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Public Facilities and Utilities

The Public Facilities and Utilities Element looks at aspects relating to specific functional needs of the community. Policies in this element are complemented by those in the Growth Management and Land Use elements, and work together in achieving the City's vision.

This Element identifies the capital improvements and facilities needed to serve San Ramon, including civic, educational, cultural, fire, and police facilities, as well as utilities and communication systems. This Element also sets forth standards desired by the community for its public schools, private institutions, public utilities, and solid waste management. It is the City's goal to guarantee a full range of high quality public and private facilities and services to provide each resident a safe, healthy, and attractive living environment.

7.1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

San Ramon's commitment to providing the community with outstanding public places is reflected in the number and quality of facilities it has built:

- Four multi-purpose community centers (the San Ramon Community Center at Central Park, the Alcosta Senior & Community Center, Park & Gardens, the Dougherty Station Community Center, and the Amador Rancho Center);
- Two community gymnasiums at Pine Valley and Iron Horse Middle Schools (in partnership with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District);
- Two community aquatic centers at each high school (the San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park at California High and the Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center at Dougherty Valley High);
- The Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center (joint-use with Dougherty Valley High School); and
- Two library branches (San Ramon Library and the Dougherty Station Library).

In 2007, the City approved entitlement for the construction of the City Center Project at the intersection of Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon, adjacent to the Iron Horse Trail, Central Park, and Community Center. However, due to an economic downturn the project remained on hold pending a better economic climate.

In 2013, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sunset Development, the City's private sector partner on the City Center Project, to design and construct a new City Hall. Under the terms of the MOU the location of the proposed City Hall will move from the approved location in the City Center Project to a new location at the southwest corner of Central Park.

In 2014, the City approved the plans for the design of the new City Hall and construction is expected to be underway in late 2014. Additionally, Sunset Development presented a revised vision and development concept for phase one of the City Center Plaza District. This first phase is comprised of the retail and theater portion of the previously approved Project; however based on the design changes, the City will process an amendment to the approved plans prior to the start of construction. Construction of phase one of the Project is anticipated to begin in 2015.

Figure 7-1 illustrates the public facilities in San Ramon. These facilities do more than provide public services; they are also symbols, which promote pride and collective self-esteem and foster a sense of place, mutual ownership, and community. While these public places serve a wide variety of social, cultural, and recreational needs, service demands have resulted in rapid growth of the programs and activities offered by the City.

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

The following classifications of public places and facilities are used in San Ramon. Performance standards for community centers and libraries are included in the Growth Management Element.

- **Community Center.** A facility designed to meet the needs of the population for civic meetings, recreational activities, social gatherings, and cultural enrichment such as the San Ramon Community Center and the Alcosta Senior & Community Center, Park & Gardens.
- **Community Theater.** A cultural facility that provides space for concerts, plays, lectures and shows such as the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center (a 600 seat theater with adjoining rehearsal space) or the Front Row Theater (a 90 seat theater) at the Dougherty Station Community Center.
- **City Center.** A downtown Center consisting of a pedestrian friendly, mixed-use development. A few of the major community facility components include and a new city hall with council chamber, and a transit center.
- **Library.** A facility in which literary, artistic, and reference materials are kept for public use and circulation, and at where people gather for learning and cultural enrichment purposes.

GUIDING POLICY

7.1-G-1 Provide public and cultural facilities that contribute to the City's positive image and enhance community identity.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

7.1-I-1 Confer with Contra Cost County Library to provide superior services including facility upgrades and enhancements in response to the results of the Library Usage Survey conducted in 2012.

SAN RAMON GENERAL PLAN 2035

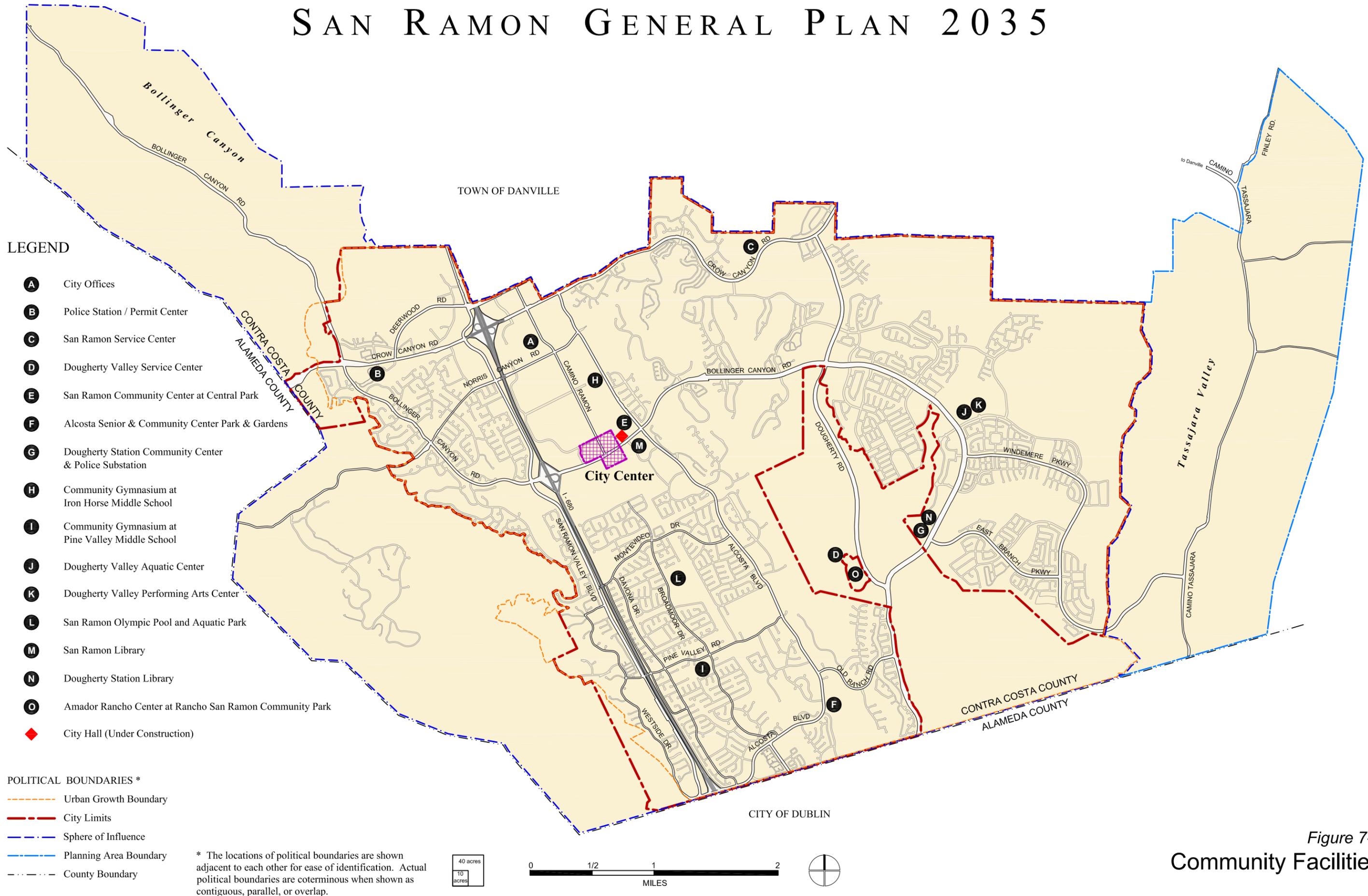


Figure 7-1
Community Facilities

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In 2012, the Library Advisory Committee conducted a survey to evaluate the usage and the needs of the San Ramon Library and found that new libraries are transforming from traditional institutions for book readers and information seekers to places for people to gather and socialize for learning and cultural enrichment purposes, and meet with people who share common interests. The survey suggested that the library patrons would like larger libraries that can accommodate more meeting rooms, and enhanced Internet access including power outlets and more seating opportunities. The Library Advisory Committee recommended that the San Ramon libraries should have a minimum ratio of 0.5 square feet of library space per capita, 1 meeting room per 10,000 residents, 5 seats per 1,000 residents, 2 outlets per 1,000 residents, and 63 annual service hours per 1,000 residents in order to meet the needs of a growing and vital community that values education with updated resources and space.

In addition to the possible future library expansion at the Diablo Valley College – San Ramon Campus facility in Dougherty Valley (see Policy 7.2-1-3) the City should continue to explore a variety of options to increase library space and services as growth in population occurs.

- 7.1-1-2 Ensure that the planned public facilities in Dougherty Valley are provided on a timely basis in accordance with the terms of the 1994 Settlement Agreement.
- 7.1-1-3 Maintain teen services on or adjacent to middle school sites.

7.2 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

School Districts are exempt from local regulations and cannot be required to adhere to City General Plan policies. However, collaboration between the City and the School District is essential in order to provide high quality educational facilities and promote a sense of community.

EXISTING ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) serves the entire San Ramon Planning Area, as well as Danville and unincorporated areas within Contra Costa County. Within San Ramon, the District operates eleven elementary schools (grades K-5), four middle schools (grades 6-8), two high schools (grades 9-12), and Venture, an independent study school (grades K-12). Table 7-1 shows that as of April 2014, approximately 17,793 of the District's 31,651 students attended schools in San Ramon. The District estimates total school capacity within San Ramon at 18,043 students. Figure 7-2 illustrates school sites in San Ramon.

San Ramon General Plan 2035

**Table 7-1: San Ramon Valley Unified School District Schools, Enrollment, and Capacity
in San Ramon (as of April 2014)**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
<i>Elementary (K-5)</i>		
Bollinger Canyon Elementary School	576	545
Country Club Elementary School	521	545
Coyote Creek Elementary School	1,116	1,040
Golden View Elementary School	659	625
Hidden Hills Elementary School	1,074	988
Live Oak Elementary School	1,126	1,040
Montevideo Elementary School	675	600
Neil Armstrong Elementary School	636	600
Quail Run Elementary School	1,068	1,040
Twin Creeks Elementary School	536	540
Walt Disney Elementary School	564	540
<i>Middle (6-8)</i>		
Gale Ranch Middle School ¹	1,056	1,080
Iron Horse Middle School	1,046	960
Pine Valley Middle School	952	900
Windemere Ranch Middle School	1,236	1,110
<i>High School (9-12)</i>		
California High School	2,577	2,500
Dougherty Valley High School ¹	2,375	2,560
<i>Independent Studies</i>		
Venture	307	N/A
Total	17,793	18,043+

Notes:

“N/A” means data not available

¹ Capacity includes relocatable classrooms.

Source: San Ramon Valley Unified School District, 2014.

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As part of its efforts to regulate the impacts of growth and provide excellent services for its citizens, San Ramon has developed a school performance standard to ensure that new schools will be in locations accessible to school age children, that adequate capacity is available to meet projected enrollment needs, and that future development will provide sufficient facilities for education as well as extra-curricular activities. Refer to the Growth Management Element for additional information on school standards.

PROJECTED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Based on the sites identified in Table 11-32, Housing Opportunity Sites of the 2014-2022 Housing Element, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District may experience growth within the City of San Ramon. This table shows an increase of approximately 423 single-family units and 4,757 multi-family units being developed outside Dougherty Valley. Based on the student generation rates listed in Table 7-2, buildout of the General Plan could potentially add an estimated 1,465 Kindergarten to 6th Grade students, 349 7th to 8th Grade students, and 621 high school students to San Ramon schools.

In fall 2016, the School District anticipates the opening of a new 830-student capacity elementary school in Gale Ranch Phase 4 named Bella Vista Elementary. Along with the additional elementary school, the School District can accommodate the potential increase in student enrollment through strategies such as construction of additional schools, expansion of the capacity of existing school sites, and/or through boundary changes to redistribute students to schools with excess capacity. Development of potential housing opportunities sites listed in Table 11-32 of the 2014-2022 Housing Element would require additional study and close collaboration with the School District and developers.

Table 7-2: San Ramon Valley Unified School District Student Generation Rates

<i>Grade Group</i>	<i>Single-Family Detached Unit</i>	<i>Single-Family Attached Unit</i>	<i>Multi-Family Unit</i>
K-6	0.540	0.540	0.260
7-8	0.150	0.080	0.060
9-12	0.230	0.160	0.110
Total:	0.920	0.780	0.430

Source: San Ramon Valley Unified School District, 2014.

GUIDING POLICY

7.2-G-1 Collaborate with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in their efforts to ensure that all school age children have equal access to equitable facilities.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

7.2-I-1 Collaborate with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in their efforts to ensure that all future school sites are developed as “school parks.”

- 7.2-I-2 Require that residential development pay fees to the School District to provide adequate, permanent classroom space.

The City works closely with the School District to ensure that all new school facilities are within close proximity to the neighborhoods they are intended to serve.

- 7.2-I-3 Encourage the efforts for the Phase II Expansion of the Diablo Valley College – San Ramon Campus facility (including the library extension) in Dougherty Valley.

The 2014 Voter-approved Contra Costa Community College District Measure E (Educational Facility Bond) allows for improvements in educational facilities, parking and libraries. Under the current Joint Use Memorandum of Understanding for the Dougherty Station Library, the County, the City and the College District are currently partners in operating the Dougherty Station Library and shared parking facilities. The City will work together with the College District and the County Library to ensure that any library expansion at DVC-San Ramon Campus by the College District is also operated as joint use by the college and the community. The parties should also continue to work together on improvements to parking at the Village Center where these facilities are housed.

- 7.2-I-4 Collaborate with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to assure that all future schools are planned to be open and operational based on student generation rates.

7.3 INSTITUTIONS

Many services that benefit the San Ramon community are provided by private businesses or public agencies other than the City. The General Plan does not control the provision of such services. However, it does establish policies to facilitate the availability of services in the City.

GUIDING POLICY

- 7.3-G-1 Encourage development of private educational, cultural, childcare, and medical facilities in San Ramon.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

- 7.3-I-1 Encourage developers of residential and nonresidential projects to assist in funding public or private facilities and services.

Examples include child care centers, meeting space, interpretive centers or displays, community gardens, and other similar facilities and services.

- 7.3-I-2 Facilitate the provision of safe, affordable, and quality elder care and child care facilities and services for families who reside or work in San Ramon.

- 7.3-I-3 Actively work with public, private, and non-profit service providers to create and expand opportunities for elder care facilities, programs, and services in San Ramon.

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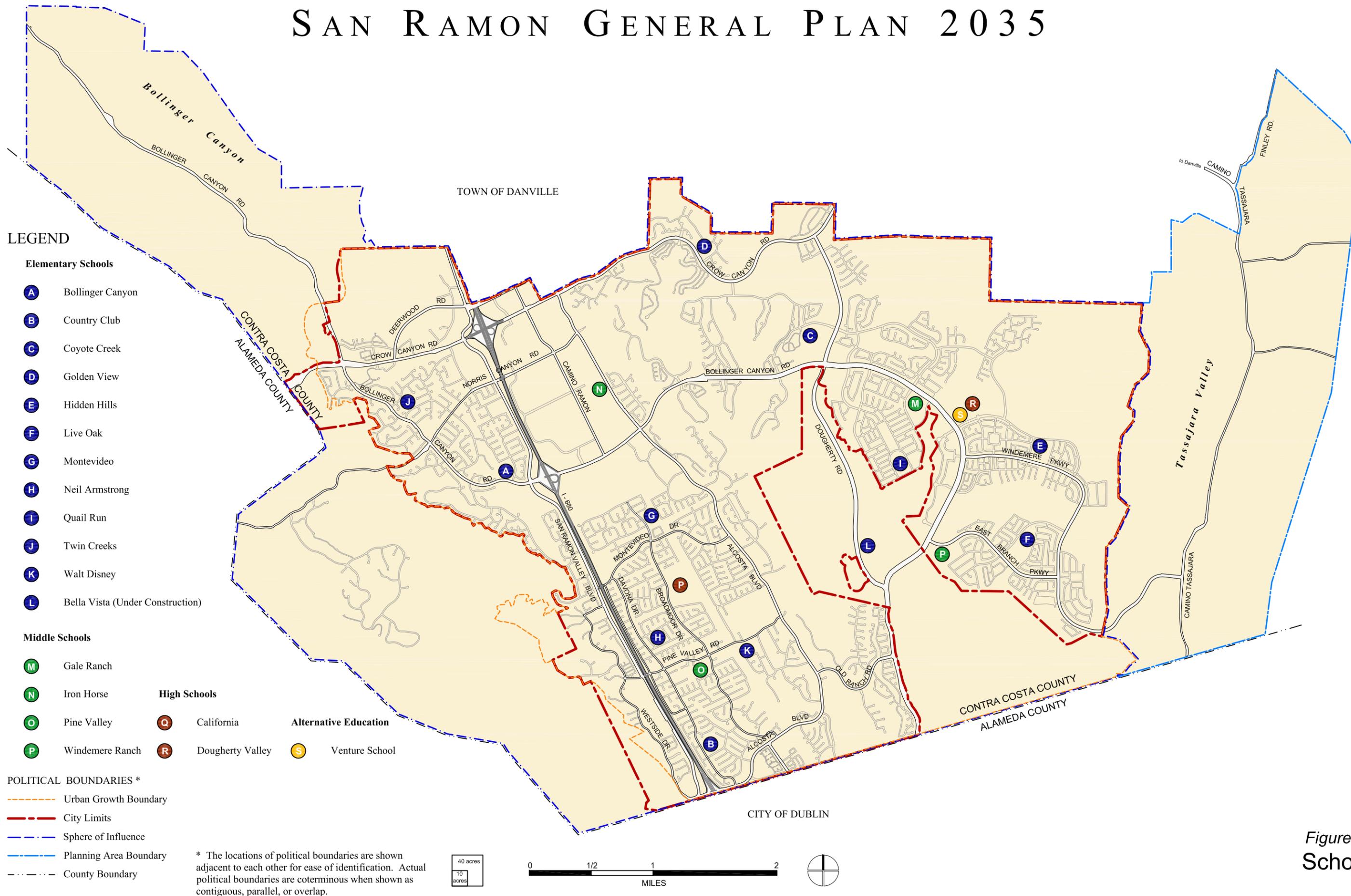


Figure 7-2
Schools

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- 7.3-I-4 Encourage the development of a variety of housing and recreational opportunities for senior citizens close to City services and facilities, including transportation.

The Alcosta Senior & Community Center, Park & Gardens is a good example of a facility that provides a variety of activities, such as art and music classes, dancing, gardening, and field trips.

- 7.3-I-5 Encourage the location of appropriate child care facilities in residential areas and ensure that such operations are compatible with their surroundings.

Small family day care facilities are permitted in residential districts as provided for by California Health & Safety Code section 1597.45. Large family day care facilities are permitted in residential districts with approval through the use permit process. Day Care Centers in certain zoning districts are also permitted with approval through the use permit process.

- 7.3-I-6 Assess the adequacy of the School-Aged Child Care Ordinance through periodic review and update as necessary to ensure that fees are used appropriately.

School-Aged Child Care facilities play an important role for families in San Ramon. Continue to implement the Zoning Ordinance land use process for child care facilities.

- 7.3-I-7 Provide opportunities to locate meeting facilities (public or private), preschool facilities, and child care facilities in residential areas on arterial or collector streets.

- 7.3-I-8 Encourage and support public facilities and services that contribute to the maintenance and long-term success of a vibrant San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

The San Ramon Medical Center is one of the premier medical facilities in the Tri-Valley with 188 beds and an approved 6,400 square foot Emergency Room expansion. The City can help support the Center by working with transit providers to ensure good transit service with conveniently located transit stops and by facilitating partnerships with emergency service providers, such as the City of San Ramon Police Department and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

- 7.3-I-9 Encourage uses which support the medical facilities within proximity of the Regional Medical Center.

Examples of uses include, but are not limited to, medical offices, outpatient clinics, and administrative support facilities.

7.4 UTILITIES

Both Comcast and AT&T provide cable and telephone services while Pacific Gas and Electric provide natural gas and electrical services throughout San Ramon. New technologies, particularly in the communications field, continue to converge, forcing the merger of services offered by utility providers.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 recognized the emerging and converging telecommunications technologies, and set new national policies to encourage future development. This Act has significant implications for San Ramon in that it recognizes the value of rights-of-way as part of telecommunications infrastructure and grants local governments broad authority to regulate cellular towers and other infrastructure needed for wireless communications.

Given the City's employment base, combined with the development of Dougherty Valley and the future City Center and Faria Preserve projects, San Ramon must continue to facilitate the use of these new technologies. Many businesses now consider the communications capacity of places where they want to do business as part of their relocation criteria. Increasingly, firms look for communities that offer electronic amenities such as fiber optic and satellite linkages, which are necessary to support activities like telecommuting and teleconferencing programs.

Bishop Ranch Business Park, for example, is equipped with a fiber optic system called SONET (synchronous optical network), which has contributed to the success of Bishop Ranch by enabling quick and efficient high-speed connections between people and firms. San Ramon welcomes the advanced communication networks and will continue to work with utility providers to offer a wide range of technology services for both residents and businesses within our community.

GUIDING POLICY

- 7.4-G-1 Ensure the provision of adequate communication and utility systems for existing and future residents and the business community.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

- 7.4-I-1 Coordinate with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) in their efforts to monitor future utility expansion to ensure that facilities are designed and planned with minimal impact on existing and future residents.

One of the concerns of residents adjacent to PG&E corridors are the issues surrounding electric magnetic fields (EMFs) which will likely be debated for many years to come. Based on the scientific uncertainty that exists in this field, the City will monitor developments in this area and will continue to follow the principles of "prudent avoidance."

- 7.4-I-2 Work with PG&E to improve transmission line corridors with attractive, community-serving uses and to upgrade the appearance of the transmission line corridors in conjunction with an expansion or co-use of the corridor.

Ornamental planting and recreational uses, including trails and playing fields, should be encouraged.

- 7.4-I-3 Require new development to underground all utility lines needed to serve the future buildings and their occupants, and continue to coordinate with PG&E to underground utilities in existing residential neighborhoods, making the Southern San Ramon area a priority.

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The Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances require underground utilities in all new development. Requiring utility lines to be underground will help improve the visual environment and create an attractive community.

- 7.4-I-4 Continue to explore opportunities to underground existing overhead utility lines throughout the City with available funding.

The City will continue to explore alternate sources of funding in addition to PG&E monies available under Rule 20(a), to underground overhead lines.

- 7.4-I-5 Continue to monitor cable video and encourage competition to ensure the highest quality service consistent with Federal Communications Commission guidelines.

- 7.4-I-6 Encourage utility providers to foster better access, use, and distribution of multi-media products, including fiber optics, wireless technologies, and satellite communications.

- 7.4-I-7 Encourage all new development to provide the technology to support multiple telecommunications facilities and providers.

- 7.4-I-8 Continue to review and update, as necessary, the regulations for wireless telecommunication facilities to ensure minimal impacts to the community.

Potential impacts from wireless telecommunication facilities, such as land use compatibility, health and safety concerns, and equipment aesthetics, shall continue to be reviewed under the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Chapter within the Zoning Ordinance.

- 7.4-I-9 Develop procedures and regulations to ensure minimal impacts to the community from the installation of utilities on City streets.

The City shall develop policies and procedures to reduce the impacts of utility installation on City streets and will continue to monitor utility work within the public right-of-way through the issuance of encroachment permits.

- 7.4-I-10 Encourage co-location of telecommunication facilities to minimize potential visual impacts to the community.

- 7.4-I-11 Coordinate sub-surface utility work with road improvements and maintenance whenever possible.

The intent of this policy is to maximize the effectiveness of roadway resurfacing and improvement efforts by completing sub-surface utility work prior to repaving. In addition, this policy seeks to minimize disruptions associated with uncoordinated work.

7.5 SOLID WASTE

The City of San Ramon currently contracts with Valley Waste Management (VWM) for the collection and hauling of franchised solid waste, residential recycling, and green waste. San Ramon also contracts with Republic Services of Northern California to send its solid waste to the company’s Vasco Road Sanitary Landfill in Alameda County.

Since 2007, Senate Bill (SB) 1016 requires cities to report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) the amount of garbage disposed in the landfill per person per day. Beginning in 2007, the CIWMB calculated San Ramon’s per capita disposal target rate at 5.7 pounds of garbage per person per day. The objective is to be below this target rate, which is equivalent to 50 percent diversion.

Table 7-3 shows the amount of solid waste diverted between 2008 and 2012.

Table 7-3: Solid Waste Diversion

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Disposal/Population (Lbs. per day)</i>	<i>Total Disposal/Employment (Lbs. per day)</i>	<i>Total Landfill Waste (Tons)</i>
2008	3.6	6.3	40,413
2009	3.3	6.3	38,097
2010	2.8	6.2	36,325
2011	2.7	5.6	36,032
2012 ¹	2.4	4.8	32,364
50% Diversion Rate Target	5.7 pounds per resident per day to meet State standards	8.2 pounds per employee per day to meet State standards	

Note:

¹ 2012 Waste diversion rate subject to final approval

Source: Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Rate Summary (www.calrecycle.ca.gov)

Although cities within Contra Costa County currently have full disposal capacity at nearby landfills, it is important that all jurisdictions develop programs to divert waste from the landfill stream. Readily available land to construct new landfills in the future is no longer guaranteed.

While both San Ramon and Contra Costa County feature progressive waste management plans, the need to divert significant parts of the City’s waste stream through recycling and reuse remains. Since 2010, San Ramon has implemented an innovative Food Scrap Recycling Program to allow residents to recycle food items and soiled paper products into compost instead of the landfill. The maintenance and strengthening of such programs remains a key issue given the City’s proposed growth. By encouraging solid waste diversion, the City can reduce future landfill demand. Additionally, as the waste created by construction and demolition activities in the planning area may adversely affect the City’s recycling efforts, recycling plans for builders could aid in San Ramon’s recycling efforts.

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GUIDING POLICY

- 7.5-G-1 Manage solid waste so that State goals are exceeded and the best possible service is provided to the citizens and businesses of San Ramon.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

- 7.5-I-1 Provide the best possible service for the collection of garbage, recyclables, and green waste at the lowest possible cost.
- 7.5-I-2 Provide and promote opportunities to reduce waste in all sectors of San Ramon, including residential, commercial, non-profit, government, and educational sectors.
- 7.5-I-3 Develop consumer friendly, convenient, affordable options for community-serving recycling services.
- 7.5-I-4 Through the development review process, encourage the provision of convenient recyclable material storage locations.

New development should be encouraged to install recycling receptacles on their premises. To encourage further recycling habits, in 2011 San Ramon provided all multi-family complexes with recycling receptacles.

- 7.5-I-5 Comply with State requirements for proper handling and storage of solid waste, recyclables, and hazardous materials, diversion of solid waste from landfills, and provision of programs to make these activities feasible.
- 7.5-I-6 Ensure that solid waste programs effectively address community needs and issues.
- 7.5-I-7 Provide options for the safe disposal of hazardous waste and materials.

Since 2011, San Ramon has provided a free curbside pick-up program for household hazardous waste.

- 7.5-I-8 Encourage solid waste diversion (e.g. waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting).
- 7.5-I-9 Require new development projects to comply with the Municipal Code's construction and demolition debris diversion requirements.
- 7.5-I-10 Provide convenient recycling opportunities at large public events and venues.
- 7.5-I-11 Promote public and private efforts to recycle electronic waste.

The City provides referral information for electronic waste recyclers. Additionally, a curbside electronic waste service is provided three times a year.

7.6 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

San Ramon is served by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD). The District is formed as an autonomous Special District and is governed by a five member elected Board. In addition to the City of San Ramon, the District provides services to several unincorporated areas within Contra Costa County and the Town of Danville.

The District provides all-risk fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. It operates a 9-1-1 Communications Center and provides five distinct volunteer programs. The District staffs five fire stations and one administration building within the San Ramon Planning Area.

In addition to the performance standards for Fire Services in the Growth Management Element, the following policies guide the city's collaboration with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

GUIDING POLICY

7.6-G-1 Collaborate with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to deliver a high level of public protection services that protect life, property, and the environment.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

7-6-I-1 Continue to coordinate with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to provide adequate fire protection facilities and services to meet the needs of the community.

7-6-I-2 Seek input from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to ensure that fire protection measures are identified during the development review process.

7.7 POLICE SERVICES

At the time of incorporation in 1983, San Ramon contracted for Police services with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. In June 2006, the City Council created an in-house Police Services Department. The newly created Department became operational on July 1, 2007 and as of May 2014 has 62 sworn police officers. In 2011, the Police Services Department was relocated to 2401 Crow Canyon Road. Dispatch services continue to be provided through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to the performance standards established in the Growth Management Element, the following policies establish a high level of public safety for all people who live and/or work in San Ramon.

GUIDING POLICY

7.7-G-1 Maintain a high level of public safety for all people who live or work in San Ramon.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

7.7-I-1 Ensure crime-reduction and public safety features are incorporated into the design of new development projects through the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design program (CPTED).

CPTED principles emphasize highly visible public spaces that deter criminal activity.

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- 7.7-1-2 Monitor new development projects in the unincorporated parts of the San Ramon Planning Area that would require law enforcement services from the City.
- 7.7-1-3 Require new development, if appropriate, to provide a funding mechanism to support and maintain San Ramon's high level of police services.

