quality programs and measures
- 2.4B Decrease lawn areas and utilize low-maintenance, native landscaping where feasible
- 2.4C Consider transitioning maintenance fleet to electric vehicles (non-emergency vehicles)
- 2.4D Continue to invest in equipment, staff resources, and maintenance practices to improve irrigation system efficiencies
- 2.4E Consider opportunities for solar powered lighting and the installation of solar parking shade structures , when funding allows with new park development or major park renovations



2.1

ACQUIRE, PRESERVE, AND MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

2.1A Work with developers to incorporate the pre-served ridgelines and provide large, contiguous open spaces and natural resources as part of new development.

The 2035 General Plan provides a framework for protecting open space areas within the City. As growth continues, staff can work with developers to prioritize the conservation of open space. Greenways and hillside development can create value for new developments while also meeting city goals. Low impact development solutions use green spaces to infiltrate water and reduce infrastructure costs. The Preserve Project is an example of new development that is planning for dedicated open spaces.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A

Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

2.1B Expand the ridgeline and hillside open space system in the City’s Planning Area by joint efforts with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and nonprofit trustee agencies.

East Bay Regional Parks District maintains and operates several regional open spaces within and adjacent to the city’s sphere of influence. This organization, and others, have goals for acquisition and preservation of open spaces. The City is able to work with these agencies to identify potential acquisition areas and to work with property owners to develop conservation agreements to ensure lands remain undeveloped, but can be open to the public for appropriate recreation purposes.

CIP Budget
Implications: Varies

Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing



2.1

ACQUIRE, PRESERVE, AND MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

2.1C Strengthen the City’s partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and other jurisdictions and private organizations.

Regular communication and coordination with regional partners will better position the City to meet its goals for open space conservation and access. As planning and project efforts are aligned, the City can leverage the relationships to provide residents opportunities for outdoor recreation at a lower cost than if the City duplicated the efforts provided by partnering organizations.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A

Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

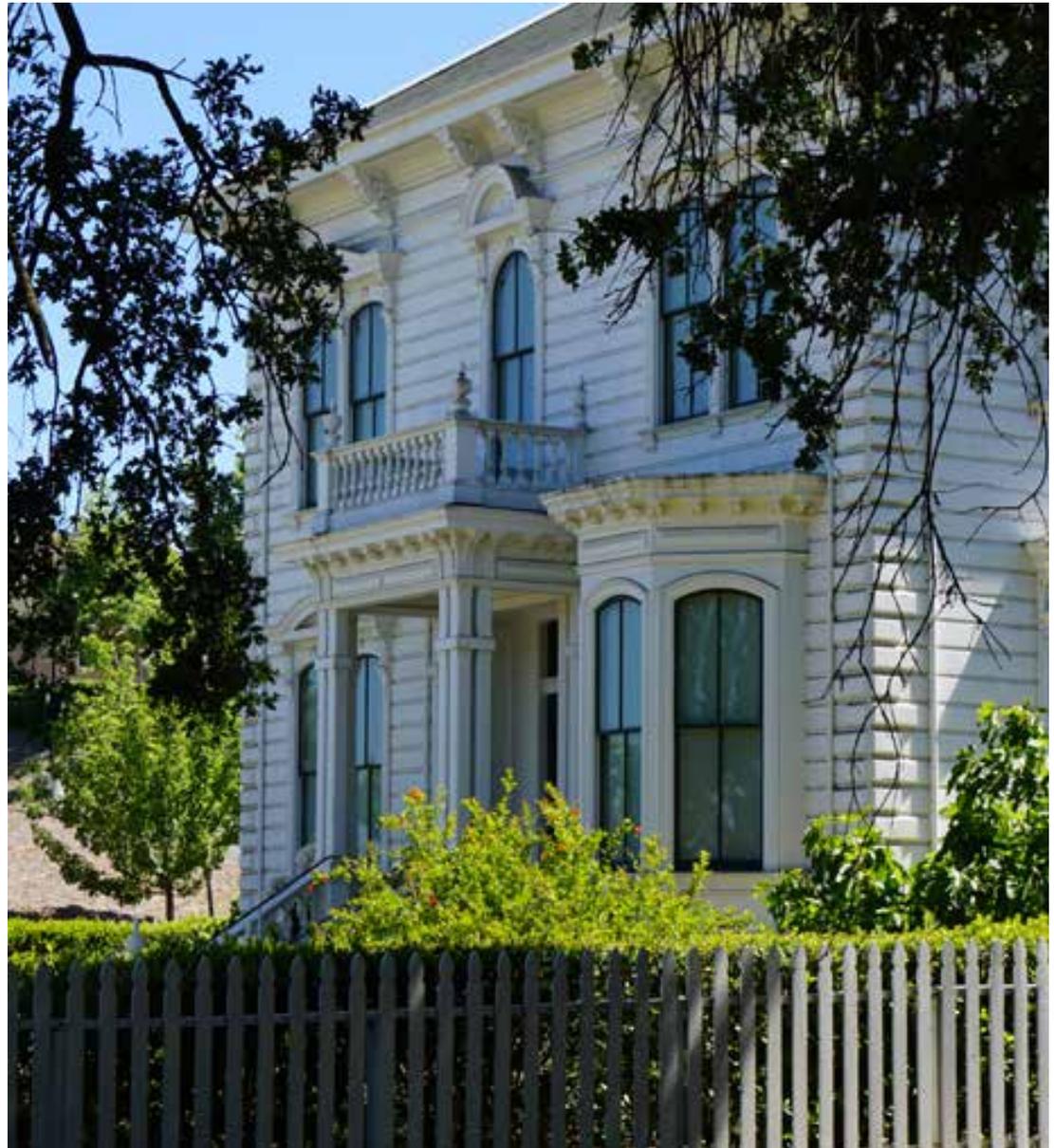
2.1D Identify, evaluate, and preserve the archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources that are found within the City’s parks and open spaces, where possible.

People regularly seek opportunities for authentic outdoor experiences. They want to enjoy places that are grounded in history and environmental meaning. When opportunities arise, designers and planners should utilize the history and ecology of sites to elevate placemaking. Embedding these opportunities into the design of parks and open spaces also increases the variety of potential programming options.

Preserve and highlight resources, where possible

CIP Budget
Implications: Varies

Priority: Medium
Time Frame: Ongoing





2.2 DEFINE AND MEASURE THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS SYSTEM

2.2A Use open space classifications to define their purpose and maintain the quality of resources, while balancing recreation needs and access.

The 2035 General Plan describes four categories of open space, per the state planning law structures. These designations relate to the land's anticipated purpose and access and are as follows:

- Open space for public health and safety
- Open space for natural resource preservation
- Open space for resource production (e.g., forests and agriculture)
- Open space for outdoor recreation

The City can further refine the open space mapping to communicate the purpose and function of open spaces. These designations create a baseline for understanding maintenance, management, public access, and level of anticipated physical improvements. Some open space areas may be set aside to preserve sensitive environmental resources, while others may be for recreation access.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A

Priority: Med
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

DESIGNATION	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	RECREATIONAL USES	FACILITIES
Greenways	The lands may be areas which are vacant but in the path of urbanization in the community or adjacent to existing and planned trail facilities. Greenways can link elements of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other parks.	Varies. Recreation uses may be public or private. Paved and natural surface trails and outdoor fitness equipment.	Facilities primarily for the benefit of trail users. Where appropriate, may include: restrooms, bike stations, bike racks, and outdoor fitness equipment.
Wildlife Corridors	To provide a barrier-free travel route which animals follow during daily, periodic or seasonal movements. May remain in private ownership.	Limited and seasonal watchable wildlife opportunities, bird watching, and educational activities that do not interfere with wildlife activities.	None
Resource Preservation	Protection of areas with sensitive environmental and ecological conditions that are protected for their intrinsic value as well as for the enjoyment and education of the public. Lands may preserve wildlife corridors and habitat areas. Opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation may be limited to protect the resource. Continuity and connectivity of lands should be emphasized.	Varies, based on the sensitivity of the resource. Typically, recreation uses occur on publicly-owned land only. Where appropriate, uses may include: nature study and observation, picnicking, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding.	Varies, based on the sensitivity of the resource. Typically, recreation facilities occur on publicly-owned land only. Examples of appropriate facilities include parking, multi-purpose trails, restrooms/porta-lets, benches, and signage.
Resource Production	Separates developing portions of the county and allows for the continued use of rangelands and agricultural lands. These areas contribute to the open space feeling of the area, including important viewsheds.	Varies. In most cases public access will be prohibited and lands will be privately-owned.	Few facilities. Trail access may be allowed as part of agreements.
Outdoor Recreation	Supports outdoor recreational opportunities for the enjoyment and education of the public. The open space has outstanding natural features, including rare species. The designated area is large enough to support many recreational uses.	Varies. Allows for a wide range of nature-based outdoor recreation uses.	It is recommended that at least 70 percent of the area be managed in its natural state. Examples of appropriate facilities include parking, multi-purpose trails, restrooms, and camping.



2.2 DEFINE AND MEASURE THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS SYSTEM

2.2B Research development of open space acreage targets that reflect the desire for preservation of San Ramon's hills, ridges, creeks, canyons, and agricultural resources and the associated City's visual character and quality of life.

Open space is a key element of San Ramon's community character. A measurable goal could be set for the amount of open space desired for the community. For reference, Walnut Creek includes both active parks and passive open spaces in its park metrics. The city has almost 40 acres of open space/natural areas per 1,000 people and almost 6 acres of active parks per 1,000 people. As of 2017, Palo Alto had almost 64 acres of open space per 1,000 people.

Additional research into whether an open space level of service metric is appropriate for San Ramon should account for the cost differential for developers to provide open space and greenways versus active parks. Metrics can indicate both the quantity of desired open space within new development projects and the conservation of open space in the surrounding sphere of influence. Infill projects and more urban, mixed-use development projects could use public spaces as part of their plans to meet open space goals.

As part of the research, it should be recognized that the value of connected open space and habitat lands is greater than the sum of individual disconnected open space areas located throughout a city. Natural areas should be linked together and create a system that addresses the community's desires for hillside and viewshed preservation, habitat connectivity, conservation of sensitive lands, and greenway/trail connectivity. Success could be measured by overall acreage, connectivity, and the type of lands preserved.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A

Priority: Med
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

2.2C Research development of mileage targets for the City's trail system that reflects a connected and convenient paved trail network and a looped and accessible diverse unpaved multi-use trail network.

The primary objectives of the City's active transportation network are connectivity, convenience, and positive user experiences. Implementing recommendations from the Bike Master Plan and this master plan will help the City achieve those goals. Mileage targets can also be associated with the system to help track progress and to give credit to developers who actively build trail systems that work toward the City's goals.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A

Priority: Med
Time Frame: 0-5 Years





2.3 PROVIDE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

2.3A Increase the number of defined access points to open space trails systems.

Trailheads designate appropriate locations for users to park to access open space trail systems. Small designated parking areas may be needed for popular trails where parking impacts neighborhoods. The majority of access points may be designated on maps, but do not have associated facilities.

CIP Budget Implications:

Varies with trailhead program

Priority: Med

Time Frame: 6-10 Years



Proposed trails plan with proposed access points and more developed trailheads

- Proposed Trail Access Point
- Proposed Trailhead
- Existing Trail Access Point
- Existing Trailhead (with facilities)

2.3B Support the development of an unpaved and paved trail system in Faria's open space and Preserve Park.

The Faria Preserve is a development located in the northwestern portion of San Ramon. As part of the planned development, an open space trail system is planned along with a developed park with nature based play elements and trails.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Med

Time Frame: 6-10 Years



The Faria Preserve Development Community Site Plan from the December 2017 public notice



2.3 PROVIDE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

2.3C Consider the opportunities for future and renovated parks such as Henry Ranch, Woodlot, Crow Canyon Gardens, and Laborer’s to provide more nature- and adventure-based recreation amenities such as trails, disc golf, mountain biking, and nature walks.

Nature-based play elements vary from traditional park features in that they seek to connect the user to park landscape characteristics (terrain, plants, animals, and history) that are representative of the place. For example, play equipment may be designed to reflect natural elements and inspire creative play. The intent is to consider amenities and activities that can highlight and utilize the existing landscape features. A variety of play equipment and amenities can also provide more challenging experiences that engage a wider range of users.

CIP Budget Implications: \$60,000-\$80,000 each master plan
Priority: Low
Time Frame: 11-20 Years



2.3D Increase the use of nature-based, exploratory play elements in parks.

Exploratory play reimagines traditional play equipment to reflect the special qualities of the region and individual sites.

CIP Budget Implications: \$40,000-\$50,000 per play unit
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

2.3E Continue to provide broad-based outdoor education programming such as guided trail hikes.

Guided trail hikes combine opportunities for residents to meet and socialize while exploring new trails in and around San Ramon.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

2.3F Leverage volunteers from local cycling groups, mountain bike clubs, hiking organizations, and open space groups to create and maintain trails and to lead guided hikes.

Local trail users take ownership and pride in caring for the region’s trails. The City and its partners have an opportunity to leverage local energy to help maintain trail facilities and provide expert knowledge on trail routes and the region’s history.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: Low
Time Frame: 6-10 Years





2.3

PROVIDE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

2.3G Partner with EBRPD and other nature-based organizations to increase access to and offerings of other outdoor education programs.

EBRPD has access to staff, partnerships, and training dedicated to regional outdoor experiences. The City can provide greater access by partnering with agencies who have already established excellence in the field rather than expanding their programming.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: 1-5 Years

2.3H Support the development of more specialized, science-based programming by partner agencies and organizations.

Rather than increasing the City's programming to include staff with in-depth scientific backgrounds, the City can leverage existing community resources to provide more specialized programming. For example, biologist or ecologist talks are better provided by agencies and organizations with that specific knowledge base.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: Low
Time Frame: Ongoing

2.3I Develop agreements with private organizations to formalize public access for walking, biking, and visual access to the waterbodies in Bishop Ranch.

The Walking District study will evaluate routes and guidelines for where public access may occur near and around the city's Central Park and Bishop Ranch. On private lands, guidelines such as appropriate access points and time frames for access should be confirmed and formalized.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: 1-5 Years

2.3J Support EBRPD's development of additional unpaved, multi-use trail loops and trailheads.

EBRPD operates and manages significant regional open spaces. Where appropriate, the City should support public access for trail use and additional trail development.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 6-10 Years



Example of Regional Park operated by EBRPD

Image by Masrur Odinaev



2.3 PROVIDE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

2.3K Utilize industry standard trail guidelines, such as the U.S. Forest Service or EBRPD standards, for the creation and maintenance of unpaved trail systems.

The design of natural surface trails should consider the type of use and how developed or undeveloped the trail should be. Rather than developing an independent set of trail standards, the City can build upon guidelines accepted and approved by the industry, such as those used by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or EBRPD. The USFS 2016 Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives and additional resources for trail design guidelines can be found on the USFS Trail Management Tools webpage: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools>.

For reference, the USFS trail guidelines use the following elements to determine design parameters:

- Trail Type: The predominant trail surface (ground, snow, or water).
- Trail Class: The level of development, from minimally developed to fully developed.
- Managed Use: The mode of travel that is actively managed and appropriate for a trail. There can be more than one Managed Use.
- Designed Use: The single Managed Use of a trail that requires the most demanding design, construction, and maintenance parameters. In conjunction with the Trail Class, the Designed Use determines which design criteria apply to a trail.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A

Priority: Low
Time Frame: 6-10 Years



Example of a “Fully Developed” Trail



Example of a “Developed” Trail



Example of a “Minimally Developed” Trail



2.4

INCREASE USE OF SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

2.4A Implement water quality programs and measures.

As new parks come on line and existing parks are renovated, the City should consider opportunities to use low impact development guidelines to infiltrate and treat water as part of the landscape design approach. The goals are to reduce runoff and increase water quality while also lowering infrastructure costs.

CIP Budget

Implications: Varies

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: Ongoing

2.4B Decrease lawn areas and utilize low-maintenance, drought tolerant native landscaping that also increases and connects wildlife habitat areas within parks and open spaces where feasible.

Reductions in water use can be achieved both through irrigation efficiencies and by reducing areas of lawn that are not needed for outdoor recreation and field use. Converting lawn areas should consider maintenance requirements as well as opportunities to increase native landscaping and habitat areas.

CIP Budget

Implications: Varies

Priority: Low

Time Frame: 11-20 Years

2.4C Consider transitioning maintenance fleet to electric vehicles (non-emergency vehicles).

Governor Brown’s Executive Order B-30-15 established a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. In 2016, Senate Bill 32 put that goal into law. Shifting vehicle use to electric vehicles (EV) is a fundamental part of the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As the City replaces non-emergency, maintenance vehicles, they can consider replacing light use vehicles with electric vehicles.

CIP Budget Implications:

To occur with regular vehicle replacement program

Priority: Low

Time Frame: 11-20 Years





2.4 INCREASE USE OF SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

2.4D Continue to invest in equipment, staff resources, and maintenance practices to improve irrigation system efficiencies.

The City has a program to evaluate water use and improve irrigation system efficiencies. This program should continue to be implemented to further monitor, adjust, and reduce water use.

CIP Budget

Implications: Varies

Priority: High

Time Frame: Ongoing

2.4E Consider opportunities for solar powered lighting and the installation of solar parking shade structures, when funding allows with new park development or major park renovations.

As part of new park development and/or scheduled renovations, the inclusion of solar powered infrastructure elements can be used to help lower energy use intensity overall.

CIP Budget Implications:

To occur as part of previously scheduled replacements

Priority: Low

Time Frame: Ongoing





INCLUSIVE | KEY FINDINGS

THEME

Providing parks, trails, open spaces, facilities, and programs that are welcoming to all of San Ramon's existing and future residents encourages use by all people and can improve wellness and community cohesion. San Ramon's demographic is aging and diversifying. Amenities, programs, and communications need to adapt to changing needs, trends, and technology in order to offer recreation experiences for residents of all ages, abilities, and cultures.

KEY FINDINGS

- Community growth is anticipated to be higher in older adults. In the next five years, there is anticipated to be relatively flat growth for youth and adults, while the number of people aged 65 and older is growing more rapidly.
- The city's future overall age distribution is anticipated to reflect its high number of youth and young adults. The overall number of residents between the ages of 18 and 49 is projected to remain steady.
- As the city adjusts to meet demands and provide facilities and programming for its older residents, it should continue to provide services and amenities for the younger generations.
- Over the last 20 years, San Ramon shifted from a white majority to a mix of cultures and identities. The number of Asian residents increased from 14 percent to 41 percent of the population.
- A majority of Asian residents identify as Asian Indian.
- The City will continue to modify recreation programming and developed park facilities to reflect changing demographics and related trends.







INCLUSIVE | COMMUNITY INPUT

COMMUNITY INPUT

As previously discussed, trail connectivity and access to nature were the primary takeaways from the first round of public engagement events and surveys. Because the city has experienced recent demographic changes and expects to continue to diversify, it is important to address those needs within the parks and recreation system. Therefore, the second round of community engagement events and online survey dove deeper into residents' support for facilities and programming intended to meet future needs.

The results of the three related questions posed to residents in the second online survey are shown in Figures 17-19. Strongest support was expressed for providing facilities to meet the needs of an aging community. Forty-seven percent of respondents felt that the City should focus on developing walking paths. The trails should be paved with a non-slip surface to make walking easier. Seating and shade opportunities allow for users to rest and socialize.

The potential improvement rated second-highest was cricket facilities, including fields and/or practice areas. Thirty-six percent of respondents indicated support for additional facilities. The City has made progress on providing these types of desired facilities.

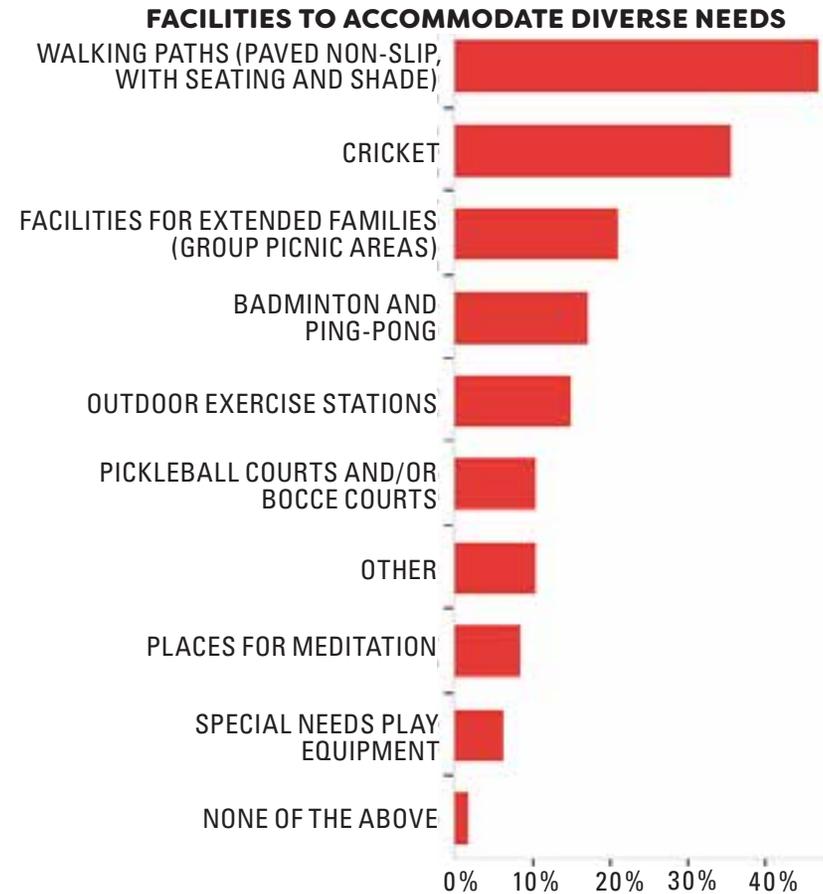


Figure 17: Support for Types of Facilities to Accommodate Community's Diverse Needs

Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.

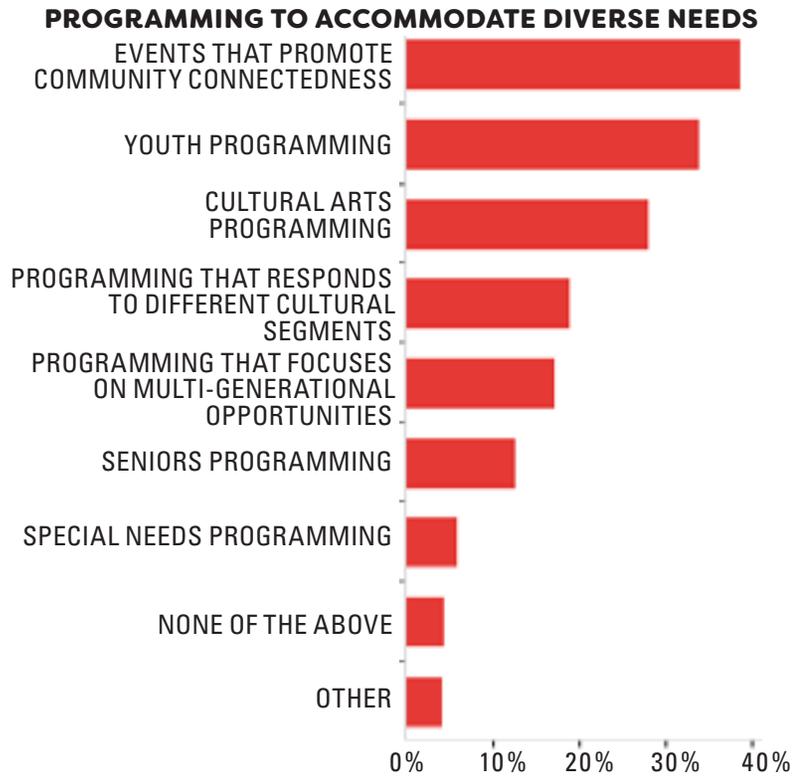


Figure 18: Support for Types of Programming to Accommodate Community's Diverse Needs

Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.

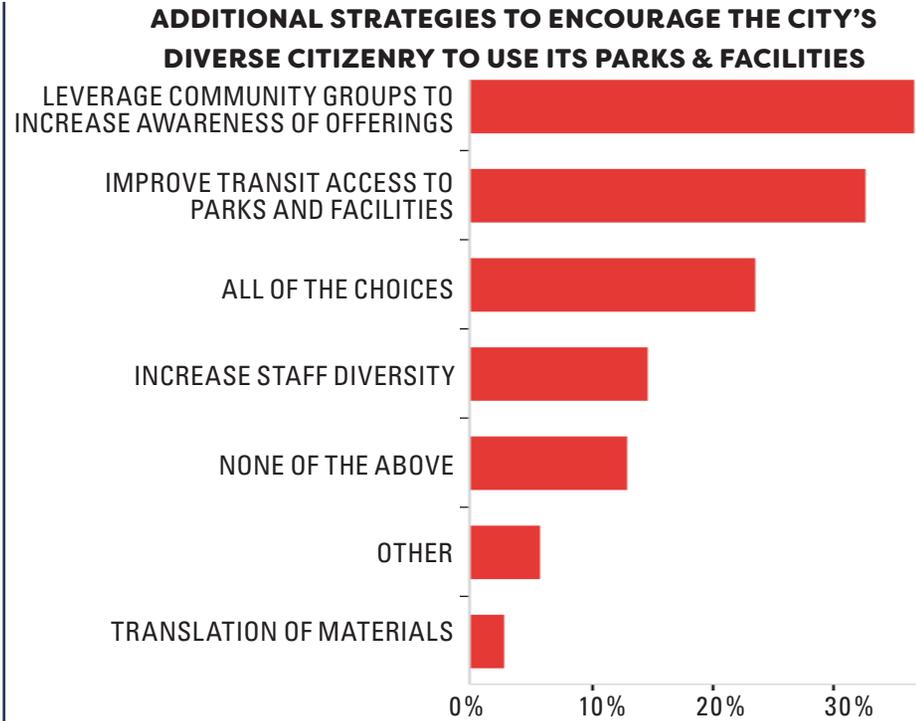


Figure 19: How Effective Respondents Felt Additional Strategies Would Be to Encourage the City's Diverse Citizenry to Use Its Parks and Recreation Facilities

Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.



INCLUSIVE | OPPORTUNITIES

FORMAT

Opportunities

Numbered 1-4, these are the overarching opportunities for the theme and reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for improvements.

- Action Steps

These strategies provide more detailed tasks to help achieve recommendations.

Supporting Content

Organized by the Opportunity List, it includes background information and descriptions, maps, character images and projects to help describe the opportunity.

3.1: Reflect and meet the needs of an aging and diverse population

- 3.1A Address changing needs for park and recreation facilities and amenities
- 3.1B Address programming opportunities
- 3.1C Address operational opportunities

3.2: Develop park amenities and events that promote wellness and community connectedness to reduce social isolation and relieve stress

- 3.2A Emphasize programming that responds to different cultural segments, focuses on multi-generational and intergenerational opportunities, and brings a geographically diverse community together (movie nights, food trucks and cafes, etc.)
- 3.2B Develop park amenities to increase use teen park use and provide opportunities for socialization (e.g. study spaces, sports courts with lighting and safety features, water features, interactive lighting and art, mixing play spaces for both children and adults, more active and physically challenging types of play features, Wi-Fi, and natural features)
- 3.2C Increase fitness and wellness programming offerings by two to three a year

3.3: Utilize partnerships to increase use of park facilities

- 3.3A Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Central Contra Costa Transit Authority to enhance transit access to parks and facilities for those who choose not to drive or do not have access to a private vehicle
- 3.3B Increase communications and partnerships with community groups by leveraging their communication networks to increase awareness and benefits of parks and programs

3.4: Use technology to increase park use and participation in recreation programs

- 3.4A Use social media and technology tools, such as apps, to connect with teens and increase park use
- 3.4B Create “smart” parks with Wi-Fi access and solar charging stations that balance using technology that keeps users engaged while connecting people to nature – focus on providing the improvements in parks with events and sports games and parks in lower income areas
- 3.4C Increase virtual technology programming to connect people to San Ramon’s parks and open spaces



3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1A Address through Park and Recreation Facilities and Amenities

3.1A-1 Develop walking loops with non-slip surfaces and provide seating and shade.

All ages express desires to enjoy the outdoors and improve fitness through walking. Seniors, especially, look for places where they can walk on stable, non-slip surfaces while also having seating opportunities. The City should evaluate existing park areas, such as the Sports Park, to incorporate looped trail systems.

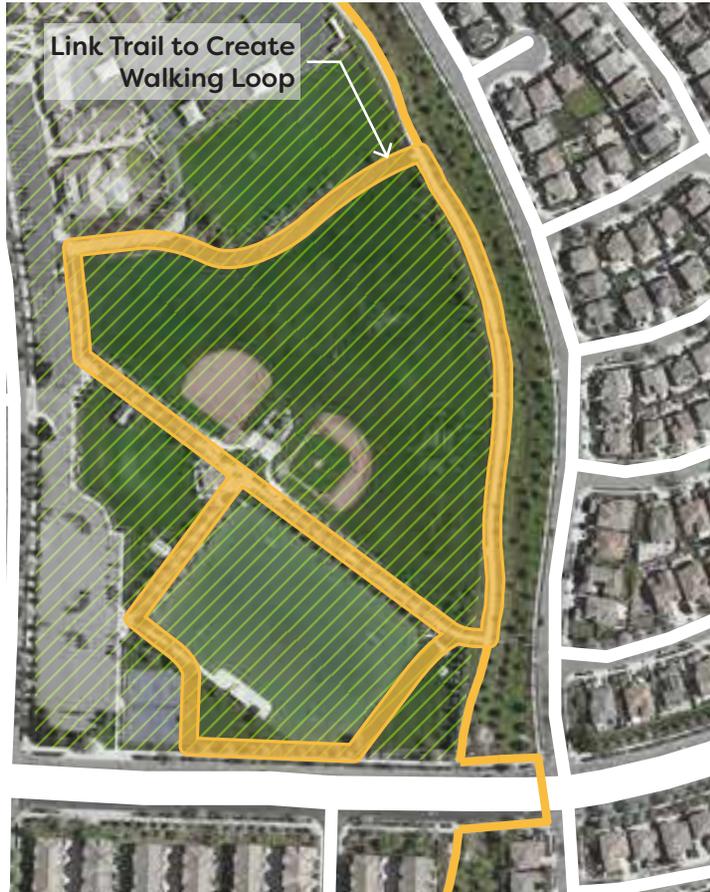
Pathways should be a minimum of 10-12' wide, where possible, to allow for passing walkers and cyclists.

CIP Budget Implications:

\$900,000 per mile

Priority: High

Time Frame: Short Term



Conceptual route to create a walking loop at San Ramon Sports Park





3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1A-2 Incorporate and evaluate the use of outdoor fitness equipment in parks.

The variety of exercise equipment offerings has increased over the years. Facilities not only provide fitness opportunities, but they are also designed to engage a broader range of users. Teens, adults, and seniors can participate. After amenities are provided, the City should evaluate how often they are used to gauge where and if more equipment is provided.

CIP Budget Implications:

\$10,000-\$35,000 per piece of equipment

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

3.1A-3 Plan to accommodate the growing demand for pickleball.

The number of pickleball facilities has doubled nationwide since 2010. The trend is growing in the East Bay region, especially among seniors, and groups have formed in San Ramon. To prepare to accommodate the sport, the City should complete a citywide strategy to identify the demand and create a plan to accommodate the need appropriately. This could take the form of striping pickleball for multi-use of some existing tennis courts. In other instances, dedicated pickleball courts may be constructed at new, existing, or renovated parks.

CIP Budget Implications:

\$10,000-\$20,000

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

3.1A-4 Evaluate the demand for additional bocce courts.

Bocce is a social sport that is growing in the U.S., especially among seniors and active adults. Cities have seen demands for multiple courts to be designed to allow for competitions. Courts have been associated with both public and private venues that offer a club-like atmosphere.

User surveys can be of use to evaluate if there is a strong demand for additional courts. Support can also be provided for facilities to be implemented as part of other developments.

CIP Budget Implications:

\$5,000-\$7,500

Priority: Low

Time Frame: 6-10 Years





3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1A Address through Park and Recreation Facilities and Amenities

3.1A-5 Accommodate the demand for additional cricket pitch and/or supporting facilities such as practice areas.

Planning is moving forward for developing another cricket pitch in San Ramon. Co-locating the fields with other facilities such as soccer or baseball allow for greater flexibility of the space, but it can create scheduling conflicts. In addition to a field, the City should consider auxiliary amenities, such as practice pitches and batting cages, which support the sports growth.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$200,000-\$300,000

Priority: HIGH

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

3.1A-6 Develop group picnic areas to accommodate large groups and extended family-based activities.

The size of groups recreating together varies with different cultures. Park amenities often need to accommodate not only the core family unit, but also extended family and friends. Additional group picnic facilities invite these larger groups of people to rent amenities in parks.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$150,000-\$200,000 per large pavilion

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years





3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1A-7 Evaluate opportunities to incorporate ping pong and badminton, where appropriate.

Ping pong and badminton are two sports that have received community interest for facilities. In addition, ping pong was identified through ESRI Business Analyst as having above average interest. The Market Potential Index (MPI) for the sport is 135 versus the national average of 100. Both sports reflect the city’s diverse cultures.

CIP Budget Implications: \$5,000-\$7,500

Priority: Low

Time Frame: 11-20 Years

3.1A-8 When replacing restrooms consider opportunities to provide a “gender neutral” option in facilities and community parks, where possible.

Offering gender neutral restroom opportunities is becoming a growing need for large parks and recreation facilities. In some instances, providing single stall restroom opportunities may be fairly straightforward. The City should evaluate needs and cost implications. As new parks come on line and as existing restrooms are renovated or replaced, gender neutral options should be provided.

CIP Budget Implications: Varies – evaluation of feasibility on a case by case basis

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 11-20 Years



Example of a single stall restroom layout versus a traditional outdoor restroom layout

Image from
Fredrick Fisher &
Partners



3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1B Address through Programming Opportunities

3.1B-1 Increase cultural arts program offerings by one to two classes a year.

Cultural arts is a strong program area for the Department, and it is anticipated that this will continue into the future. Continuing to emphasize performing arts as well as visual arts will be important. Coordinating efforts with other community organizations that have a focus on the arts could help grow these efforts.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

3.1B-2 Increase senior program offerings by adding one to two senior programs a year that focus on wellness and sports.

The Department has a strong existing senior program that is administered out of the Alcosta Senior and Community Center. As a result, the Department will need to continue to take an active role with this age group. The center has a focus on passive senior pursuits as well as fitness activities. In the future there will need to be an even greater emphasis on active recreation pursuits.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

3.1B-3 Maintain levels of City-provided programming for youth, special needs, and teens.

There are a number of programs offered in these areas. It is anticipated that future services will still need to be offered by both the City and other providers with experience with these age groups and needs.

It is difficult for most recreation agencies to have a broad special needs program on their own. The Department should consider partnering with other organizations or neighboring cities for additional special needs programming.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Low

Time Frame: Ongoing





3.1

REFLECT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF AN AGING AND DIVERSE POPULATION

3.1C Address through Operational Opportunities

3.1C-1 Conduct staff cultural sensitivity training.

Developing a common understanding is central to mindful communications. Because the city diversified rather quickly over the last decade, training centered on how to improve interactions and avoid misunderstandings can help staff show their respect for different cultures and be better prepared to serve a diverse community. Sharing these skills and communicating the importance of cultural events can help broaden that awareness among all residents.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

3.1C-2 Offer translation of online static programming materials such as how to rent facilities (materials changed on less than an annual basis).

Providing critical information in a person's native language invites them to participate in programs and events. Although many residents may also speak English, acknowledging people's culture through translated materials is welcoming and inclusive. The focus of translated materials should be on information that is not regularly changed. For example, how to rent a facility could be provided in multiple languages on the City's website.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Low

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

3.1C-3 Recruit a diverse workforce and continue to foster a welcoming and fulfilling work environment.

Human psychology shows that people tend to gravitate toward those with whom they have something in common. Embracing diversity includes both recruiting people of different ages, demographics, and backgrounds and continuing to provide a work environment that respects and thrives off diverse traditions, heritages, perspectives, and experience. This in turn allows residents to recognize that the Department welcomes all that they serve.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: Ongoing



SAN RAMON PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN: CONNECTING US TO PARKS + RECREATION
 圣拉蒙市城市公园、步道系统、开放空间和休闲娱乐设施总体规划 连接社区、走向公园+休闲娱乐
 सैन रामन उद्यान, खुले स्थान, ट्रेल्स, और मनोरंजन मास्टर प्लान: हमे पार्कों + मनोरंजन से जोड़ने के लिए

WELCOME! 欢迎您! स्वागत है!
A MASTER PLAN FOR SAN RAMON'S PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
 圣拉蒙市城市公园、步道系统、开放空间和休闲娱乐设施的总体规划项目
 सैन रामन उद्यान, खुले स्थान, ट्रेल्स, और मनोरंजन के लिए एक मास्टर प्लान

The San Ramon Parks & Recreation Department is developing a Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan to guide the delivery of vibrant, healthy, livable parks and recreation for our community.

This fall we're launching conversations with you, our staff, partners, stakeholders and other experts to make this plan great.

We're asking you to tell us what's important to you, what opportunities and challenges you face and to imagine what the future could hold for our parks and recreation.

GET INVOLVED
 Visit us at www.sanramon.ca.gov/masterplan

- Tell us what you think in a **PARKS MASTER PLAN** survey
- Come to a **PopUp** event near you
- Share how you play on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter **#SanRamonParks**
- Spread the word!**

邀请您参与

- 通过调查告诉我们您的想法
- 参与您身边的现场活动
- 通过**#SanRamonParks**在IG、脸书和推特上分享您的活动
- 与您的亲朋好友分享活动的细节!

शामलि हो

- आप एक पार्क मास्टर प्लान सर्वेक्षण में आप सोचें हैं हमें बताओ
- आप के पास एक पॉपअप अवसर के लिए आए
- पौर और आप Instagram, फेसबुक और ट्विटर पर हमें जोड़ें हैं **#SanRamonParks**
- शब्द फैलाओ!





3.2

DEVELOP PARK AMENITIES AND EVENTS THAT PROMOTE WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS TO REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION AND RELIEVE STRESS

3.2A Emphasize programming that responds to different cultural segments, focuses on multi-generational and intergenerational opportunities, and brings a geographically diverse community together (movie nights, food trucks and cafes, etc.)

The Department offers only a few city-wide special events but does have some smaller events at the individual center level. The City also permits a number of other special events that are provided by other organizations. It is not anticipated that the City will be increasing the number of special events. However, community groups should still be encouraged to be the primary organizers of as many community wide events as possible.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

3.2B Develop park amenities to increase teen park use and provide opportunities for socialization (e.g. study spaces, sports courts with lighting and safety features, water features, interactive lighting and art, mixing play spaces for both children and adults, more active and physically challenging types of play features, Wi-Fi, and natural features).

Park use by teens is typically low. Studies have evaluated what amenities teens desire. Results showed teens were attracted to more challenging types of facilities and for opportunities to socialize. Social media can be used to communicate great spots to view a sunset and sports courts with lighting offer places to meet and to recreate.

CIP Budget

Implications: Varies

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 11-20 Years





3.2

DEVELOP PARK AMENITIES AND EVENTS THAT PROMOTE WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS TO REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION AND RELIEVE STRESS

3.2C Increase fitness and wellness programming offerings by two to three a year.

The Department currently has limited fitness programming due to the lack of space dedicated to this function (large group exercise rooms, fitness/ yoga studios, teaching kitchens, and weight/ cardio areas). To address needs, the Department can emphasize the importance of integrating wellness initiatives into other program areas such as for seniors and youth. Outdoor fitness programming can also be provided.

CIP Budget Implications:

N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years





3.3

UTILIZE PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE USE OF PARK FACILITIES

3.3A Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Central Contra Costa Transit Authority to enhance transit access to parks and facilities for those who choose not to drive or do not have access to a private vehicle.

The City and the Department are not responsible for providing transit access, but transit can be a way to increase service levels. Youth programming could benefit from transportation from elementary schools to the community centers. Quarterly meetings with the County to review, recommend, and enhance transit service throughout the City is underway.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Low

Time Frame: Ongoing

3.3B Increase communications and partnerships with community groups by leveraging their communication networks to increase awareness and benefits of parks and programs.

Existing community groups, including faith-based organizations, non-profits, volunteer groups, and other non-governmental entities offer robust communication opportunities. As the Department increases its relationship with a variety of groups, they will be able to better reach community groups who may not otherwise participate or know how to participate in recreation offerings.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 0-5 Years





3.4

USE TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE PARK USE AND PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION PROGRAMS

3.4A Use social media and technology tools, such as apps, to connect with teens and increase park use.

Marketing materials about programming, park, and facility offerings must occur in multiple formats depending on the target audience. Increasingly, teens use social media and related apps to identify trending places to visit and things to do. The Department can tap into this tools as a way to communicate offerings.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

3.4B Create “smart” parks with Wi-Fi access and solar charging stations that balance using technology that keeps users engaged while connecting people to nature. Focus on providing the improvements in parks with events and sports games and parks in lower income areas.

A growing number of cities are committing to bring free Wi-Fi to their public spaces. San Ramon can first focus on high use parks, such as the Sports Park, and parks in lower income areas. It can then evaluate the effectiveness of Wi-Fi in supporting park use. Public/private partnerships have been used by some cities, such as Los Angeles, to provide the service. The goal is not to provide Wi-Fi everywhere, but in high-use areas.

CIP Budget Implications:

Varies depending on available infrastructure

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

3.4C Increase virtual technology programming to connect people to San Ramon’s parks and open spaces.

Utilizing technology expands awareness of offerings and diversifies the type of outdoor experiences available. Examples include:

- Easy2Hike app
- App-based games used with playground equipment to promote age-appropriate, interactive games.
- Apps designed to educate visitors on history and ecology in an engaging way.
- GPS-based apps that facilitate exploration through activities like treasure hunts.
- Fitness apps that provide exercise and workout videos at outdoor stations.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

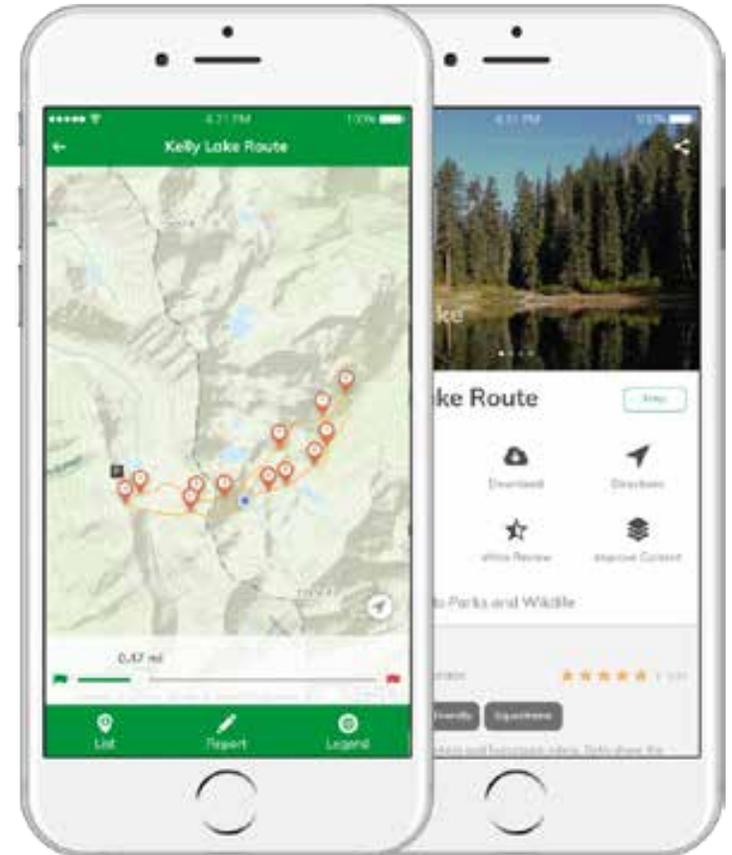


Image by Easy2Hike



BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY | KEY FINDINGS

THEME

Creating positive recreation experiences for the residents of San Ramon is the Department's most important task. This commitment requires planning for the future to ensure appropriate acreages of parks, facilities, trails, and open spaces are available. It also requires adequate financial resources and operational methods to maintain and renew facilities and equipment and to offer quality programming and customer service.

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, the City's parks are well maintained. The dog parks and the BMX park at Memorial Park could be enhanced to increase use. Crow Canyon Gardens requires significant renovations.
 - The City has three parks under design or construction and owns the land for three other park sites. These sites (Woodlot, Henry Ranch, and Athey Lot) are undeveloped and do not have current master plans.
 - The majority of the City's recreation facilities were classified as being in "fair" condition by EMG in 2017.
 - The 2019/20-2023/24 capital improvement program (CIP) has identified almost \$5.5 million of park related projects and almost \$13.7 million of facility related projects.
 - The Facility Maintenance and Renovation Plan outlines the estimated replacement costs for specific categories of items within the City's facilities over a 10 year period.
 - The Park Maintenance and Renovation Plan addresses long range park maintenance needs and associated costs to preserve life expectancy.
- CIP funding sources include the building maintenance fund, park development fund, general fund, and grants.
 - Parks, open space, trail, buildings, and facilities maintenance are provided by the Public Works Department. With the exception of Dougherty Valley parks and facilities, maintenance is funding through the City's general fund.
 - As parks and facilities age and the City develops additional parks to meet acreage deficiencies, the cost to maintain the assets will grow considerably. Additional mechanisms may be needed to fund maintenance and operations to maintain desired service levels.







BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY |

COMMUNITY INPUT

Survey respondents were equally split on the question of whether to focus funding priorities on maintenance versus acquiring resources for future needs. This balanced response was also heard during other engagement events and as part of other survey responses. Overall, community members recognize the quality of the parks, facilities, and programming offered today.

While there is a desire to keep the current level of maintenance and facility quality, residents also indicated a need to be visionary in planning for the future. Planning for the future includes conserving open space, acquiring lands for future parks, and working with developers to ensure adequate parks and recreation facilities are provided with new development.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

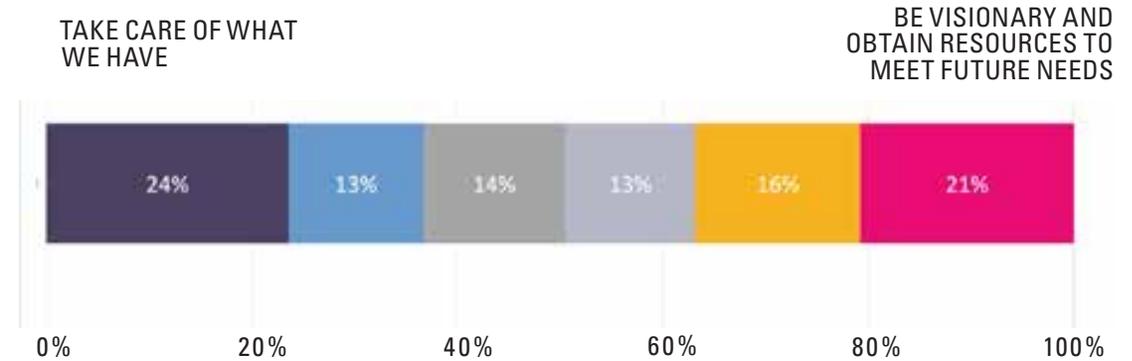


Figure 20: Funding Priorities

Source: Online community survey results from the first citywide online survey.



COMMUNITY INPUT

FOCUS OF PARK ENHANCEMENTS

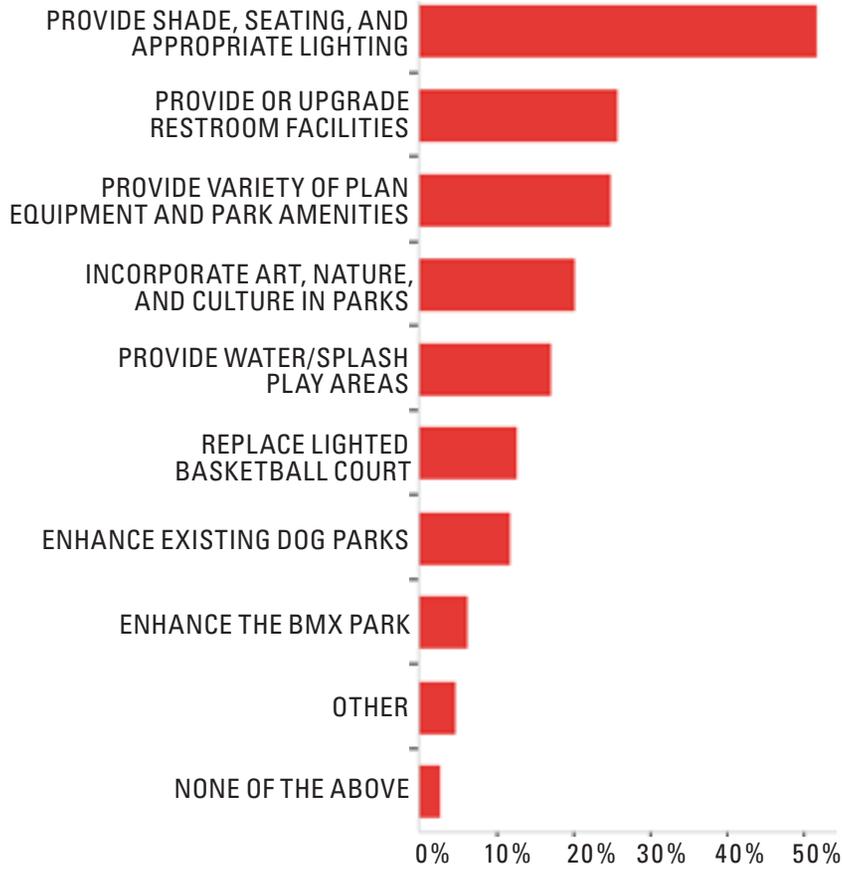


Figure 21: Where the City Should Focus Efforts to Renew and Continue to Enhance the Quality of Existing Parks

Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.

SUPPORT FOR REVENUE GENERATION SOURCES

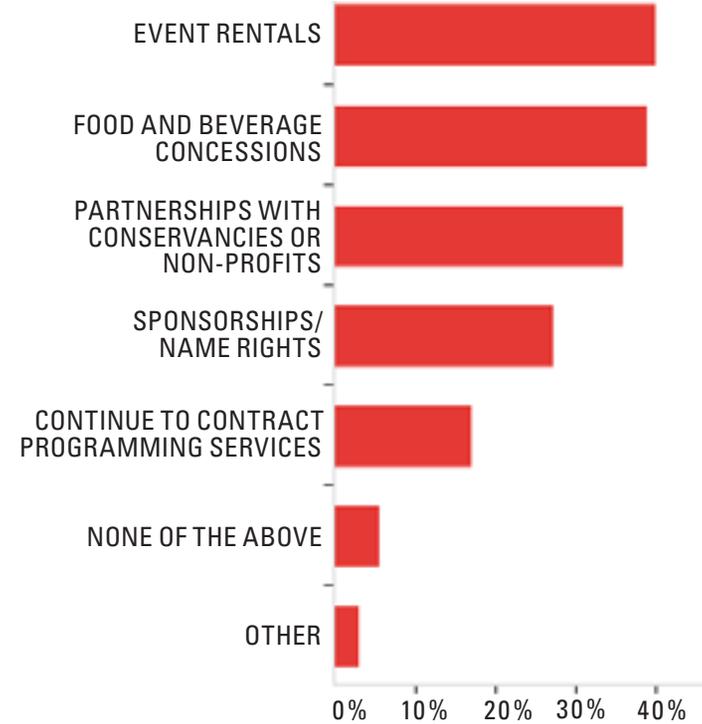


Figure 22: Types of Revenue-Generating Partnerships Supported for Parks, Trails, and Open Space Maintenance and Upgrades

Source: Online community survey results from the second citywide online survey. Up to two responses could be selected.



BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY |

FORMAT

Opportunities

Numbered 1-6, these are the overarching opportunities for the theme and reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for improvements.

- Action Steps

These strategies provide more detailed tasks to help achieve recommendations.

Supporting Content

Organized by the Opportunity List, it includes background information and descriptions, maps, character images and projects to help describe the opportunity.

4.1: Maintain existing park and maintenance service levels to sustain the city's visual quality and access to parks and recreation (consider increased levels, if paid for by users)

- 4.1A Create programmatic master plans for “undeveloped” parks on the west side of the city
- 4.1B Implement master plans for “undeveloped” parks on the west side of the city
- 4.1C Work with developers to create and improve parklands to meet park level of service standard of 6.5 acres of park/1000 residents
- 4.1D Maintain and enhance the partnership and joint use agreements with San Ramon Valley Unified School District to maintain community access to neighborhood and community park amenities and recreation facilities

4.2: Add amenities to parks where distribution needs indicate

- 4.2A Incorporate water play feature in a park west of I-680
- 4.2B Incorporate sports courts to parks in western and southcentral San Ramon



OPPORTUNITIES

4.3: Renew existing facilities to increase use, address trends, and diversify amenities

- 4.3A Update and diversify play equipment to incorporate more challenging, inclusive, and interactive equipment as part of the renewal and replacement program
- 4.3B Incorporate art, nature, education, and culture into parks to create distinction between facilities and enhance place-making
- 4.3C Enhance dog parks with shade and seating to accommodate both human and canine user comfort needs
- 4.3D Forest Homes Farms Historic Park enhancements (parking, walking loop, group facilities, and increased programming and renovations of historic building)
- 4.3E Crow Canyon Gardens enhancements (parking, restrooms, improved creek access, safety and lighting, nature-based play, self-guided interpretation signage, increased number of rentable garden plots, renovation of demonstration garden)
- 4.3F Provide permanent restroom facilities at parks where possible
- 4.3G Find appropriate new location and replace the lighted basketball court
- 4.3H Review and redesign the BMX Park and create more interesting and technical features and/or develop a pump track to encourage use
- 4.3I Alcosta Senior and Community Center renovations
- 4.3J San Ramon Community Center renovations
- 4.3K Dougherty Station Community Center Programming and Reuse Plan
- 4.3L San Ramon Olympic Pool renovations



BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY |

FORMAT

Opportunities

Numbered 1-6, these are the overarching opportunities for the theme and reflect, at the most general level, the community's aspirations for improvements.

- Action Steps

These strategies provide more detailed tasks to help achieve recommendations.

Supporting Content

Organized by the Opportunity List, it includes background information and descriptions, maps, character images and projects to help describe the opportunity.

4.4: Accommodate the demand for sports field use.

- 4.4A Track sports field and courts usage to determine demand and distribution needs while allowing for appropriate field recovery
- 4.4B Complete an evaluation of the cost/benefit of converting a natural surface field to synthetic surfacing with lights; analysis to include long term operational costs and desired play conditions associated with each surface type

4.5: Utilize technology and tracking and performance measures to establish and execute programming, operations, and maintenance.

- 4.5A Continue to use a total asset management approach for park maintenance and funding allocations
- 4.5B Continue tracking of performance measures for recreation programs to continually evaluate need, market focus, and the ability of the program to meet service and financial goals



OPPORTUNITIES

4.6: Increase financial resources to meet maintenance and service level needs

- 4.6A Evaluate funding sources and their applicability for San Ramon
- 4.6B Evaluate fee increases
- 4.6C Consider agreements with developers for long term maintenance
- 4.6D Evaluate the opportunity for a maintenance endowment fund
- 4.6E Maintain and enhance partnerships to implement Master Plan recommendations (e.g., SRVUSD, EBRPD, community foundations, volunteer groups, business community, Walking District Committee, and hospitals)



4.1

MAINTAIN EXISTING PARK AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE LEVELS TO SUSTAIN THE CITY’S VISUAL QUALITY AND ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATION (CONSIDER INCREASED LEVELS, IF PAID FOR BY USERS)

4.1A Create programmatic master plans for “undeveloped” parks on the west side of the city.

Three City park areas are undeveloped: Athey Lot, Wood Lot, and Henry Ranch Park. Each park is located in the western portion of the city, which has fewer parks on a whole than the more recently developed eastern portion of the city.

Programmatic master plans should include a summary of amenities to be included in each park and a conceptual layout for the facilities. The planning process and programmatic elements should build from recommendations in this master plan, respond to additional community input, and provide amenities not available at other nearby parks.

CIP Budget Implications: \$60,000 - \$80,000 each
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years

4.1B Implement master plans for “undeveloped” parks on the west side of the city.

The City is currently below its level of service goal for park acreage. Thirty acres are anticipated to be developed as part of parks currently under design. An additional 21 acres of parkland would be available with the construction of “undeveloped” park sites. These moves would bring the City closer to its level of service goal and also provide parks in an area of the city that has fewer parks than other portions of the city.

CIP Budget Implications: \$600,000 - \$800,000 per acre
Priority: High
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

4.1C Work with developers to create and improve parklands to meet park level of service standard of 6.5 acres of park/1000 residents.

Parkland service levels are most likely to be met by developing and applying agreements as part of new residential and mixed use projects. The City should continue to work with developers to ensure lands are set aside and developed for parklands. Regular review of the parkland dedication requirements and recreation facility impact fees allows the City to benchmark against nearby jurisdictions and adjust needs based on current market conditions.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A Developer cost
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 11-20 Years

4.1D Maintain and enhance the partnership and joint use agreements with San Ramon Valley Unified School District to maintain community access to neighborhood and community park amenities and recreation facilities.

School parks make up over 20 percent of City parklands. Their centralized neighborhood locations make the park system walkable and effective citywide. Master agreements and partnerships must be continually renewed to ensure these lands remain accessible to the public during non-school hours.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

PROPOSED PARKS





4.2 ADD AMENITIES TO PARKS WHERE DISTRIBUTION NEEDS INDICATE

4.2A Incorporate a water play feature in a park west of I-680.

The park amenity distribution analysis revealed an opportunity for water play to serve residents in the western portion of the city. This facility could take the form of a splash pad or other water element. The amenity could be incorporated in a new park scheduled to come on line or through the construction of one of the undeveloped parks, such as Woodlot.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$350,000-\$500,000

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

4.2B Incorporate sports courts to parks in western and southcentral San Ramon.

Sports courts are facilities typically used by youth, teens, and adults. Community support was shown for additional courts and the distribution analysis indicated the western and southcentral portions of San Ramon could use an additional court. These facilities could be incorporated in a new park scheduled to come on line or as part of the programming and construction of an undeveloped park.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$80,000-\$120,000

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years





4.3

RENEW EXISTING FACILITIES TO INCREASE USE, ADDRESS TRENDS, AND DIVERSIFY AMENITIES

4.3A Update and diversify play equipment to incorporate more challenging, inclusive, and interactive equipment as part of the renewal and replacement program.

Play equipment and trends in outdoor play have expanded over the last decade. Adventure playgrounds can encourage exploration and greater connectivity with the outdoors. Equipment can be designed to relate to the surrounding environment and can also be considered art in the landscape. The typical life expectancy of playground equipment is 15 years. As the City renovates or retrofits older equipment, it can consider the cost benefit of replacing the equipment with newer, diversified amenities.

CIP Budget Implications: \$40,000-\$50,000 per play unit
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: Ongoing

4.3B Incorporate art, nature, education, and culture into parks to create distinction between facilities and enhance place-making.

Because they were constructed within a relatively short time span, many of the City’s newer parks have similar amenities and can tend to look alike. Future parks should consider landscape and cultural elements or key facilities which help distinguish each park. This place-making connects the parks to San Ramon’s quality of life.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A part of other projects
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: Ongoing

4.3C Enhance dog parks with shade and seating to accommodate both human and canine user comfort needs.

The City’s dog parks are well-distributed throughout the community and are designed for the wear and tear received from dog play. However, they lack elements appealing to dog owners. Shade, seating, and some variation in landscape materials enhance the look and feel of the dog parks while still addressing the maintenance needs.

CIP Budget Implications: \$150,000-\$300,000 (for large shade structures)
Priority: High
Time Frame: 6-10 Years





4.3

RENEW EXISTING FACILITIES TO INCREASE USE, ADDRESS TRENDS, AND DIVERSIFY AMENITIES

4.3D Enhance Forest Home Farms Historic Park (parking, walking loop, group facilities, and increased programming and renovations of historic building).

Renovations address accessibility, structural, and maintenance needs of the Historic Park. The park location makes it more of a “drive-to” destination. Therefore, its use is derived more from programming than for other recreational use. Renovations should support its continued use for both self-guided interpretation as well as for recreation programming and community events.

CIP Budget Implications: \$4.3M-\$5M (includes renovations to historic structures)

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 11-20 Years

4.3E Enhance Crow Canyon Gardens (parking, restrooms, improved creek access, safety and lighting, nature-based play, self-guided interpretation signage, increased number of rentable garden plots, renovation of demonstration garden).

Crow Canyon Gardens includes community gardens, demonstration gardens, and the former Mudd’s restaurant building. Major park renovations are needed to make the park more inviting. Improvements should reflect the site’s natural setting and connect with the landscape environment and adjacent creek and help maintain a serene environment where residents can connect and engage with nature.

CIP Budget Implications: \$4M-\$6M

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.3F Provide permanent restroom facilities at parks where possible.

Restrooms are desired by park users. They are especially needed near playgrounds to serve the needs of children and parents. Several parks lack permanent restrooms. Where possible and funding allows, permanent restrooms should be provided to encourage use of each park.

CIP Budget Implications: \$200,000-\$350,000 each

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 11-20 Years





4.3

RENEW EXISTING FACILITIES TO INCREASE USE, ADDRESS TRENDS, AND DIVERSIFY AMENITIES

4.3G Find an appropriate new location and replace the lighted basketball court.

The lighted basketball courts at Central Park were removed in 2015 with the construction of the new City Hall. Replacement of the lighted court is needed to meet the recreation demand.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$100,000-\$150,000

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.3H Review and redesign the BMX Park and create more interesting and technical features and/or develop a pump track to encourage use.

Design requirements for a typical BMX track include minimum track widths of 20’ and lengths between 750’ to 1,300’. The current BMX Park in Memorial Park lacks the desired number of turns and features to make it an attractive place to ride.

Many cities are developing bike parks without BMX tracks, especially if an operator doesn’t exist. Pump tracks are elements that are regularly used by all ages, train users for mountain biking conditions, have a smaller footprint, and can work around existing trees and utilize natural terrain changes.

The City can renovate its BMX Park as a pump track. Jump lines should have an elevated start hill and be at least 750’ in length. A separate return gets riders uphill and back to the start. The footprint can be as small as 50’ by 100’ and could use some of the surrounding grade changes to allow the course to fit more naturally into the landscape.

CIP Budget Implications:
\$40,000-\$50,000 per acre for pump grading without additional features

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years





4.3

RENEW EXISTING FACILITIES TO INCREASE USE, ADDRESS TRENDS, AND DIVERSIFY AMENITIES

4.3I Alcosta Senior and Community Center renovations.

This facility was built in 1989 and primarily serves the needs of seniors during the week. It is used for other community activities and rentals in the evenings and weekends. The center was expanded in 2007 and has a variety of classrooms and a small wellness room. The 2017 assessment indicated the facility was in fair condition and even after the 2019/2020 remodel, the building will have need for repairs and long-term expenditures to address HVAC, roof, exterior painting, and renovation of the building’s southern portion. The garden area has not been successful and could be used for other uses or expansion.

CIP Budget Implications: \$1.2M-\$1.5M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.3J San Ramon Community Center renovations.

Located in Central Park and built in 1989, the community center has a variety of classrooms which host a wide range of programs. Several larger event spaces are heavily used for rentals. The design of the center makes it less efficient and operationally more challenging. The 2017 assessment indicated the center was in fair condition. Renovations are needed to address accessibility and complete repairs to the HVAC, exterior, and kitchen.

CIP Budget Implications: \$3M-\$3.5M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.3K Dougherty Station Community Center programming and reuse plan.

Located on a parcel near the Dougherty Station Library and Diablo Valley College, the 28,500 SF center was built in 2005 by a developer and the space used was to be shared with the police department. As a result, the layout is not efficient or effective for a community recreation center.

The center is well located, but does not have enough key amenities to serve the City’s long-term recreation needs. The center’s entry comes from two sides and is not directly visible from the office area. This impacts both safety and security. A front desk is needed that is not located behind closed doors. The office area is too large and should either be converted to other uses or utilized by other community organizations. The theater is a major asset of the building but is not configured well for the space. For the long term, this community center should be considered for a major renovation to make it more functional and provide more active use space. There is a potential to repurpose some of the facility to office space and to rebrand the center to highlight its role in arts and culture.

The next step would be development of a programming and schematic plan that reevaluates the center’s uses and develops initial design drawings that reflect an efficient, effective, and appropriate use and layout of the space.

CIP Budget Implications: \$30,000-\$50,000
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.3L San Ramon Olympic Pool renovations.

This large outdoor aquatic center is open year-round and is located on the California High School campus. The facility was renovated in 1998 and it features a 50-meter pool with a small slide and diving boards, a 25-yard pool, and a seasonal recreational pool. There is a main operations and locker room building that has a couple of classrooms for programs. The 2017 assessment indicated the center is in fair condition. The locker rooms need to be updated, gender neutral restrooms/change rooms need to be provided, and the slide and play equipment should be replaced.

CIP Budget Implications: \$3.5M-\$4.5M
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years



4.4 ACCOMMODATE THE DEMAND FOR SPORTS FIELD USE

4.4A Track sports field and courts usage to determine demand and distribution needs while allowing for appropriate field recovery.

A demand for additional fields was expressed during this planning study. Tracking actual field usage can help the City understand the actual need and if scheduling adjustments can help. Several categories drive a playing field's service level: physical condition, user expectations, and programming constraints.

Tracking should quantify usage by the average number of hours a field is used per day, per month, and per user group. Compare results with the number of hours a field can have intense play and still meet desired playing conditions. Cool season turf can typically handle up to 72 hours of play a month.

CIP Budget Implications:

N/A

Priority: High

Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.4B Complete an evaluation of the cost/benefit of converting a natural surface field to synthetic surfacing with lights. The analysis should include long term operational costs and desired play conditions associated with each surface type.

There are many synthetic turf products with a range of price points and uses. The most common systems consist of a sand and rubber infilled synthetic turf, often placed over a pad. Pads generally provide a safer playing surface and have drainage capabilities to assist in managing stormwater runoff. Alternative infill products such as cork, coconut fiber, walnut shell, polymer coated sands come at a premium price.

The below factors should be considered when evaluating synthetic turf and natural grass fields. The cost of ownership should be fully evaluated, especially the renewal cost which occurs every 8-10 years.

- **Use:** Synthetic turf can handle significantly more use than natural grass and can be utilized year-round.
- **Cost:** The cost of ownership is an important factor to consider as the capital cost for synthetic turf can be three to four times greater than natural grass and synthetic turf should be replaced within 8 to 10 years after installation. The financial value of synthetic turf is realized when fields experience heavy use (more than 1,500 hours per year).
- **Maintenance:** Synthetic turf requires maintenance, but it is less than that of natural turf.
- **Playability:** A well-engineered and constructed synthetic turf field will maintain exceptional playability and aesthetic value. Surface temperatures on crumb-filled fields can reach levels of discomfort. Watering can briefly reduce the temperatures.



- **Sustainability:** Synthetic fields require less water than natural grass fields. The benefit of reduced water use should be considered against the materials needed for construction and renovation of the synthetic materials.

CIP Budget Implications: Synthetic turf construction costs range from \$12-\$15 per SF. Renewal costs (after 8-10 years) range from \$5-\$6 per SF. For a 100,000SF field, this equates to a capital construction cost of \$1.2-\$1.5M dollars with a renewal cost of \$500,000 - \$600,000 after 8-10 years.

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 0-5 Years



4.5

UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY AND TRACKING AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO ESTABLISH AND EXECUTE PROGRAMMING, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE

4.5A Continue to use a total asset management approach for park maintenance and funding allocations.

The Public Works Department uses life expectancy costs to identify long range park maintenance needs. Infrastructure and amenities are categorized and assigned replacement priority based on age, useful life, replacement cost, and type of use. This planning should continue and be used to inform decision making.

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing

4.5B Continue tracking of performance measures for recreation programs to continually evaluate need, market focus, and the ability of the program to meet service and financial goals.

Enhanced performance measure tracking guides the Department's ability to adapt to new trends and market changes. The following elements should be reported and reviewed:

- Rates of fill
- Participation numbers by major program area and comparison to past years
- Rate of cancellations
- Financial performance including cost per participant
- Participant evaluations

CIP Budget Implications: N/A
Priority: Medium
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

CITY OF SAN RAMON PARKS MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION PLAN
 COST ESTIMATES

ITEMS	MATERIALS/DESCRIPTION	USEFUL LIFE (years)	Materials Cost Only	UNIT PRICE (includes Materials & Installation)	UNIT
Playground Equipment					
Ages 2 - 5	Playground Equipment	15	30,000	39,000	EA
Ages 5 - 12	Playground Equipment	15	50,000	65,000	EA
Restrooms					
Prefab Restroom Bldgs - 205 SF	Manufactured by Restroom Facilities or Super Secur	50	80,000	104,000	EA
Prefab Restroom Bldgs - 500 SF	Manufactured by Restroom Facilities or Super Secur	50	100,000	130,000	EA
Prefab Restroom Bldgs - 850 SF	Manufactured by Restroom Facilities or Super Secur	50	150,000	195,000	EA
Prefab Restroom Bldgs - 1400 SF	Manufactured by Restroom Facilities or Super Secur	50	211,000	274,300	EA
Steel Restroom Buildings	Steel Building	40	50,000	65,000	EA
Painting - Interior	Fire Resistant Panels	2	2.50	3.25	SF
Renovation	Entire renovation	8	15,500	20,150	EA
Fixtures (sinks & toilets)	includes replacing fixtures, lavs, floor/wall treatments	25	250	325	EA
Other	Includes partitions, doors, etc.	25	300	390	EA
Fencing					
Painting	Fence painting - (average cost 3 ft high, 2 rail), 2 coats	5	2.25	2.93	LF
Perimeter Fence - Wood Split Rail	4x4 post and 6' railing	25	36	47	LF
Perimeter Fence - Metal Split Rail	Metal 2 rail fence	35	38	49	LF
Perimeter Fence - Metal Picket		35	37	48	LF
Tennis Court Fence	10' Galvanized Chain Link	35	24	31	LF
Field Fence - Vinyl Clad Chain Link	8' Vinyl Clad Chain Link	20	21	27	LF
Field Fence - Galvanized Chain Link	10' Galvanized Chain Link	25	24	31	LF
Railings - Metal	Metal handrail	40	35	46	LF
Dog Park Fencing	4' wrought iron	30	47	61	LF
Pedestrian Gate	Chain link pedestrian gate	20	1,700	2,210	EA
Gates - single swing	8' with 1 gate	20	1,700	2,210	EA
Gates - double swing	8' with (2) 4' gates	20	2,300	2,990	EA
Turf					
Turf Renovation	Seed and/or sod including soil preparation	20	0.25	0.33	SF
Synthetic Turf Renovation		10	1.20	1.56	SF
Synthetic	Synthetic turf including striping and base	10	9	12	SF
Lighting					
Security Lighting inside of park		30	1,500	1,950	EA
Parking Lot Lighting	Poles and lighting fixtures	30	1,700	2,210	EA
Sports Field Lighting	Fixtures and controls upgrades	30	1,700	2,210	EA
Sports Field Lighting	Relamping - 5 year cycle	5	115	115	EA
Landscape/Walking Lighting		30	1,500	1,950	EA



4.6

INCREASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL NEEDS

4.6A Evaluate funding sources and their applicability for San Ramon.

Critical to implementing the master plan recommendations is to have funding sources for both capital and operations expenses. It is not unusual for cities to utilize a number of possible funding mechanisms for these purposes and many have dedicated sources in place. Capital and operational funding sources could include tax sources and fees assessments (such as the City’s Community Facility Districts) as well as non-tax sources such as partnerships, fundraising, foundations, grants, and naming rights, and sponsorships.

A summary of potential funding sources is located in Chapter 4.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.6B Evaluate fee increases.

Facility rentals represents a significant use of City amenities. To address maintenance needs associated with increased use, the Department should regularly benchmark rental fees and programming with neighboring jurisdictions and with staffing and maintenance requirements. Where needed, fee subsidies could be considered to increase participation from low income residents. The goal of fee studies is to balance expenses with revenue, where possible. Having a well-defined fee policy to guide the offset of operational costs is essential.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: 0-5 Years

4.6C Consider agreements with developers for long term maintenance.

During discussions for new residential and mixed-use development projects, the City and developer can consider partnership agreements for operational costs. The partnership should confirm and guarantee the level of funding and length of the agreement.

Developers may also be interested in maintaining operational control of a park and agree to take on long-term maintenance costs while committing to allow public access to the park. Agreements should confirm public access conditions and if variances to City standards are permitted since the developer is taking on maintenance.

CIP Budget
Implications: N/A
Priority: High
Time Frame: Ongoing





4.6

INCREASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL NEEDS

4.6D Evaluate the opportunity for a maintenance endowment fund.

Maintenance endowment funds could be established through partnerships with one of the city’s non-profit groups. An operational endowment fund could fund basic maintenance, capital replacement and improvements at parks and facilities. It should be recognized that fundraising for operational endowments can be challenging and the high levels of funding are needed to generate enough dollars.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years

4.6E Maintain and enhance partnerships to implement Master Plan recommendations (e.g., SRVUSD, EBRPD, community foundations, volunteer groups, business community, Walking District Committee, and hospitals).

There is the potential of developing equity partners for specific projects. These could include other neighboring cities, the County, the school district, private companies, and health care providers. There is often a limit on the number of these types of partnerships that can be established for a project due to potential competing interests. Partnership dollars received from other organizations could be significant. A detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of funding for any project.

Finding operational partners can be a challenge at times but there are opportunities for program and service partners in the public, private, and non-profit sector. Capital partners often have an operational commitment as well. A carefully worded partnership agreement will be necessary to confirm and guarantee the level of funding that is possible and the length of time that it should be expected.

CIP Budget

Implications: N/A

Priority: Medium

Time Frame: 6-10 Years







4: Implementation

OVERVIEW

A set of prioritization criteria can allow community members and City staff to work with the PCS Commission and City Council to guide the prioritization of potential projects for funding and implementation. Best practices in recreation and park planning has shown that prioritization criteria should reflect the needs and desires of residents while being forward-thinking to evaluate and consider operational and maintenance costs in addition to capital costs.

Moving forward, as new projects and needs arise, the following criteria can be used to evaluate the prioritization of parks, open space, trails, and recreation projects in San Ramon. Projects that meet the criteria may rise in priority, depending on funding and timing. As funding becomes available and partnerships occur, projects may advance in priority. However, those opportunities should still be evaluated to understand long-term costs and to understand community support. Projects with highest levels of community interest and fill a community need should rank higher in priority than those with low community support.

- Has a funding source or a funding source can be identified.
- Fills a gap in the current system. Provides parks or park facilities in an area that is needed.
- Has moderate to low impact on maintenance and operations expenses.
- Improves facilities that have reached end-of-life usability.
- Aligns with City partners' planning efforts. San Ramon will work with partners to prioritize future projects that overlap and align with regional planning efforts.

- Offers a high return on investment or maximizes public resources.
- Addresses needs associated with growth and increased demand.
- Provides multiple benefit for both parks and recreation and other community and environmental needs.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

On the following pages, projects are summarized by time frame for implementation and corresponding tables provide additional information regarding the projects and programming elements outlined in Chapter 3. The opportunities are reorganized and the action steps are presented as projects and programs in order of time frames for implementation and prioritization. Projects and programs that are ongoing and underway are listed first. Projects and programs anticipated to be completed in the next 0-5 years and listed as high priority are presented next.

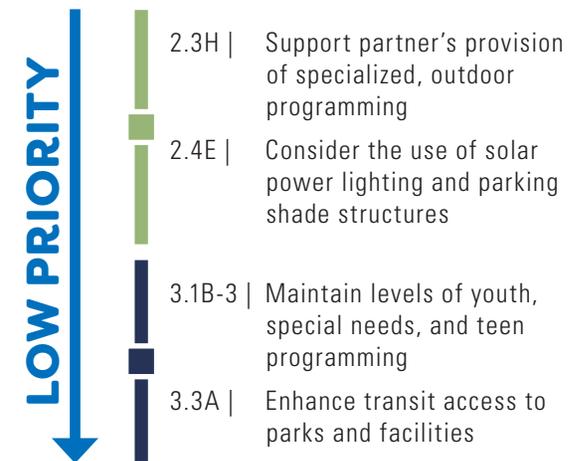
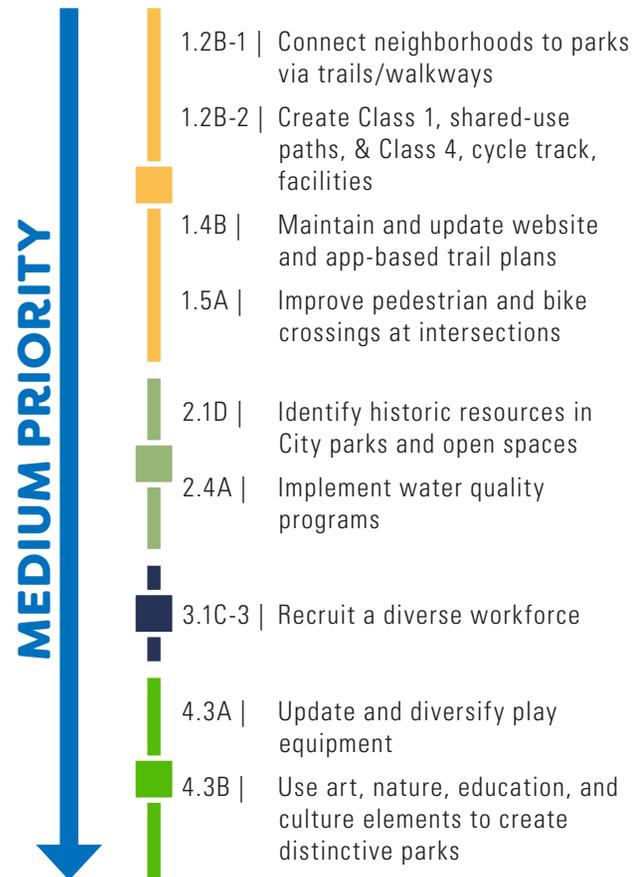
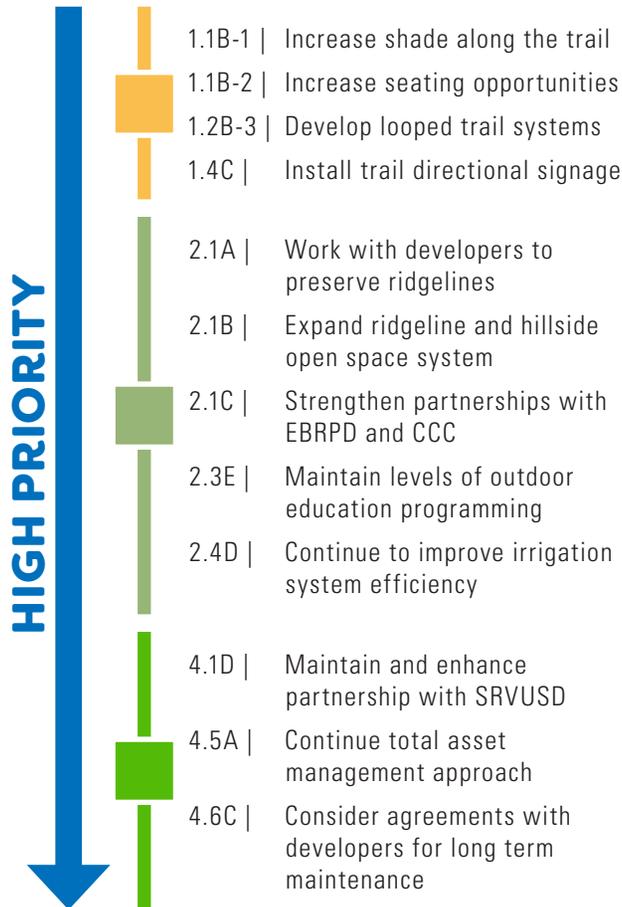
Budget implications for capital improvement projects and operations are provided. The numbers provided represent high level, order of magnitude opinions of cost and are to be used for planning purposes only. The information is based on recent project costs. However, final costs will likely vary depending on the final design and desired quality and finish levels.

Priority levels were derived from community input, professional assessment, a review of currently programmed improvements, and input from City staff, Open Space Advisory Committee members, PCS Commission members, and City Council. Time frames were established in consideration of priority level and budget impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

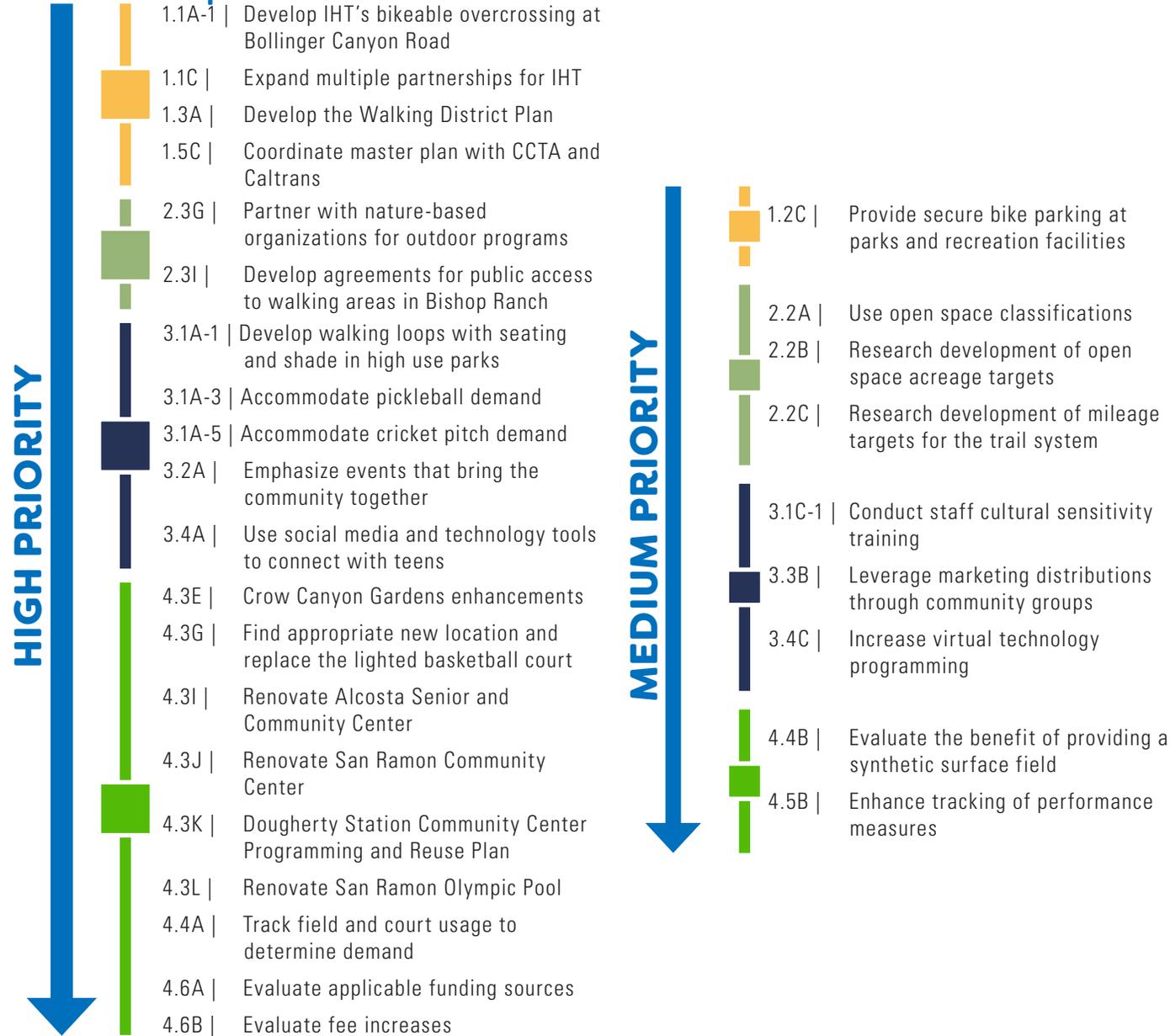
TIME FRAME | ONGOING

- 1) INTERCONNECTED
- 2) CONSERVATION OF & CONNECTION TO NATURE
- 3) INCLUSIVE
- 4) BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY



RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

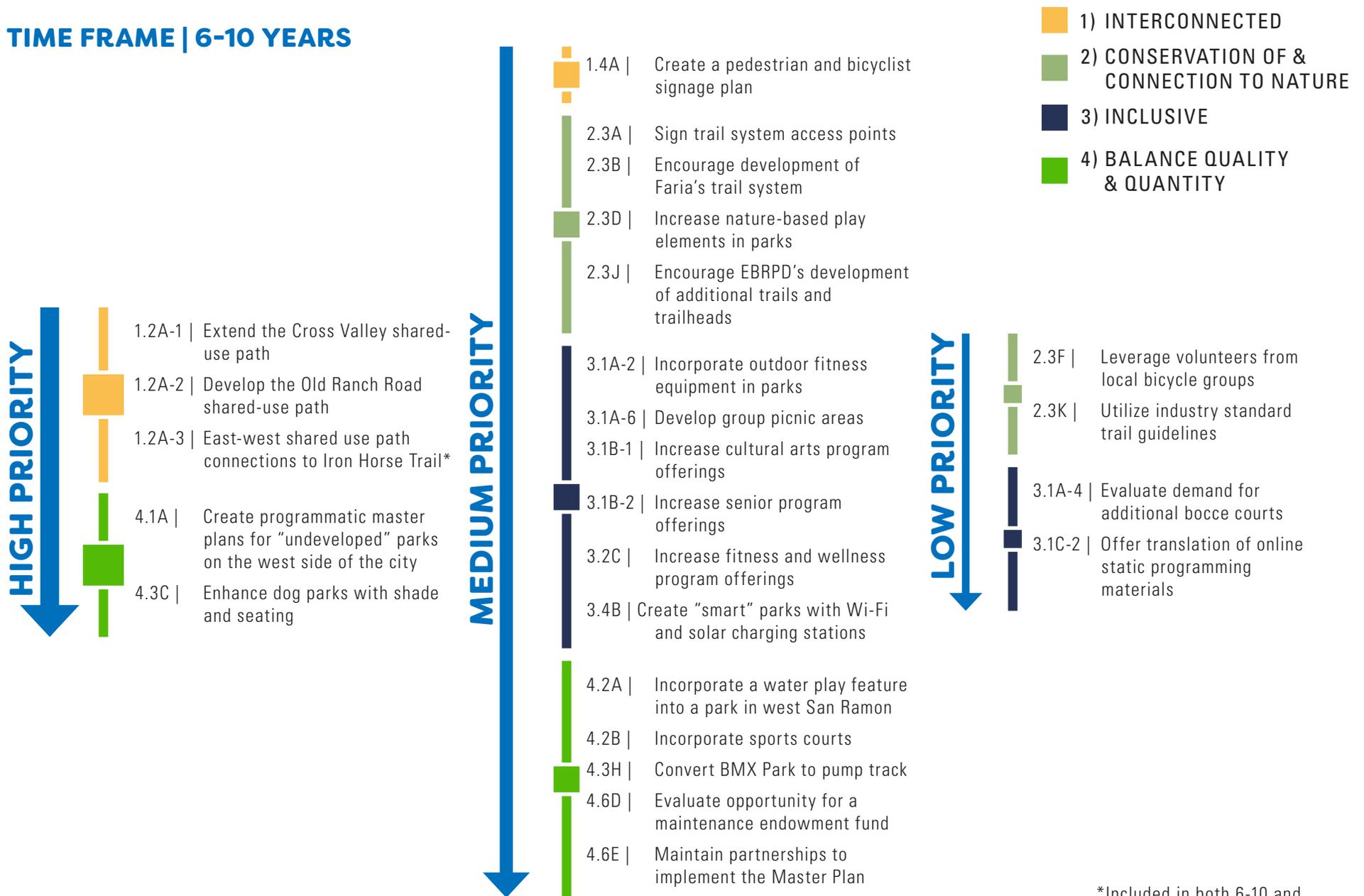
TIME FRAME | 0-5 YEARS



- 1) INTERCONNECTED
- 2) CONSERVATION OF & CONNECTION TO NATURE
- 3) INCLUSIVE
- 4) BALANCE QUALITY & QUANTITY

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

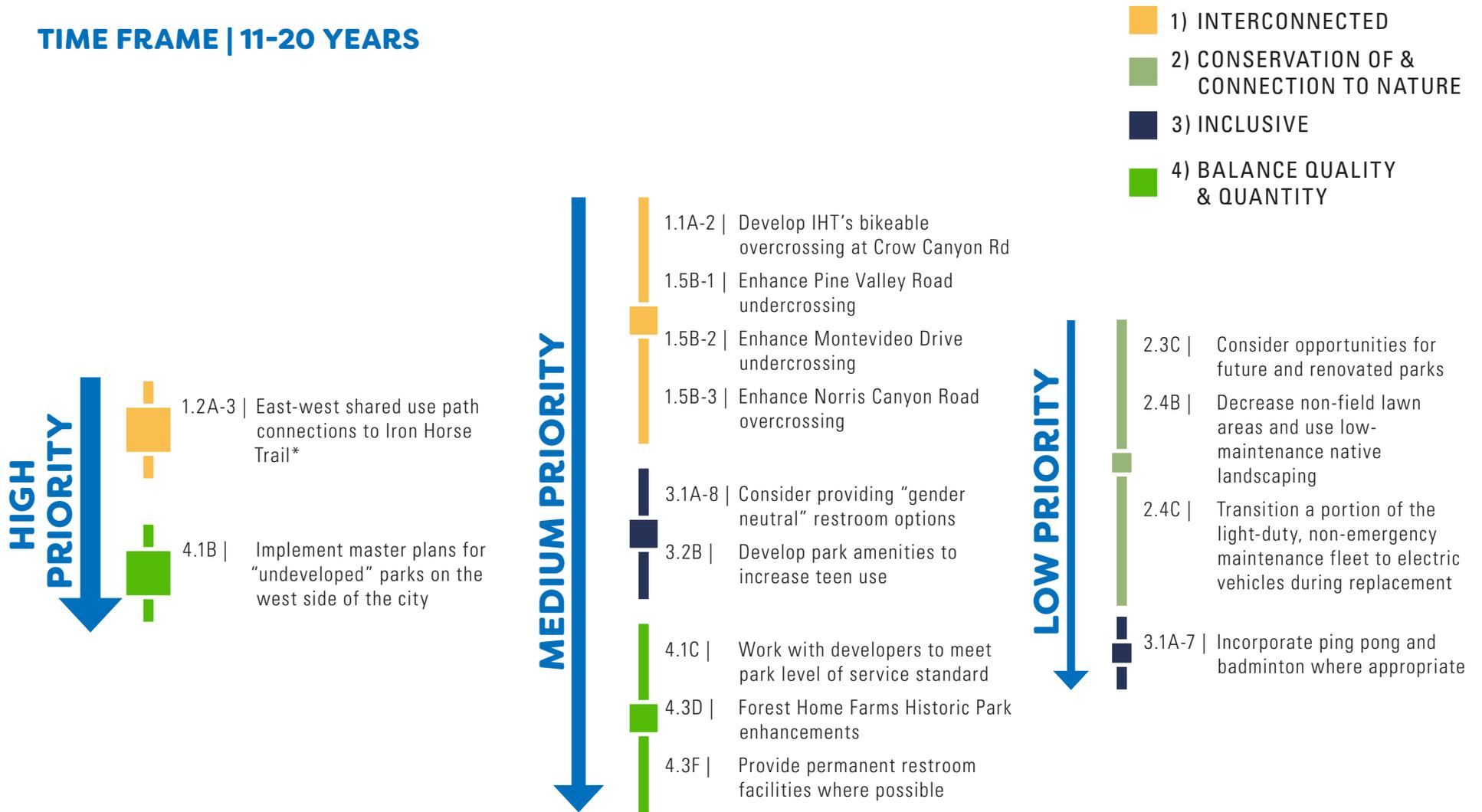
TIME FRAME | 6-10 YEARS



*Included in both 6-10 and 11-20 year time frames

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

TIME FRAME | 11-20 YEARS



*Included in both 6-10 and 11-20 year time frames

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

Table 7: Summary of Project and Program Recommendations

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
1	1.1B-1 Increase shade along the trail with the installation of large trees and/or shade structures.	Project	High	Ongoing	50% shade coverage of trail during summer	\$250,000 - \$750,000 per mile (varies depending on trees or structures)	\$25,000-\$50,000
2	1.1B-2 Increase seating opportunities along the trail.	Project	High	Ongoing	1 bench every 1/4 mile	\$10,000 - \$15,000 per mile	<\$25,000
3	1.2B-3 Develop looped trail systems in open spaces.	Project	High	Ongoing	Development of one open space trail loop every other year.	\$50,000 - \$75,000 per 1 mile of unpaved trail	\$25,000-\$50,000
4	1.4C Install trail directional signage (at trailheads and intersections)	Project	High	Ongoing	Installation of signs along high-use trails and in parks connecting to high-use trails	\$1,500-\$5,000 per sign	<\$25,000
5	2.1A Work with developers to incorporate the preserved ridgelines and provide large, contiguous open spaces and natural resources as part of new development	Program	High	Ongoing	Percent of contiguous open space set aside in new developments	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000
6	2.1B Expand the ridgeline and hillside open space system in the City's Planning Area through joint efforts with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and nonprofit trustee agencies	Program	High	Ongoing	Acres of land acquired and maintained as open space	Varies	\$25,000-\$50,000
7	2.1C Strengthen the City's partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, and other jurisdictions and private organizations	Program	High	Ongoing	Key contacts with partner agencies, regular meeting, and coordination of guiding planning documents and project opportunities	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
8	2.3E Continue to provide broad-based outdoor education programming such as guided trail hikes	Program	High	Ongoing	Increased participation on hikes	N/A	<\$25,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
9	2.4D Continue to invest in equipment, staff resources, and maintenance practices to improve irrigation system efficiencies	Program	High	Ongoing	15% increase in irrigation efficiency over 2019. The City will continue to invest in and upgrade the current centrally controlled irrigation system.	Varies	\$25,000-\$50,000
10	4.1D Maintain and enhance the partnership and joint use agreements with San Ramon Valley Unified School District to maintain community access to neighborhood and community park amenities and recreation facilities	Program	High	Ongoing	Renewed joint use agreements	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
11	4.5A Continue to use a total asset management approach for park maintenance and funding allocations	Program	High	Ongoing	Implementation of plan	N/A	N/A
12	4.6C Consider agreements with developers for long term maintenance	Program	High	Ongoing	Increased maintenance agreements and/or community service districts for maintenance	N/A	\$50,000-\$75,000 Planning only
13	1.2B-1 Connect neighborhoods to parks and parks to parks via trails and walkways.	Project	Med	Ongoing	100% of homes are within walking distance of a city park or public open space	\$1M per 1 mile of Class 1 shared use path	\$50,000-\$75,000
14	1.2B-2 Focus on creating more Class 1, shared-use paths, and Class 4, cycle track, facilities.	Project	Med	Ongoing	“Roadway projects include sidewalk, shared-use path, and/or cycle track improvements. Average of 1.5 miles of additional facilities per year”	“\$1M per 1 mile of Class 1 shared use path \$150,000 per 1 mile of Class 4 cycle track”	\$25,000-\$50,000
15	1.4B Maintain and continually update website and app-based trail planning	Program	Med	Ongoing	Use of mapping app and website	N/A	<\$25,000
16	1.5A Improve facilities to reduce perceived safety concerns of “interested, but concerned” bicyclists and pedestrians at intersections with I-680	Project	Med	Ongoing	Improved pedestrian and cyclist crossings at intersections (increase visibility, reduce length, provide islands, and provide separation)	Varies for each project	\$50,000-\$75,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
17	2.1D Identify, evaluate, and preserve the archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources that are found within the City's parks and open spaces, where possible	Program	Med	Ongoing	Incorporation of resources into parks and open space design and programs	Varies	<\$25,000 Planning only
18	2.4A Implement water quality programs and measures	Program	Med	Ongoing	New parks and park renovations incorporate low impact development techniques, where possible	Varies	\$25,000-\$50,000
19	3.1C-3 Recruit a diverse workforce and continue to foster a welcoming and fulfilling work environment	Program	Med	Ongoing	Increased staff diversity and high staff career satisfaction rates	N/A	N/A
20	4.3A Update and diversify play equipment to incorporate more challenging, inclusive, and interactive equipment as part of the renewal and replacement program	Project	Med	Ongoing	Continual replacement of aging play equipment and/or equipment requiring ADA upgrades	\$40,000-\$50,000 per play unit	<\$25,000
21	4.3B Incorporate art, nature, education, and culture into parks to create distinction between facilities and enhance place-making	Project	Med	Ongoing	Incorporation of native landscape and plant communities into four parks across the city	N/A part of other projects	\$25,000-\$50,000
22	2.3H Support the development of more specialized, science-based programming by partner agencies and organizations	Program	Low	Ongoing	More science based programming and nature center facilities developed and provided by partners	N/A	<\$25,000
23	2.4E Consider opportunities for solar powered lighting and the installation of solar parking shade structures, when funding allows with new park development or major park renovations	Program	Low	Ongoing	Increased number of solar powered fixtures and shade structures, as funding allows.	To occur as part of previously scheduled replacements	<\$25,000
24	3.1B-3 Maintain levels of City-provided programming for youth, special needs, and teens	Program	Low	Ongoing	Continue to provide the current level of programming in these areas.	N/A	<\$25,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
25	3.3A Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Central Contra Costa Transit Authority to enhance transit access to parks and facilities for those who choose not to drive or do not have access to a private vehicle	Program	Low	Ongoing	Regional Transportation Plans reflect the need for transit service to parks	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
26	1.1A-1 Develop a bikeable overpass at the intersection with Bollinger Canyon Road.	Project	High	0-5 Years	Installation of overpass	\$21.5M	\$25,000-\$50,000
27	1.1C Expand the City's partnership with multiple partners, such as East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, SRVUSD, Bishop Ranch, and PG&E, to facilitate the implementation of trail improvements and coordinate roles and responsibilities.	Program	High	0-5 Years	Agreement amended	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
28	1.3A Develop a plan that defines conceptual walking route locations and guidelines for the aesthetics and function of the routes	Program	High	0-5 Years	Completion of Framework Plan	\$75,000 (Budget is for developing the plan. Construction costs (\$10-\$18/SF varies depending on materials and the use of existing walkways.)	\$25,000 Planning only
29	1.5C Work with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Caltrans to program improvements into appropriate planning documents and coordinate enhancements with existing planned projects	Program	High	0-5 Years	Recommendations from the PTOSR are incorporated into other planning/implementation documents	N/A	<\$25,000
30	2.3G Partner with EBRPD and other nature-based organizations to increase access to and offerings of other outdoor education programs	Program	High	0-5 Years	Coordination and alignment of program offerings	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
31	2.3I Develop agreements with private organizations to formalize public access for walking, biking, and visual access to the waterbodies in Bishop Ranch	Program	High	0-5 Years	Agreements established for public access	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
32	3.1A-1 Develop walking loops with non-slip surfaces and provide seating and shade	Project	High	0-5 Years	Development/ enhancement of walking loops in one to two parks in the short term with additional conversions over the long term.	\$900,000 per mile	\$25,000-\$50,000
33	3.1A-3 Plan to accommodate the growing demand for pickleball	Program	High	0-5 Years	Completion of citywide strategy to identify and accommodate pickleball demand	\$10,000-\$20,000	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
34	3.1A-5 Accommodate the demand for additional cricket pitch and/or supporting facilities such as practice areas	Project	High	0-5 Years	Development of one additional cricket pitch and supporting facilities such as batting cages	\$200,000-\$300,000	\$25,000-\$50,000
35	3.2A Emphasize programming that responds to different cultural segments, focuses on multi-generational and intergenerational opportunities, and brings a geographically diverse community together (movie nights, food trucks and cafes, etc.)	Program	High	0-5 Years	Increase participation in community events	N/A	<\$25,000
36	3.4A Use social media and technology tools, such as apps, to connect with teens and increase park use	Program	High	0-5 Years	Reposts and postings of park and city highlighted spots	N/A	<\$25,000
37	4.3E Crow Canyon Gardens enhancements (parking, restrooms, improved creek access, safety and lighting, nature-based play, self-guided interpretive signs, increased number of rentable garden plots, and renovation of demonstration garden)	Project	High	0-5 Years	Increased use of park and satisfaction with facilities	\$4M-\$6M	\$50,000-\$75,000
38	4.3G Find appropriate new location and replace the lighted basketball court	Project	High	0-5 Years	Project completion	\$100,000-\$150,000	<\$25,000
39	4.3I Alcosta Senior and Community Center renovations	Project	High	0-5 Years	Project completion	\$1.2M-\$1.5M	\$25,000-\$50,000
40	4.3J San Ramon Community Center renovations	Project	High	0-5 Years	Project completion	\$3M-\$3.5M	\$25,000-\$50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
41	4.3K Dougherty Station Community Center programming and reuse plan	Project	High	0-5 Years	Project completion	\$130,000-\$500,000	\$25,000-\$50,000
42	4.3L San Ramon Olympic Pool renovations	Project	High	0-5 Years	Project completion	\$3.5M-\$4.5M	<\$25,000
43	4.4A Track sports field and courts usage to determine demand and distribution needs while allowing for appropriate field recovery	Program	High	0-5 Years	Completion of analysis and regular update	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
45	4.6A Evaluate funding sources and their applicability for San Ramon	Program	High	0-5 Years	Completion of study	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
45	4.6B Evaluate fee increases	Program	High	0-5 Years	Completion of study	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
46	1.2C Provide secure bike parking at parks and recreation facilities.	Project	Med	0-5 Years	All parks and recreation facilities have secure bike parking amenities.	\$1,500-\$3,000 per rack	<\$25,000
47	2.2A Use open space classifications to define their purpose and maintain the quality of resources, while balancing recreation needs and access	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Approval of classification system	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
48	2.2B Research development of open space acreage targets that reflect the desire for preservation of San Ramon's hills, ridges, creeks, canyons, and agricultural resources and the associated City's visual character and quality of life	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Annual review of targets and actuals	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
49	2.2C Research development of mileage targets for the City's trail system that reflects a connected and convenient paved trail network and a looped and accessible diverse unpaved multi-use trail network	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Annual review of targets and actuals	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
50	3.1C-1 Conduct staff cultural sensitivity training	Program	Med	0-5 Years	100% percent of staff completing training	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
51	3.3B Increase communications and partnerships with community groups by leveraging their communication networks to increase awareness and benefits of parks and programs	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Key contacts with major community groups and distribution of park and programming information through the community groups	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
52	3.4C Increase virtual technology programming to connect people to San Ramon's parks and open spaces	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Development of technology focused programming opportunities	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000
53	4.4B Complete an evaluation of the cost/benefit of converting a natural surface field to synthetic surfacing with lights; analysis to include long term operational costs and desired play conditions associated with each surface type	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Completion of analysis and budgeting of renovations, as needed	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
54	4.5B Enhance tracking of performance measures for recreation programs to continually evaluate need, market focus, and the ability of the program to meet service and financial goals	Program	Med	0-5 Years	Completion and update of maintenance standards and plan and programming plan, tracking and marketing plan	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
55	1.2A-1 Cross Valley shared-use path extension	Project	High	6-10 Years	Project completion	\$1.3M-\$1.75M	\$25,000-\$50,000
56	1.2A-2 Old Ranch Road shared-use path	Project	High	6-10 Years	Project completion	\$750,000-\$1.2M	\$25,000-\$50,000
57	1.2A-3 East-west shared-use path connections to the Iron Horse Trail	Project	High	6-10 Years and 11-20 Years	East-west connections in northern, central, and southern portions of the city	\$1M per mile of Class 1 shared use path	\$50,000-\$75,000
58	4.1A Create programmatic master plans for "undeveloped" parks on the west side of the city	Program	High	6-10 Years	Completion of site scale park master plans	\$60,000 - \$80,000 each	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
59	4.3C Enhance dog parks with shade and seating to accommodate both human and canine user comfort needs	Project	High	6-10 Years	Increased use of dog parks	\$150,000-\$300,000 (for large shade structures)	\$25,000-\$50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
60	1.4A Create a pedestrian and bicyclist signage plan	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Completion of Signage Plan	\$50,000	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
61	2.3A Increase the number of defined access points to open space trails systems	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Increased number of access points and trail heads	Varies with trailhead program	\$25,000-\$50,000
62	2.3B Encourage the development of an unpaved and paved trail system in Faria's open space and Preserve Park	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Trail system completed	N/A	<\$25,000
63	2.3D Increase the use of nature-based, exploratory play elements in parks	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Diversification of play equipment to include nature based components	\$40,000-\$50,000 per play unit	\$25,000-\$50,000
64	2.3J Encourage EBRPD's development of additional unpaved, multi-use trail loops and trailheads	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Increase multi-use trail mileage and formalized access points	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000
65	3.1A-2 Incorporate and evaluate the use of outdoor fitness equipment in parks	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Incorporate outdoor fitness equipment into 2 parks and evaluate use	\$10,000-\$35,000 per piece of equipment	<\$25,000
66	3.1A-6 Develop group picnic areas to accommodate large groups and extended family-based activities	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Development of three large group picnic areas across the city	\$150,000-\$200,000 per large pavilion	\$50,000-\$75,000
67	3.1B-1 Increase cultural arts program offerings by one to two classes a year	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Add 1-2 additional performing or visual arts classes a year	N/A	<\$25,000
68	3.1B-2 Increase senior program offerings by adding one to two senior programs a year that focus on wellness and sports	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Add 1-2 senior programs a year focusing on wellness and sports	N/A	<\$25,000
69	3.2C Increase fitness and wellness programming offerings by two to three a year	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Increase fitness/wellness programming offerings by 2-3 a year	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
70	3.4B Create “smart” parks with Wi-Fi access and solar charging stations that balance using technology that keeps users engaged while connecting people to nature – focus on providing the improvements in parks with events and sports games and parks in lower income areas	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Wi-Fi access in 50% of parks	Varies depending on available infrastructure	\$25,000-\$50,000
71	4.2A Incorporate a water play feature in a park west of I-680	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Addition of a water play element west of I-680 with the development of a developer provided park or an undeveloped park.	\$350,000-\$500,000	\$50,000-\$75,000
72	4.2B Incorporate sports courts to parks in western and southcentral San Ramon	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Addition of two to four sports courts	\$80,000-\$120,000	\$25,000-\$50,000
73	4.3H Review and redesign the BMX Park into a pump track and bike park to create more interesting and technical features and encourage use	Project	Med	6-10 Years	Increased use of BMX park	\$40,000-\$50,000 per acre for pump grading without additional features	\$25,000-\$50,000
74	4.6D Evaluate the opportunity for a maintenance endowment fund	Program	Med	6-10 Years	Completion of study	N/A	<\$25,000 Planning only
75	4.6E Maintain and enhance partnerships to implement Master Plan recommendations (e.g., SRVUSD, EBRPD, community foundations, volunteer groups, business community, Walking District Committee, and hospitals)	Program	Medium	6-10 Years	Key contacts with partner agencies, regular meeting, and coordination of guiding planning documents and project opportunities	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
76	2.3F Leverage volunteers from local cycling groups, mountain bike clubs, hiking organizations, and open space groups to create and maintain trails and to lead guided hikes	Program	Low	6-10 Years	Increased participation from volunteers	N/A	<\$25,000
77	2.3K Utilize industry standard trail guidelines, such as the U.S. Forest Service or EBRPD standards, for the creation and maintenance of unpaved trail systems	Program	Low	6-10 Years	Implementation of US Forest Service trails standards	N/A	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
78	3.1A-4 Evaluate the demand for additional bocce courts	Project	Low	6-10 Years	Completion of user survey	\$5,000-\$7,500	<\$25,000 Planning only
79	3.1C-2 Offer translation of online static programming materials such as how to rent facilities (materials changed on less than an annual basis)	Program	Low	6-10 Years	Increase programming materials are translated	N/A	<\$25,000
80	1.2A-3 East-west shared-use path connections to the Iron Horse Trail	Project	High	6-10 Years and 11-20 Years	East-west connections in northern, central, and southern portions of the city	\$1M per mile of Class 1 shared use path	\$50,000-\$75,000
81	4.1B Implement master plans for “undeveloped” parks on the west side of the city	Project	High	11-20 Years	Development of 21 acres of parkland	\$600,000 - \$800,000 per acre	\$50,000-\$100,000>
82	1.1A-2 Develop a bikeable overpass at the intersection with Crow Canyon Road.	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Installation of overpass	\$18M	\$25,000-\$50,000
83	1.5B-1 Pine Valley Road (undercrossing enhancement to connect Cross Valley Trail to the west)	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Improvements completed	\$500,000 - \$750,000	\$25,000-\$50,000
84	1.5B-2 Montevideo Drive (underpass enhancement to connect to Athan Downs)	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Improvements completed	\$500,000 - \$750,000	\$25,000-\$50,000
85	1.5B-3 Norris Canyon Road (overpass enhancement)	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Improvements completed	\$8-\$10M	\$25,000-\$50,000
86	3.1A-8 When replacing restrooms consider opportunities to provide a “gender neutral” option in facilities and community parks, where possible	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Facilities and community parks provide a gender neutral option, where possible.	Varies - evaluation on a case by case basis	\$25,000-\$50,000
87	3.2B Develop park amenities to increase teen park use and provide opportunities for socialization (e.g. study spaces, sports courts with lighting and safety features, water features, interactive lighting and art, mixing play spaces for both children and adults, more active and physically challenging types of play features, Wi-Fi, and natural features)	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Incorporation of park amenities desired by teens into six parks	Varies	\$75,000-\$100,000>

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

No.	Recommendations & Strategies	Project or Program	Priority	Time Frame	Metric	Capital Improvement Budget Implications	Operational and Staffing Implications
88	4.1C Work with developers to create and improve parklands to meet park level of service standard of 6.5 acres of park/1000 residents	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Estimated 50 acres of parkland in the next 20 years	N/A Developer cost	\$50,000-\$100,000>
89	4.3D Forest Home Farms Historic Park enhancements (parking, walking loop, group facilities, and increased programming and renovations of historic building)	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Increased use of park	\$4.3M-\$5M (includes renovations to historic structures)	\$25,000-\$50,000
90	4.3F Provide permanent restroom facilities at parks without facilities where possible	Project	Med	11-20 Years	Implementation of CIP	\$200,000-\$350,000 each	\$50,000-\$75,000
91	2.3C Consider the opportunities for future and renovated parks such as Henry Ranch, Woodlot, Crow Canyon Gardens, and Laborer's to provide more nature- and adventure-based recreation amenities such as trails, disc golf, mountain biking, and nature walks	Project	Low	11-20 Years	Completion of conceptual park master plans for Woodlot, Crow Canyon Gardens, Henry Ranch and Laborer's with an evaluation of the role nature based play can have in the parks	\$60,000 - \$80,000 each master plan	\$25,000-\$50,000 Planning only
92	2.4B Decrease lawn areas and utilize low-maintenance, drought tolerant native landscaping where feasible (does not include active field areas)	Program	Low	11-20 Years	15% reduction of non-active, landscape/lawn areas citywide. Note that the City is already making these changes when feasible.	Varies	Will lower costs
93	2.4C Consider transitioning light-duty maintenance fleet to electric vehicles (non-emergency)	Program	Low	11-20 Years	10% of the non-emergency, light weight maintenance fleet are electric vehicles.	To occur with regular vehicle replacement program	\$25,000-\$50,000
94	3.1A-7 Evaluate opportunities to incorporate ping pong and badminton, where appropriate	Project	Low	11-20 Years	Completion of user survey	\$5,000-\$7,500	<\$25,000 Planning only

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Critical to implementing the recommendations of the Master Plan is to have funding sources for both capital and operations. It is not unusual for cities to utilize a number of possible funding mechanisms for these purposes. Many have dedicated sources in place. A number of possible funding sources are noted below but this is not meant to be an exhaustive list. These include:

CAPITAL FUNDING SOURCES

Tax Sources

- **City of San Ramon** – The City is likely going to be the primary funding agent for most capital projects. Several options to acquire the necessary tax dollars for this purpose will need to be evaluated.
- **General Fund** – The utilization of existing tax dollars for projects. This often comes through the CIP budget process. This can be a primary source for many smaller projects and improvements but usually does not fund larger, more expensive amenities.
- **Quimby Act Dedication and Fees** – The Quimby Act authorizes cities and counties to require a residential developer to dedicate parkland or a payment of a comparable fee in-lieu of. This can only be used for capital funding for the renovation of existing parks/facilities or the construction of new ones that serve the new development. Depending on the level of residential development, this can be a small or significant method for developing new parks and facilities. The rate of contribution must be set based on prior standards.
- **Development Impact Fees** – These fees are paid by a developer at the time of issuing a building permit for a new development (commercial and or residential rentals). This is usually a per unit or per square foot fee. There must be a direct benefit to the new development to justify the utilization of the fees for new facilities. Again, the level of funding can vary and the fees must be established as part of a general standard.
- **Special Sales Tax** – There are limited opportunities for the use of this tax. It requires two thirds voter approval and state legislative approval, but the proceeds can be used for special projects.
- **Special Fees or Taxes** – This could include earmarking revenues from the establishment of new fees or increasing existing fees associated with items such as business licenses, utility fees, parcel tax, real estate transfer tax, transient occupancy tax (bed tax), etc. These are often difficult to establish or increase and do not always generate significant revenues. Some of these funding sources require voter approval (parcel tax).
- **General Obligation Bond** – A voter passed tax initiative to fund projects through a property tax and/or sales tax increase. This has been a relatively common method of funding for many cities and towns but does require voter approval.
- **Certificates of Participation** – This is a form of a lease that only obligates the city to a payment on a yearly basis to cover the cost of financing the project over a set term. This form of payment does not count against the city's indebtedness and does not require a vote of the people. The facility is in effect purchased from a third party and it may also be constructed by them as well.
- **Special Benefit Assessment** – The state allows for the formation of a special assessment district within a city to fund parks and recreation projects through

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

an assessment on real property. This requires approval of the property owners.

- **Landscape and Lighting Assessment District** – A form of a special benefit assessment, this allows for funding of the development and operation of parks and open space. This also requires voter approval.
- **Community Facilities Districts** – The state allows for the formation of these districts to fund both capital and/or operations of new parks and recreation facilities. This is a property tax and requires a two-thirds majority vote. As a result, this can be difficult to put into place as a realistic funding source.
- **State of California** – At different times the voters have funded a program for the state to allocate a level of funding for certain projects and programs. Most recently this occurred with the passage of Proposition 68. However, there is competition for this funding, and they are usually one-time allocations for specific projects. There are also a number of state grants that are administered through a variety of departments in state government.
- **Federal Government** – There are a variety of funding sources available for different projects and programs through such programs as the Land & Water Conservation Fund, trails, environmental, and social service based (Community Development Block Grant) funding.

Non-Tax Sources

Beyond the more traditional government funding sources that have been identified above, there are a variety of non-tax sources that are increasingly being called upon to help finance projects and programs. Some of these are listed below.

- **Partnerships** – There is the potential of developing equity partners for specific projects. These could include other neighboring cities, the County, the school district, private companies, and health care providers. There is often a limit on the number of these types of partnerships that can be established for a project due to potential competing interests. Partnership dollars received from other organizations could be significant. A detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of funding for any project.
- **Fundraising** – A possible source of capital funding could come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign in San Ramon. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and service organizations could be included in the outreach effort. To maximize this form of funding, a private fundraising consultant may be necessary. Generally, this is a relatively low level of capital funding for most projects.
- **Foundations** – There are foundations in the greater Bay Area or nationally that could be capital funders for certain parks and facilities. Reaching out to these foundations to determine their level of interest, the key amenities that they would support, and other project requirements for possible funding is important. It should be expected that there will be a relatively low level of funded through foundations.
- **Grants** – It is possible to fund parks, open space, and other facilities from grant sources, but applying for these grants can be time consuming and must fit within their funding cycle. Key aspects of parks and recreation projects that could be targeted for grants is anything related to youth, teens, seniors, people with disabilities, families, and lower income

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

households. There may also be grant opportunities for environmental projects, energy conservation, and green building initiatives. Major funding from this source is unlikely but still could be beneficial.

- **Naming Rights and Sponsorships** – Although not nearly as lucrative as for large stadiums and other similar facilities, the sale of naming rights and long-term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It will probably be necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold. The industry standard is 20 years maximum. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right will be crucial.

The reality is that it will be important for the City of San Ramon to utilize multiple sources to fund the capital needs of the parks and recreation master plan.

OPERATIONS FUNDING SOURCES

As important as financing capital projects is, the ability to fund on-going operations and maintenance for parks and recreation is critical. There are a number of possible funding options that are noted below.

Tax Sources

- **City of San Ramon** – It is anticipated that most of the responsibility for operations and maintenance funding will continue to fall on the City. However, the City will need to identify how the anticipated increase in operations and maintenance will be handled and the sources the funding will come from. Many of the same funding options for capital projects are also possibilities for operations.
- **General Fund** – The use of existing tax dollars for operations and maintenance is common. However, if there are going to be significant increases this usually cannot be funded entirely with existing tax sources.
- **Charges for Services** – Increasing the fees charged for parks and recreation programs and services as well as the rental of parks facilities can help with the generation of revenue to off-set operations costs. Having a well-defined fee policy to guide this process is essential.
- **Special Sales Tax** – In addition to funding capital, this source can also be utilized for the operations of certain special facilities or amenities. The limits of this funding source have been identified in the capital funding section.
- **Special Fees or Taxes** – These sources could provide a dedicated funding source for facilities maintenance or programs. Again, revenue could be generated from sources such as business licenses, utility fees, parcel tax, real estate transfer tax, transient occupancy tax (bed tax), etc.
- **Operating Levy** – Establishing a tax levy specifically for the maintenance and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs has become more common. These most always require voter approval and often require renewal on a regular basis for continued use. These can either be property tax based or sales tax generated.
- **Special Benefit Assessment** – A special assessment district within a city can also be used to fund operations and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities through an assessment on real property. This requires approval of the property owners.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Landscape and Lighting Assessment District**
 - This allows for the funding of operations and maintenance of parks and open space as well as capital construction. This does require voter approval.
- **Community Facilities Districts** – A district can be formed to fund both the operations of new parks and recreation facilities in addition to capital construction. This is a property tax and requires a two-thirds majority vote.
- **State of California** – It is far more difficult to fund operations and maintenance of parks and recreation resources through normal state sources. There have been some state grants for certain specialized programs, however.
- **Federal Government** – There are limited options for funding operations and maintenance from this source but there have been grant opportunities for some special needs, environmental, youth, and senior programs and services.

Non-Tax Sources

- **Partnerships** – Finding operational partners can be a challenge at times but there are opportunities for program and service partners in the public, private, and non-profit sector. Capital partners often have an operational commitment as well. A carefully worded partnership agreement will be necessary to confirm and guarantee the level of funding that is possible and the length of time that it should be expected.
- **Endowment Fund** – This would require additional funding from foundations and/or fundraising to establish an operational endowment that could

fund basic maintenance, capital replacement, and improvements at parks and facilities. Fundraising for operational endowments can be very challenging and the level of funding often needs to be very high to generate enough dollars.

- **Sponsorships** – The establishment of sponsorships for different programs and services as well as funding for different aspects of a park or facility's operation is possible. In most cases however, this provides a relatively low revenue stream for funding day to day operating costs.
- **Grants** – There are grants for programs and services that serve the disadvantaged, youth, teens, and seniors. It may be possible to acquire funding for specific programs from this source. Many grants are only for a set period of time (1 to 3) years which could mean the loss of the program if other funding cannot be found to replace the grant.

Determining a sustainable source of funding for operations and maintenance of new or renovated facilities is critically important as is the ability to fund programs and services for the community on an on-going basis.



SAN RAMON PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

San Ramon Parks and Community Services creates community
through people, parks, partnerships, and programs.

PROPOSED PARKS, TRAILS + OPEN SPACE

