



**CITY OF SAN RAMON**  
**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
**MASTER PLAN UPDATE**  
**& STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

**Bridging the Community**

*The Path to 2017*



**ADOPTED MARCH 25, 2008**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The City of San Ramon would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their contribution to the completion of the Parks & Community Services Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan.*

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-68**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN RAMON  
APPROVING THE CITY OF SAN RAMON PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
MASTER PLAN UPDATE & STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN  
“BRIDGING THE COMMUNITY, THE PATH TO 2017”**

**WHEREAS**, the City of San Ramon General Plan was adopted in November, 1986 which included a Parks and Recreation element; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of San Ramon adopted its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1987 and has been revised biennially since 1989; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Master Plan and Strategic Action Plan is to provide guidance to the City Council, Planning Commission, Parks and Community Services Commission, staff and to the general public as to the actions necessary to carry out the intent of the General Plan as related to parks, community facilities, and community service programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Master Plan and Strategic Action Plan is the primary planning document outlining facility and program planning strategies, park and trail planning strategies, operation and maintenance standards, facility development timelines and priorities, program criteria, revenue sources and guiding policies for service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, the public has participated extensively in the revisions to the Master Plan and Strategic Action Plan “Bridging the Community, the Path to 2017”; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of San Ramon does hereby authorize the adoption of the Parks and Community Services Master Plan and Strategic Action Plan, “Bridging the Community, the Path to 2017” biennial update.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at the meeting of March 25, 2008 by the following votes:

**AYES:** *Councilmembers Hudson, Livingstone, Perkins, Rowley and Mayor Wilson*

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Abram Wilson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Patricia Edwards, City Clerk

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## I. Executive Summary

The purpose of this **10-Year Parks and Community Services Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan** is to review the Department's progress, re-examine its goals and develop new strategies for the future. The Community Steering Committee and City staff has guided the planning process by ***Bridging the Community*** as the ***Path to 2017*** has evolved. This document strives to address current and long-term recreation needs for community residents and creates a new focus for the future. The focus is centered on **UNITY**. As City leaders and community residents tread the ***Path to 2017***, they will bring together neighborhoods and communities, long-tenured residents and new residents; young and old; and link the past with the present in the continued transformation of San Ramon as **ONE** exceptional place to live, work and play.

Quality of place does not occur automatically rather it is an ongoing dynamic process involving the coming together of several different aspects of a community. Successful places do not provide just one thing; rather they provide a range of quality of place options for different kinds of people at different stages in the life course.  
-Richard Florida  
*The Rise of the Creative Class*

Since the City's incorporation in July 1, 1983, civic leaders have focused on developing a diverse parks system and a vast array of community service programs. The City offers a high quality of life with clean and safe neighborhoods. Working closely with the Public Services Department who are responsible for all facilities, park, trail and open space maintenance, has resulted in an extensive park and trail system along with diverse recreation programs that create San Ramon's community identity. The Parks and Community Services Department was established in 1985. Since that time the parks system has grown to include 425.5 acres<sup>1</sup> and 26 miles of trails. The City operates three community centers, two Aquatic Centers, a Performing Arts Center and a 16-acre historic property known as Forest Home Farms.

Recreation and community service programs serve over 30,000 registered participants a year and many others that attend events and visit parks and facilities.

While there have been significant accomplishments in the City's first 25 years, new challenges face City leaders as the population grows and the residents seek new recreation opportunities. To continue the foundation of success and to sustain the Department's vision of ***Creating Community through people, parks, partnerships and programs***, the Parks and Community Services Department initiated this planning process in 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes parks planned and under construction.

## **APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

This Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan incorporate pertinent existing plans and policies adopted by the City Council. These include the San Ramon 2020 General Plan, the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Master Plan (1991-2001), San Ramon Master Plan Update 1996-2006. The General Plan Implementation Policy 6.5 1-14 calls for the adoption and implementation of a 10-year Parks and Community Services Master Plan to be reviewed biennially and updated quadrennially.

One of the City's key goals in updating the Master Plan and developing a Strategic Action Plan was to engage the public in the planning process. Also paramount to the success of the plan was to have the end result an implementable plan to use for decision-making and resource allocation in the future. The methodology included:

1. Needs Assessment Survey;
2. Strategic Action Plan that addresses internal and external organizational issues;
3. Program needs including the review of current programs and services and recommendations on future programs;
4. Park Inventory and Park Master Plan Update.

Public and staff participation extended throughout the entire process and included qualitative and quantitative research involving internal and external stakeholders. Over the course of ten months, public participation included:

- 4 Steering Committee Meetings
- 3 Public Workshops
- 4 Focus Groups
- 31 Stakeholder Interviews
- Random Sample Telephone Survey of 600 households
- Steering Committee/Parks & Community Services Commission
- Park and Community Services Commission/City Council Meeting

This Strategic Action Plan and Master Plan Update synthesizes all the information from the planning process and provides a framework to direct the Department's resources toward parks, facilities and programs to address the future needs of residents. This Executive Summary presents the highlights of the research and analysis and its conclusions. Detailed data and analysis is contained in the body of this document and in the companion document, *Community Survey Results Workbook and Summary Report prepared* by The Center for Community Opinion, Inc.

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND TRENDS ANALYSIS

The demographic profile of a community is the primary base of information to evaluate and project current and future park and recreation demands. The State Department of Finance population estimate for the City of San Ramon for 2007 is 58,035 persons. This is nearly a 30% increase over the U. S. Census, 2000 population of 44,722, and a 160% increase from the 1980 U.S. Census population figure of 22,356. Some demographic factors that will influence parks and community service planning are listed here.

- Based on the City's General Plan projections, by 2020 the population of San Ramon will be 96,020 persons. This represents a 65% increase over the current population.
- The median age of the City population is 37.1 years old, slightly older than the County's at 36.7 and the region's at 36.5.
- San Ramon has a large "baby-boomer" cohort with almost 28% of San Ramon residents 45-64 years of age. This large "boomer" cohort in San Ramon is likely to age in place, eventually shifting the age distribution to a larger proportion of seniors.
- San Ramon also has a significant proportion of younger residents; almost 20% are between the ages of 35-44 years. Children under 18 years of age represent a quarter of the City's residents at 28.6%.<sup>2</sup>
- 72% of San Ramon's population is non-Hispanic White. The Asian population, representing 14.8% of the population in 2000, is currently the second largest population group in San Ramon.
- Over the past six years, the Asian community – which includes Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese – has increased faster than any other ethnic group in the City. This is particularly significant in the Dougherty Valley; where the recently opened Windemere Ranch Middle School has a 53.4% Asian population enrolled in the school.
- The foreign-born comprise about 16% of San Ramon's population, and about 20% speak a language other than English in the home.
- San Ramon has a labor force of 29,100. In 2004, estimated household incomes for San Ramon indicate an affluent community, with a median household income of \$109,000, compared to \$71,900 and \$71,600 in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area, respectively.
- Based on U.S. Census 2000 data, almost 53% of San Ramon residents 25 years and older have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

San Ramon's advanced educational level is also consistent with its high household incomes and occupational profiles. This figure far outpaces the County and region. This high level of income and educational attainment would indicate

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<sup>2</sup> City of San Ramon & Bay Area Economics, *San Ramon Economic Development Strategic Plan: Economic Trends and Opportunities, 2005*

that San Ramon resident's value education and quality schools and programs that offer lifelong learning would be a priority.

### **TRENDS IMPLICATIONS**

Trends research and analysis studied state and national social and recreational trends and patterns and discussed the potential impact on the City of San Ramon. These trends provide insight into the potential lifestyle choices of local residents and will help the Department plan for services and facilities to meet the recreation needs and demands of the future. Some of the key implications of these trends are listed here.



- San Ramon's increasing diversity and growing population, particularly among school age children, implies a need to continue developing a greater sense of community connectedness.
- Specialized, lifelong learning opportunities for the boomer adults and older adults including online classes will be well received. Marketing and communications efforts can be enhanced as newer forms of technology become available.
- Recreation programs are well positioned to introduce youth and families to outdoor activities through skill development classes and tours to outdoor areas.
- Partnering with private fitness and health clubs to promote health and fitness events and multi-disciplinary health partnerships are needed to prevent obesity and to successfully promote physical activity across entire communities.
- Fast paced lifestyles require a broad range of recreational and sports activities that deal with stress management, life-style management, and leisure education. Recreational programs that are customized, offered in off employment hours/24 hour basis, focused and of short duration will be more successful as people pay greater attention to maximum results in a given amount of time.
- Increasing family offerings, multi cultural arts events, community based arts activities, and holding arts events at venue locations closer to people's homes such as parks, churches, schools, libraries, and even shopping centers are all opportunities for the future

- Building stewardship and the appreciation of nature in children is important to get them outdoors and less-sedentary. The City should continue to preserve rural and natural elements within existing parks such as Crow Canyon Gardens, Forest Home Farms, Mill Creek Hollow and future parks such as San Cantanio Creek (also known as the Wood lot).

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The Needs Assessment process presented in Chapter V. presents the key findings from the qualitative and quantitative research methods used to assess future needs and current performance of the Department. This analysis serves as the basis for the Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan by identifying issues and priorities that need to be addressed in the future.

Based on the random sample telephone survey of 600 households and the qualitative community input from the public participation process the City's strengths are:

- Responsiveness to community needs;
- Variety and diversity of parks, facilities and programs;
- High standard of maintenance and cleanliness in the parks and facilities;
- Broad view toward programming - inclusiveness and variety;
- Dedicated and qualified staff willing to try new methods and innovate;
- Collaboration and partnerships with other community agencies and organizations;
- Good use of available technology to serve customers.

The combined qualitative and quantitative data gathered identified clear priorities for the future. What is interesting is the consistency between the statistically valid survey data and the qualitative community input, particularly in the top five needs or preferences. The top park and facilities needs are:

- Open space and parks for passive outdoor activity
- Acquiring and developing trails and trail connections
- Upgrading and renovating existing parks
- Preserving historic structures such as Forest Home Farms
- Creating Central Park as the core of Downtown San Ramon

The top needs and interests related to programs and services link with the top park and facility needs. For example hiking and walking is a top activity preference; trails and open space ranked high on the parks and facility summary. The top program needs are:

(See next page)

- Special Community Events
- Visual and performing arts
- Teen programs
- Senior programs
- Hiking and walking
- Bicycling
- Swimming/Aquatics

#### **PROGRAM AND SERVICES ANALYSIS**

The evaluation of programs is intended to help focus the strategic direction for community services in the future. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected and the review and analysis of current programs, there are no significant gaps in programming.

The priority needs are grouped in two categories *Service Needs* and *Program Needs*. Park and facility needs are addressed in the Master Plan Update.

*Service Needs* relate to how programs and operations are implemented by the Department. These may relate to support services or facilities and may impact many of the programs.

**Providing services for a growing and ethnically diverse population** will continue to challenge the Department. The population increase has resulted in overuse and over scheduling of some park areas and facilities. The City's population will grow by 65% to 2020. The growth in the Asian population will outpace growth in other ethnic groups.

**Convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed** recreation programs, support services, and facilities are needed throughout the City to serve busy, commuting, two-income households. The scarcity of time and importance of proximity precipitates the need for recreation close to home. Flexible Department office hours and convenient program times, including nights and weekends will be the norm.

**Cooperative and coordinated planning** within the Department and the City and with other public and non-profit agencies to minimize duplication and reduce competition and schedule renovation time should continue to provide for the best use of public and private resources to meet recreation demands.

**Staff recruitment, training and development** to retain a qualified and customer-oriented staff are critical to success. Employees must work together as a team with a shared vision of the Department priorities to provide support services and programs.

**Safe and well maintained sports fields** will continue to be in demand as sports activities rated high in the survey. Maintaining the high quality of maintenance the residents are accustomed to will be a challenge.

**Volunteer recruitment and training** is a new challenge to community agencies as the volunteer pool diminishes because of working parents and aging WWII generation of steadfast, community volunteers. Continue to offer meaningful volunteer opportunities to baby boomers and instilling volunteerism in youth will facilitate new volunteer support.

**Marketing and the communication** of public information in both print and electronic media is essential to increase public awareness about programs and facilities to reach all ages, non-users and the underserved. With the increasing use of the Internet for information staff must continue to embrace technology.

**Program Needs** are specific to current program offerings that may need expansion or new programs to address unmet recreation demands. These may address needs of a specific age group or the community in general.

- **Community events** that bridge the community and bring people together for recreation, cultural expression and entertainment are some of the Department's most popular programs. These events unite the community, and build community identity and vitality.
- **Expanding recreation programs for youth**, particularly for the 12-17 year age group, will be increasingly challenging. Continuity in programs for before and after school care as well as active sports and fitness, creative activities, dance, and youth development services will remain a priority. Time for non-structured activities for younger children should also be explored.
- **Cultural arts and events** that provide entertainment such as concerts and theatre productions as well as those that develop skills in dancing, drama, music, and the arts will continue to grow as residents of all ages and ethnicities seek these opportunities close to home. Increased promotion to attract and build audiences for theatrical performance and experiences should be continued.
- **Physical activity and wellness programs** for all ages are needed to counter the obesity epidemic. Offerings should include: active sports and fitness, swimming, and gentler aerobics such as walking, yoga and Tai Chi, and healthy lifestyle classes.
- **Lifelong learning and library services** will be in demand for families and for baby boomers and older adults. Short term special interest classes for all ages that may include skill development, creative arts, and technology classes.

- **Outdoor recreation** experiences for all ages connect people with nature and the outdoors, promoting health and fitness as well an appreciation for nature. Bicycling and walking trails is a top preference and there is a growing interest in passive outdoor activity and group picnicking.

**PARK INVENTORY AND MASTER PLAN UPDATE**



The Park and Trail Inventory is presented in Chapter VII. Figure 1 presents existing and planned parks and trails within the City as of September 2007. The existing park system (including parks to be constructed in the Dougherty Valley) consists of 57 developed parks and school sites. The table below compares parks and facilities in 1997 with 2007.

**PARK COMPARISON 1997 to 2007<sup>(1)</sup>**

Parks and Facilities	1997	2007 <sup>(1)</sup>
Developed parks and school park sites	15	57
Facility locations (City offices, community centers, libraries, Olympic Pool, senior center, and service center)	6	9
Undeveloped sites	4	10

(1) Includes all park sites within Dougherty Valley to be completed by 2009.

When complete, there will be approximately 26 miles of trails within the City’s planned trail system. These will consist of:

- Approximately 10.1 miles of bicycle paths/shared-use paved trails (including the Iron Horse Trail).
- Approximately 16.0 miles of natural surfaced or gravel shared-use trails that include opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

San Ramon’s park system has tripled in extent over a ten-year period, principally because of new parks being developed in the Dougherty Valley. It can be assumed that an additional eight (8) park sites to be provided by the developers in Dougherty Valley, including a 30-acre community park, will be opened within the next ten-year period.

Projecting forward, there will be a significant capital investment needed to rehabilitate and upgrade parks within the City as they age. There will also be a need to establish a park renewal program.

Based on the City’s General Plan projections, by 2020 the population of San Ramon will be approximately 96,020. The following table presents existing park acreages within the City and projected parkland needs based on City parkland standards. By 2020 the City will need 624 acres to maintain its standards. As additional parks are added and developed to meet park acreage requirements,

maintenance costs will rise. The City will also have 26 miles of trails when the system is complete. These trails will also require maintenance and other operation costs to ensure safety and security for trail users. The City will need to consider other methods of funding park and trail maintenance. In addition current maintenance standards and practices should be retained.

*Citywide Park Area Needs by Classification*

Park Classification	Park Acreage		
	Existing Parks	2020 Park Needs <sup>(2)</sup>	Difference
Community Parks	108.8	192	83.2
Neighborhood Parks <sup>(1)</sup>	192.3	432	239.7
Specialty Recreation Areas	124.4	n/a	(124.4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425.5</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>198.5</b>

(1) Includes Elementary and Middle School Parks

(2) Based on a population of 96,020

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Table VIII.1 presents a long term planning and Capital Improvement Program for the City's parks and trail system. The program presented assumes that a service level "A" would involve evaluating the facility conditions of each park annually and making major repairs and renovations as appropriate. It also assumes that every 10 years, a comprehensive rehabilitation of each park facility, play area, and sports field would be required. Currently such funding for rehabilitation comes from the park development fund, however in the future such funding must be planned for and included in the 5 year CIP.

Included in the program are the following five major actions:

- **ACTION #1:** Prepare new or updated master plans and management plans for individual parks and open space areas.
- **ACTION #2:** Prepare a city-wide, integrated pedestrian and bicycle master plan that would include, but not be limited to: safety considerations (e.g. trail/street intersections); continuity of trail use; connectivity between parks, schools; and open space lands; the feasibility of bicycle/pedestrian over crossings (or under crossings) on the Iron Horse Trail at Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road; such a plan must also identify potential funding sources
- **ACTION #3:** Prepare a citywide Art in the Parks Master Plan that would identify opportunities for public art in each of the City's parks to include, but not be limited to: performance art areas; permanent sculpture art location; a sculpture garden and/or an open space sculpture trail; Such a plan must also utilize the City's beautification fund after which must also identify an alternative funding source.
- **ACTION #4:** Develop new park facilities, use areas, and trails based on the master plans once they are adopted.
- **ACTION #5:** Develop a Park Maintenance and renovation Plan along with funding requirements to rehabilitate and renovate park facilities, playgrounds, and sports fields.
- **ACTION #6:** Implement Deferred Maintenance projects outlined in the Building Maintenance and Renovation Plan.
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**STRATEGIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

Ten (10) strategic goals have been identified as priorities for the future. These goals and associated strategies are presented in Chapter IX and are not intended to be inclusive of all the Department’s functions and activities. Rather,



they present opportunities that are responsive to the community’s demographics, current recreation trends, and expressed community needs that surfaced during this planning process. The focus for the future is centered on **unity**. These goals will assist City leaders and community residents tread the *Path to 2017*, as they bring together neighborhoods and communities, long-tenured residents and new residents; young and old; and link the past with the present in the transformation of San Ramon as **one** exceptional place to live, work and play.

The goals are interconnected, shaping a comprehensive approach and plan for future of parks and community services. They are intended to set an overall direction to guide the development of recreation programs, capital improvement plans, operating budgets, organizational structure and staff development. The strategic goals and strategies are numbered for reference (not based on priority).

<i><b>Strategic Goals – Path to 2017</b></i>	
<b>1</b>	Bridge the community through an integrated park and trail system that connects people with community centers, parks, open space, schools, and programs.
<b>2</b>	Sustain the park and trail system through the upgrade and renovation of older parks and continuing service level “A” maintenance in all parks, trails, and facilities.
<b>3</b>	Build community identity, economic vitality and cultural unity through special events and maintaining Central Park as a major element in Downtown San Ramon.
<b>4</b>	Bridge the community by preserving historic resources and cultural heritage, linking the past with the present and embracing new residents.
<b>5</b>	Foster physical and mental health and wellness through active and passive recreation activity and assume a leadership role in educating the public about how to achieve health and wellness.
<b>6</b>	Build on past success as one of the <b>100 Best Communities</b> for Youth, by expanding the Department’s role in addressing the broader issues of youth development by partnering with schools, law enforcement and other community agencies in a multi-disciplinary approach to improve youth resiliency, self-esteem and family relationships.
<b>7</b>	Strengthen outdoor recreation experiences by connecting children and families with nature and open space to increase the user’s appreciation of natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship.
<b>8</b>	Encourage lifelong learning and cultural enrichment for all ages through cultural arts programs and library services.

<b>9</b>	Ensure adequate funding and support services to provide accessible and equitable facilities, services and programs.
<b>10</b>	Enhance organizational capacity and staff development by investing in the work force; demonstrating the value of human resources.

**NEXT STEPS**

The approach to the Strategic Action Plan and Master Plan Update has been comprehensive. The Parks and Community Services Department along with the support of the Public Services Department must now move forward with the adoption and implementation of the plan. The Department has a solid foundation to build on and is well-positioned to improve its services, as it seizes the opportunities set forth in this plan and carries out its vision to *create community through people parks, partnerships and programs*. The Action Plan sets the strategic direction for the future and will guide the Department’s planning and operational focus for the coming years. The Department leadership and policy makers must endorse the plan and commit to its implementation. All Department staff must understand and embrace the plan and play their part in its implementation on a daily basis.

## II. Introduction



Since the City's incorporation in July 1, 1983, civic leaders have focused on developing a diverse parks system and a vast array of community service programs. The City offers a high quality of life with clean and safe neighborhoods. The extensive park and trail system and the diverse recreation programs create San Ramon's community identity. In 1983, the San Ramon City Council appointed a three member Parks Advisory Committee to study all possible options for park acquisition and development. The Parks and Community Services Department was established in 1985. Since that time the parks system has grown to include 425.5 acres<sup>3</sup> and 26 miles of trails, all of which is maintained by the Public Services Department. The City operates three community

centers, two Aquatic Centers, a Performing Arts Center, and a 16-acre historic property known as Forest Home Farms. Recreation and community service programs serve over 30,000 registered participants a year and many others that attend events and visit parks and facilities.

While much has been accomplished in the City's first 24 years, new challenges face City leaders as the population grows and the residents seek new recreation opportunities. To remain successful the Parks and Community Services Department strives to respond to the community's changing needs and demographics. Some key factors influencing the future are:

- By 2020 the population of San Ramon will be 96,020 persons. This represents a 65% increase over the current population.
- The population is becoming more ethnically diverse and recreation interests and needs are changing.
- The City faces funding challenges in keeping pace with the growth of the parks system and sustaining the high level of service and maintenance currently provided by the City.

The purpose of this **10-Year Parks and Community Services Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan** is to review the Department's progress and re-examine its goals and develop new strategies for the future. The Community Steering Committee and City staff has guided the planning process by *Bridging the Community* as the *Path to 2017* has evolved. This document strives to address current and long-term recreation needs for community residents and creates a new

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<sup>3</sup> Includes parks planned and under construction.

focus for the future. The focus is centered on UNITY. As City leaders and community residents tread the *Path to 2017*, they will bring together neighborhoods and communities, long-tenured residents and new residents; young and old; and link the past with the present in the transformation of San Ramon as ONE exceptional place to live, work and play.

#### **A. VISION AND MISSION**

Key vision and mission statements have defined the City's philosophy and direction as it strives to serve its residents with the best community services. The City of San Ramon's mission is: *We provide efficient delivery of quality public services that are essential to those who live and work in San Ramon.*

The Department's vision is *Creating Community through people, parks, partnerships and programs.* The Department's mission is multifaceted and comprehensive as it:

- **Provides recreational experiences** through diverse and innovative programming and facilities;
- **Fosters human development** through programs and services that stimulate personal growth, social, intellectual, and emotional development;
- **Promotes health and wellness** by offering health and fitness activities for all ages;
- **Increases cultural unity** by bringing people together in programs that promote cultural understanding and cultural diversity;
- **Facilitates community problem solving** by using facilitation and leadership skills that resolve community problems and issues;
- **Strengthens safety and security** by providing safe environments for recreational activities through innovative park design together with well planned and supervised programming that helps to reduce criminal activity.
- **Strengthens community image and quality of place** with award winning parks, facilities, programs and community events that unite residents and create community pride;
- **Supports economic development** by providing award winning parks, facilities, and programs that attract and retain businesses, residents and visitors to the City.

#### **B. HISTORY OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

When the City incorporated, the acquisition and development of parks was a priority. The City acquired some parkland and facilities from the Dublin-San Ramon Service District (DSRSD). City leaders recognized the need to develop a park master plan to guide acquisition and planning for parks and recreation services. The first three-member Parks Advisory Committee was appointed by the City Council in 1983. At that time San Ramon's population was 25,000 and there

were 40 acres of parkland. There are now 425 acres. This committee was instrumental in setting the minimal park/acreage standard as 3-acres per 1,000 population and recommended a higher standard to make up for park acreage deficiencies. In the 1986 General Plan, the Park and Recreation Element set the standard of 6.5 acres. The City's first Park and Recreation Director was hired in 1985 and by 1987 the first Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted. Vista San Ramon Park later to be called Central Park was developed in 1987.

In 1987, the City established a Joint Use Agreement with San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) and proceeded to work cooperatively with the SRVUSD on the development and use of school parks\* and facilities. (\*<sup>4</sup> A school park is defined as a resource which serves both the school and surrounding neighborhood and is available for public use). The first school park, Twin Creeks School, opened in 1988. Currently there are school parks at all elementary and middle schools in San Ramon. In the fall of 2007 the new Dougherty Valley High School Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center opened. Other key facilities developed to serve San Ramon's growing population included San Ramon Olympic Pool & Aquatic Center in 1988, San Ramon Library in 1989, San Ramon Community Center in 1989 and San Ramon Senior Center in 1992. The Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement in 1991 opened the door to the development of the valley. Many new parks have been developed and others are planned for this area. The Dougherty Station Community Center, Library and Front-Row Theatre opened in 2005. Most recently, the Dougherty Valley High School Aquatics Center and Performing Arts Center which opened in 2007.

A list of some of key milestones in the history of the Parks and Community Services Department follows.

<b>Key Milestones in the Department History</b>	
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Park and Recreation Committee 7-members appointed by City Council and Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	September 1984
Park and Recreation Element in General Plan with park acreage standards	1986
First Parks and Recreation Director hired to establish a full service Department	June 1985
First Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted	1987
Vista San Ramon Park - Central Park developed	1987
First Joint Use Agreement with SRVUSD	November 1988
Parks and Recreation Committee elevated to Commission status	July 1988
First School Park at Twin Creeks School	1988
San Ramon Olympic Pool, Athan Downs and Boone Acres parks turned over to the City	1988
San Ramon Library opens	April 1989
San Ramon Community Center opens	1989
San Ramon Senior Center opens	1992

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix X.F - Master Plan 1996-2006

**Key Milestones in the Department History**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Iron Horse Trail completed Fostoria Way to Pine Valley Road	1991
City purchases Crow Canyon Gardens site	1991
Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement	1991
Central Park Southwest opened	1991-92
Iron Horse and Pine Valley Gymnasiums Opened	1996
10 Year Master Plan update	1996
Ruth Boone bequeathed Boone Acres-Forest Home Farms to the City	1997
First Dougherty Valley School Park – Coyote Creek Opens	2000
Memorial Park opens	2002
Dougherty Station Community Center, Library and Front Row Theatre opened	2005
Named one of 100 Best Communities for Youth by America’s Promise	2007
Dougherty Valley High School Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center	August 2007
San Ramon Sports Park	2007

### III. Approach and Methodology

The City’s goal is to update the Master Plan and develop a Strategic Action Plan to guide the City as it deals with future growth and changing recreation patterns. Public participation in the planning process is paramount to the success of the process and the plan. The Department’s priorities for the planning process included:

1. Needs Assessment Survey;
2. Strategic Action Plan that addresses internal and external organizational issues and the development of funding recommendations to guide financial independence;
3. Program needs including the review of current programs and services and recommendations on future programs;
4. Park Inventory and Park Master Plan Update.

The key components of the planning process are depicted in Figure 1 below. The plan was prepared under the guidance of the Steering Committee that included representatives from Parks and Community Services Commission, Planning Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Arts Advisory Committee, Teen Council, Library Advisory Committee and field



user groups. The Director of Parks and Community Services and the two Division Managers also facilitated the process and provided logistical support to the planning effort. Public as well as staff participation extended throughout the entire process and included:

- 4 Steering Committee Meetings
- 3 Public Workshops
- 4 Focus Groups
- 31 Stakeholder Interviews
- Random Sample Telephone Survey of 600 households
- Steering Committee/Parks and Community Services Commission Workshop
- Park and Community Services Commission/City Council Meeting

#### **A. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CITY PLANS**

This Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan incorporate pertinent existing plans and policies adopted by the City Council. These include the San Ramon 2020 General Plan, the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Master Plan (1991-2001), San Ramon Master Plan Update 1996-2006. The General Plan Implementation Policy 6.5 1-14 calls for the adoption and implementation of a 10-year Parks and Community Services Master Plan to be reviewed biennially and updated quadrennially.

*The Parks and Community Services Commission implements the Master Plan, updates it biennially, and ensures that the development of parks and community facilities proceed as planned.*

Existing Park Master Plans and numerous program reports and records, budgets, have been reviewed in completing this plan.

## IV. Demographics and Trends

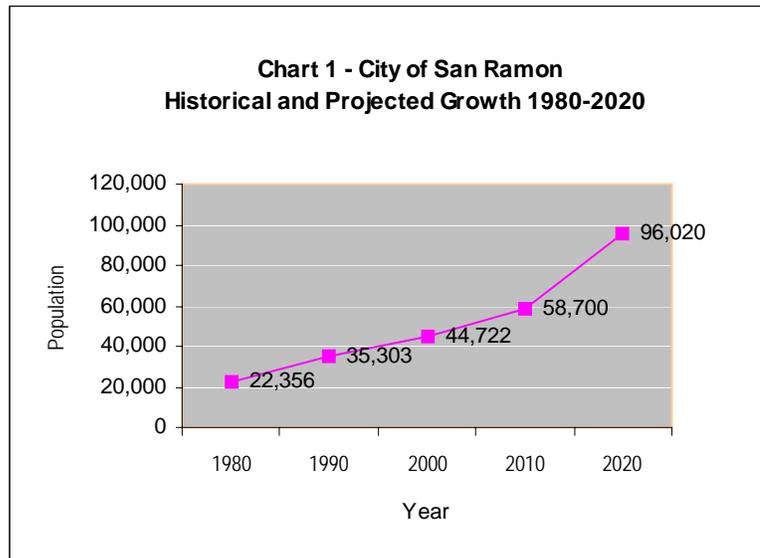
### A. Demographic Profile

The demographic profile of a community is the primary base of information to evaluate and project current and future park and recreation demands. This profile is based on information available from the U.S. Census 2000, State Department of Finance, City General Plan and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Demographic data regarding characteristics such as age, ethnicity, income, education and employment are from the U.S. Census 2000 unless more recent information was available. The profile is a demographic picture of the people living and working in San Ramon. It provides data that is useful in planning for future recreation facilities and programs.

#### Population

The State Department of Finance population estimate for the City of San Ramon for 2007 is 58,035 persons. This is nearly a 30% increase over the U. S. Census, 2000 population of 44,722, and a 160% increase from the 1980 U.S. Census population figure of 22,356. The 2000 Census indicates that 49.3% of the population is male and 50.7% is female. Based on the City's General Plan projections, by 2020 the population of San Ramon will be 96,020 persons. This represents a 65% increase over the current population. Much of this growth will result from

development in the Dougherty Valley, where an anticipated 11,000 new homes will be added by build-out. The projected annual growth rate will be about 3.3%; this is a slower rate than the 4.7% over the last 20 years.<sup>5</sup> A growing population increases the demand for parks and recreation facilities and programs.



Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 U.S. Census; ABAG Projections; 2005; San Ramon General Plan

<sup>5</sup> San Ramon General Plan 2020

### **Section 1.01 Housing**

There is an estimated 20,181 household units<sup>6</sup> currently in the City. This is a 19% increase from the 2000 U. S. Census. Approximately 66% of the housing is single-family detached housing. The City's average household size is 2.6 persons. Just over 70% of the housing units are owner-occupied. As the Dougherty Valley builds out, the pace of housing growth will accelerate over the next ten years. New residents are younger households with more ethnic diversity than long tenured residents in San Ramon. Many residents commute to San Francisco and Silicon Valley employment centers for work. Commuters have less leisure time for recreation and community involvement. Recreation service providers need to offer flexible and convenient schedules to accommodate busy, working adults.

Changes in ethnicity, family size, and higher housing costs are all factors affecting household size. Additional park and recreation facilities and open space will be needed in the areas of population growth to meet recreation demand and maintain the City's open space standards.

#### **Age Characteristics**

Age distribution is an important demographic consideration when determining park and recreation needs. The median age of the City population is 37.1 years old, slightly older than the County's at 36.7 and the region's at 36.5. ABAG's 2007 Forecast indicates the median age in the Bay Area will increase from 36.5 years in 2005 to 42.5 years old by the end of the forecast in year 2035. This reflects a significant increase in the older population, with the 60-70 year old, 70-80 year old, and the over 80 year old cohorts increasing dramatically from today's numbers. This higher median age in San Ramon results more from a large "baby-boomer" cohort than from a significant 65+ population. The population of seniors sixty-five years and older in San Ramon is less at 6.7% than the County and region's senior population at over 11% each. However, almost 28% of San Ramon residents are 45-64 years of age, compared to 25.4% in the County and 24.5 % in the region. This large "boomer" cohort in San Ramon is likely to age in place, eventually shifting the age distribution to a larger proportion of seniors.

San Ramon has a significant proportion of younger residents; almost 20% are between the ages of 35-44 years. Children under 18 years of age represent a quarter of the City's residents at 28.6%.<sup>7</sup>

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) serves 23,815 students in San Ramon and neighboring communities, an increase of 14.8% since

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<sup>6</sup> State Department of Finance Table:E-5 Population and Housing Estimates 2006

<sup>7</sup> City of San Ramon & Bay Area Economics, *San Ramon Economic Development Strategic Plan: Economic Trends and Opportunities, 2005*

2000-01.<sup>8</sup> The new Dougherty Valley High School opened in 2007 to accommodate the population expansion in the Dougherty Valley community.

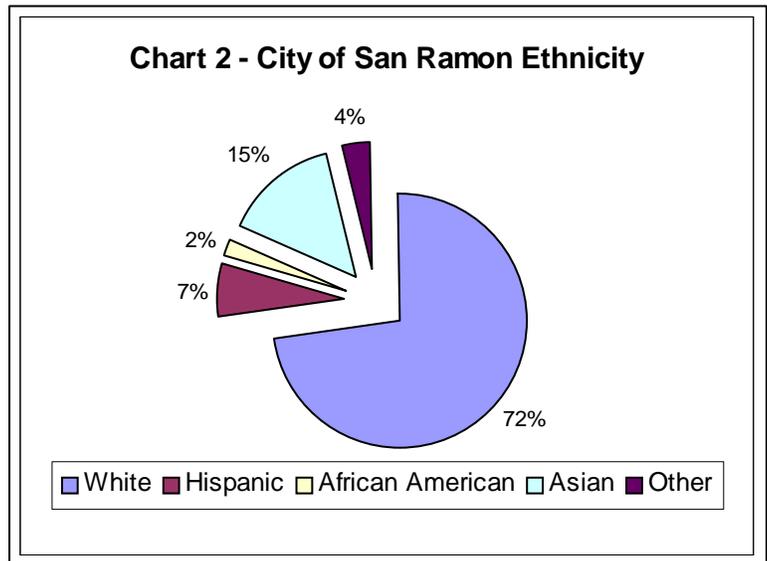
Table IV.1 City of San Ramon Age Distribution 2004		
(a) Age	Population	Percent
Under 18	12,005	25.8%
18-24	3,015	6.5%
25-34	6,317	13.6%
35-44	9,113	19.6%
45-54	8,209	17.7%
55-64	10,113	21.6%
65 and older	3,124	6.7%
	46,483	100%

*Source: Claritas, 2005, Bay Area Economics, 2005*

**Racial/Ethnic Characteristics**

The ethnic make up of a community is an important factor in the planning of park and recreation facilities. Ethnic diversity continues to increase in California, and San Ramon is no exception. Within the Bay Area region, Whites (non Hispanic) will no longer be the majority by 2020, constituting only 41% of the population, down from 61% in 1990. Estimates show the population of Latinos will grow from 15% to 24% during this same period. The number of Asians, Indians and others will also jump from 15% to 27%. The population of African-Americans will remain constant at about 9%.<sup>9</sup>

The 2000 U.S. Census indicates 72% of San Ramon’s population is non-Hispanic White. Although San Ramon’s Hispanic population is expected to increase over the next 10 years, the Asian population, representing 14.8% of the population in 2000, is currently the second largest population group in San Ramon. Over the past six years, many feel the Asian community – which includes Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese –



*Source: US Census 2000.*

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Education, DataQuest

<sup>9</sup> ABAG Projections 2005

has increased faster than any other ethnic group in the City. The main area of growth is the Dougherty Valley (29,000 new residents to be added by build out); where some City officials estimate the Asian community will make up half of the growing valley’s residents.<sup>10</sup> Windemere Ranch Middle School, a school just opened this school year and located in the Dougherty Valley community, has a 53.4% Asian (includes Filipinos) school population; only 34.7% of this middle school’s students are White with 5.3% being Hispanic and 5.0% African American.<sup>11</sup>

The increasing Asian population and general diversity of the City is further illustrated in the changing ethnicity of the whole of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District’s student enrollment. As seen in Table IV.2, there has been a 6.1% increase in the Asian student population (includes Filipinos), a small increase in Hispanic and African American populations, but an 8.8% decrease in White students. Increasing diversity will have implications for the recreational and cultural offerings of the City.

<b>Table IV. 2 San Ramon Valley Unified School District: Change in Student Ethnicity 2000-01 to 2005-06</b>					
	2000-01		2005-06		
	(b) Enrollment	Percent of Total	Enrollment	Percent of Total	Percent Change
American Indian	168	.08%	110	.05%	(.03%)
Asian	2,447	11.8%	4,000	16.8%	5.0%
Pacific Islander	76	.04%	101	.04%	0
Filipino	370	1.8%	694	2.9%	1.1%
Hispanic	814	3.9%	1,241	5.2%	1.3%
African American	354	1.7%	567	2.4%	0.7%
White	16,513	79.6%	16,857	70.8%	(8.8%)
Multiple/No Response	0	0%	245	1.0%	1.0%
Total	20,742	100%	23,815	100%	
<i>a) Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest, District Level Enrollment Reports</i>					

The foreign-born comprise approximately 16% of San Ramon’s population, and about 20% speak a language other than English in the home<sup>12</sup>. Three percent of English learner students within the SRVUSD speak a variety of languages including Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, among others.<sup>13</sup> Language proficiency is a key factor in a person’s ability to engage in community life. As an area’s cultural diversity increases, public service providers must be able to accommodate those who do not speak English fluently to increase equity in service delivery.

<sup>10</sup> “Dougherty Population Changes San Ramon”, Oakland Tribune, Feb. 18, 2005

<sup>11</sup> CDE, Dataquest, Ethnicity by Enrollment

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census 2000

<sup>13</sup> California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office (language census, elsch06 9/6/06)

**Income/Workforce**

San Ramon has a labor force of 29,100. In 2004, estimated household incomes for San Ramon indicate an affluent community, with a median household income of \$109,000, compared to \$71,900 and \$71,600 in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area, respectively. In San Ramon, 31.0 percent of City households have incomes of \$150,000 or more, compared to only 15.6 and 16.6% of County and Bay Area households, respectively.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Census 2000 shows only 2% of San Ramon residents living below the federal poverty level.

**Table IV. 3 City of San Ramon – Residents by Occupation, 2000**

Occupation	Number	Percent of Total
Management	5,147	24.6%
Professional and related occupations	2,130	10%
Business and financial operations	1,016	4.9%
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	969	4.6%
Service occupations	1,549	7.4%
Sales and office occupations	7,893	37.8%
Farming, fishing and forestry	0	0.0%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	1,167	5.6%
Production, transportation, and materials moving	1,037	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,908</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: U.S. Census 2000*

households, respectively.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Census 2000 shows only 2% of San Ramon residents living below the federal poverty level.

These income trends parallel the large percentage of San Ramon residents in high-wage occupations.

The 2000 Census shows that 24.6% of San Ramon employed residents worked in management positions, compared to 14.8 and 11.6% of employed residents in the County and Bay Area. At the same time, a relatively small share of San Ramon residents (10.5%) worked in typically lower-wage occupations.

The City of San Ramon is a regional trading, manufacturing and service area with a stable economic base and over 41,445 jobs. At build out, the City is anticipated to have 59,000 jobs.<sup>15</sup> San Ramon’s unemployment rate for February 2007 was 1.8%, compared with the County unemployment rate for the same period at 4.5%<sup>16</sup> with adequate income and a low unemployment rate; City residents likely have discretionary income for leisure and recreation activities.

**Education**

San Ramon’s advanced educational level is also consistent with its high household incomes and occupational profiles. Based on U.S. Census 2000 data, almost 53% of San Ramon residents 25 years and older have a Bachelor’s degree or higher. This figure far outpaces the County and region, where 35.0 and 37.3% of residents 25 years and older, respectively, have a Bachelor’s degree. This level

<sup>14</sup> Claritas, 2005; Bay Area Economics, 2005

<sup>15</sup> San Ramon General Plan 2020

<sup>16</sup> State of California Employment Development Office, Labor Force Data for Sub-County Areas, February (Preliminary) 2007

of educational attainment would indicate that San Ramon resident's value education and quality schools and that programs that offer lifelong learning would be a priority.

Schools in the SRVUSD consistently rank in the top 5-10% statewide on multiple performance measures, and over 94% of graduating seniors go on to college. The API (Academic Performance Index) State School Ranking Program is one of the performance measures used by the State Department of Education. The API is a set of raw numbers from 200 to 1,000. The California Department of Education calculates the API based on a school's test scores on the Stanford 9 exam and, for the first time for the 2001 API, on the California Standards Test in English-Language Arts (CST ELA) of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. A score of 800 is considered the mark of quality.<sup>17</sup> Approximately 18% of schools statewide were at or above the 800 mark on the 2001 Base API.<sup>18</sup> Schools are also ranked in comparison with other schools on a statewide basis and with similar schools based on their API. The rankings are on a 1-10 scale, with 10 being the highest. The average API score in the 2005 Base for the SRVUSD was 883, with all schools but one ranking 10.<sup>19</sup>

## **B. Societal Trends Analysis and Implications**

This section reviews current literature and studies on state and national social and recreational trends and patterns and discusses the potential impact on the City of San Ramon. These trends provide insight into the potential lifestyle choices of local residents and will help the Department plan for services and facilities to meet the recreation needs and demands of the future.

The evaluation of these trends, the City's demographics, and ongoing community dialogue such as focus groups and workshops will keep the City current in meeting the recreation needs of a growing community.

The Department is currently challenged to keep up with the demand for preschool, after school recreation and enrichment programs for youth. This trend will continue as this population segment will continue to grow and diversify in the coming years.

### **Growing Ethnic and Cultural Diversity**

California will experience a net loss of 4 million internal immigrants to other states and add 10 million international migrants (39% of the nation's total)

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<sup>17</sup> California Department of Education, *Explanatory Notes for the 2001 Academic Performance Index Base Report*

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Education, *2001 Base Academic Performance Reported for California Public Schools*

<sup>19</sup> CDE, DataQuest, 2005 API Base Report

through 2020, adding to its diversity.<sup>20</sup> The San Ramon area population follows this trend and is becoming more diverse. Although the Caucasian population remains the largest at 72.3%, the Asian population is the second largest at 14.8% and the fast growing population group in San Ramon.

Within the SRVUSD, the number of white students has declined since 2000, and Asian, Hispanic and African American students have increased. Approximately 5% of the K-12 students in the SRVUSD are classified English learners; 20% of San Ramon residents speak a language other than English in the home. To maintain equity in the delivery of services, language translation support for communication with families and in the delivery of services will be needed.

➔ **Implication** Program planners must be sensitive to different recreational preferences, based on cultural differences. Facilities need to be not only attractive but also user friendly to a diverse and multi-lingual crowd, without sacrificing or detracting from the enjoyment of others. Events and programs that showcase cultural heritage and unity are effective methods to build community.

### **Generational Trends**

In 2006 the first wave of baby boomers turned 60 years old. The California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) Strategic Action Plan discussed the impact of the aging of Californians in the *Trends Analysis 2000 and Beyond* by Tapan Monroe. He stated that by 2020 this group will double in size and will be active older adults 55 to 75 years old. This group will be influential in shaping recreation programs. They represent a large segment of the population that is financially secure, with free time and in good health. They will expect “amenity-rich” experiences.

*Eight in ten baby boomers say they **plan to work at least part time during their retirement.** The trend is **rehirement not retirement.***  
-AARP Survey

Boomers represent a new market for park and recreation activities.<sup>21</sup> Tapan anticipates that the aging “boomers” will want to combine fitness with fun and will be more interested in environmentally sound recreational activities. There is a growing recognition of and popularity for well-balanced fitness programs for older adults that offer a variety of benefits for health and disease prevention. The optimistic and self-reliant boomers will work because they want to. This shift to a “working retirement” is a baby boomer phenomenon. Their numbers alone make them a viable source of volunteers for parks and recreation programs. They will seek meaningful work experiences not

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<sup>20</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Household Economic Statistics Divisions

<sup>21</sup> Trends Analysis for Parks and Recreation – 2000 and Beyond, Tapan Monroe, 1998.

busy work. This may be the most significant legacy that they bring to the retirement of the new millennium. This impact brings opportunities and challenges for recreation planners, social service providers, and employers.

San Ramon, like the rest of California, will face a unique situation of having to provide services and programs for two large cohort groups: youth and older adults. The expected increase in the number of Californians age 65 and older by 2020 is 71%.<sup>22</sup> California will experience twice as many births as deaths (20 million versus 8 million) by 2020.<sup>23</sup> Faced with the prospect of a growing aging population and an increasing youth boom at the same time, the issues become: how does an agency afford (and justify) maintaining a facility such as a senior center that is open to only one group, which group gets the resources, how can agencies bring people together and limit conflict over resources?

➔**Implication** San Ramon’s median age is 37.1 and the older adult population will continue to grow as the City’s large “baby boomer” cohort continues to age in place. At the same time San Ramon is seeing a growth in its school age population. Young, culturally diverse families are moving to the City. With the increase in two-income households day care and before and after school care are priorities for families, which is why the Department was instrumental in developing on site after school child care at the elementary schools, in conjunction with the school district<sup>24</sup> The challenge of providing additional facilities and recreation programs for these two groups will only increase over the next 10-20 years. Opportunities exist for new types of “inter-generational programming” to help bring the groups together.

### **Personal Safety and Security**

Crime and personal safety continue to be major issues for Americans. Maintaining safe environments at home, at school, at work, at play, on the road, and in the air is paramount. Recreation activities offer the opportunity for people to connect in a non-threatening environment to enjoy time with friends and family. People are traveling less and seeking recreational and cultural experiences close to home. Safe and well maintained parks are a priority for communities.

There is considerable evidence that crime rates drop when open space and recreational opportunities are expanded and improved in local communities. As the San Ramon youth population continues to grow and diversify, youth can be at greater risk. In 2003, there were approximately 1.3 million “idle youth” nationwide.<sup>25</sup> Nearly one in ten youth between the ages of 16 and 19 are neither studying nor working. The number of “disconnected” youth is increasing. These

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<sup>22</sup> The California Budget Project

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division and Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division

<sup>24</sup> Kids Country

<sup>25</sup> Reducing the Number of Disconnected Youth, KIDS COUNT, July, 2005

youth need to connect with society and with mentors if they are to establish themselves in the adult world. When teens are neither in school nor employed, they are disconnected from the roles and relationships that set most young people on pathways toward productive adult lives.

In San Ramon the Community and Youth Resource Program merges community policing with parks and recreation programs as an intervention and prevention approach. In 2005, there were approximately 161 cases referred to the Youth Resource Officer. Out of the 161 cases including felonies, misdemeanors and runaway juveniles, 100 were criminal. 23 juveniles were referred to the community diversion program.

➔ **Implication** In partnership with social service providers, educators and other professionals and recreation providers the Department can continue to help youth through programs that build resiliency, confidence, and self-esteem. San Ramon was named one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth in 2007 for its excellent partnership with the SRVUSD and community organizations.

## Community Connectedness

In July 2006, the California Council for the Humanities surveyed 601 California residents between the ages of 14 and 22 to track and measure how engaged they were in their communities. Among the findings were:

- The absence of time, lack of awareness, and weak ties to the community all contribute to low community involvement.



- Four in 10 described themselves as having little or no ties to their community.
- One in 3 think less involved youth don't know how to go about being more involved with their community.
- Almost two-thirds reported they were too busy with schoolwork to be involved with their community.
- California youth have grown up with diversity and have an increasing number of friends from different cultures and backgrounds.
  - o Half of the respondents cited having friends from other cultures and that those friendships brought them closer to their community.
  - o Still, nearly one in 4 respondents felt that people have trouble accepting them for who they are.
- A large number (86%) of teens thought that involvement in their community was at least somewhat important.<sup>26</sup>

According to another study focusing on adults, the safety net of social relationships and close friendships appears to be shrinking in the United States. A number of factors may be contributing: lifestyle patterns in the suburbs, people spending more time working, more entertainment tools in the home, and more tune out options such as MP3's and computers.<sup>27</sup> People who are socially disconnected are much more susceptible to health problems.

**→Implication** With San Ramon's increasing diversity and population, particularly among school age children, developing a sense of community connectedness is both a challenge and opportunity for the Department and other providers. Uses of more traditional outreach approaches and seeking out youth and young adults where they live, work and play may be needed to

<sup>26</sup> California Council for the Humanities, Quantitative Research Findings/Youth Program Evaluation, 2006

<sup>27</sup> Kornblum, Janet. "Study: 25% of Americans Have No One to Confide In", USA Today, June 2006

connect with and involve this population. The need for inclusion, meeting diverse needs and communicating “one community,” especially between San Ramon and Dougherty Valley, was heard in both adult and youth focus groups. Programs and activities that promote personal connections among participants and allow the community to highlight and share their diverse customs, celebrations and diversions can foster a better sense of connectedness.

### **Technology and “Mass Customization”**

Technology will continue to affect how we work and play. It allows people to get more information more quickly, feel safer and stay connected. Each generation is better educated and more adept and dependent on technology than the previous generation. Our children and adolescents aged 8-18 years spend 6.5 hours a day with media.<sup>28</sup> Watching television and listening to music are the dominant youth media. YouTube, user generated content is replacing traditional TV for young people. Youth are good at multitasking often spending a quarter of their media time with more than one medium. This compares with 2¼ hours spent with parents, almost 1½ hours spent in physical activity, just under 1 hour spent doing homework, and about ½ hour doing chores.

Today successful businesses must cater to each customer’s individual taste. Specialization vs. generalization is the way of the future. The technology available makes “mass customization” possible and necessary.<sup>29</sup> Parks and recreation agencies must embrace information and computer technology in the design and delivery of programs and services. Programs must be customized with the customer needs in mind. New activities will be developed around innovative devices and products. People want to bring their technology (cell phones, laptops, GPS) with them and stay connected. Hence, the development of “Wi Fi” centers in State parks and the growth of geocaching as an Internet based “treasure hunt.” Virtual nature hikes are another emerging phenomenon: the National Park Service recently introduced E-trips and MP3’s at Yosemite.

➔ **Implication** Specialized, lifelong learning opportunities for the boomer adults and older adults including online classes will be well received. Marketing and communications efforts can be improved by embracing the convenience and accessibility of technology. Given the youth’s penchant for media, increasing use of non-print media will be necessary to reach them. Online services such as program registration, facility reservation, and online classes suit the time-stressed customer. Using the most up to date technology to communicate program information will continue in popularity. Embracing technology will place more demands on managers, as the public wants information quickly.

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<sup>28</sup> Generation M-Time Spent with Media, Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005

<sup>29</sup> Op.cit. Trends Analysis, Monroe

## Demand for Outdoor Recreation

Californians love the outdoors. The State of California Public Opinion and Attitudes Survey in 2002 found that 98% of the respondents indicated that just being in the outdoors is an important part of the enjoyment of their most favorite activities. The survey also found that Californians tend to spend the most time participating in activities that are less expensive, require less equipment and need fewer technical skills. The scarcity of time coupled with the increased stress of jobs, traffic, and urban noise is driving people to seek escape. Parks trails and recreation areas are often the destination.

The State survey findings generally indicate Californians' strong preference for outdoor recreation activities. In the survey, 55 outdoor recreation activities were considered. The top five activities in which the survey respondents participated were: walking for fitness and fun (91%), driving for pleasure (90.2%), visiting museums and historic sites (85.5%), attending outdoor cultural events (82.6%), and beach activities/surf play (82.2%).

While most of the most popular activities are traditional, there is continuing interest in a broad range of high-risk adventure activities such as mountain biking, kayaking, scuba diving, and rock climbing. High tech accessories such as cell phones and GPS devices are bringing newcomers to wilderness areas. This leads to a need to train people in outdoor survival skills and environmental awareness.

Visits to National Parks have been declining for several years with visits down at almost all parks including the venerable Yosemite. Overnight stays in parks fell 20% between 1995 and 2005 and tent camping and back packing each decreased nearly 24% during the same period.<sup>30</sup> The Outdoor Industry Foundation conducts research on outdoor recreation participation. Their most recent report analyzed participation from 1998 to 2004. The trends showed a decline in backpacking, (23%) and car camping (18%). The growth activities were trail running (20% growth), kayaking (130% growth) snowshoeing (50% growth) free-heel skiing (167% growth), and canoeing (16% growth).<sup>31</sup> The industry report also found that 90% of current participants were introduced to the outdoor activity between the ages of 5 and 18.

Parks and Recreation connects Californians to the outdoors, promoting health, wellness, and appreciation of

→ **Implication** Recreation programs are well positioned to introduce youth and families to the outdoor activities through skill development classes and tours to outdoor areas. The San Ramon Valley has a superb climate for outdoor activity and many excellent outdoor recreation and open space areas. Crow Canyon Gardens is an excellent site for experiences with nature. Group excursions and

<sup>30</sup> Los Angeles Times article "Camp outside? Um, no thanks," Julie Cart, November 24, 2006

<sup>31</sup> Outdoor Recreation Participation Study, 2005 Outdoor Recreation Industry Foundation

skill training focused on outdoor adventures are likely to be in greater demand in the future.

### **Obesity/Physical Inactivity Epidemic**

In California, approximately 1 out of every 2 adults is overweight or obese. One out of every 3 children (age 9 to 11) and 1 out of 4 teens are at risk due to being overweight or obese.<sup>32</sup> Obesity and physical inactivity were estimated to cost California nearly \$25 billion in health care costs and lost productivity in 2000.<sup>33</sup> While Americans spent \$33 billion annually on weight loss products and services,<sup>34</sup> we continue to make poor nutrition choices and lead sedentary lives! Of American adults, 54% are not regularly active and 25% are not active at all. As mentioned in the previous section youth aged 8-18 years spend 6.5 hours a day with media and 1.5 hours in physical activity.<sup>35</sup> Watching television and music are the dominant media and video gaming remains popular.

The California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA) analyzed the data from the 2004 California Physical Fitness Test for 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This measures the fitness of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and the ability of an individual to engage in strenuous exercise for prolonged duration. They captured this data in a unique way – by State Assembly District. This report, *The Growing Epidemic: Child Overweight Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts*, shows that the already high rates of overweight and unfit children in most of the 80 Assembly Districts in California rose from 2001 to 2004.<sup>36</sup>

*Changes in the community environment to promote physical activity may offer the most practical approach to prevent obesity or reduce its comorbidities. Restoration of physical activity as part of the daily routine represents a critical goal.*  
-Koplan and Dietz (CDC).

In Assembly District 15, that includes San Ramon, the child obesity rate increased from 17% of children overweight in 2001 to 20% being overweight in 2004. This is a lower obesity rate than the state average. In the SRVUSD, only slightly better than half of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders tested (50.6% and 52.3%, respectively) met all six of the fitness standards; less than half, 45%, of the 9<sup>th</sup> graders met all six standards.<sup>37</sup> There is a great need for improved physical education in our schools and opportunities for lifetime fitness education before and after

school. The City has a prime opportunity to continue to work with the school district to ensure schools meet state standards for physical education, and that recreational opportunities support the physical education curriculum.

<sup>32</sup> CHIS, 2001; CalCHEEPS 1999; CALTEENS 1998

<sup>33</sup> Embargoed report, UCSF

<sup>34</sup> Glaeser, John. "Examining Our Mission: Our Role in Promoting Health and Wellness and Supporting Economic Development." *California Parks and Recreation*, Spring 2001.

<sup>35</sup> Generation M-Time Spent with Media, Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005

<sup>36</sup> California Center for Public Health Advocacy, "The Growing Epidemic: Child Overweight Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts," Legislative District Policy Brief, 2005

<sup>37</sup> CDE, 2004-04 California Physical Fitness Report, Summary of Results

America Sports Data Center<sup>38</sup> reveals some interesting trends about Americans and physical activity. While 80% of Americans believe that physical activity is a necessary component of good health, only 20% of those same Americans are frequent participants in exercise and physical activity. Although the rate of physical inactivity outside work has actually increased between 1994 and 2004 in every age group, more than 30% of adults 70 years and older are inactive.<sup>39</sup> An important shift in fitness activity shows the trend to a kinder, gentler approach to fitness that includes stretching, flexibility, balance, and relaxation techniques. Hence the increased popularity of Pilates, Tai Chi, elliptical motion trainers, recumbent cycling, and yoga. It is not just baby boomers seeking these fitness activities. The average age of Pilate's participants dropped to 35.1 years in 2002 from 43.6 years in 2000. The age of yoga participants fell from 41.5 years in 1998 to 37.1 years in 2002. Fusion classes like yoga and Pilates that combine fitness while incorporating elements of mental and spiritual fitness will continue to grow.

The demand for personal trainers rose 50% since 1998.<sup>40</sup> A new trend identified by the American Council on Exercise (ACE) is youth with sports-specific personal trainers. Youth choose one sport to focus on at an early age and seek a competitive edge through personal training. Small group personal training (usually less than five individuals) is an option that is growing in popularity at public and private fitness centers. ACE also predicted an increase in specialized fitness programming for older adults; the continued popularity of simple exercise habits, such as walking 60 minutes a day; balance training for adults; employer sponsored fitness and weight loss programs; and improved nutritional offerings among other trends for 2006 and beyond.

➔**Implication** The City can partner with private fitness and health clubs to promote health and fitness events. Multi-disciplinary health partnerships are needed to prevent obesity and to successfully promote physical activity across entire communities. By facilitating partnerships with employers, health care providers such as local hospitals and HMO's, the schools, public health agencies and organizations and private recreation and fitness providers, the City can develop programs that address the health and fitness of its children and adults.

### **Scarcity of Time**

California life is fast paced, a result of greater importance given to productivity as we continue to be more prosperous. In general, Americans work longer hours than they did in the 1950's, and longer than employees in other industrialized countries. This leads to reduced time for physical activity, job burnout, fatigue,

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<sup>38</sup> Trends Scan, CPRS. August 2003, Dr. Ellen O'Sullivan, Leisure Lifestyle Consulting.

<sup>39</sup> Center for Disease Control, "Trends in Leisure-Time Physical Activity by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, 1994-2004"

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

accidents and injuries, increased consumption of high-fat, high sugar foods, less time for care giving, and little or no time for self-development and volunteering in our communities.<sup>41</sup> Lack of time and work requirements were by far the most common reasons given for why Californians are recreating less now than they were five years ago.<sup>42</sup> People not only think about work-related productivity, they have also become increasingly concerned about leisure and recreational productivity. This has caused people to move away from leisure and recreational activities that could not be rushed (and easily combined with things or gadgets) such as singing, dancing, and poetry reading to activities that can be speeded up<sup>43</sup> or “activity stacking”-activities that can be accomplished in short, discreet blocks of time. This transition in leisure activities is an obvious reflection of our perception of scarcity of time. For many, the preferred mode has become “packing in as many activities as possible in a given amount of time,” eating dinner, watching TV, and looking at a magazine during a commercial break. We are “multi-tasking” more in work as well as in leisure.<sup>44</sup> Increasingly our desire is “to do it all and see it all” and “do it now and see it **now**”. It has become increasingly difficult for people to get totally immersed in leisure activities.

The lives of children and teens are also busier with organized activities. According to national time diary surveys conducted from 1981-1997 on the free time of children ages 3-12, structured sports activities doubled, passive, spectator leisure increased 5-fold and studying increased by 50% during this period.<sup>45</sup> In a 2002 national YMCA/Search Institute poll, 41% of parents reported that their child being overscheduled with activities and homework made their job as a parent more difficult.<sup>46</sup> Among older teens, especially those from more affluent families, the competition for scholarships and college applications that demand a high level of extracurricular activities, combined with a faster-paced, technology-dominated society has resulted in an especially anxiety-prone generation.<sup>47</sup>

In another perspective on overscheduled youth, a group of leading child development experts concluded through their research that youth and teens who engage in organized activities tend to have better academic performance, more functional family relationships, and less substance abuse. They found that around 40% of youth don’t participate in organized activities of any kind.<sup>48</sup> Public and private providers should be exploring ways to engage these youth, such as making activities more affordable and providing safe and reliable transportation.

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<sup>41</sup> Park and Recreation Trends in California, September 2005

<sup>42</sup> Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 2002, California State Parks

<sup>43</sup> Op.cit. Trends Analysis, Monroe, 1999

<sup>44</sup> *ibid.* Trends Analysis, Monroe 1998

<sup>45</sup> Sandra L. Hofferth, “Changes in American Children’s Time” University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research, Center Survey, January, 1999

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.search-institute.org/families/FactSheet.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Sharon Jayson, “GenNexters Have Their Hands Full”, USA Today, August 20, 2006

<sup>48</sup> Saylnn Boyles, “Kids Really Aren’t Overscheduled”,  
<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art?articlekey=63456>

→ **Implication** Recreational programs can make a great contribution to fast paced lifestyles by providing a broad range of recreational and sports activities that deal with stress management, life-style management, and leisure education. Recreational programs that are customized, offered in off employment hours/24 hour basis, focused and of short duration will be more successful as people pay greater attention to maximum results in a given amount of time.

### **Interest in the Arts**

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) lists the arts as among the core academic subjects. In spite of this federal direction, access to arts education has eroded. A report from the Center on Educational Policy concluded that since the enactment of NCLB, 22% of school districts surveyed have reduced instructional time for art and music.<sup>49</sup>

In California, arts programs in schools have suffered because of budget cuts to school districts and State arts' funding is at an all time low. The 2006-07 State budget will increase funding for arts education in the schools, but does not provide for increased funding for the California Arts Council, keeping California in last place among the 50 states in terms of arts funding for state agencies.<sup>50</sup>

Californians believe the arts contribute most strongly to the development of children's creative skills. There is also strong agreement that the arts improve children's overall education as well as their interpersonal skills. CAC Poll

The California Arts Council (CAC) conducted an opinion poll on the arts in 2001. Over 1,200 respondents participated in the statistically valid poll. The poll found that among Californians there is widespread and deep support for, and a solid appreciation of, the value of the arts. Respondents to the survey believe the arts are personally important in their lives, are essential to the entertainment and tourism industries, and a critical investment in the education of our children.<sup>51</sup>

The arts play an important role in the lives of most Californians: over half, (55%) say the arts are personally, extremely, or very important. Few, (15%) say that the arts are not important. Whites, females, and college graduates value the arts the most.

83% of the adult public has attended a performing or visual arts event at least once in the past year, with 31% attending four or more events per year.

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<sup>49</sup> Center on Educational Policy *From the Capitol to the Classroom: Year 4 of the No Child Left Behind Act*, March 2006

<sup>50</sup> Turegano, Preston. *Governor's Proposed Budget May Offer Slight Relief*, Union-Tribune, May 28, 2006

<sup>51</sup> California Arts Initiative, Public Opinion Survey, 2001

Attendance at arts events is moderate to strong. For the performing and visual arts, 7 in 10 Californians attend at least once a year.<sup>52</sup>

The dominant barriers to greater participation, based on the CAC poll were lack of awareness of an event and time constraints pitting the arts as a trade off against other activities. This is particularly true for young adults, Hispanics and Asians, and presents a clear marketing directive: improve communications to the target communities of youth and people of color using non-mainstream/specialty venues such as foreign language newspapers and radio stations.<sup>53</sup>

The poll found parents believe that arts education is critically important. A majority of the populace believes that an arts education contributes to a child's education in several ways. Californians believe the arts contribute most strongly to the development of children's creative skills. There is also strong agreement that the arts improve children's overall education as well as their interpersonal skills (i.e., social, teamwork). Not one respondent said the arts were unimportant to a child's education. Sixty-eight percent believed the arts are as, or more important than academics, and 91% think the arts are as, or more important than sports.

A recent study by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), released November 1, 2006, found that people who participate in the arts also engage in civic and individual activities significantly higher rates than non-arts participants.<sup>54</sup> The study involved a new examination of data from the 2002 NEA Survey of Public Participation in the Arts which interviewed 17,135 adults aged 18 and over. Among the key findings: arts participants volunteer in their communities at more than twice the rate of non-arts participants; arts fans are sports fans, attending sporting events and participating in sports at greater rates than non-arts participants; and arts participants participate in outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping and canoeing, and engage in exercise at twice the rate of non-arts participants. The study also revealed that young adults (18-34 years of age) show a declining rate of arts participation and civic activities. Over a 20-year period, young adults were participating in fewer arts activities, as well as being less involved with sports and exercise, and their volunteer rates were flat. The study demonstrates that arts participation can be seen as an indicator of civic and community health and that young adult may be particularly susceptible to giving up both artistic and civic activities.

The City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department has introduced many arts programs and is working closely with schools to develop the new Dougherty Valley High School Performing Arts Center, joint art education and enrichment programs that are in part fee-supported. Access and convenience

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<sup>52</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *op.cit* California Arts

<sup>54</sup> National Endowment of the Arts, *The Arts and Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life*, November 1, 2006

are important factors given increasingly crowded personal schedules and competing leisure time activities.

➔**Implication** Increasing family offerings, multi cultural arts events, community based arts activities, and holding arts events at venue locations closer to people’s homes such as parks, churches, schools, libraries, and even shopping malls are all opportunities for the future. Assessing the arts participation of young adults in the community and outreaching to this population if necessary may also be a consideration. Taking advantage of the arts talents of local residents of various ethnic groups could help expand arts offerings while at the same time bridging cultural differences and creating a greater sense community.

### Rise of the Creative Class

In his book *Rise of the Creative Class*, Richard Florida, describes a new class structure whose members share the distinguishing characteristic as workers who “create meaningful new forms.”<sup>55</sup> This emerging group comprises 30% of the

The creative class lifestyle is one that craves new experiences. The ideal is to “live the life” - a creative life packed full of intense, high quality multidimensional experiences.  
-Richard Florida

U. S. population. The creative core of this new class of workers includes scientists and engineers, university professors, researchers, poet and writers, artists, designers and architects. The common thread with this class is they engage in a creative process in knowledge-intensive industries to create new ideas and forms. San Ramon residents have high educational levels and many are employed in management and professional positions in “knowledge” industries. This would indicate that many residents would be creative class members. Based on Florida’s research, the creative class lifestyle is one that craves new experiences. The ideal is to “live the life” - a creative life packed full of intense, high quality multidimensional experiences. They favor active participatory recreation over passive spectator sports.<sup>56</sup>

Many of the creative class interest will be adventure oriented - rock climbing, bicycling, kayaking, and other activities away form the workaday world. This class also seeks out street-level social places: clubs, cafés, and arts venues - a place where anyone can fit in.

➔**Implication** San Ramon parks and other public facilities provide a place for genuine interaction with nature and with other people. The leisure experience whether outdoors or indoors offers both a physical and mental stimulation and allows creativity to flourish. This emerging class will likely be strong supporters for parks and recreation facilities and arts programs that support a creative lifestyle.

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<sup>55</sup> Florida, Richard; *The Rise of the Creative Class*, 2002 Basic Books

<sup>56</sup> op.cit. *Rise of the Creative Class*

## **Children and Nature Movement**

A growing body of research shows that mere contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health. In his book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv highlights nature-deficit disorder as a growing childhood condition resulting from the lack of access to nature. A number of factors contribute to children not getting enough access to nature. These include fear of crime, parental paranoia about letting children run free, and the ubiquitous presence of electronic

Has the Internet replaced the woods?  
“I like to play indoors better ’cause that’s where all the electrical outlets are.  
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grader-  
San Diego

technology: video games, television, MP3 players and the Internet that keep children sedentary and spending more time indoors, as do their parents. Kevin Coyle, vice president of the National Wildlife Federation state that: “We have reached a tipping point. A number of trends from the sudden accumulation of electronic distraction to the growing fear of going outside.” There is growing evidence that a new children and nature movement is growing. Educators, health care professionals, planners and conservation groups are coming together to connect children with nature. Nature themed schools and outdoor classrooms are emerging. Regional and state campaigns are emerging such as Connecticut’s *No Child Left Inside*

campaign which is designed to re-introduce children to the outdoors by raising public awareness of underused state parks and forests. In San Diego there is a county-wide effort creating a regional nature education network of educators and naturalists to increase outdoor education in the canyons and natural areas of the county.

→**Implication** San Ramon is known for its parks and strives to provide both active and passive elements in its parks. The City cooperates with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to preserve open space ridge lands, and corridors of scenic beauty in and around San Ramon. There are City parks and regional parks within the City’s sphere of influence that are excellent resources for introducing children and their families to nature. The future of parks and open space depends on building stewardship and the appreciation of nature in children. The City should continue to preserve rural and natural elements within existing parks such as Crow Canyon Gardens, Forest Home Farms, Mill Creek Hollow, and future park sites such as San Cantanio Creek Park. In collaboration with EBRBD, health agencies, the school district, DVC San Ramon Campus and conservation organizations the Department can expand its outreach and education efforts to turn wary parents and children into park and open space advocates.

### **Ability to Pay**

Statewide, we see a bifurcation in access to recreation based on income differences. Those with higher incomes have a variety of recreation choices, while those on the lower, socio-economic end have only public facilities available. The income characteristics of a community have an effect on access and participation in programs. User fees might restrict those who need the service most. There is a need to create programs that increase access for the poor in all neighborhoods. Programs that charge user fees should provide subsidies or offer free admission at certain times to those who are economically distressed.

The State Public Opinion Survey, 1997 asked questions about the willingness to pay for outdoor recreation. When respondents were not only asked to list the five most important activities in order of their preference but were also asked how much they were willing to pay for a high quality, uncrowded venue, the responses were revealing. The survey results showed that 34% were willing to pay higher fees. Californians appear willing to pay \$4-\$5 for activities such as walking, trail hiking, bicycling, and mountain biking, jogging, and running. Park agencies generally do not charge fees for these activities. Other activities in the survey where fees are usually charged such as golf and downhill skiing, willingness to pay mirrored the current charges. The public willingness to pay for some of these activities could be good news for park agencies struggling to maintain trails and bike paths. However, an underlying issue remains, and that is finding an equitable method of assigning fees that do not discriminate against or limit public participation.

➔**Implication** The City of Ramon residents enjoy a high level of household income, so their willingness and ability to pay higher fees for services may be higher than in some communities. However, the change in the housing mix with more affordable housing in the City could lead to the disenfranchisement of some residents that cannot afford fee programs. The City should consider financial assistance for those residents who cannot afford market rate fees.

## **V. Community Needs Assessment**

This Needs Assessment chapter presents the key findings from the qualitative and quantitative research methods used to assess future needs and current performance of the Department. This analysis serves as the basis for the Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan by identifying issues and priorities that need to be addressed in the future. The research methodology was designed to engage community stakeholders in the process and gather input on the Department's overall performance, current and future needs, and priorities.

The quantitative methodology to assess needs consisted of a random sample telephone survey of 600 San Ramon households. The survey was developed and executed by the Center for Community Opinion (CCO). The consultants working with City staff developed the 76-question survey. The Summary Report is included in this document as Appendix A. All interviews were completed between January 13 and January 23, 2007. The overall margin of error for the results of the common questions included in the questionnaire is +/-4%. The demographic characteristics of the population of individuals interviewed reflect the characteristics of the population of the City. The complete Survey Workbook and cross tabulations are available in a separate document presented to the Department. The survey analysis compared responses in the 2007 survey with responses to similar question in the 1994 Community Survey. Some key observations are:

- Residents believe that both the City and the Parks and Community Services Department do an excellent or very good job serving the needs of the community. They also give high marks to the job the City does providing recreation programs and maintaining local parks and trails.
- The degree to which local residents want the City to spend funds on recreation programs and public parks is consistent with the priorities measured in 1994.
- When asked if they use the parks for passive or active recreational activities, 41.7% say they participate in passive activities and 28.5% say they participate in active activities. Over the next 10 years, residents believe they will increasingly use the City's parks and trails for passive activities.
- 66.0% believe that the City's parks and trails are very safe.
- Residents are more likely to appreciate nature, walk, hike, or participate in a family activity when they visit a local park than they are to play or watch basketball or play tennis.
- Overall, more than one-third of those interviewed believe the City needs more trails designed for mountain biking or hiking and more community gardens. There are important differences of opinion in response to these questions if responses are separated by ethnic group and parent status.

- Overall, residents believe someone in their household is most likely to participate in a library program, fitness or health class, or a sports-oriented program. There are important differences based on parent status and age in the responses to these questions.
- Almost all of the residents of the City believe it is important to explore cultural arts through local theater, dance, music, and the visual arts.
- Participation in recreation programs and the use of local parks appears to have increased since 1994.
- A majority of the residents of the City rely on the newspaper for information about local issues. There are significant differences, however, in the degree to which older and younger residents of the City read the newspapers available in the City. Younger residents make greater use of the Internet and City's web site for information.

#### **A. DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS**

Overall the telephone survey and the public's participation validates the good work the Department is doing in providing parks, facilities and community services programs. In response to the survey question #12 that asked respondents to evaluate the job the Department was doing in providing services 83% said the Department was doing a very good or excellent job. When asked to evaluate recreation programs, question #44, 69.6% said the Department was doing a very good or excellent job. Question #13 asked respondents to evaluate the maintenance of parks and trails<sup>57</sup>; 82% responded that the City does a very good or excellent job in maintaining parks and trails. The qualitative methodology included interviews, workshops and focus groups with internal and external stakeholders. These interview and group sessions were structured as participants were asked a series of questions about their recreation interests now and in the future. Based on the survey and the qualitative community input the Department's strengths are:



- Responsiveness to community needs;
- Variety and diversity of parks, facilities and programs;

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<sup>57</sup> Maintenance of Parks and Trails is carried out by the Public Services Department

- High standard of maintenance and cleanliness in the parks and facilities;
- Broad view toward programming - inclusiveness and variety;
- Dedicated and qualified staff willing to try new methods and innovate;
- Collaboration and partnerships with other community agencies and organizations;
- Good use of available technology to serve customers.

The following tables summarize the combined qualitative and quantitative data gathered. Key implications from the Trends Analysis are also noted in these tables. What is interesting is the consistency between the statistically valid survey data and the qualitative community input, particularly in the top five needs or preferences. Table V.1 lists identified needs related to physical space for activities. Here you see the top park and facilities needs are:

- Open space and parks for passive outdoor activity
- Acquiring and developing trails and trail connections
- Upgrading and improving existing parks
- Preserving historic structures such as Forest Home Farms
- Creating Central Park as the core of Downtown San Ramon

<b>Table V.1 City of San Ramon Needs Assessment Summary - Parks and Facilities</b>										
	Quantitative		Qualitative							
	2007 Random Sample Survey	Acreage Analysis	Community Leader Focus Groups	Youth Focus Group	Staff Focus Group	Community Workshops	Stakeholder Interviews	Steering Committee	Trends Analysis	Total Occurrences
<b>Identified Need</b>										
Walk/Bike Trails connections										7
Open Space/nature										6
Forest Home Farms										6
Central Park Core of Downtown										5
Improve amphitheatre										5
Swimming/diving pools										5
Upgrade/maintain existing parks										5
Public transit in City to parks										4
Multi-Use fields										4
Parking at parks										4
Public Art in parks										4
Library space										4

<b>Table V.1 City of San Ramon Needs Assessment Summary - Parks and Facilities</b>										
	Quantitative		Qualitative							
	2007 Random Sample Survey	Acreage Analysis	Community Leader Focus Groups	Youth Focus Group	Staff Focus Group	Community Workshops	Stakeholder Interviews	Steering Committee	Trends Analysis	Total Occurrences
<b>Identified Need</b>										
New Community Parks										3
New Neighborhood Parks										3
Water features in parks										3
Bocce/horseshoes etc										3
Renovate Glass House										3
Dog parks										3
Playgrounds for age groups										3
Wi-Fi in parks/facilities										3
Roller Hockey										2
Soccer fields										2
Baseball fields										2
Crow Canyon - Natural Setting										2
Tennis Courts										2
Theatre										2
Retreat/conference center										2
Boot field										1
Cricket fields										1
Outdoor Badminton, volleyball										1
Golf										1
Community Gardens										1
Disc Golf										1
Rock Climbing walls										1
Outdoor Basketball										1
Skateboard/BMX										1
Develop indoor rec. areas										1
Senior Center expansion										1
Rehearsal/gallery space										1
Preserve historic structures										1
Lighting in parks/trails										1
Signage in parks										1
Destination park										1
More shade in parks										1

In Table V.2 you see the compilation of data related to programs and services. The top needs and interests expressed also link with the top park and facility needs. For example hiking and walking is a top activity preference; trails and open space ranked high on the parks and facility summary. The top program needs are:

- Special Community Events
- Visual and performing arts
- Teen programs
- Senior programs
- Hiking and walking
- Bicycling
- Swimming/Aquatics

<b>Table V.2 City of San Ramon Needs Assessment Summary - Programs and Services</b>									
	Quantitative	Qualitative							
	2007 Random Sample Survey	Community Leader Focus Groups	Youth Focus Group	Staff Focus Group	Community Workshops	Stakeholder Interviews	Steering Committee	Trends Analysis	Total Occurrences
<b>Identified Need</b>									
Special community events									7
Visual arts									6
Senior programs									6
Teen programs									6
Hiking/walking									5
Bicycling									5
Swimming/aquatics									5
Vocal or music classes									5
Theatre									5
Health & Fitness									4
Library programs									4
Family programs									4
Short term classes									4
Neighborhood events									4
Youth sports									3
Adult sports									3
Computer ed./Web design									3
Outdoor adventure/trips									3
Nature programs									3
After school programs									3
Boomer programs (young/old)									2

<b>Table V.2 City of San Ramon Needs Assessment Summary - Programs and Services</b>									
	Quantitative	Qualitative							
	2007 Random Sample Survey	Community Leader Focus Groups	Youth Focus Group	Staff Focus Group	Community Workshops	Stakeholder Interviews	Steering Committee	Trends Analysis	Total Occurrences
<b>Identified Need</b>									
Theatre/concerts						■		■	2
Yoga, Tai Chi, etc		■						■	2
Science/electronics			■		■				2
Parenting skills				■		■			2
Dance classes	■		■						2
Skateboarding	■		■						2
Local history/interpretation					■	■			2
Woodshop/model making			■						1
Public speaking/debate			■						1
Horseback riding			■						1
Foreign language	■								1
Cooking	■								1
Martial arts	■								1
Chess	■								1
Gardening	■								1
Preschool classes							■		1
Ethnic dance	■								1
Summer day camps	■								1
Literary- Writing, Book Club	■								1

## VI. Programs and Services Analysis

Parks and Recreation provides...*space to create and imagine; space to be safe and secure; space to learn and play.*

In striving to attain its vision of *Creating Community through people parks partnerships and programs*, the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department provides a vast array of cultural, sporting and educational programs and events for all segments of the San Ramon community. In the Master Plan Update in 1996 a number of guiding policies were listed for Department programs and operations. The Department has effectively implemented these policies. Many of these remain pertinent today.

### Guiding Policies<sup>58</sup>

1. Establish a City administered program to serve the needs of all interest groups, age groups and persons of varied economic and cultural backgrounds.
2. Adopt a family oriented philosophy when considering and implementing all programs.
3. Coordinate programs and services with the school district other public agencies the private sector volunteer organizations and community service groups and clubs to stimulate a variety of program opportunities.
4. Strive to establish programs which maintain a balance between active and passive activities stressing participation and skill development.
5. Provide residents first priority access to programs and facilities.
6. Maintain a non-resident surcharge for programs and facilities to provide for a higher level of cost recovery by non property tax paying individuals.
7. Recognize the special needs and impact of San Ramon's non-resident, working population on programs.
8. Increase opportunities for the public to be involved in providing programs and services by continuing a comprehensive public information program providing technical assistance and equipment to community groups and organizations, promoting the establishment of non profit support organizations and providing co-sponsorship opportunities to San Ramon based non profit groups.
9. Maintain a fair and equitable fee structure for community service activities which takes into consideration the type of activity, the ability of users to pay, the demand for the program, skill levels, equipment provided, facility maintenance and operation costs.
10. Continue the policy of offering discounts to senior citizens and family groups for selected programs and provide financial assistance for individuals and families as appropriate.
11. Use qualified consultants, contract services and employees whenever necessary and cost effective to supplement staff work in developing specialized studies or major projects.
12. Provide education to promote minimal use of non renewable resources and maximum use of recyclable materials.
13. Promote, develop and maintain an active volunteer program using all community resources. Use volunteers in full program and staff capacities to augment and enhance staff assignments and encourage community service.

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<sup>58</sup> 1996-2006 San Ramon Parks Master Plan

**A. PROGRAM INVENTORY**

In FY 2005-06 the Department served over 30,000 participants in award-winning programs and activities. This participation rate is 11% above the participation level in FY 2004-05. A summary of the Program Inventory and participation is presented in Table VI.1. The highest participation level is in programs for youth (K-5). There is also a high level of participation in aquatics programs and tiny tot programs for children under 5 years old. In addition, to the 33.6 authorized positions in the Community Services Department, over 33,000 hours of volunteer effort contribute to the success of the Department's programs, events and activities.

Table VI.1 San Ramon Parks and Community Services Program Inventory Summary*														
Activity	Time					Age Group					Annual Participation-FY 05-06			
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Occasional	Day	Evening	5 & under	Youth K-5	Teen		Adult	55 & Over	All Ages
Tiny Tots	■	■	■	■		■	■							3,984
Aquatics	■	■	■	■		■	■					■		5,067
Youth Classes	■	■	■	■		■			■					7,098
Youth Cultural Arts	■	■	■	■					■					658
Youth Enrichment	■	■	■	■		■			■					644
Youth Sports Camps			■			■			■					1,028
Crow Canyon Day Camp			■			■			■					803
Club Crow			■			■			■					709
Youth Sports Leagues				■		■			■					232
Teen Activities	■	■	■	■		■	■			■				1,833
Adult Classes	■	■	■	■		■	■				■	■		3,613
Adult Sports Leagues	■	■	■	■			■				■	■		284
Family Activities	■	■	■	■		■	■						■	705
55 + Services/Classes	■	■	■	■		■	■					■		1,056
Special Events	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	2,551
Forest Home Farms	■	■	■	■		■	■						■	105
Crow Canyon Gardens	■	■	■	■		■							■	224
<b>Total</b>													30,594	
Volunteers													33,391 hours	

\* Participation data based on Registration Report FY 2005-06

The Department is progressive and responded to the needs of busy adults. It began offering online classes through [www.ed2go.com](http://www.ed2go.com) in 2001. The online courses filled a gap in the Department's adult programming; offering a variety of topics

for the lifelong learners. Since inception 524 adults have registered to take courses on line. The Department acts as an agent for ed2go and has generated \$32,000 in revenue from course fees.

**OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

The City is not the only community service provider meeting the various needs of San Ramon. As stated in its policies, the Department frequently works in partnership with other agencies and organizations to deliver services. A listing of key community service providers is presented in Table VI.2 on the following page. In an era of tight fiscal resources, it is paramount that public, non-profit, and private businesses work collaboratively to maximize existing resources to deliver public services. There are several, recreation-oriented businesses that offer instructional classes in dance, pre-school, and chess. The City works in partnership with some of the private entities such as Berkeley Chess School by offering classes in City or school facilities using their instructional expertise. These are excellent examples of public/private partnership to maximize resources and serve the public.

Some key recreation enterprises serving the greater San Ramon area include:

- The Golden Skate
- Spectrum School of Music
- Dublin Iceland
- Spotlight Arts Academy
- Berkeley Chess School
- Gracie’s Place
- Skyhawks Sports Camps
- Kids Take the Stage
- Little League
- Youth Soccer

<b>Table VI.2 San Ramon Service Providers</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Service Provided</b>
American Rhythmic Gymnastics	Gymnastics instruction
American Association of University Women	Community Service
Boy Scouts of America	Scouting – Outdoor Activities
Canyon Creek Little League	Baseball
Contra Costa County Social Services	
Contra Costa Children’s Chorus	Chorale singing
CYO Basketball	Youth Basketball
CYO Cross Country	Youth Cross Country
Diablo Bonsai Club	Bonsai Gardening
Diablo Valley Foundation for Aging	
Diablo Valley Soaring Society	
Discovery Center of the San Ramon Valley	Counseling services
Dublin San Ramon Women’s Club	Service Club
East Bay Regional Park District	Parks, Trails and outdoor recreation
Friends of Discovery (Thrift Station)	

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Girl Scouts of San Ramon	Scouting and outdoor activities
Leadership San Ramon Valley	
Rotary Club of San Ramon Valley	Service Club
San Ramon American Little League	Baseball
San Ramon Arts Foundation	Arts Support
San Ramon Aquacats	Swim Club
San Ramon Bears Football	Football
San Ramon Chamber of Commerce	Business and community promotion
San Ramon Community Theatre	Performing Arts
San Ramon Historic Foundation	Support Forest Home Farms
San Ramon Library Foundation	Library services
San Ramon National Little League	Baseball
San Ramon Pony Baseball	Baseball
San Ramon Senior Center Information & Referral	Information and Referral Services
San Ramon Senior Foundation	Support for Senior programs
San Ramon Symphonic Band	Music
San Ramon Youth Soccer	Soccer
San Ramon Valley Coalition for Youth Safety	Youth Development
San Ramon Valley Center DVC	Education and enrichment classes
San Ramon Valley Girls Athletic League	Girls softball
San Ramon Valley Kiwanis	Service Club
San Ramon Valley Livermore Aquatics	Swim Club
San Ramon Valley Unified School District	K-12 Education, Adult School
Zootomist Int. of San Ramon	Community service
Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau	Tourism promotion
Tri-Valley Japanese/American Citizens	
Tri-Valley Mother's Club	
U.C. Berkeley Extension	Education and enrichment classes
Valley Spokesman Bicycling Touring Club	Bicycling
YMCA San Ramon Valley	Youth and family recreation

**B. RESIDENTS’ PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

In the community survey, 12 different activities or programs that residents might participate in were presented to them during the telephone interview. All of the responses to these questions make it clear that residents are most likely to participate in library programs, fitness and health classes, and other sports oriented programs. There is some variation in program preferences when residents age. Interest in sports-oriented programs drops off significantly for those above age 54. As might be expected interest in programs for senior citizens is concentrated among those over 55 years of age. Detailed tabulations of program preferences are included in the Survey Report in the Appendix A.

<b>Activity, program, or class</b>	<b>Likely to participate</b>	<b>Unlikely to participate</b>	<b>DK/ Refused</b>
Q55: Library services or programs	80.5%	19.5%	
Q45: Fitness or health classes	76.7%	23.2%	0.2%
Q51: Sports-oriented programs	66.7%	32.8%	0.5%
Q49: Swimming classes	61.2%	38.7%	0.2%
Q48B: Dance classes	53.5%	46.2%	0.3%
Q47: Nature classes	51.7%	48.3%	
Q52: Visual arts classes	48.5%	50.7%	0.8%
Q53: Vocal or instrumental music classes	46.8%	52.8%	0.3%
Q50: Theater classes	38.3%	61.5%	0.2%
Q46: Summer recreation programs with all-day day care	35.3%	64.5%	0.2%
Q54: Classes designed for senior citizens	28.8%	70.7%	0.5%
Q48A: Ethnic dance classes	27.2%	72.4%	0.3%

**PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The evaluation of programs is intended to help focus the strategic direction for community services in the future. The focus of this program analysis is to identify service needs related to recreation interests. These interests may be accommodated in public facilities such as libraries, community centers, schools or public parks. This prioritization of needs in this way helps facilitate park planning as program needs drive what improvements are needed. Program and space needs are interconnected and interdependent.

Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected and the review and analysis of current programs, there are no significant gaps in programming. However, there appears to be some redundancy and duplication of programs offered by different program units. Staff has responded well to meeting the diverse program interests of the community. It is timely to review programs offerings; eliminate any duplication, focus on core programs and strengthen existing program offerings to respond to changing demographics and recreation preferences. As the community demographics are changing, ensuring programs are affordable and convenient for residents will demand staff's attention and resources. There is also a need to provide unstructured play and social gathering opportunities for youth. The priority needs are grouped in two categories ***Service Needs*** and ***Program Needs***. Park and facility needs are addressed in the Master Plan Update.

***Service Needs*** relate to how programs and operations are implemented by the Department. These may relate to support services or facilities and may impact many of the programs.

**Providing services for a growing and ethnically diverse population** will continue to challenge the Department. The population increase has resulted in overuse of some park areas. The City's population will grow by 65% to 2020. The growth in the Asian population will outpace growth in other ethnic groups. The need to provide language translation services will remain important in the future. There is also a need to provide affordable programs as the income-level of residents diversifies.

**Convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed** recreation programs, support services, and facilities are needed throughout the City to serve busy, commuting, two-income households. The scarcity of time and importance of proximity precipitates the need for recreation close to home. This may require decentralization of program locations but the staff should not be compelled to replicate programs or facilities in all neighborhoods. Improved public transportation options within the City of San Ramon would make access to City parks and programs more convenient for residents and lessen dependability on the use of automobiles. Improved public transportation options need to be explored for the future. Flexible Department office hours and convenient program times, including nights and weekends will be the norm. The use of technology for promotion, marketing and online services will allow for more cost-effective operations.

**Cooperative and coordinated planning** within the Department and the City and with other public and non-profit agencies to minimize duplication and/or competition should continue to provide for the best use of public and private resources to meet recreation demands. The Department can act as the prime collaborator or convener to direct resources toward programs but does not have to be the sole provider.

**Staff recruitment, training and development** to retain a qualified and customer-oriented staff is critical to success. Employees must work together as a team with a shared vision of the Department priorities to provide support services and programs. A responsive, concerned and skilled staff will be needed to provide support services and programs.

**Safe and well maintained sports fields** will continue to be in demand as sports activities rated high in the survey. Maintaining the high quality of maintenance the residents are accustomed to will be a challenge. This may include:

- Development of a formal field rotation and closure policy and procedure to allow for comprehensive maintenance programs to take place at scheduled intervals. This type of policy and procedure will be needed in order to maintain high quality fields.

**Volunteer recruitment and training** is a new challenge to community agencies as the volunteer pool diminishes because of working parents and aging WWII generation of steadfast, community volunteers. Continue to offer meaningful volunteer opportunities to baby boomers and instilling volunteerism in youth will facilitate new volunteer support.

**Marketing and the communication** of public information in both print and electronic media is essential to increase public awareness about programs and facilities to reach all ages, non-users and the underserved. With the increasing use of the Internet for information staff must embrace technology to be effective.

**Program Needs** are specific to current program offerings that may need expansion or new programs to address unmet recreation demands. These may address needs of a specific age group or the community in general.

- **Community events** that bridge the community and bring people together for recreation, cultural expression and entertainment are some of the Department's most popular programs. These events unite the community, and build community identity and vitality. Venues such as Central Park have the potential of becoming the heart of the City and destination venues for visitors.
- **Expanding recreation programs for youth**, particularly for the 12-17 year age group, will be increasingly challenging. Continuity in programs for before and after school care as well as active sports and fitness, creative activities, dance, and youth development services will remain a priority. Time for non-structured play for younger children should be explored.
- **Cultural arts and events** that provide entertainment such as concerts and theatre productions as well as those that develop skills in dancing, drama, music, and the arts will continue to grow as residents of all ages and ethnicities seek these opportunities close to home. Increased promotion to attract and build audiences for theatrical performance and experiences should be continued.

- **Physical activity and wellness programs** for all ages are needed to counter the obesity epidemic. Offerings include: active sports and fitness, swimming, and gentler aerobics such as walking, yoga and Tai Chi, and healthy lifestyle classes.
- **Lifelong learning and library services** will be in demand for families and for baby boomers and older adults. Short term special interest classes for all ages that may include skill development, creative arts, and technology classes.
- **Outdoor recreation** experiences for all ages connect people with the nature and the outdoors, promoting health and fitness as well an appreciation for nature. Bicycling and walking trails is a top preference and there is a growing interesting passive outdoor activity and group picnicking.

## VII. Parks and Trails Master Plan Update

### A. POLICY CONTEXT

#### Parks Master Plan

The existing <sup>59</sup>*San Ramon Parks and Community Services Master Plan* was adopted in 1997. It updated the previous plan adopted in 1991. The existing Master Plan was developed adhering to the goals and policies of the City's 1995 General Plan that was since updated in 2002. The Master Plan presented a vision, policies, standards and individual park concept plans for the City to follow to the year 2006. The growth of parks within San Ramon as envisioned in the 1997 Master Plan was moderate, essentially completing the system envisioned in the 1991 Master Plan with the addition of two new school park sites.

Within the City in 1997, there were:

- 15 developed parks and school park sites
- 6 facility locations (city offices, San Ramon Community Center, Library, Olympic Pool, Senior Center, and Service Center)
- 4 undeveloped sites

The 1997 Master Plan did not envision or address the incorporation of the Dougherty Valley.

#### General Plan

Since 1991 the City's General Plan has been updated two times, with the most recent update approved by a general vote in 2002<sup>60</sup>. The *San Ramon 2020 General Plan* incorporates the Dougherty Valley Specific Plan area and provides updated goals and policies related to parks and trails. These are presented in Appendix B.

#### Park Classification

The General Plan classifies parks and facilities to be used for public recreational purposes as follows.

- **Neighborhood Park:** A park or playground at least two acres in size, developed primarily to serve the recreational needs of residents living within a half-mile radius of the park. The City's standard for neighborhood parks is 4.5 acres per 1,000 residents.
- **School Park:** A neighborhood park developed, improved, and maintained on school grounds by the City. School parks are utilized jointly by students and by residents from the surrounding neighborhoods. Since school parks are only available for use by the general public during non-school hours, only half of the total acreage is applied to the neighborhood park standard.

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<sup>59</sup> See Appendix X.F Master Plan 1996- 2006

<sup>60</sup> *San Ramon 2020 General Plan*. Approved by Voters of the City San Ramon. March 5, 2002

- **Community Park:** A larger park or facility developed to meet the park and recreational needs of those living or working within a three-mile radius. Community parks vary from 10 to 60 acres. The standard for this type of park is 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents of the City.
- **Regional Park:** A park having a wide range of improvements not usually found in neighborhood and community parks and designed to meet the recreational needs of the entire regional population. A regional park must be over 200 acres in size, including both land and water bodies and should be within 30-minute driving time from the residents it serves. Recreational facilities, confined to a recreation staging area, must not occupy more than 30 percent of the park's area, leaving 70 percent of the park's area to remain in its natural state. Recreational facilities might include a golf course, a zoo, a nature area, and/or hiking or equestrian trails. Some of these facilities may be under lease to community groups.
- **Specialized Recreation Area:** A recreation area or facility devoted to a very specific activity or use. A linear park, more commonly referred to as a trail, is one example, as are swimming pools and tennis courts. The above listed parks generally require primarily flat land (functional acreage) that can be developed into sports fields; tennis courts, picnic areas and children's play areas. Any sloped terrain proposed for parkland must be deemed suitable for additional recreational amenities that adequately serve the community.

#### Park Development Standards

The City's current standard for functional public parkland is 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents, comprising 4.5 acres of neighborhood parks (those serving residents living within a 1/2-mile radius) and 2 acres of community parks (those serving residents within a 3-mile radius). General Plan policies exclude trails or undeveloped portions of active parks when calculating the City's available parkland in terms of meeting the park acreage standard. Additionally, City policies are specific in defining the size of areas and types of facilities to be included in neighborhood and community parks. A neighborhood park is a minimum of 2 acres while a community park is generally between 10 and 60 acres in size.

#### Trails

At this time there are limited trails and no plan or trail maintenance/development standards for the City. Policies related to trails that occur within the Parks and Recreation, Traffic and Circulation, and Open Space and Conservation chapters of the General Plan. Proposed trail routes are portrayed in the Parks and Recreation chapter of the General Plan, and in the case of Class 1 bicycle paths, in the Traffic and Circulation Chapter (see Appendix B). The Parks and Recreation Chapter of the General Plan identifies trails as occurring in Regional Parks or within a Specialized Recreation Area, such as in the case of a linear park. The Traffic and Circulation Chapter identifies three Class 1 bicycle paths for the City. These are:

- Iron Horse Trail
- Cross Valley Trail extending from Westside Drive to Dougherty Road

- A route generally paralleling Old Ranch Road from Alcosta Boulevard to Dougherty Road

The Open Space Chapter of the General Plan calls for trails along creek corridors, open hillsides, and ridgelines consistent with resource management policies associated with open space lands.

Not included in the General Plan but identified in the 1997 San Ramon Parks and Community Services Master Plan is the Calaveras Ridge Trail that would run from Las Trampas Regional Park to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, and which identified Mill Creek Park and Centennial Park to serve as a future trailheads.

## **B. PARK AND TRAIL INVENTORY**

Figure VII-1 graphically portrays existing parks and trails within San Ramon as of September 2007. It should be noted that Figure VII-1 includes future parks and trails within the Dougherty Valley that are to be provided by the area's developers.

### **Parks**

There are 43 park sites within San Ramon and 15 park/school sites. The existing park system (including parks to be constructed in the Dougherty Valley) includes:

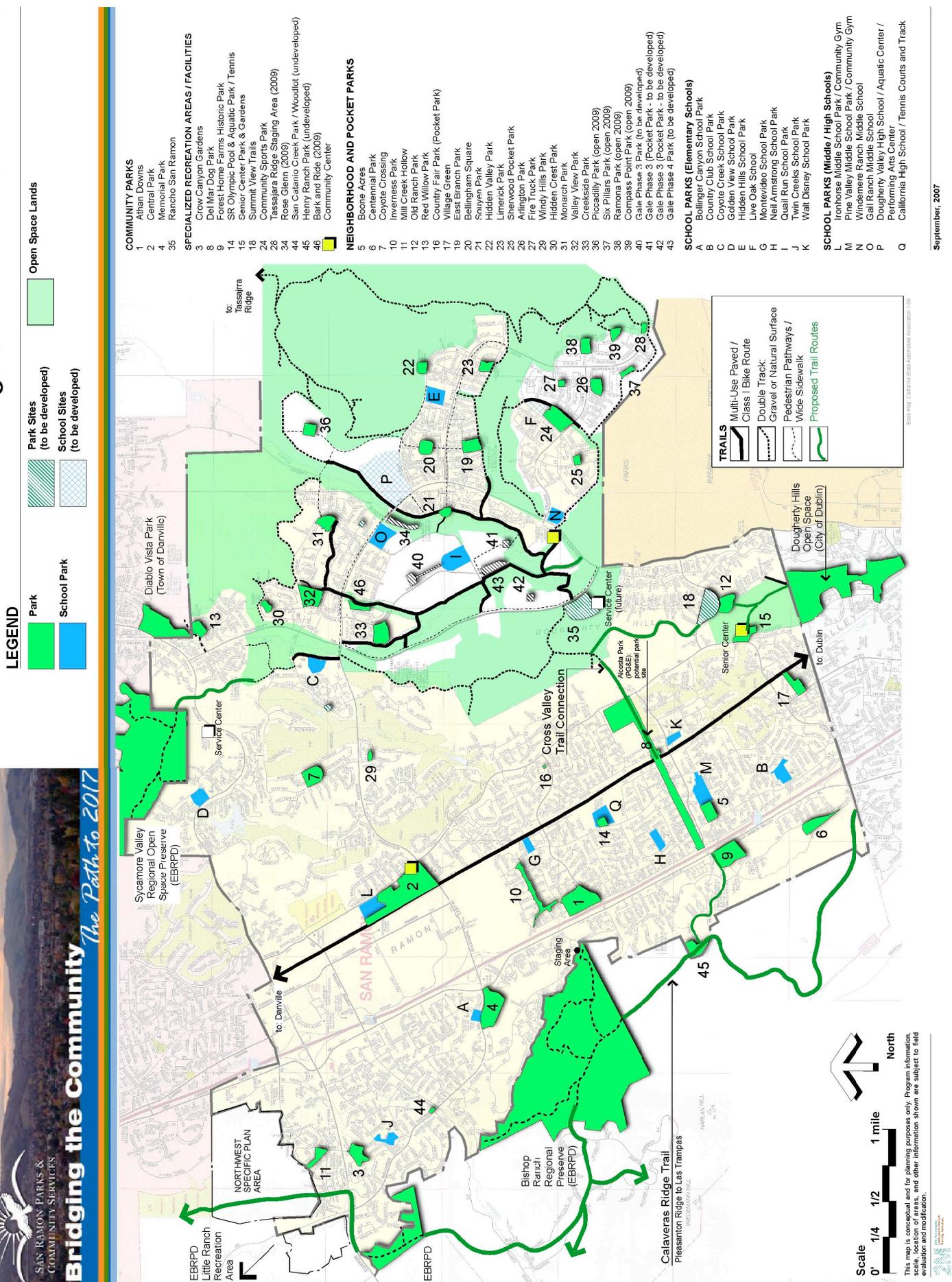
- 3 Community Centers located at Central Park and Dougherty Station, and combined with the Senior Center
- 4 Community Parks
- 12 Special Use Parks and Facilities
- 28 Neighborhood Parks
- 3 Pocket Parks that serve neighborhoods but do not qualify as a Neighborhood Park by definition because of their size
- 17 School Parks that, in most cases, serve as Neighborhood Parks but also provide special recreation facilities such as gymnasiums, sports fields, and running tracks
- 2 Libraries located adjacent to Central Park and at Dougherty Station
- 2 Aquatic Centers one at California High School and one at Dougherty Valley High School
- 1 Performing Arts Center located at Dougherty Valley High School

Table VII-1 is keyed to Figure VII-1 and lists park sites within San Ramon and their approximate size. Table VII-1 also provides an approximate percentage of each park that is dedicated for active use and consists of a predominantly "developed" landscape, versus parkland that is naturalistic in its character and where use emphasizes passive, trail-related activities.

Table VII. 2 lists general access conditions of each park.

Tables VII. 3 and VII. 4 list facilities in each park site. These include basic park amenities, picnic facilities, sports-related features, playgrounds, and other special use facilities.

**Figure VII.1: PARKS AND TRAILS**



**TABLE VII.1 Existing Park Sites<sup>61</sup>**

Map Key	Park(1)	Park Size	% Developed	% Natural / Open Space
<b>Community Parks</b>				
1	Athan Downs	20.00	100	
2	Central Park and Community Center	42.8	100	
4	Memorial Park	16.0	30	70
35	Rancho San Ramon Community Park (to be developed)	30.00		
<b>Sub-total Community Parks</b>		<b>108.8</b>		
<b>Specialized Recreation Area</b>				
3	Crow Canyon Gardens	7.50	60	40
8	Del Mar Dog Park	0.08	100	
9	Forest Home Farms Historical Park	16.00	70	30
14	SR Olympic Pool, Aquatic Park, Tennis Courts and Track	7.00	100	
15	Senior Center Park & Gardens	6.25	100	
18	Summit View Trails	13.00		
24	Community Sports Park	11.00		
28	Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (open 2009)	5.00		
34	Rose Glenn (open 2009)	11.50		
44	San Catanio Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)	4.50		
45	Henry Ranch Park (undeveloped)	14.0		100
46	Bark and Ride (open 2009)	6.88		
<b>Sub-total Specialized Recreation Areas</b>		<b>107.43</b>		
<b>Neighborhood and Pocket Parks</b>				
5	Boone Acres	6.00	100	
6	Centennial Park	5.25	20	80 (2)
7	Coyote Crossing	7.85	100	
10	Inverness Park	7.00	100	
11	Mill Creek Hollow	4.00	50	50
12	Old Ranch Park	6.00	90	10
13	Red Willow Park	4.00	80	20
16	Country Fair Park (Pocket Park)	0.25		
17	Village Green	4.90	100	
19	East Branch Park	5.10	100	
20	Bellingham Square	4.00	100	
21	Souyen Park	2.40	100	
22	Hidden Valley Park	4.50	100	
23	Limerick Park	2.80	100	
25	Sherwood Park	1.50	100	
26	Arlington Park	4.10		
27	Fire Truck Park	1.15	100	
29	Windy Hills Park	1.36	100	
30	Hidden Crest Park	2.34	100	
31	Monarch Park	6.34		
32	Valley View Park	10.25	50	50
33	Creeside Park	5.97		
36	Piccadilly Square (to be developed)	4.10		

59 <sup>(1)</sup> Park sites either under construction or to be developed within the Dougherty Valley that are considered “existing” parks for this inventory

(2) Parks that may have areas of dedicated open space that are not necessarily included in total size shown

**TABLE VII.1 Existing Park Sites<sup>61</sup>**

Map Key	Park(1)	Park Size	% Developed	% Natural / Open Space
37	Six Pillars Park (under construction)	2.50		
38	Ramona Park (to be developed)	4.00		
39	Compass Point Park (to be developed)	1.40		
40	Gale Phase 3 Linear Park (to be developed)	5.00		
41	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)	2.00		
42	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)	2.00		
43	Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)	3.00		
<b>Sub-total Neighborhood Parks</b>		<b>91.07</b>		
<b>School Parks</b>				
<i>Elementary Schools</i>				
A	Bollinger Canyon School/Park	4.50	100	
B	Country Club School/Park	7.00	100	
C	Coyote Creek School/Park	6.00	100	
D	Golden View School/Park	4.00	100	
E	Hidden Hills School/Park	6.30		
F	Live Oak School/Park (open August, 2007)	5.00	100	
G	Montevideo School/Park	3.50	100	
H	Neil Armstrong School/Park	3.00	100	
I	Quail Run School/Park	4.00	100	
J	Twin Creeks School/Park	3.00	100	
K	Walt Disney School/Park	4.50	100	
<i>Middle Schools</i>				
L	Ironhorse Middle School/Park/Community Gym	6.00	100	
M	Pine Valley Middle School/Park/Community Gym	7.50	100	
N	Windemere Ranch Middle School Park	12.40	100	
O	Gale Ranch Middle School Park (open 2008)	15.00	100	
<i>High Schools</i>				
P	Dougherty Valley High School / Aquatic Center / Performing Arts Center (open August, 2007)	17.00	100	
Q	California High School Tennis Courts / Track	#14 above	100	
<i>Sub-total School Parks</i>		<b>103.20</b>		
<b>TOTAL ALL PARKS</b>		<b>425.49</b>		
<b>Source: 2M Associates; acreage provided by San Ramon Parks and Community Services</b>				

**TABLE VII.2 General Access and Park Landscape**

Map Key	Park	Number of formal parking spaces	ADA Parking Spaces	Adjacent Street Parking (Yes/No)	Bicycle Parking (Yes / No)	School Bus Parking	Access to Trails / Open Space
<b>Community Parks</b>							
1	Athan Downs	158	4	Yes	Yes		Iron Horse Trail (nearby)
2	Central Park and Community Center	206	10	Yes	Yes		Iron Horse Trail
4	Memorial Park	61	3	Yes	Yes		
35	Rancho San Ramon Community Park			Yes	No		
<b>Specialized Recreation Areas and Facilities</b>							
3	Crow Canyon Gardens	5 (gravel)		Yes	No	No	
8	Del Mar Dog Park	street parking only		Yes	No		Cross Valley Trail Iron Horse Trail
9	Forest Home Farms Historical Park	no designated parking		No	No		Cross Valley Trail (nearby)
14	SR Olympic Pool, Aquatic Park, Tennis Courts and Track	112	5	Yes	Yes		Iron Horse Trail
15	Senior Center Park & Gardens (with current expansion)	133	15 +/-	Yes	Yes	1 (shuttle)	Trail Staging to Cross Ridge Trail
18	Summit View Trails	street parking only		Yes	No	No	X
24	Community Sports Park	180	8	No	Yes	0	X
28	Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (2009)	14	1	No	Yes	0	Tassajara Ridge Trail
34	Rose Glenn (2009)	55	street	Yes	Yes	0	Alamo Creek Trail
44	San Catanio Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)						
45	Henry Ranch Park (undeveloped)						
46	Bark and Ride (2009)	54	2	No	Yes	0	X
<b>Neighborhood and Pocket Parks</b>							
5	Boone Acres	0	0	Yes	No		
6	Centennial Park	19	1	Yes	Yes		X
7	Coyote Crossing	42	2	Yes	No		
10	Inverness Park	street parking only		Yes	No		
11	Mill Creek Hollow	11	1	Yes	No		X
12	Old Ranch Park	36	2	Yes	No		X
13	Red Willow Park	21	1	Yes	No		X
16	Country Fair Park (Pocket Park)			Yes	No		
17	Village Green	15	1	Yes	Yes		Iron Horse Trail
19	East Branch Park	22	1	Yes	Yes		X
20	Bellingham Square	street parking only		Yes	Yes		

**TABLE VII.2 General Access and Park Landscape**

Map Key	Park	Number of formal parking spaces	ADA Parking Spaces	Adjacent Street Parking (Yes/No)	Bicycle Parking (Yes / No)	School Bus Parking	Access to Trails / Open Space
21	Souyen Park	19	1	Yes	Yes		X
22	Hidden Valley Park	38	2	No	Yes		
23	Limerick Park	street parking only		Yes	Yes		X
25	Sherwood Park	street parking only		Yes	Yes		
26	Arlington Park	20	2	Yes	Yes		
27	Fire Truck Park	street parking only		Yes	Yes		
29	Windy Hills Park	street parking only		Yes	Yes		X
30	Hidden Crest Park	street parking only		Yes	Yes		X
31	Monarch Park	45	2	No	Yes		X
32	Valley View Park	38	2	No	Yes		X
33	Creekside Park	59	2	No	Yes		X
36	Piccadilly Square (open 2009)	street parking only					
37	Six Pillars Park (open 2009)	street parking only					
38	Ramona Park ((open 2009)	street parking only					
39	Compass Point Park (to be developed)	street parking only					
40	Gale Phase 3 Linear Park (to be developed)						
41	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)						
42	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)						
43	Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)						X

Source: 2M Associates

TABLE VII.3 Park and Recreation Facilities

Map Key	Park	Picnic					Sports					Special Use Facilities	Public Art (PA) / Public Art Appropriate (PAA)		
		Phone	Night Lighting	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Family Picnicking	Small Group	Large Group	ADA Accessible	Baseball / Softball Only	Multi Use Sports Fields			Large Open Play Lawn	Basketball
<b>Community Parks</b>															
1	Athan Downs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	PAA
2	Central Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	PA
4	Memorial Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	PAA
35	Rancho San Ramon Community Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	PAA
<b>Specialized Recreation Areas and Facilities</b>															
3	Crow Canyon Gardens			X	X	X	X	No							PAA
8	Del Mar Dog Park			X		X									
9	Forest Home Farms Historical Park			X	portable	X									PAA
14	SR Olympic Pool & Aquatic Park	X	X	X	X	X									PAA
15	Senior Center Park & Gardens		X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA
18	Summit View Trails		X	X	X	X									PAA
24	Community Sports Park		X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA
28	Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (open 2009)		X	X	X	X									PAA
34	Rose Glenn (open 2009)		X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA
42	San Catatnio Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)														
43	Henry Ranch Park (undeveloped)														
44	Bark and Ride (open 2009)	X	X	X	X	X									PAA
P	Dougherty Valley High School / Aquatic Center / Performing Arts Center		X	X	X	X	X	X							
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>															
5	Boone Acres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA
6	Centennial Park		X	X	X	X	No								
7	Coyote Crossing		X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA
10	Inverness Park					X	X	X							PAA
11	Mill Creek Hollow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							PAA

TABLE VII.3 Park and Recreation Facilities

Map Key	Park	Picnic				Sports					Special Use Facilities	Public Art (PA) / Public Art Appropriate (PAA)				
		Phone	Night Lighting	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Family Picnicking	Small Group	Large Group	ADA Accessible	Baseball / Softball Only			Multi Use Sports Fields	Large Open Play Lawn	Basketball	Volleyball
12	Old Ranch Park	X		X	X	X			X			X				PAA
13	Red Willow Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
16	Country Fair Park (Pocket Park)			X					X							PA
17	Village Green			X	X	X			X							
19	East Branch Park			X	X	X			X	X		X				PAA
20	Bellingham Square			X	X	X			X	X			sand			PAA
21	Souyen Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
22	Hidden Valley Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
23	Limerick Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
25	Sherwood Park			X		X			X	X						PAA
26	Arlington Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
27	Fire Truck Park			X					X							PA
29	Windy Hills Park			X					X							PA
30	Hidden Crest Park			X					X							
31	Monarch Park			X	X	X			X	X						PA
32	Valley View Park			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
33	Creekside Park			X	X	X			X	X		X				PAA
36	Piccadilly Square (open 2009)			X	X	X			X							PAA
37	Six Pillars Park (open 2009)			X		X			X	X		1/2				PA
38	Ramona Park (open 2009)			X	X	X			X	X						PAA
39	Compass Point Park (to be developed)			X					X							PAA
40	Gale Phase 3 Park (to be developed)															
41	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)															
42	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)															
43	Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)															



**TABLE VII.4 Playground Facilities**

Map Key	Park	Number	Signed	Material	ADA Access Ramp	Notes
<b>Community Parks</b>						
1	Athan Downs	2	X	sand	X	signed for age 2-5 on one end
2	Central Park	2		sand	X	
4	Memorial Park	2		fibar	X	
35	Rancho San Ramon Community Park	2	X	fiber matt		
<b>Specialized Recreation Areas and Facilities</b>						
3	Crow Canyon Gardens					
8	Del Mar Dog Park					
9	Forest Home Farms Historical Park					
14	SR Olympic Pool & Aquatic Park					
15	Senior Center Park & Gardens					
18	Summit View Trails					
24	Community Sports Park					
28	Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (open 2009)					
34	Rose Glenn (open 2009)	2				
42	San Catanio Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)					
43	Henry Ranch Park (undeveloped)					
44	Bark and Ride (open 2009)					
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>						
5	Boone Acres	1		sand	X	Run/walk track
6	Centennial Park	1		fibar	X	pre-school only
7	Coyote Crossing	2		fibar	no	
10	Inverness Park					
11	Mill Creek Hollow	1		fibar matt		
12	Old Ranch Park	2	X	sand	X	ADA approved and fully accessible: divided into two age groups and signed
13	Red Willow Park	1		Sand/ fibar matt	x	
16	Country Fair Park (Pocket Park)	1	X	fibar	X	
17	Village Green	1		sand	X	
19	East Branch Park	1	X	fibar	X	
20	Bellingham Square	1	X	fibar	X	signed
21	Souyen Park	1	X	fibar	X	signed; with climbing wall
22	Hidden Valley Park	1	X	fibar	X	
23	Limerick Park	2	X	fibar	X	
25	Sherwood Park	2	X	fibar	X	
26	Arlington Park	1	X	fibar	X	
27	Fire Truck Park	1	X	fibar	X	Sand box
29	Windy Hills Park	2	X	fibar	X	
30	Hidden Crest Park	1		fibar	X	
31	Monarch Park	1	X	fibar	X	
32	Valley View Park	1		fibar	X	

**TABLE VII.4 Playground Facilities**

Map Key	Park	Number	Signed	Material	ADA Access Ramp	Notes
33	Creekside Park	3		fibar	X	
36	Piccadilly Square (open 2009)	2	X			
37	Six Pillars Park (open 2009)					
38	Ramona Park (open 2009)					
39	Compass Point Park (open 2009)					
40	Gale Phase 3 Linear Park (to be developed)					
41	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)					
42	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)					
43	Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)					
<b>School Parks</b>						
<i>Elementary Schools</i>						
A	Bollinger Canyon School/Park	2		fibar		
B	Country Club School/Park	3		sand	no	
C	Coyote Creek School/Park	1		Fibar matt		
D	Golden View School/Park	1		fibar	no	
E	Hidden Hills School/Park			fibar		
F	Live Oak School/Park					
G	Montevideo School/Park	1		fibar	X	
H	Neil Armstrong School/Park	1		fibar		
I	Quail Run School/Park	1		fibar	X	
J	Twin Creeks School/Park	2		fibar/sand	X	
K	Walt Disney School/Park	1		sand	no	
<i>Middle Schools</i>						
L	Ironhorse Middle School/Park/Community Gym					
M	Pine Valley Middle School/Park/Community Gym					
N	Windemere Ranch Middle School Park					
O	Gail Ranch Middle School					
<i>High Schools</i>						
P	Dougherty Valley High School					
Source: 2M Associates						

**Other Parks and Open Space Lands**

Other public parklands in or adjacent to the City, or within its sphere of influence include:

- **East Bay Regional Park District:** The District provides a variety of regional parklands within the City and its sphere of influence. These include:
- **San Ramon Valley Iron Horse Regional Trail.** A multi-use, whole-access trail. The Iron Horse Trail extends approximately 4.3 miles through San Ramon. The Iron Horse Trail, extending 27 miles from Martinez to Pleasanton, is the main link from the City to the regional trail network. This includes access to the Las Trampas/Mt. Diablo Regional Trail.

- **Bishop Ranch Regional Reserve:** A 529-acre open space area affords horseback riding, hiking, kite flying, and blanket picnicking as some of the activities available on this ridge-top refuge. A staging area with on-street parking is located along Morgan Drive. A secondary neighborhood access point is located to the north at the end of Paddock Drive (note: this entrance is labeled as “Dublin Hills Regional Open Space”).
- **Las Trampas Regional Wilderness:** A 3,798 acre wilderness area and extensive trail system that allows hikers and horseback riders to enjoy a sense of escape in its remote and rugged areas. The major staging area for the Wilderness is at the end of Bollinger Canyon Road.
- **Little Hills Ranch Recreation Area:** A 25-acre concession operated group picnic facility on Bollinger Canyon Road that is available by reservation only. The Recreation Area includes seven group picnic sites and can accommodate events of up to 1500 people. Facilities include a swimming pool, covered picnic areas, playfields and barbecue/picnic areas.
- **Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve:** Composed of two separate parcels, the southern 328-acre Preserve known as the Sherburne Hills unit and is accessed from the north in Danville. Trails within the Preserve extend to the edge of the Preserve boundary at the San Ramon city limit. Additional access and connecting trails are planned to be located at the San Ramon Service Center off Crow Canyon Road.
- **City of Dublin, Dougherty Hills Open Space Park:** at 107.5 acres in size, this park is the largest of the City of Dublin’s open space areas and offers sweeping views of Mount Diablo and the Tri-Valley. The area’s trails extend along the ridgeline to the Dublin / San Ramon city boundary. Trail access to the Dougherty Hills Open Space Park is planned within San Ramon from the Senior Center and Old Ranch Park.

### City Trails

Figure VII. 1 portrays existing trails and planned within San Ramon. New trails under construction are generally in the Dougherty Valley. The Cross Valley Trail is approximately 0.7 miles in length and links with the Iron Horse Trail.

When complete, the trail network will provide the City with approximately 26 miles of trails. These will consist of:

- Approximately 10.1 miles of bicycle paths / shared-use paved trails (including the Iron Horse Trail).
- Approximately 16.0 miles of natural surfaced or gravel shared-use trails that include opportunities for mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding.

The main trails within the Dougherty Valley include:

- **Alamo Creek Trail:** a paved trail along Alamo Creek overlooking permanent open space.

- **Hidden Valley Ridge Trail:** an earthen trail meandering along a scenic ridgeline with spectacular views of Mt. Diablo and the Dougherty Valley.
- **Tassajara Ridge Trail:** an earthen trail is designed for hiking, bicycling and equestrian use.
- **East Alamo Creek Trail:** a paved trail connecting several neighborhoods with schools, parks and the community center, library and community college.
- **Live Oak Trail:** an earthen trail going through permanent open space to Tassajara Ridge Trail.
- **Windemere Ridge Trail:** a paved hiking and bicycling trail overlooking the Dougherty Valley.
- **Sycamore Grove Trail:** a paved trail connecting Live Oak Elementary School and the 15-acre community sports park.
- **Rolling Hills Trail:** an earthen trail through hillside terrain.

### **Park-Trail Connections**

There are two specific parks being developed as staging areas for the City's trail system. These are:

- Summit View Trails (Map #18)
- Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (Map #28)

Other parks that directly connect with trails and open space areas and that can effectively be used as staging areas (except for equestrian parking) include:

- Central Park (Map # 2)
- Centennial Park (Map # 6)
- Del Mar Dog Park (Map # 8)
- Forest Homes Farm Historic Park (Map # 9)
- Mill Creek Hollow Park (Map # 11)
- Old Ranch Park (Map # 12)
- Red Willow Park (Map # 13)
- Senior Center Park and Gardens (Map # 15)
- Village Green (Map # 17)
- East Branch Park (Map # 19)
- Souyen Park (Map # 21)
- Limerick Park (Map #23)
- Windy Hills Park (Map #29)
- Hidden Crest Park (Map #30)
- Monarch Park (Map #31)
- Valley View Park (Map #32)
- Creekside Park (Map #33)
- Rancho San Ramon Community Park (Map #35)
- Six Pillars Park (Map #37)
- Compass Point park (Map #39)
- Gale Phase 4 Park (Map #41)

Bark and Ride (Map #44)

C. Previous Park Master Plans

Parks within Previous Master Plans

Table VII.5 presents a summary of individual parks and planning goals identified in the 1991 and 1997 Master Plans and the implementation status of each.

New Parks

With the exception of Forest Home Farms Historic Park, all new parks within San Ramon not addressed in the 1991 and 1997 Master Plans have been developed in the Dougherty Valley.

Forest Home Farm

The 16-acre Boone family farm was donated by Ruth Boone to the City in 1997 for use as a municipal park in memory of her husband, Travis Moore Boone. The Farm is divided diagonally into two distinct parts by Oak Creek. A majority of the Forest Home Farm buildings are on the north side of the creek. Both the buildings and the landscape of Forest Home Farms are listed on the National Register for Historic Places (ID# 02000677; Certification Date: 6/28/02).

A master plan for the entire property was prepared in 1999. An emphasis in the program for the site is the San Ramon Valley's agricultural history. Key master plan program uses for the property and buildings are found in Attachment C. One major element of the master plan that is currently underway is the David Glass House and a tank house on the southern portion of the property. The Master Plan identifies standards of "rehabilitation" to be applied to property as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The *Rehabilitation* Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the building's historic character.

Overall objectives of the master plan are to:

- Identify repair tasks necessary to bring the landscape features and structures into a secure, stable and maintainable condition while not causing the unavoidable loss of the historic fabric and integrity of the site.
- Develop a use or space needs program, including access for the disabled, park caretaker's quarters, park offices and public toilet rooms, required to convert the farm into a historical park.
- Identify priority work packages to budget improvements for the property.

Trails

Trails proposed in the *San Ramon 2020 General Plan* that have not been implemented include:

- Completion of the Cross Valley Trail between Westside Drive and Alcosta Boulevard.
- Extension of the Cross Valley Trail from Alcosta Boulevard to the Dougherty Hills and linkage to other trails within the Dougherty Valley.

- Completion of Old Ranch Park Trail to Senior Center
- Completion of Crossridge Trail to Old Ranch Trail
- Crossridge Road to Zone 7 Alamo Creek Trail

**TABLE VI.5 Comparison between 1991 and 1997 Master Plans and Existing Conditions**

PARK / MASTER PLAN YEAR	PLANNED FEATURES	STATUS
Alcosta Community Park Site (PG&E Substation and transmission line corridor) Year: 1991 and 1997	Full park development proposed within transmission line right of way and surrounding substation area (1991)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not implemented as portrayed</li> <li>• Cross Valley Trail constructed</li> <li>• Del Mar Dog Park constructed</li> <li>• See Appendix B for Site Master Plan</li> </ul> NOTE: an existing long-term nursery lease makes a significant portion of the Site Master Plan problematic for the foreseeable future. Plans for remaining area should be re-evaluated based on projected city-wide park and recreation needs.
Memorial Park (formerly referred to as Alta Mesa Park or Precipice Park) Year: 1991 and 1997	Full park development with facilities for teenagers and children such as play area, skateboard track, snack stand, and sports fields (1991)	Predominantly implemented Snack stand and hillside trails not constructed BMX track developed in favor of a skateboard track Dog park developed (2002)
Athan Downs Year: 1991 and 1997	Renovation to improve the central picnic play area and the parking lot in a manner that retains the existing park character and is compatible with the adjacent residential neighborhood (1991)  Additional parking and parking area shade trees (1997)	Implemented    Implemented
Bollinger Canyon School Site Year: 1997	Sports fields, playground and site landscaping	Implemented
Bollinger / Crow Canyon Creek Park Site Year: 1991 and 1997	Trail access improvements to and along creek with picnicking	Not implemented. California Department of Fish and Game policies preclude full site development. Site has been eliminated within the Northwest Specific Plan (source: Jeff Eorio Parks and Community Services)
Boone Acres Year: 1991 and 1997	Renovations made between 1989 and 1991; no additional improvements or renovations recommended (1991)  Upgrade playground equipment (1997)	    Implemented
Centennial Park (formerly referred to as Gateway Park) Year: 1997	Passive park site with a play area, restroom, grass meadow picnic area, off-street parking pullout, and access to the adjacent open space	Implemented
Country Club School Neighborhood Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Enhancements to include: two baseball softball fields with an oversized soccer field sand volleyball landscaping along the fence to reduce conflict with residences playground structure	Predominantly Implemented One baseball field rather than two Paved volleyball court rather than sand

**TABLE VI.5 Comparison between 1991 and 1997 Master Plans and Existing Conditions**

PARK / MASTER PLAN YEAR	PLANNED FEATURES	STATUS
Crow Canyon Gardens Year: 1991 and 1997	Renovation of entire park area to enhance: continued use and expansion of the community gardens for the use and enjoyment of all segments of the community outdoor education areas within the creek environment fully accessible creek trail riparian habitat restoration off street parking and drop off area for garden visitors a nature center / classroom office restroom storage and sheltered picnic area for education recreation activities pedestrian and vehicular access to gardens a meandering system of paved pedestrian paths that parallels the creek and allows visual access into the riparian environment creation of permanent composting area and bee education area	Not implemented; temporary buildings serve some educational functions as outlined See Appendix B for Site Master Plans  NOTE: plans should be re-evaluated based on projected city-wide park and recreation needs.
Golden View School Neighborhood Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Renovations made in 1989; no additional improvements or renovations recommended (1991)  Install (1997): a multi level play apparatus area with differing levels of play equipment for varying age groups sized baseball/softball field that overlaps a regulation sized soccer field	Implemented
Inverness Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Renovations to include (1991): access control and an enhanced sense of entry at Broadmoor Drive a special use area focusing on the large specimen valley oak a water management plan neighborhood gathering spaces No recommended changes (1997)	Implemented
Iron Horse Trail Year: 1991 and 1997	Complete trail through City	Recent improvements include landscaping and benches at major street intersections with trail (from Pine Valley to Norris)
Mill Creek Hollow Year: 1991 and 1997	Park to be developed with: natural open space / creek setting Creekside picnic tables off-street parking potential for future trailhead use No recommended changes (1997)	Implemented
Montevideo School Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Park developed in 1989; no additional improvements or renovations recommended	
Neil Armstrong School Park Year: 1997	Park renovated in 1995; no additional improvements or renovations recommended	
Old Ranch Park Year: 1997	Park on south side of Old Ranch Road developed in 1996.  13 acre parcel on north side of Old Ranch Road planned to be a passive park and has not yet been developed.	Implemented  Implementation planned for 2007 See Appendix B for Site Master Plan



**TABLE VI.5 Comparison between 1991 and 1997 Master Plans and Existing Conditions**

PARK / MASTER PLAN YEAR	PLANNED FEATURES	STATUS
Senior Center Park and Garden Year: 1991 and 1997	A new center was constructed in 1991 and gardens enhanced in 1995.  Additional improvements recommended include a planned is a trail through the park leading to potential connections with regional hiking trails	Center building now being expanded with expanded community gardens  Trail planned to be installed when funds become available
Twin Creeks School Neighborhood Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Developed in 1998; no additional improvements or renovations recommended	
Village Green Year: 1997	Developed in 1996; no additional improvements or renovations recommended	
Walt Disney Elementary School Park Year: 1991 and 1997	Developed in 1990; no additional improvements or renovations recommended	

**D. Park and Trail System Plan**

There are four general perspectives that can be used to evaluate park and trail facility needs within San Ramon. These are

1. The availability of facilities relative to existing policies and facility standards as expressed in the San Ramon 2020 General Plan including the distribution of parks and trails relative to where residents actually live.
2. The opportunities within the park and trail system afforded to residents based on the expressed wishes of the residents.
3. The physical conditions of parks and need for development or renovation.
4. Existing park features and/or adopted master plans and their relationship to current outdoor recreation needs.

**PARK STANDARDS**

The City’s current development standard for functional public parkland is 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents, comprising 4.5 acres of neighborhood parks (those serving residents living within a 1/2-mile radius) and 2 acres of community parks (those serving residents within a 3-mile radius). General Plan policies exclude trails or undevelopable portions of active parks when calculating the City’s available parkland in terms of meeting the park acreage standard. Additionally, City policies are specific in defining the size of areas and types of facilities to be included in neighborhood and community parks. A neighborhood park is a minimum of 2 acres while a community park is generally between 10 and 60 acres in size.

Based on the City’s General Plan projections, by 2020 the population of San Ramon will be approximately 96,020. Table VII-6 presents existing park acreages within the City and projected parkland needs based on City parkland standards.

**TABLE VII.6 Citywide Park Area Needs by Classification**

Park Classification	Park Acreage		
	Existing Parks	2020 Park Needs <sup>(2)</sup>	Difference
Community Parks	108.8	192	83.2
Neighborhood Parks <sup>(1)</sup>	192.3	432	239.7
Specialty Recreation Areas	124.4	n/a	(124.4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425.5</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>198.5</b>

(1) Includes Elementary and Middle School Parks

(2) Based on a population of 96,020

**Distribution of Community Parks:** All residents are within a three-mile radius of at least one Community Park. It should be noted that many specialty recreation areas, while technically not defined as “community parks,” serve community-wide functions. If they were included in the community park standard of 2 acres/1000 population, the area needs for community park facilities would be met.

**Distribution of Neighborhood Parks:** Figure VII. 2 illustrates the distribution of neighborhood parks within the City and a 1/2-mile radius around each. For planning purposes, there are six (6) planning areas within the existing city limits and three (3) additional planning areas within the City’s General Plan area. These are illustrated in Figure VII-3. Table VII-7 lists these planning areas and the approximate acreage of neighborhood parks now existing within each. All areas of the City are or will be significantly deficient in neighborhood park space relative to a 4.5 acres/1000 population standard.

Based strictly on proximity, there is a need if land becomes available (and if it can be purchased) for additional neighborhood parks within the Bishop Ranch, Twin Creeks, and portions of the Southern San Ramon planning areas.

# Figure VII.2: NEIGHBORHOOD AND SCHOOL PARKS

## LEGEND

1/2 Mile Radius from an existing Neighborhood Park or School Park



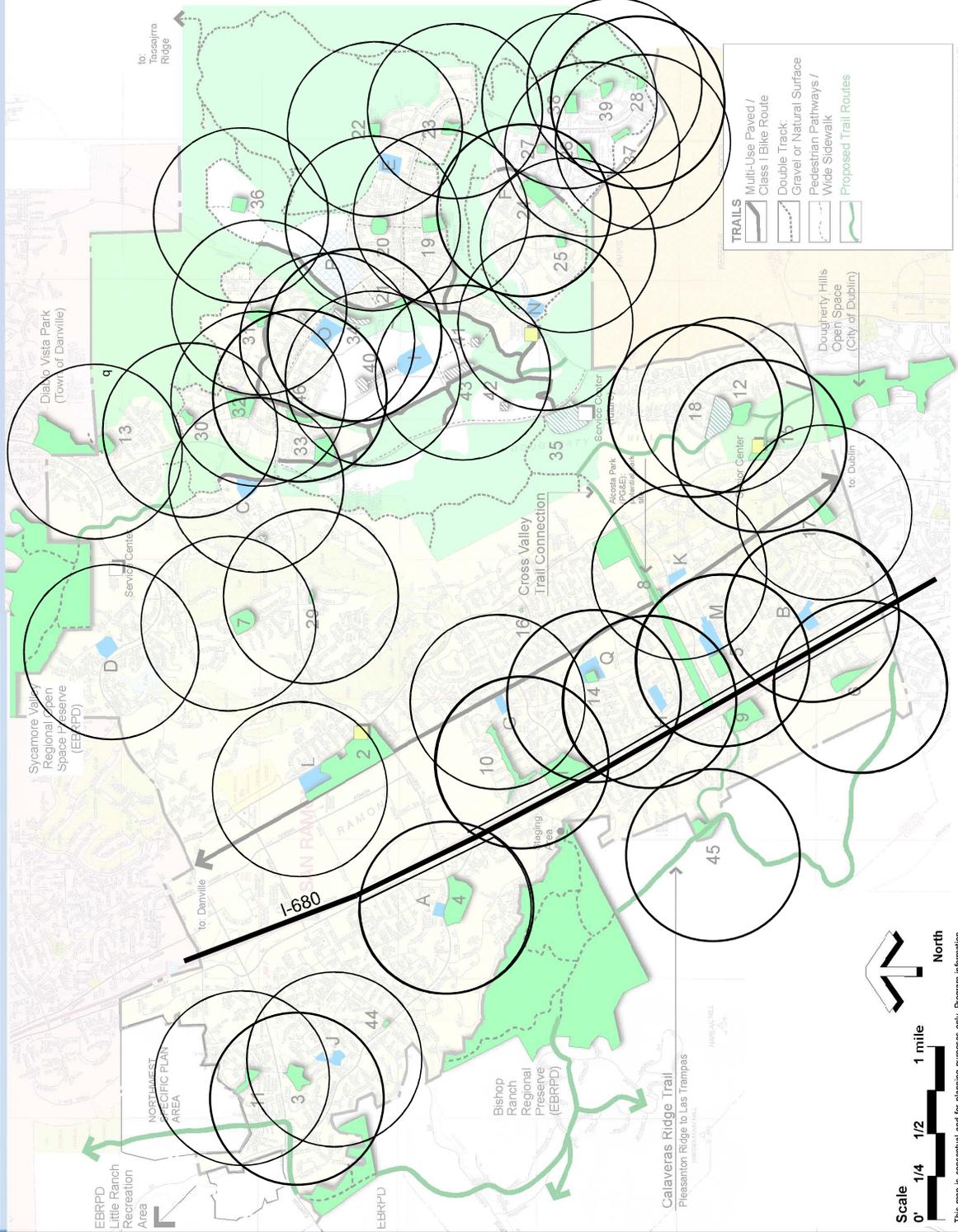
- COMMUNITY PARKS**
- 1 Altamonte Park
  - 2 Central Park
  - 4 Memorial Park
  - 35 Rancho San Ramon
- SPECIALIZED RECREATION AREAS / FACILITIES**
- 3 Crow Canyon Gardens
  - 8 Del Mar Dog Park
  - 9 Forest Home Farms Historic Park
  - 14 SR Olympic Pool & Aquatic Park / Tennis
  - 15 Senior Center Park & Gardens
  - 18 Summit View Trails
  - 24 Community Sports Park
  - 28 Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (2009)
  - 34 Rose Glenn (2009)
  - 44 San Cataldo Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)
  - 45 Henry Ranch Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)
  - 46 Bark and Ride (2009)
  - Community Center

## NEIGHBORHOOD AND POCKET PARKS

- 5 Boone Acres
- 6 Centennial Park
- 7 Coyote Crossing
- 10 Inverness Park
- 11 Mill Creek Hollow
- 12 Old Ranch Park
- 13 Red Willow Park
- 16 County Fair Park (Pocket Park)
- 17 Village Green
- 18 East Branch Park
- 20 Sellingham Square
- 21 Hidden Valley Park
- 22 Linden Park
- 23 Hidden Valley Park
- 25 Sherwood Pocket Park
- 26 Atlington Park
- 27 Fire Truck Park
- 29 Windy Hills Park
- 30 Hidden Crest Park
- 31 Monarch Park
- 32 Valley View Park
- 33 Creekside Park
- 36 Piccadilly Park (open 2009)
- 37 Six Pillars Park (open 2009)
- 38 Ramona Park (open 2009)
- 39 Compass Point Park (open 2009)
- 40 Gale Phase 3 Park (to be developed)
- 41 Gale Phase 3 (Pocket Park - to be developed)
- 42 Gale Phase 3 (Pocket Park - to be developed)
- 43 Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)

## SCHOOL PARKS (Elementary Schools)

- A Bollinger Canyon School Park
  - B County Club School Park
  - C Coyote Creek School Park
  - D Golden View School Park
  - E Hidden Hills School Park
  - F Live Oak School
  - G Montevideo School Park
  - H Neil Armstrong School Park
  - I Quail Run School Park
  - J Westwoods School Park
  - K Walt Disney School Park
- SCHOOL PARKS (Middle / High Schools)**
- L Ironhorse Middle School Park / Community Gym
  - M Pine Valley Middle School Park / Community Gym
  - N Windemere Ranch Middle School
  - O Gall Ranch Middle School
  - P Dougherty Valley High School / Aquatic Center / Performing Arts Center
  - Q California High School / Tennis Courts and Track



**TRAILS**

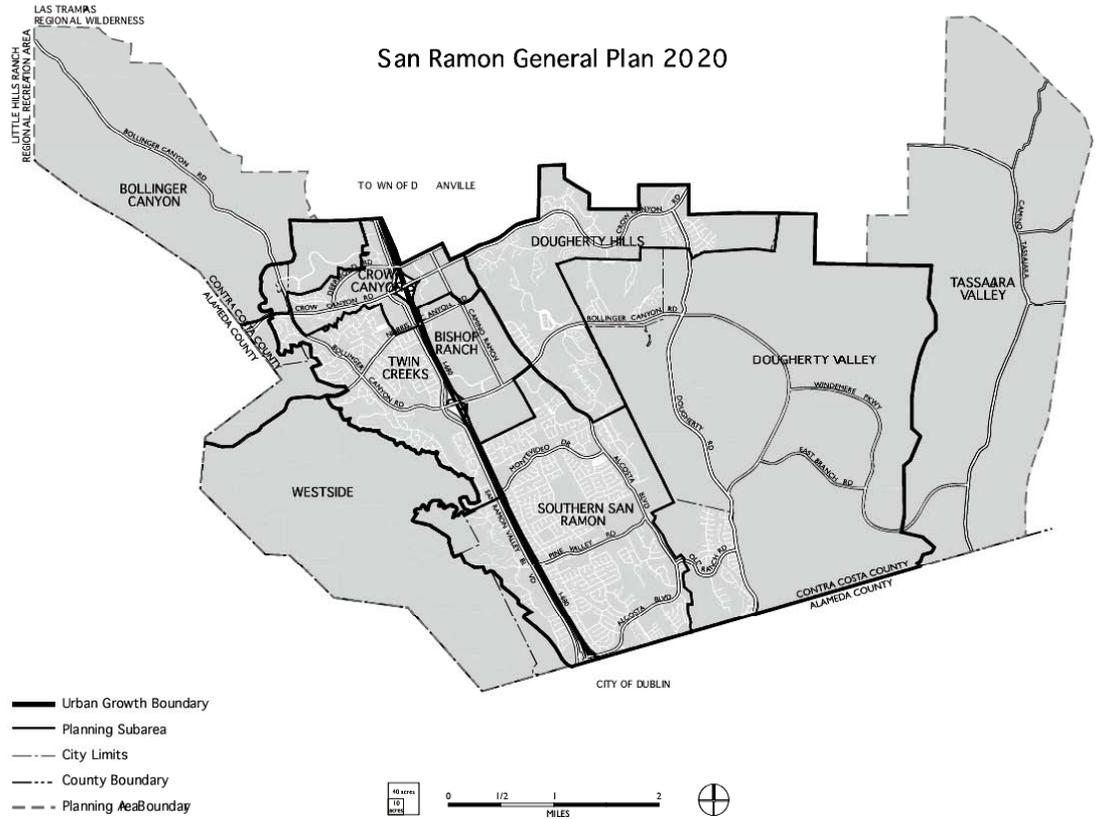
- Multi-Use Paved / Class I Bike Route
- Double Track
- Gravel or Natural Surface
- Pedestrian Pathways / Wide Sidewalk
- Proposed Trail Routes

**Scale**  
 0' 1/4 1/2 1 mile

**North**

This map is conceptual and for planning purposes only. Program information, boundaries, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

**FIGURE VII-3: General Planning**



**TABLE VII.7 Citywide Park Area Needs by Classification**

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Existing Neighborhood Parks<sup>(1)</sup> (Acres)</b>	<b>Total Existing, Approved, and Additional Housing Units<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Approximate Population<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Neighborhood Park Needs<sup>(4)</sup> (Acres)</b>
Bishop Ranch	6.0	770	2,260	10
Crow Canyon	4.0	3,460	9,705	44
Dougherty Hills	8.0	4,915	13,787	62
Dougherty Valley	117.9	11,590	32,512	146
South San Ramon	43.7	7,945	22,877	100
Twin Creeks	12.8	3,200	8,977	40
Bollinger Canyon <sup>(5)</sup>	0	950	2,665	12
Westside <sup>(5)</sup>	0	1,180	3,310	15
Tassajara Valley <sup>(5)</sup>	0	220	616	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192.4</b>	<b>34,230</b>	<b>96,709</b>	<b>432</b>

- (1) Includes School Parks
- (2) From San Ramon General Plan 2020, Housing Element, Table 11.3-2: Summary of Residential Development Potential
- (3) Assumes 2.8 people per household based on a projected citywide population of 96,020 and a total available housing unit supply of 34,230 units.
- (4) Using General Plan Standard of 4.5 acres/1000 population.
- (5) Planning area outside of City Urban Growth but within General Plan Planning Area.

## **EXPRESSED NEEDS**

Park and trail facility needs were expressed through interviews with City staff, meetings with the Master Plan Steering Committee, focus group sessions, public workshops, and the San Ramon Park and Community Services Telephone Survey conducted in January, 2007 and included in the Appendix A.

The following conclusions affect the provision of a viable park and trail system within San Ramon:

- Maintenance of park facilities directly affects the park user's experience both in terms of feeling safe and enjoying a particular outdoor recreation experience.
- Over the next 10 years, residents believe they will increasingly use the City's parks and trails for passive activities.
- Over the next 10 years, outdoor recreation opportunities that will grow in demand and that are perceived to be in short supply include:
  - Nature appreciation and study
  - Walking, hiking, and bicycling
  - Participating in family activities
  - Visiting playgrounds
  - Group picnicking
  - Gardening
  - Swimming and water play
- Flexible multiple-purpose use spaces for a variety of special-purpose needs (art shows, lawn play) and community-wide events are desirable.
- Opportunities for the cultural arts in the broadest context as an integral component of the park system are desirable. These opportunities would include providing physical locations for two and three dimensional art works (murals, static and kinetic sculpture, and the like), and a variety of spaces where any number of performing arts could occur.
- Retaining and highlighting a sense of San Ramon's cultural history is important. Specifically, this applies to retaining a sense of historical context at Forest Home Farms Historic Park and San Catanio Creek Park/Woodlot. Also mentioned was the preservation/restoration of the Gelderman house in a new location.

**PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**Existing Conditions:** Parks that are open to public use within San Ramon are generally in excellent physical condition. Exceptions include:

- **Forest Homes Farms** - where master program goals have not been fully implemented. The creek zone and other historic landscape features within the site are in need of rehabilitation. A number of facilities are in need of repair and renovation to bring them up to code.
- **Crow Canyon Gardens** - where past master plans have never been implemented, a number of temporary facilities exist, and the site is not accessible based on current standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There are a number of improvements in individual parks that, though relatively minor for any one park, are significant when viewed cumulatively. These include relatively minor renovations of pathways, upgraded or new restroom facilities, upgraded playgrounds, refurbished sports fields, renovation of landscaping, upgrades to irrigation systems and other mechanical elements and renovation of parking lots. In addition, many older parks and playgrounds are not fully compliant with current ADA standards.

**Future Conditions:** All park landscapes and facilities require ongoing refurbishing that is above and beyond normal maintenance actions. This is due to changing use needs, worn landscapes, or new design criteria (playground safety/ADA requirements, etc.). A 10-20-year timeframe is a common life expectancy for many facilities. Table VII. 8 compares San Ramon’s park inventory between 1997 and 2007.

**TABLE VII. 8 PARK COMPARISONS 1997 to 2007<sup>(1)</sup>**

Parks and Facilities	1997	2007 <sup>(1)</sup>
Developed parks and school park sites	15	57
Facility locations (City offices, community centers, libraries, Olympic Pool, senior center, and service center)	6	9
Undeveloped sites	4	10

(1) Includes all park sites within Dougherty Valley to be completed by 2009.

San Ramon’s park system has tripled in extent over a ten-year period, principally because of new parks being developed in the Dougherty Valley. It can be assumed that an additional eight (8) park sites to be provided by the developers in Dougherty Valley, including a 30-acre community park, will be opened within the next ten-year period.

Projecting forward, there will be a significant capital investment needed to rehabilitate and upgrade parks within the City as they age. There will also be a need to establish a park renewal program. Based on the funding mechanism chosen, this could be a targeted program for major renovation in a short period, or a paced and methodical program that avoids a surge in capital expenditures during a short time frame.

In 2007/08, the Public Services Department will complete a Park Renovation and Deferred Maintenance Plan outlining costs and phases of remedial and future renovation projects for all the City's parks. This plan has already been completed for the city's facilities.

### **EXISTING FACILITIES AND MASTER PLANS**

**Existing Parks:** Generally, resident needs for active recreation facilities in parks are being accommodated. Concerns that have commonly been expressed about existing park facilities include:

- The public desire shade in park areas. While the vegetation in many of the new parks in the Dougherty Valley needs to mature to provide the shade, in some instances there are not enough trees planted to ultimately make parts of the parks fully usable, such as around picnic areas, seating areas and playgrounds.
- There is not enough parking in or immediately adjacent to parks.

**Trails:** Expressed resident needs emphasize creating passive recreation opportunities that are often related to natural areas and trails. Historically, the trail system in San Ramon was limited to the Iron Horse Trail and Cross Valley Trail. A significant system of new trail opportunities is being created in the Dougherty Valley, with many of them located in or adjacent to natural mitigation lands. Over time, even though these lands may not be physically accessible, they will provide linear trail experiences in a natural setting. However, new trails being constructed are composed of a variety of trail types and are not necessarily coordinated as a system nor connected with other trails within the City. Wayfinding signage, use regulations, and trail amenities either do not exist, or are not being considered from a systemwide perspective.

Parks that have yet to be developed or could be retrofitted to best facilitate trail use include:

- Memorial Park
- Centennial Park
- Rancho San Ramon Community Park
- Gale Ranch Phase 4 Parks
- Henry Ranch Park

**Park Master Plans:** There are a number of existing park master plans that fully or in part do not reflect existing community needs. These include:

- Alcosta Community Park Site (PG&E substation area and transmission line corridor)
- Crow Canyon Gardens
- San Catanio Creek Park Site (aka Woodlot)
- Henry Ranch Park

## **VIII. Funding Parks and Community Services**

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING AND NEEDS**

The City has a five year Capital Improvement Program. The program is funded through a variety of funding sources that may include the general fund, impact fees, grants, assessment district and others. The 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program Summary for park projects on the following page includes park improvements over



the next five years totaling \$3,076,122. Improvements include playground upgrades to meet ADA and safety regulations, tennis court resurfacing, upgrades to park irrigation systems, parking lot renovations, and public art in the parks, improvements to Central Park, Crow Canyon Gardens and Henry Ranch Park. Summit View Trails improvements will be funded by developer fees.

A number of projects are also proposed for facilities. In 2006, the City Council established a Building Maintenance Fund [BMF]. A ten year deferred maintenance and facility renovation plan was developed to outline current and future facility projects to be funded by the BMF. These include projects in HVAC and Energy Management, replacement of appliances, electrical and lighting upgrades, plumbing, roofing, flooring and painting. Specific projects are also identified for replacement of equipment for all of the facility fountains and the Aquatics Center. The total ten year deferred maintenance fund requirements exceeds \$11 million. Each year, the staff identifies the current projects to be undertaken and proposes those as part of the annual Capital Improvement Program. The 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program Summary for facilities is included on page 83 and totals \$4,991,150.

A similar project for Park Renovation and Deferred Maintenance will be completed by July 2008.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2007-2012  
SUMMARY  
PROJECTS IN "PARKS" CATEGORY**

Project No.	Project Name	Total Prior Years	Requested FY 2007-08	Estimated FY 2008-09	Estimated FY 2009-10	Estimated FY 2010-11	Estimated FY 2011-12	Total 5-Year	Beyond 5-Year	Total Project
1	5423 ADA and Safety Regulations for Playground Upgrades	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
2	5342 Alcosta Community Park (PGE)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,236,500	\$2,236,500
3	5388 Central Park Drainage Improvement-Fields 3 and 4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
4	5422 Central Park Lighting Upgrade	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$309,439	\$309,439
5	5442 Central Park Play Structures Safety Upgrade per CPSC	\$45,000	\$0	\$298,122	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$298,122	\$0	\$343,122
6	5508 Crow Canyon Creekscape Improvement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,376,170	\$3,376,170
7	5421 Crow Canyon Gardens Facility Improvements	\$79,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,790,010	\$1,869,010
8	5501 Crow Canyon Gardens Modular Classroom & Office	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
9	5416 Crow Canyon Gardens New Water Meter	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
10	5343 Crow Canyon Staging Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$728,280	\$728,280
11	5344 Fostoria/Old Crow Canyon Creek Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$289,800	\$289,800
12	5478 Fountain Repairs & Replacement	\$0	\$118,000	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$238,000	\$0	\$478,000
13	5345 Henry Ranch Park	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,360,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,360,000	\$0	\$1,440,000
14	5477 Memorial Park Split-Rail Fence Installation	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,000
15	5482 Public Art in Parks	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$150,000	\$30,000	\$180,000
16	5348 San Catano Creek Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,731,600	\$4,731,600
17	5444 Tennis Courts Resurfacing & Windscreen Replacement	\$80,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$292,000</b>	<b>\$478,000</b>	<b>\$598,122</b>	<b>\$1,540,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>	<b>\$3,076,122</b>	<b>\$14,373,380</b>	<b>\$17,741,502</b>

Source City of San Ramon CIP Budget

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2007-2012  
SUMMARY  
PROJECTS IN "FACILITIES" CATEGORY**

Project No.	Project Name	Total Prior Years	Requested FY 2007-08	Estimated FY 2008-09	Estimated FY 2009-10	Estimated FY 2010-11	Estimated FY 2011-12	Total 5-Year	Beyond 5-Year	Total Project
1	Aquatic Center Concrete Deck Resurfacing	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$1,240,000	\$1,490,000
2	5441 Aquatic Center Play Structure Safety Fence Replace.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,261	\$18,261
3	5439 Aquatic Center Risk Management Plan Compliance	\$54,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$54,500
4	5491 Boone Acres Restroom Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000
5	5432 City Facilities Floor Covering Replacement	\$83,864	\$0	\$52,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,000	\$287,905	\$433,769
6	5425 City Facilities HVAC Duct Clean. & Equip. Replace. Analysis	\$111,498	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000	\$0	\$1,011,498
7	5433 City Facilities Roof Covering Maintenance	\$80,000	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$175,000	\$108,000	\$373,000
8	5431 Community Center Exterior Expansion Joint Sealant	\$182,693	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$182,693
9	5430 Community Center Exterior Windows Glass Replace.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$105,000
10	5426 Community Center Front Counter & Office Area Renov.	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$148,000
11	5494 Dougherty Valley High School Pool Shade Structures	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
12	5418 Forest Home Farms - Boone House Renovation	\$135,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$712,200	\$2,847,200
13	5495 Forest Home Farms - Bridge	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
14	5504 Forest Home Farms - Building 12	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
15	5502 Forest Home Farms - Building 14	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$665,100	\$0	\$0	\$665,100	\$0	\$665,100
16	5419 Forest Home Farms - Glass House Interior Renovation	\$520,000	\$0	\$330,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$330,000	\$0	\$850,000
17	5420 Forest Home Farms - Glass House Site Landscaping	\$352,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$352,000
18	5434 Forest Home Farms - Guest House & Restrooms Renov.	\$414,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$414,000
19	5505 Forest Home Farms - Paving Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
20	5474 Marquee Installation @ Com. Centers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
21	5503 Pine Valley Middle School Modular Classroom & Office	\$0	\$75,650	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,650	\$0	\$75,650
22	5393 Recycling Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,890,000	\$1,890,000
23	5415 Recycling Center Relocation Study	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
24	5479 San Ramon Olympic Pool Equipment Replacement	\$104,000	\$73,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$73,400	\$0	\$177,400
25	5424 Senior Center Expansion	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
26	5451 Service Center CNG Compressor Upgrade	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$96,000	\$96,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,185,555</b>	<b>\$1,024,050</b>	<b>\$2,832,000</b>	<b>\$935,100</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,991,150</b>	<b>\$4,882,366</b>	<b>\$16,859,071</b>

Source: City of San Ramon CIP Budget

Long Term Planning and Capital Improvement Program

Table VIII.1 presents a long term planning and capital improvement program for the City's parks and trail system. Table VIII.1 incorporates projects in the Capital Improvement Program for 2007-2012.

The program presented in Table VIII.1 assumes that a service level "A" would involve evaluating the facility conditions of each park annually and making major repairs as appropriate. It also assumes that every 10 years, a comprehensive rehabilitation of each park facility, play area, and sports field would be required.

Included in the program are the following five major actions:

- **ACTION #1:** Prepare new or updated master plans and management plans for individual parks and open space areas.
- **ACTION #2:** Collaborate with Planning, Engineering and Transportation Services in the preparation of a citywide integrated pedestrian and bicycle master plan that would include, but not limited to: safety considerations (e.g. trail/street intersections); continuity of trail use; connectivity between parks, schools; and open space lands; the feasibility of bicycle/pedestrian over crossings (or under crossings) on the Iron Horse Trail at Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road.
- **ACTION #3:** Prepare a citywide Art in the Parks Master Plan that would identify opportunities for public art in each of the City's parks to include, but not be limited to: performance art areas; permanent sculpture art location; a sculpture garden and/or an open space sculpture trail, ongoing maintenance and policies.
- **ACTION #4:** Develop new park facilities, use areas, and trails based on the master plans once they are adopted.
- **ACTION #5:** Rehabilitate individual park facilities, playgrounds, and sports fields.
- **ACTION #6:** Implement Deferred Maintenance projects outlined in the Building Maintenance and Renovation Plan.

TABLE VIII.I PLANNING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (1)

Map Key	Park <sup>1</sup> (Approximate Year Developed or Last Upgraded)	General Park Capital Projects						Anticipated Schedule for Projects										
		Actions																
		Update / New Master Plan	1. New Facilities	2. Rehabilitated Facilities	3. Rehabilitated Playgrounds	4. Rehabilitated Sports Fields	5. Trail Connections	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2023
	<b>Community Parks</b>																	
1	Athian Downs (Fields Upgraded 2002)																	
2	Central Park and Community Center	A				F					1							
4	Memorial Park (2002)																	
35	Rancho San Ramon Community Park (to be developed)	B				F												
	<b>Specialized Recreation Areas</b>																	
3	Crow Canyon Gardens (ongoing)	C																
8	Del Mar Dog Park (2001)																	
9	Forest Home Farms Historical Park (ongoing)	D				F												
14	SR Olympic Pool, Aquatic Park, Tennis Courts, Track (2000)																	
15	Senior Center Park & Gardens (1997 and 2007-8)					F												
18	Summit View Trails																	
24	Community Sports Park (2007)																	
P	Dougherty Valley High School Aquatics Center (2007)					F												
P	Dougherty Valley High School Performing Arts Center (2007)					F												
28	Tassajara Ridge Staging Area (open 2009)																	
34	Rose Glenn (open 2009)																	
44	San Catanio Creek Park / Woodlot (undeveloped)	E																
45	Henry Ranch Park (undeveloped)	E				F												
46	Bark and Ride (open 2009)					F												
	<b>Neighborhood and Pocket Parks</b>																	
5	Boone Acres (1991 and 1997)																	
6	Centennial Park (1999)					F												

(1) Park sites either under construction or to be developed within the Dougherty Valley are considered “existing” parks for this inventory. Parks that may have areas of dedicated open space that are not necessarily included in total size shown. For maintenance purposes, a “Level A” maintenance standard is assumed and would involve: an annual review and upgrade of general facilities as necessary; rehabilitation of playgrounds every 10 years; rehabilitation of sports fields (natural or synthetic turf) every 10 years.

Master Plan Key:

- A. Update Master Plan to integrate with new City Center complex
- B. Update Master Plan to accommodate ADA access to play areas and provide on-site trail staging features and trail connections where possible
- C. Update Master Plan to balance passive uses, riparian enhancement, and outdoor education
- D. Update Master Plan with specific area designs integrated with new Interpretive Plan
- E. New Master Plan
- F. Direct connection of park and school site to be included in Citywide Bicycle / Pedestrian Trail Master Plan, Design Standards, and Implementation Program. Schools not identified to be connected to trail system with sidewalks and on-street bicycle routes incorporating signing, bicycle lanes, or Bicycle boulevard designs



**TABLE VIII.I PLANNING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (1)**

Map Key		General Park Capital Projects						Anticipated Schedule for Projects											
		Update / New Master Plan	1. New Facilities	2. Rehabilitated Facilities	3. Rehabilitated Playgrounds	4. Rehabilitated Sports Fields	5. Trail Connections	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2023	
Park 1 (Approximate Year Developed or Last Upgraded)																			
39	Compass Point Park (open 2009)	B				F		B	I									2,3,4	
40	Gale Phase 3 Linear Park (to be developed)	B								I								2,3,4	
41	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)	B								I								2,3,4	
42	Gale Phase 3 Pocket Park (to be developed)	B								I								2,3,4	
43	Gale Phase 4 Park (to be developed)	B								I								2,3,4	
<b>School Parks</b>																			
<b>Elementary Schools</b>																			
A	Bollinger Canyon School/Park (2007)																		2
B	Country Club School/Park (playground retrofit in 2000)																	2,3,4	
C	Coyote Creek School/Park (2000)																	2,4	
D	Golden View School/Park (1989 and 2002)																	2,4	
E	Hidden Hills School/Park (2004)																		2,4
F	Live Oak School/Park (2007)																		2,4
G	Montevideo School/Park (1989)																	2,3,4	
H	Neil Armstrong School/Park (1995)																	2,3,4	
I	Quail Run School/Park (2006)																		2,4
J	Twin Creeks School/Park (1988)																	3,4	
K	Walt Disney School/Park (1990; playground retrofit in 2000)																	3,4	
<b>Middle Schools</b>																			
L	Ironhorse Middle School/Park/Community Gym (1996)																		
M	Pine Valley Middle School/Park/Community Gym (2004)																		2,4
N	Windemere Ranch Middle School Park (2006)																		1,3

(1) Park sites either under construction or to be developed within the Dougherty Valley are considered “existing” parks for this inventory. Parks that may have areas of dedicated open space that are not necessarily included in total size shown. For maintenance purposes, a “Level A” maintenance standard is assumed and would involve: an annual review and upgrade of general facilities as necessary; rehabilitation of playgrounds every 10 years; rehabilitation of sports fields (natural or synthetic turf) every 10 years.

Master Plan Key:

- A. Update Master Plan to integrate with new City Center complex
- B. Update Master Plan to accommodate ADA access to play areas and provide on-site trail staging features and trail connections where possible
- C. Update Master Plan to balance passive uses, riparian enhancement, and outdoor education
- D. Update Master Plan with specific area designs integrated with new Interpretive Plan
- E. New Master Plan
- F. Direct connection of park and school site to be included in Citywide Bicycle / Pedestrian Trail Master Plan, Design Standards, and Implementation Program. Schools not identified to be connected to trail system with sidewalks and on-street bicycle routes incorporating signing, bicycle lanes, or Bicycle boulevard designs

**TABLE VIII.I PLANNING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (1)**

Map Key		General Park Capital Projects						Anticipated Schedule for Projects											
		Update / New Master Plan	1. New Facilities	2. Rehabilitated Facilities	3. Rehabilitated Playground	4. Rehabilitated Sports Fields	5. Trail Connections	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 to 2023	
O	Gale Ranch Middle School Park (2006)					F											3		
<i>High Schools</i>																			
P	Dougherty Valley High School Tennis Courts (2007)																	3	
Q	California High School Tennis Courts / Track					F							2						
<i>Other Parks and Programs</i>																			
	Al Costa Park Master Plan (PG&E Lands)	E												E					
	Citywide Bicycle / Pedestrian Trail Master Plan, Design Standards, and Implementation Program	E													1	1	1	1	1
	Dougherty Hills Open Space Area Management Plan	E																	
	Citywide Art in the Parks Master Plan	E												E	1	1	1	1	1
	ADA Playground Retrofitting (2 parks per year to be assigned)	E																	

(1) Park sites either under construction or to be developed within the Dougherty Valley are considered “existing” parks for this inventory. Parks that may have areas of dedicated open space that are not necessarily included in total size shown. For maintenance purposes, a “Level A” maintenance standard is assumed and would involve: an annual review and upgrade of general facilities as necessary; rehabilitation of playgrounds every 10 years; rehabilitation of sports fields (natural or synthetic turf) every 10 years.

Master Plan Key:

- A. Update Master Plan to integrate with new City Center complex
- B. Update Master Plan to accommodate ADA access to play areas and provide on-site trail staging features and trail connections where possible
- C. Update Master Plan to balance passive uses, riparian enhancement, and outdoor education
- D. Update Master Plan with specific area designs integrated with new Interpretive Plan
- E. New Master Plan
- F. Direct connection of park and school site to be included in Citywide Bicycle / Pedestrian Trail Master Plan, Design Standards, and Implementation Program. Schools not identified to be connected to trail system with sidewalks and on-street bicycle routes incorporating signing, bicycle lanes, or Bicycle boulevard designs

## **PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE FUNDING**

Parks, open space, and trail maintenance are provided by the Public Services Department. The work is accomplished through City staff and contracted services. The Department also maintains all City buildings and facilities including the Community Centers, Aquatic Centers and libraries. The City has set a Level “A” maintenance standard for parks. A matrix outlining the maintenance standards is shown in Table VIII.2. By General Plan policy, a service level “A” is to be used in maintaining all parks and recreational facilities. These standards apply to daily, weekly, and annual maintenance activities. They do not address the capital improvements needed to replace aged facilities due either to normal wear and tear, or facility modifications that may be required by updated design standards, such as those for seismic design or contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As of FY 2007-08, the annual cost for maintaining City parks is \$4,686,700 for approximately 340 acres. This is approximately \$13,784 per acre. The annual cost for maintaining City facilities used for recreation programs and activities is \$2,372,000. Parks and facility maintenance is funded through the City’s general fund; with the exception of the Dougherty Valley parks and facilities, which are funded through the County Service Area Dougherty Valley Fund per the Settlement Agreement.

As additional parks are added and developed to meet park acreage deficiencies, maintenance costs will rise. The City will also have 26 miles of trails when the system is complete. These trails will also require maintenance and other operation costs to ensure safety and security for trail users. The City may need to consider other methods of funding park and trail maintenance. Table VIII.7 identifies some of the mechanisms that can be used for maintenance and operations.

By 2020, parks acreage needs to meet the population growth will be 624 acres. In today’s dollars the cost for park maintenance will double, to a projected cost of \$8,601,216.

## **TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

The City has no published maintenance standards for trails. These should be included in the preparation of a city-wide, integrated pedestrian and bicycle master plan.

### Open Space Area Maintenance

The San Ramon 2020 General Plan includes the following implementing policies:

- Implementing Policy: 8.3-I-4 -- Require maintenance plans for open space areas, including identified natural resources such as ridges and creeks. Use East Bay Regional Park District standards as a guide for the management and maintenance of open space, except in the Dougherty Valley, which has separate regulatory agency maintenance requirements.

- Implementing Policy: 8.4-I-11 -- Revise the City’s Parks and Community Services Master Plan to include planning and management policies for ridgelines, and agricultural lands, and important open space acquired by the City.

Adopt formal maintenance management standards for open space lands owned by the City or the Geological Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) of the City of San Ramon. Utilize existing open space maintenance management standards used for the GHAD for all open space lands, existing and future, prior to their acquisition and opening for public use.

**TABLE VIII.2 EXISTING MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR CITY PARKS**

<b>PARKS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS</b>				
<b>Maintenance Activity</b>	<b>Level "A"</b>	<b>Level "B"</b>	<b>Level "C"</b>	<b>Level "D"</b>
Edging/Trimming Turf	Once weekly	Twice per month	Periodically as needed to enhance safety and appearance	Normally not edged or trimmed
Litter/Garbage Removal	Seven days per week	Five days per week	Two to three days per week	Once per week
Restroom Cleaning	Twice daily	Once daily	Five times per week	Three times per week
Playground Maintenance	Daily	Five days per week	Three days per week	Once per week
Hardscape Surfaces (blowing, cleaning, etc.)	Daily	Five times per week	Three times per week	Once per week
Weed Control (manual, chemical, mechanical)	Sites are kept virtually weed free. Spraying and pulling weeds to maintain a 1% maximum weed growth tolerance. Pre-emergent applied seasonally.	Weeds are pulled or sprayed when noticed to maintain an approximate weed growth tolerance of up to 15%	Weeds are pulled or sprayed to maintain a weed growth tolerance of up to 30%	Weeds are cut and/or sprayed quarterly
Turf Fertilization	Four to six times per year	Two to three times per year	Fertilized periodically to improve poor vigor or not at all	Not fertilized
Pruning Trees and Shrubs	As recommended by the Urban Forestry Management Plan and when needed as dictated by species to meet national pruning standards or to maintain intended design function and appearance	A maximum of once per year up to once per 10 years, depending on species, function and location of trees or shrubs - hazardous conditions are corrected as needed	Specialized pruning to ensure safety and repair damaged trees only	Pruning for safety purposes only
Disease and Insect Control	Preventative and corrective measures	Corrective measures only	Corrective measures, moderate damage is tolerable	Corrective measures for safety and epidemic situations
Annual Color Planting	Four times per year	Two times per year	One time per year	None
Irrigation Repairs	Within twenty-four hours	Within three days	Within seven days	Within fourteen days
Baseball Field Maintenance (seasonal)	Twice per week - School parks once per week	Once per week	Twice per month (if applicable)	Once per month or as needed (if applicable)
Soccer Field Maintenance (seasonal)	Twice per week	Once per week	Twice per month (if applicable)	Once per month or as needed (if applicable)
Turf Aerating (sports fields)	Four times per year	Twice per year	Once per year	Once every two years (if applicable)

**TABLE VIII.2 EXISTING MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR CITY PARKS**

<b>PARKS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS</b>				
<b>Maintenance Activity</b>	<b>Level "A"</b>	<b>Level "B"</b>	<b>Level "C"</b>	<b>Level "D"</b>
Tennis/Basketball Courts Cleaning	Twice per month during spring, summer and fall	Once per month during spring, summer and fall	Twice per year	Once per year
Water Management	Landscapes are irrigated for maximum performance, appearance and optimum plant health. Landscape is watered at a target rate of 100% of actual Eto.	Landscapes are irrigated to maintain adequate performance and appearance. The cost of water and budget constraints is the primary consideration. Some plant injury is tolerable.	Landscapes receive limited irrigation. Trees and shrubs prevail. Severe turf and plant injury occurs during warmer months.	Landscapes watered are minimally or not irrigated at all.
General Turf Mowing	Mowed at least weekly. Clippings are not permitted to remain on turf.	Mowed a maximum of once per week during the growing season (March-November) and once every two weeks December-February.	Mowed twice per month	Generally not mowed except where fire or safety regulations require seasonal mowing.
Sports Turf Mowing	All mowed twice weekly during the growing season (March-November) and once weekly December-February. Turf height of cut is approximately 1 <sup>1/2</sup> "-2"	Mowed once weekly during growing season. Turf height of cut is approximately 2 <sup>1/2</sup> "- 3 <sup>1/2</sup> ". (Selected fields are mowed twice weekly during season)	Twice a month - At this level grass would be too tall for sports play. Clumps of turf clippings would cover the field after each mowing.	N/A

**CURRENT PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING**

The Parks and Community Services Department approved budget for FY 2007-08 is \$8,505,435. The 21% budget increase over FY 2006-07 reflects the addition of the operation of the Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center, the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center and the San Ramon Sports Park. The Department budget is 20% of the City's total operating budget. In this year's budget as shown in Table VIII.3 67% of the budget are for personnel services.

<b>Table VIII.3 P&amp;CS Budget Summary</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>Final FY 2005-06</b>	<b>Final FY 2006-07</b>	<b>Approved FY 2007-08</b>
Personnel Services	\$4,280,983	\$4,604,680	\$5,658,343
Contract Services	1,723,068	1,895,521	\$2,180,034
Materials & Supplies	376,817	374,693	\$520,805
Other Costs	100,199	112,841	\$131,253
Capital Purchases			\$15,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,481,067</b>	<b>\$6,987,735</b>	<b>\$8,505,435</b>

**Source: City of San Ramon Adopted Budget 2007-08**

There are 34.6 FTE positions in the Department. In addition there are numerous seasonal and part time class instructors, recreation leaders, lifeguards and other independent contractors that deliver programs and services to the community.

<b>Table VIII.4 P&amp;CS Staffing Adopted 2007-08</b>	
<b>Authorized Positions</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Parks and Community Services Director	1
Division Manager	2
Program Manager	6
Recreation Coordinator	10.8
Recreation Technician	6
Administrative Analyst	2
Office Technician I/II	5.8
Maintenance Technician	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.6</b>

**Source: City of San Ramon Adopted Budget 2007-08**

Valley additional staff will be needed. Table VIII.4 lists the authorized Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions for the Department.

One new position of Recreation Coordinator was approved for 2007-08 to support the Dougherty Valley Theatre operations. In FY 2005-06 five (5) FTE positions were added due to the opening of new facilities in Dougherty Valley. As additional facilities are developed and opened in the Dougherty

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

The Department's five-year staffing needs are based on the development and operation of new facilities. If these facilities are to be staffed by City personnel the Department budget will continue to increase. Table VIII. 5 lists the anticipated staffing needs. Within five years the total number of Department FTE positions would increase to 39.6. In addition other part time personnel will also be needed.

**Table VIII.5 P&CS Projected Staffing Needs**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Estimated Year</b>
Recreation Coordinator	1 FTE	Performing Arts (DV)	2007-08
Recreation Technician	1 FTE	Teen and Youth	2008-09
Recreation Technician	1 FTE	Seniors and Adults	2009-10
Recreation Coordinator	1 FTE	Youth Sports	2010-11
Recreation Technician	1 FTE	Facilities Support D. V.	2011-12
Recreation Technician	1 FTE	Enrichment Classes	2011-12
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>6 FTE</b>		

In planning for future staffing, the Administration should look closely at organizational structure and determine the most efficient and cost effective management structure that will support service delivery and implementation of the Strategic Goals of this plan.

Some clear goals and priorities have emerged during the Strategic Planning process. These are presented in the following chapter. The Department will need to provide a structure that is flexible to meeting changing needs and demands. Of particular emphasis in the next several years will be cultural arts, youth programs, health and fitness for all ages, and outdoor recreation.

**DEPARTMENT PROGRAM REVENUE**

The Department’s revenue projected for FY 2007-08 from program and facility fees is over \$4 million for a 60% cost recovery rate. This rate has been level for several years. There is no set cost recovery rate for programs. Cost recovery targets do not include park and facility maintenance costs that support programs. For example in 2006-07 the aquatics program generated 86% of its program costs but does not recover utilities or pool maintenance costs. The Department sets fees for programs based on the following guidelines. Fees for participating in classes, programs, activities and events shall be based upon:

- Competing fees in other cities, recreation districts, and colleges;
- Session length and length of class time per meeting;
- Class enrollment statistics regarding an activity and the fees that were charged for that activity;
- Financial need of the instructor;
- The cost to the City for providing such services;
- City Council direction on recovered costs; and
- The value and benefit of such services to the San Ramon community.

Fees for use of facilities, sports fields and park area rentals are reviewed and approved by the Parks and Community Services Commission at public meetings. Table VIII.6 lists cost recovery targets based on past performance. Leisure Enrichment, Aquatics and Adult Sports are the top three revenue generators. Some programs are well-suited to a fee-recovery model; others such as the library

services and youth programs are historically not expected to generate revenue to cover all costs.

<b>Table VIII. 6 P&amp;CS Department Cost Recovery Targets 2007-08*</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Recovery</b>
Administration	9.00%
Aquatics	67.00%
Facilities	32.00%
Cultural Arts	24.00%
Field and Picnic Areas	157.00%
Leisure Enrichment	106.00%
Library Services	6.00%
Crow Canyon Gardens	52.00%
Camp Programs	45.00%
Public Information	96.00%
Theatre & Performing Arts	71.00%
Senior Programs	43.00%
Special Events	68.00%
Sports Adults	108.00%
Sports Youth	99.00%
Teen Programs	40.00%
Volunteers	0%
Forest Home Farms	14.00%
<u>Total Cost Recovery</u>	<u>60.00%</u>
* Maintenance Costs not included in Cost Recovery.	
<b>Source: City of San Ramon Adopted Budget FY 2007-08</b>	

Amidst rising costs for staffing and other resources, the Department needs to explore additional revenue generating strategies to sustain the quality service level currently offered. Expanding existing funding efforts and utilizing new methods of funding for recreation programs, operations, maintenance and improvements, will be necessary to implement the goals of the *Strategic Action Plan*. Following options are suggested to improve cost recovery and or reduce costs.

- Develop a program classification system based on cost recovery target for each program area this may range from no cost recovery to 100% recovery.
- Expand current sponsorship and endowment activities including naming rights for events and facilities.
- Establish a general Department support 501(c) 3 corporations to enhance fundraising efforts for donations, foundation grants and planned giving to support programs, parks and facilities. The potential to receive bequests and endowments for parks and recreation will grow in the next 15 years where there will be a nationwide, intergenerational transfer of wealth estimated at \$16 trillion.

- Consider public/private partnerships to outsource the operation of some facilities and services such as wedding and banquet planning and catering, food concessions and major special events and concerts.
- Expand partnerships with non-profit organizations to offset the operation and programming costs.
- Continue to collaborate with EBRPD for nature and outdoor programs and trail management and maintenance.

#### **FUNDING FOR PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES / PUBLIC SERVICES**

The City has utilized the Quimby Act, Park In Lieu Fees, Park Impact Fees (AB 1600) and Development Agreements to fund parks acquisition and development. The City uses Lighting and Landscape Assessment District funding for medians and roadside landscaping but not for parks.

Table VIII.7 on the following page summarizes a variety of financing mechanisms commonly used by public agencies for maintenance of park and facilities and operation of recreation services.

This listing identifies the functions most likely to be funded and allowable by law by the financing mechanisms. The City currently utilizes several of these mechanisms effectively. There are more mechanisms available to fund acquisition, development and improvement than there are for operations/maintenance and programs.

This listing is a starting point for discussion and evaluation by the City to decide which financing strategies, or a combination of strategies, developed in partnership with allied agencies are most appropriate. State statutes and local agency policy may dictate how an agency allocates and uses funds generated from any of these methods.

<b>Table VIII.7 Financing Mechanisms for Local Park and Recreation Agencies</b>				
<b>Financing Mechanism</b>	<b>Acquisition</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Operations and Maintenance</b>	<b>Programs</b>
Property Tax	x	x	x	x
Benefit Assessment District	x	x	x	x
Mello Roos District	x	x	x	
Redevelopment District	x	x	x	x
Business District		x	x	x
General Obligation Bonds	x	x		
Revenue Bonds	x	x		
Certificates of Participation	x	x		
Short Term Debt	x	x		
Quimby Dedication/In-lieu Fee	x	x		
Development Impact Fees	x	x		
Development Agreements	x	x		
Mitigation Land Banking	x			
Sales Tax	x	x	x	x
Transient Occupancy Tax TOT		x	x	x
Real Estate Transfer Tax	x	x		
User Fees		x	x	x
Property Leases		x	x	x
Sponsorship (Naming Rights)	x	x	x	x
Gifts and Donations	x	x	x	x
Tax Credit Act 2000	x			
Public Agency Joint Development/Use	x	x	x	x
Public /Private Partnerships (Concessions)	x	x	x	x
Public/ Non Profit Partnership	x	x	x	x
State and Federal Grants <sup>62</sup>	x	x	x	x
Foundation Grants <sup>63</sup>	x	x	x	x
Corporate Giving	x	x	x	x
Affinity Cards	x	x	x	x

<sup>62</sup> The grant requirements will specify what functions are eligible for funding.

<sup>63</sup> Same as above

## IX. Strategic Goals and Strategies



Based on the foregoing analysis, ten (10) strategic goals have been identified as priorities for the future. These goals and strategies are not intended to be inclusive of all the Department’s functions and activities. Rather, they present opportunities that are responsive to the community’s demographics, current recreation trends, and expressed community needs that surfaced during this planning process. The focus for the

future is centered on **unity**. These goals will assist City leaders and community residents tread the *Path to 2017*, as they bring together neighborhoods and communities, long-tenured residents and new residents; young and old; and link the past with the present in the transformation of San Ramon as **one** exceptional place to live, work and play.

The strategic goals on the following pages build on the Department’s strengths and success and provide a focus for the next 10 years. Each goal has several strategies; there is some overlap or interdependency among strategies. All the strategies are consistent with the Department’s mission and will help position and enhance its capability to secure needed resources in the future. Concentrating resources in these areas will aid in positioning the Department for success amidst social, political, and technological change. These strategic goals will change as the community grows and changes and will need to be re-evaluated on a regular basis to remain responsive to changing needs, trends, and priorities.

Some of the strategies reinforce existing programs and projects that will continue to be priorities; others are new approaches. Each program or maintenance unit can use these goals to focus their projects and daily work. The goals are interconnected, shaping a comprehensive approach and plan for future of parks and community services. They are intended to set an overall direction to guide the development of recreation programs, capital improvement plans, operating budgets, organizational structure and staff development. The strategic goals and strategies are numbered for reference (not based on priority).

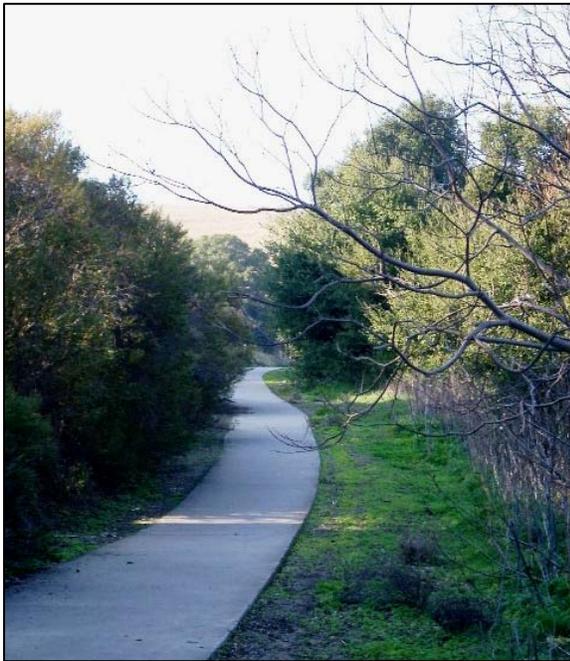
<i>Strategic Goals – Path to 2017</i>	
<b>1</b>	Bridge the community through an integrated park and trail system that connects people with community centers, parks, open space, schools, and programs.
<b>2</b>	Sustain the park and trail system through the upgrade and renovation of older parks and continuing service level “A” maintenance in all parks, trails, and facilities.
<b>3</b>	Build community identity, economic vitality and cultural unity through special events and a rejuvenated Central Park as the heart of San Ramon.
<b>4</b>	Bridge the community by preserving historic resources and cultural heritage, linking the past with the present and embracing new residents.

<b>5</b>	Foster physical and mental health and wellness through active and passive recreation activity and assume a leadership role in educating the public about how to achieve health and wellness.
<b>6</b>	Build on past success as one of the <b>100 Best Communities</b> for Youth, by expanding the Department's role in addressing the broader issues of youth development by partnering with schools, law enforcement and other community agencies in a multi-disciplinary approach to improve youth resiliency, self-esteem and family relationships.
<b>7</b>	Strengthen outdoor recreation experiences by connecting children and families with nature and open space to increase the user's appreciation of natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship.
<b>8</b>	Encourage lifelong learning and cultural enrichment for all ages through cultural arts programs and library services.
<b>9</b>	Ensure adequate funding and support services to provide accessible and equitable facilities, services and programs.
<b>10</b>	Enhance organizational capacity and staff development by investing in the work force; demonstrating the value of human resources.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #1</b>	Bridge the community through an integrated park and trail system that connects people with community centers, parks, open space, schools and programs.
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**Strategies:**

1.1 Work to maintain the established 6.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents as the City continues to expand.



1.2 Acquire additional open space lands or easements using general plan criteria within which trails can be developed to include designating Big Canyon in the Westside sub area as a nature preserve added to the City's park system specialized recreation area.

1.3 Promote the planning and design of parks, recreation facilities, and neighborhoods with public health in mind; focus on infrastructure design that encourages active living, such as bike trails and walking paths.

1.4 Coordinate the location and development of new parks or renovation of existing park and trails as multifunctional to meet the needs and use patterns of the diverse population throughout the City.

1.5 Revise park master plans that have yet to be implemented to emphasize passive recreation opportunities and trail access.

1.6 Improve directional signing to parks and within parks.

1.7 Develop a City-wide, integrated pedestrian and bicycle plan to include all trails & how they integrate with on-street bicycle routes. Elements to include:

- Trail Landscaping standards and trail safety
- Trail/street intersection standards
- Sign standards (wayfinding and regulatory)

1.8 Develop new trail staging areas within and connect the trail system throughout the City to meet recreational and functional bicycle and pedestrian needs.

1.9 Work with the Transportation Division to improve public transit to parks and community facilities.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #2</b>	Sustain the park and trail system through the upgrade and renovation of older parks and continuing service level “A” maintenance in all parks and facilities.
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***Strategies:***

- 2.1 Continue consistent level A maintenance practices and standards, and complete the Park Renovation and Deferred Maintenance Plan.
- 2.2 Continue to empower neighborhoods to assist with park clean up, graffiti prevention and safety for parks and facilities in all neighborhoods.
- 2.3 Develop capital improvement plans and budgets that reflect resident needs for outdoor recreation facilities close to home. These include playing fields, play lots, picnic areas, trail staging facilities, and swimming pools.
- 2.4 Develop a capital renewal program for the entire park system to ensure funding availability when park renovations/upgrades are needed in the future. Complete in conjunction with the Park Renovation and Deferred Maintenance Plan



- 2.5 Continue cooperative planning with school officials, developers and other public agencies to develop new or rehabilitate existing City/school parks and indoor facilities as joint-use neighborhood centers and focal points for serving all age groups.
- 2.6 Provide accessible and off-street parking at parks when feasible.
- 2.7 Design and manage parks and buildings for energy and water conservation and utilize green building requirements where feasible.
- 2.8 Upgrade technology in parks and facilities for Wi-Fi, surveillance and emergency response capabilities.
- 2.9 Establish baseline annual maintenance and operational costs as part of all new park and facility design and development approval process.



<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #3</b>	Build community identity, economic vitality and cultural unity through special events and a rejuvenated Central Park as the heart of San Ramon.
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***Strategies:***

- 3.1 Improve Central Park amphitheatre and other venues to showcase special events for residents and visitors.
- 3.2 Create a seamless connection and unite Central Park, Iron Horse Trail and the proposed City Center by physically bridging/linking these components of the future downtown core.
- 3.3 Foster cultural unity through cooperative programs and events that celebrate the community’s cultural heritage, character, and spirit.
- 3.4 Showcase different cultures in special event programming to enhance cultural understanding and unity.
- 3.5 Expand cultural events and creative experiences through community partnerships with merchants, businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and other community organizations.
- 3.6 Incorporate public art in park, trail and facility design throughout the City, creating a quality of place that inspires creativity and enjoyment.
- 3.7 Install marquee signs at City facilities to promote community events.



<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #4</b>	Bridge the community by preserving historic resources and cultural heritage, linking the past with the present and embracing new residents.
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***Strategies:***

- 4.1 Encourage the preservation and restoration of historic structures to create community pride and a sense of history for San Ramon.
- 4.2 Draw on local community resources such as the San Ramon Historic Foundation, local architecture and historical societies to assist with historic restoration projects and programs.



- 4.3 Complete the Glass House interior renovation in partnership with San Ramon Historic Foundation volunteers and develop interpretive exhibits.
- 4.4 Acquire, relocate to San Catanio Creek Park and restore the Gelderman house incorporating it into a new master plan for the park.
- 4.5 Pursue grants and a capital campaign to implement the Forest Home Farms Master Plan including the Boone House rehabilitation.
- 4.6 Develop an interpretive plan for the Forest Home Farms site and utilize it to create special outdoor exhibits and events to attract visitors to the historic site.
- 4.7 In partnership with SRVUSD and the San Ramon Historic Foundation, expand interpretive outreach programs about San Ramon's history and agriculture. Programs should be developed to follow the California Science and History-Social Science curriculum framework and content standards.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #5</b>	Foster physical and mental health and wellness through active and passive recreation activity and assume a leadership role in educating the public about how to achieve health and wellness.
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***Strategies:***

- 5.1 Develop and continue existing multi-disciplinary health partnerships with schools, local hospitals, and health care providers, private health clubs, and other agencies to bring public information and educational programs that prevent obesity and successfully promote physical activity across entire communities.
- 5.2 Regularly and succinctly articulate to the public and policy makers the health and wellness outcomes of Department programs and facilities.



- 5.3 Collaborate with SRVUSD and to ensure state standards for physical education are implemented and supplement school programs with physical activity and skill development in recreation offerings.
- 5.4 Provide healthy snacks that meet state nutritional standards in the Department sponsored programs, day camps, special events, and vending machines.
- 5.5 Work with health care associations, to incorporate healthy eating and exercising habits into after-school recreation programs and camps for young children that model healthy living.
- 5.6 Address the needs of an aging population by encouraging participation in physical activity with an emphasis on the gentler aerobic activities.
- 5.7 Encourage bicycle safety and use as an alternative to automobile travel and provide secure bicycle and pedestrian access to schools and parks.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #6</b>	Build on past success as one of the <b>100 Best Communities</b> for Youth, by expanding the Department's role in addressing the broader issues of youth development by partnering with schools, law enforcement and other community agencies in a multi-disciplinary approach to improve youth resiliency, self-esteem and family relationships.
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**Strategies:**

- 6.1 Maintain cooperative efforts with youth sports organizations to provide safe and accessible facilities and programs that develop sports skills and provide youth experiences in organized sports.
- 6.2 Continue to provide the support needed for the Teen Centers as a focal point for youth programs and services for 12-17 year olds by offering an array of programs and services that include tutoring, mentoring, non-sports activities, and volunteer opportunities. Continue to support the Teen Council as the voice of teens in San Ramon.
- 6.3 Participate with SRV Coalition for Youth Safety and Development, Police Department, public health, social service and non-profit agencies in the offering of prevention and education programs like Character Counts that serve at-risk youth and their families.
- 6.4 Expand neighborhood-based youth activities as tools in youth development that are easily accessible and affordable before, after and during school intersession.
- 6.5 Address the needs of multi-generational families and develop workshops, counseling and educational programs that assist the children, parents and grandparents in accessing resources and developing life skills.
- 6.6 Provide classes and programs at convenient times and locations for older teens that may only have free time evenings and weekends.
- 6.7 Provide indoor and outdoor spaces for supervised but unstructured free play for youth.



6.8 Continue financial assistance support for youth and seniors that cannot afford program fees.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #7</b>	Strengthen outdoor recreation experiences by connecting children and families with nature and open space to increase the user's appreciation of natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship.
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**Strategies:**

- 7.1 Plan for equity, inclusiveness, and accessibility in providing outdoor recreation for people of all ages, genders, ethnicity, and abilities.
- 7.2 Continue to plan and collaborate with other agencies to provide neighborhood parks, and to acquire open space and develop trails, greenways, and linear open space that connect neighborhoods and foster the use of bicycles and walking for transportation.
- 7.3 Expand passive and active outdoor programs for families, neighborhood oriented walks, foot races or bicycle events to provide safe venues for physical activity.



- 7.4 Provide classes in outdoor skills and plan organized excursions for youth, families and adults to experience outdoor adventures, i.e., beach activities, kayaking, skiing, hiking, and backpacking.
- 7.5 Collaborate with SRVUSD outdoor science programs, EBRPD, and other organizations to offer programs in environmental education and interpretation to develop stewardship for natural resources and instill an appreciation for the natural environment.
- 7.6 Evaluate, revise and implement the Master Plan for the Crow Canyon Gardens with an emphasis on its natural, Creekside setting.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #8</b>	Encourage lifelong learning and cultural enrichment for all ages through cultural arts programs and library services.
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**Strategies:**

8.1 Implement the Cultural Arts Plan and provide a vast range of cultural programs making maximum use of existing and planned public facilities such as for the Dougherty Valley High School Performing Arts Center and Front Row Theatre.

8.2 Continue to work with the SRVUSD, community businesses, San Ramon Arts Foundation and cultural organizations to expand cultural arts offerings for youth.

8.3 Expand partnerships with educational institutions, such as the Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus, and [www.ed2go.com](http://www.ed2go.com) to offer online courses, workshops, short courses, lectures, and leisure classes that cater to the adults and particularly the growing baby boomer age group.



8.4 Extend operating hours (beyond current extended times) at the Senior Center to offer additional classes in the evenings and on weekends for working adults 55 years and over and for use by other age groups.

8.5 Offer educational travel opportunities and cultural outings with an emphasis on “off the beaten path,” scheduled to attract the working retiree.

8.6 Through the City Lights Volunteer program create challenging and meaningful volunteer opportunities for all age segments of the community.

8.7 Work with the Contra Costa Library management to reconfigure existing or secure needed space for library programs and services.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #9</b>	Ensure adequate funding and support services to provide accessible and equitable facilities, services and programs.
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***Strategies:***

- 9.1 Develop operating and capital improvement budgets based on the goals and priorities of the Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan.
- 9.2 Identify new funding for park facility/trail maintenance improvements.
- 9.3 Review cost recovery policies and set realistic goals for revenue generation from fee programs. Develop a program classification system based on cost recovery target for programs: 100%, 75%, 50% or no cost recovery.
- 9.4 Communicate with the public, civic organizations, associations on City funding for operations, maintenance & capital improvements is provided.
- 9.5 Renegotiate joint-use agreement with SRVUSD to ensure access to school facilities for recreation programs for all ages.
- 9.6 Utilize all media print and non-print to market programs and communicate public information on the value of leisure services and programs to target groups and underserved populations. Provide a dynamic web presence.
- 9.7 Utilize target marketing based on customer's profile and data base information participation. Improve utilization of customer feedback system from front-line to top management.
- 9.8 Adjust office hours & program times for customer convenience to better serve working parents, busy teens & young adults. Evaluate the feasibility of additional sites such as libraries and shopping centers for registration kiosks.
- 9.9 Market recreation as essential to healthy lifestyles for all ages and educate consumers about disease prevention & wellness programs accessible to them.
- 9.10 Focus marketing of programs and facilities around the strategic goals presented in the Strategic Action Plan.
- 9.11 Determine annually which services/programs to reduce/eliminate/reassign that are lower in priority and not meeting the needs & vision for strategic goals. Once identified shift funding into more important services/programs.
- 9.12 Enhance and expand the use of the City's web site for the dissemination of public information, pod casting, blogs and to facilitate interactive, on-line transactions for registration and facility booking.

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #10</b>	Enhance organizational capacity and staff development by investing in the work force; demonstrating the value of human resources.
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***Strategies:***

- 10.1 Utilize the goals and priorities of the Strategic Action Plan to develop future staffing plans and organizational structure.
- 10.2 Pursue equity and competitive salaries, benefits and working conditions for all employees to facilitate the retention of a trained and competent work force. Develop succession plan that provides for advancement of younger employees as baby boomers retire.
- 10.3 Ensure that hiring practices will recruit qualified staff that represents the cultural diversity of the community.
- 10.4 Support training and professional development opportunities for employees that include conferences, seminars, tuition reimbursement, cross training and memberships in trade or professional associations.
- 10.5 Provide cultural awareness training for staff and provide translation resources to assist them in serving the public.
- 10.6 Utilize interdivisional and interdepartmental project teams to address issues and special projects. Empower teams to develop solutions that improve the management of facilities and human resources.
- 10.7 Secure “state of the art” equipment and technology and provide training to improve services.
- 10.8 Foster an open work environment that empowers employees and embraces the Department’s organizational values and customer service orientation. Reward and recognize employees for their achievements.
- 10.9 Develop employee work plans to implement the strategies set forth in this Strategic Action Plan.
- 10.10 Develop accurate performance indicators and measurements to track employee productivity, accountability, and performance related to the implementation of the strategies of the Strategic Action Plan.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The approach to the Strategic Action Plan and Master Plan Update has been comprehensive. The Parks and Community Services Department along with the Public Services Department must now move forward with the adoption and implementation of the plan. The Departments have a solid foundation to build on and are well-positioned to improve services, as they seize the opportunities set forth in this plan and carry out its vision to ***create community through people parks, partnerships and programs***. The Action Plan sets the strategic direction for the future and will guide the Department's planning and operational focus for the coming years. The Department leadership and policy makers must endorse the plan and commit to its implementation. All Department staff must understand and embrace the plan and play their part in its implementation on a daily basis.

The Strategic Goals and Strategies can be easily used in planning for capital improvements, programs and support services. Table IX.1 illustrates how the recommended CIP Actions items outlined in Chapter VIII correspond with the overall Strategic Goals and Strategies.

**TABLE IX.1 Strategic Goals, Strategies, and CIP Actions**

STRATEGY	ACTION #1: Prepare new or updated master / management plans	ACTION #2: Prepare Integrated Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan	ACTION #3: Prepare Art in the Parks Master Plan	ACTION #4: Develop new facilities, use areas, and trails	ACTION #5: Rehabilitate facilities
<p><b>STRATEGIC GOAL #1: Bridge the community through an integrated park and trail system that connects people with community centers, parks, open space, schools and programs.</b></p>					
<p>1.3 Promote the planning and design of parks, recreation facilities, and neighborhoods with public health in mind; focus on infrastructure design that encourages active living, such as bike trails and walking paths.</p>					
<p>1.4 Coordinate the location and development of new parks or renovation of existing park and trails as multifunctional to meet the needs and use patterns of the diverse population throughout the City.</p>					
<p>1.5 Revise park master plans that have yet to be implemented to emphasize passive recreation opportunities and trail access.</p>					
<p>1.6 Improve directional signing to parks and within parks.</p>					
<p>1.7 Develop a city-wide, integrated pedestrian and bicycle plan to include all trails and how they are integrated with on-street bicycle routes. Elements to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail standards and trail safety</li> <li>• Trail/street intersection standards</li> <li>• Trail landscaping standards</li> <li>• Sign standards (wayfinding and regulatory)</li> </ul>					
<p>1.8 Develop new trail staging areas within and connect the trail system throughout the City to meet recreational and functional bicycle and pedestrian needs.</p>					
<p><b>STRATEGIC GOAL #2: Sustain the park and trail system through the upgrade and renovation of older parks and continuing service level “A” maintenance in all parks and facilities.</b></p>					
<p>2.2 Develop capital improvement plans and budgets that reflect resident needs for outdoor recreation facilities close to home. These include playing fields, play lots, picnic areas, trail staging facilities, and swimming pools.</p>					
<p>2.3 Develop a capital renewal program for the entire park system to ensure funding availability when park renovations/upgrades are needed in the future.</p>					
<p>2.6 Design and manage parks and buildings for energy and water conservation and utilize green building requirements where feasible.</p>					
<p>2.7 Upgrade technology in parks and facilities for Wi-Fi, surveillance and emergency response capabilities.</p>					
<p><b>STRATEGIC GOAL #3: Build community identity, economic vitality and cultural unity through special events and a rejuvenated Central Park as the heart of San Ramon.</b></p>					
<p>3.1 Improve Central Park amphitheatre and other venues to showcase special</p>					

TABLE IX.1 Strategic Goals, Strategies, and CIP Actions

STRATEGY	ACTION #1: Prepare new or updated master / management plans	ACTION #2: Prepare Integrated Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan	ACTION #3: Prepare Art in the Parks Master Plan	ACTION #4: Develop new facilities, use areas, and trails	ACTION #5: Rehabilitate facilities
events for residents and visitors.					
3.2 Create a seamless connection and unite Central Park, Iron Horse Trail and the proposed City Center by physically bridging/linking these components of the future downtown core.					
3.6 Incorporate public art in park, trail and facility design throughout the City, creating a quality of place that inspires creativity and enjoyment.					
3.7 Install marquee signs in parks to promote community events.					
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #4: Bridge the community by preserving historic resources and cultural heritage, linking the past with the present and embracing new residents.</b>					
4.1 Encourage the preservation and restoration of historic structures to create community pride and a sense of history for San Ramon.					
4.4 Acquire, relocate to San Catano Creek Park and restore the Gelderman house incorporating it into a new master plan for the park.					
4.6 Develop an interpretive plan for the Forest Home Farms site and utilize it to create special outdoor exhibits and events to attract visitors to the historic site.					
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #5: Foster physical and mental health and wellness through active and passive recreation activity.</b>					
5.5 Work with health care associations, to incorporate healthy eating and exercising habits into after-school recreation programs and camps for young children that model healthy living.					
5.6 Address the needs of an aging population by encouraging participation in physical activity with an emphasis on the gentler aerobic activities.					
5.7 Encourage bicycle safety and use as an alternative to automobile travel and provide secure bicycle and pedestrian access to schools and parks.					
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #6: Build on past success as one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth, by expanding the Department's role in addressing the broader issues of youth development by partnering with schools, law enforcement and other community agencies in a multi-disciplinary approach to improve youth resiliency, self-esteem and family relationships.</b>					
6.1 Maintain cooperative efforts with youth sports organizations to provide safe and accessible facilities and programs that develop sports skills and provide youth experiences in organized sports.					
6.7 Provide indoor and outdoor spaces for supervised but unstructured free play for youth.					

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #7: Strengthen outdoor recreation experiences by connecting children and families with nature and open space to increase the user's appreciation of natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship.</b>					
7.1	Plan for equity, inclusiveness, and accessibility in providing outdoor recreation for people of all ages, genders, ethnicity, and abilities.				
7.2	Continue to plan and collaborate with other agencies to provide neighborhood parks, and to acquire open space and develop trails, greenways, and linear open space that connect neighborhoods and foster the use of bicycles and walking for transportation.				
7.6	Evaluate, revise and implement the Master Plan for the Crow Canyon Gardens with an emphasis on its natural and Creekside setting				
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #8: Encourage lifelong learning and cultural enrichment for all ages through cultural arts programs and library services.</b>					
8.2	Continue to work with the SRVUSD, community businesses, San Ramon Arts Foundation and cultural organizations to expand cultural arts offerings for youth				
8.6	Through the City Lights Volunteer program create challenging and meaningful volunteer opportunities for all age segments of the community.				
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL #9: Ensure adequate funding and support services to provide accessible and equitable facilities, services and programs.</b>					
9.1	Develop operating and capital improvement budgets based on the goals and priorities of the Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan.				
9.4	Renegotiate joint-use agreement with SRVUSD to ensure access to school facilities for recreation programs for all ages.				
9.8	Market recreation as essential to healthy lifestyles for all ages and educate consumers about disease prevention and wellness programs accessible to them.				

## **X. Appendices**

**Appendix X.A** Survey Summary Report

**Appendix X.B** San Ramon 2020 General Plan

**Appendix X.C** Existing Park Master Plans Not Currently Implemented

**Appendix X.D** Forest Homes Park Master Plan

**Appendix X.E** Northwest Specific Plan - Parks and Open Space

*Appendix X. A  
Community Survey Summary Report*



# Community Survey Results Workbook



Prepared for

**The San Ramon Park and  
Community Services**



Wednesday  
March 28, 2007



## **Survey Basics**

In this report, we present you with our observations and conclusions based on the results of 600 telephone interviews with residents and registered voters in the City of San Ramon, California. All interviews were completed between January 13 and January 23, 2007. The overall margin of error for the results of the common questions included in the questionnaire is +/-4%. The demographic characteristics of the population of individuals interviewed reflect the characteristics of the population of the city.

## **Summary Observations**

- Residents believe that both the city and the Parks and Community Services Department do an excellent or very good job serving the needs of the community. They also give high marks to the job the city does providing recreation programs and maintaining local parks and trails.
- Residents believe the city should spend more on transportation services. This response marks a change in the attitude of local residents since 1994.
- The degree to which local residents want the city to spend funds on recreation programs and public parks is consistent with the priorities measured in 1994.
- When asked if they use the parks for passive or active recreational activities, 41.7% say they participate in passive activities and 28.5% say they participate in active activities. Over the next 10 years, residents believe they will increasingly use the city's parks and trails for passive activities.
- 66.0% believe that the city's parks and trails are very safe.
- Residents are more likely to appreciate nature, walk, hike, or participate in a family activity when they visit a local park than they are to play or watch basketball or play tennis.
- Overall, more than one-third of those interviewed believe the city needs more trails designed for mountain biking or hiking and more community gardens. There are important differences of opinion in response to these questions if responses are separated by ethnic group and parent status.
- Overall, residents believe someone in their household is most likely to participate in a library program, fitness or health class, or a sports-oriented program. There are important differences based on parent status and age in the responses to these questions.
- Almost all of the residents of the city believe it is important to explore cultural arts through local theater, dance, music, and the visual arts.

- Participation in recreation programs and the use of local parks appear to have increased since 1994.
- Residents from all parts of the city are likely to attend a performance at the new theater under construction in the Dougherty Valley.
- A majority of the residents of the city rely on the newspaper for information about local issues. There are significant differences, however, in the degree to which older and younger residents of the city read the newspapers available in the city.

## **Sample Preparation**

The sample for this survey was prepared by blending information about the registered voters in the city with commercially available residential phone numbers and addresses. In order to make sure that the opinion of the unregistered residents of the city was also collected, information about households where no one is registered to vote was added to the voter registration records obtained from the county. To facilitate the exploration of regional differences of opinion within the city, only residential records where a complete address was available were used. Duplicates were eliminated by cleaning and standardizing the address associated with each voter or residential address. Once voter and residential records were blended, a random sample of the households in the city was taken and used for the telephone interviews completed as part of this study.

## Evaluating the Delivery of Services and Programs

Three questions were included in the survey in order to evaluate the delivery of services by the city in general and by the Parks and Community Services Department specifically. Two of these questions were asked as part of a 1994 survey conducted for the Parks and Community Services Department. In both cases, the very positive responses collected in 1994 have improved.

All of those interviewed were asked: *“Consider the overall delivery of city services to the residents of San Ramon. Do you believe the city is doing an excellent, very good, satisfactory, poor, or very poor job of delivering services to the residents of the city?”* In response, 28.5% said the city is doing an excellent job and 53.3% said it was doing a very good job. Both of these responses are more positive than the data collected in 1994. All of the responses to this question from both surveys are presented in the following table.

<b>Q3: Evaluate delivery of city services</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Excellent	28.5%	16%
Very good	53.3%	57%
Satisfactory	15.3%	24%
Poor	1.5%	2%
Very poor	0.3%	1%
Don't know/No opinion	1.0%	1%

Women are more likely than men to believe the city is doing an excellent job delivering services to local residents<sup>1</sup>. 33.6% of the women interviewed for this study rated the delivery of services as excellent while 23.3% of the men interviewed offered the same response. All of the responses to the 2007 survey divided by gender are presented in the following table.

<b>Q3: Evaluate delivery of city services</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
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<sup>1</sup> The selection of cross-tabulation results for presentation in this report is based on the evaluation of each set of responses using the classification tree tools available in SPSS for Windows v15. This analytical tool considers all of the demographic characteristics available from the survey and identifies those that are most significant. In the case of Q3, this process identified gender as the most important cross tabulation of the data.

**City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
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Excellent	23.3%	33.6%
Very good	56.1%	50.7%
Satisfactory	17.6%	13.2%
Poor	2.0%	1.0%
Very poor	0.3%	0.3%
Don't know/No opinion	0.7%	1.3%

Later in the survey, each individual was asked to evaluate the Parks and Community Services Department. The language of the question read as follows: *“The San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department provides recreation programs and operates park and recreation facilities for the City of San Ramon. Overall, what kind of job do you feel the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department is doing? Are they doing an excellent, very good, satisfactory, poor, or very poor job?”* The response to this question in the 2007 survey is more positive than the responses collected in 1994. The difference, however, is not as great as was the case when residents were asked to evaluate the delivery of city services in general. All of the responses to this question from both surveys are presented in the following table.

<b>Q12: Evaluate Parks and Community Services Department</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Excellent	28.2%	23%
Very good	54.8%	54%
Satisfactory	15.2%	17%
Poor	0.7%	1%
Very poor	0.0%	1%
Don't know/No opinion	1.2%	5%

The higher the household income of the individual being interviewed, the more likely the individual was to give the Parks and Community Services Department an excellent rating. This does not correspond, however, to an increase in the percentage saying the department is doing a poor job in households with a lower income level. Individuals in households with incomes below \$150,000 per year are simply more likely to say the department is doing a Very Good job. All of the responses to the 2007 survey divided by household income are presented in the following table.

<b>Q12: Evaluate Parks and Community Services Department</b>	<b>\$75,000 or less</b>	<b>\$75,001 to \$150,000</b>	<b>Over \$150,000</b>
Excellent	23.5%	27.1%	33.5%

**City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
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Very good	57.8%	60.6%	48.5%
Satisfactory	16.7%	10.0%	17.5%
Poor	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Very poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't know/No opinion	1.0%	2.3%	0.0%

The evaluation of the job being done by the department also varies by ethnic group. White, Hispanic and African-American residents of the city are more likely to give the department an excellent rating than are Asian residents of the city. All of the responses to the 2007 survey divided by ethnic group are presented in the following table.

<b>Q12: Evaluate Parks and Community Services Department</b>	<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African-American, Hispanic or other</b>
Excellent	29.1%	20.6%	35.2%
Very good	55.6%	57.0%	45.1%
Satisfactory	13.6%	21.5%	15.5%
Poor	0.5%	0.9%	1.4%
Very poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't know/No opinion	1.2%	0.0%	2.8%

Residents of the city were also asked to evaluate the recreation programs offered by the city. This question was not asked in the 1994 survey. It read as follows: *“Do you believe that San Ramon is doing an excellent, very good, satisfactory, poor, or very poor job providing recreation programs that serve the needs of all the residents of the city?”* In response, 24.3% said the city was doing an excellent job with 45.3% rating the city’s performance as very good. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

<b>Q44: Evaluate recreation programs</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	24.3%
Very good	45.3%
Satisfactory	26.7%
Poor	1.7%
Very poor	0.5%
Don't know/No opinion	1.5%

Household income is again an important factor in more fully understanding these responses. The higher the level of household income, the more likely the respondent

was to give the city’s recreation programs an excellent rating. The lower the level of household income the more likely the respondent was to say that the city was doing a very good job of providing recreation programs. All of the responses to the 2007 survey divided by household income are presented in the following table.

<b>Q44: Evaluate recreation programs</b>	<b>\$75,000 or less</b>	<b>\$75,001 to \$150,000</b>	<b>Over \$150,000</b>
Excellent	21.6%	23.5%	32.5%
Very good	51.0%	44.8%	39.7%
Satisfactory	21.6%	29.0%	25.3%
Poor	2.0%	1.4%	1.5%
Very poor	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%
Don't know/No opinion	3.9%	0.5%	0.5%

## Spending on City Services

Nine questions that were included in the 2007 survey helped us better understand the spending priorities local residents would define for the city. Each of these questions presented an area in which the city currently spends tax dollars and asked those being interviewed if the city should spend more, spend less, or continue the current level of funding for the program or service involved. The language of the question read as follows: *“Currently, the city spends tax dollars to provide each of these services. For each, please tell me if you believe that in the future the city should spend more, continue the current level of spending, or spend less on the service described.”* In only one area — transportation improvements — do more of those interviewed believe the city should spend more than the percentage who believe the city should continue spending at its current level. In only one area — public art — does the percentage who believe the city should spend less rise above 10%. When presented with city spending on public art, however, a larger percentage believe the city should spend more in this area than the 14.7% who believe the city should spend less. All of the responses to each of these questions are presented in the following table.

	<b>Spend more</b>	<b>Continue current</b>	<b>Spend less</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
6A. Transportation improvements	49.5%	39.5%	4.3%	6.6%
5. Library services	39.2%	53.7%	3.2%	4.0%
4. Open space preservation	41.0%	49.2%	6.0%	3.8%
7. Recreation programs	29.8%	63.5%	2.7%	4.0%
8. Public parks	23.8%	72.7%	2.2%	1.3%
9. Park maintenance	17.5%	78.3%	2.2%	2.0%
10. Historic preservation at Forest Home Farms	18.3%	56.8%	8.8%	16.0%
6B. Street landscaping	16.4%	74.6%	8.7%	0.3%
11. Public art	19.7%	57.5%	14.7%	8.2%

Six of these services or programs were presented in the same manner in the city’s 1994 survey. The greatest change since 1994 is the priority city residents give to transportation improvements. In 1994, 27% said the city should spend more in this area with 59% believing the city should continue its current level of spending<sup>2</sup>. In 1994, the percentage who wanted more spent on library services and open space preservation was greater than the percentage who wanted the city to continue its current level of spending.

The priority given to spending on recreation programs and public parks is very similar in both the 2007 and 1994 surveys. In the following tables, the responses from both surveys are presented for each of these services or programs. We believe the similarity of the responses is more important than the small differences.

**Q7: Recreation programs**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Spend more	29.8%	24%
Continue current	63.5%	68%
Spend less	2.7%	4%
Don't know	4.0%	5%

**Q8: Public parks**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Spend more	23.8%	25%
Continue current	72.7%	72%
Spend less	2.2%	2%
Don't know	1.3%	2%

As might be expected, the parents of children living in San Ramon are more likely to believe that the city should spend more on recreation programs than are non-parents. It is important to note, however, that among non-parents, a very large majority, 66.8%, want the city to continue its current level of spending on recreation programs. All of the responses to this question divided by parent status are presented in the following table.

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<sup>2</sup> The 1994 results also represent a change when compared to data collected in 1990. In 1990, transportation improvements ranked with library services as one of the highest priorities for local residents.

**Q7: Recreation programs**

	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Spend more	23.0%	34.9%
Continue current	66.8%	61.0%
Spend less	3.5%	2.0%
Don't know	6.6%	2.0%

As suggested by the response among parents, there is a difference in the way younger residents of the city react to spending on recreation programs when compared to older voters. Among residents between 18 and 34 years of age, 35.9% would like to see the city spend more on recreation programs. Among residents 55 and older, only 20.7% would like to see the city spend more in this area. It is again important to notice, however, that the city's older residents do not want to see the city spend less on recreation programs. All of the responses to this question divided by age are presented in the following table.

**Q7: Recreation programs**

	<b>18 thru 34</b>	<b>35 thru 44</b>	<b>45 thru 54</b>	<b>55 and older</b>
Spend more	35.9%	31.8%	30.8%	20.7%
Continue current	57.3%	63.6%	62.2%	70.0%
Spend less	2.6%	2.3%	3.2%	2.9%
Don't know	4.3%	2.3%	3.8%	6.4%

There is a difference in the way that men and women react to the level of spending by the city on public parks. Among men, 27.4% would like to see the city spend more while 20.4% of the women interviewed as part of this study want to see more spent on parks. There is a similar difference when the responses of parent and non-parents are separated. Among parents, 26.2% want to see more spent on parks. Among non-parents, 20.7% think the city should spend more in this area. All of the responses to this question separated by gender and by parent status are presented in the following table.

**Q8: Public parks**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Spend more	27.4%	20.4%	20.7%	26.2%
Continue current	68.2%	77.0%	75.4%	70.6%
Spend less	2.4%	2.0%	1.6%	2.6%
Don't know	2.0%	0.7%	2.3%	0.6%

The city’s Asian, Hispanic, and African-American residents are more likely than the city’s white residents to want the city to spend more on park maintenance. All of the responses to this question divided by ethnic group are presented in the following table.

**Q9: Park maintenance**

	<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African- American, Hispanic and other</b>
Spend more	15.0%	23.4%	22.5%
Continue current	80.4%	74.8%	73.2%
Spend less	2.1%	0.9%	2.8%
Don't know	2.4%	0.9%	1.4%

## Park and Trail Use: Attitudes

Everyone interviewed was asked: *“Please consider the overall maintenance of the parks and trails in San Ramon. Do you believe that San Ramon is doing an excellent, very good, satisfactory, poor, or very poor job maintaining its parks and trails?”* In response, 29.8% said they believe the city is doing an excellent job with 52.3% stating that the city is doing a very good job. This question was also included in the 1994 survey but the 1994 version of the question did not include a reference to trails. When we compare the responses in both surveys, the percentage who state that the city is doing a very good job is the same. The percentage who believe the city is doing an excellent job has declined and the percentage who believe the city has done a satisfactory job has increased. All of the responses to this question from both surveys are presented in the following table.

### Q13: Evaluate maintenance of parks and trails

	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Excellent	29.8%	35%
Very good	52.3%	52%
Satisfactory	16.8%	11%
Poor	0.5%	1%
Very poor	0.0%	0%
Don't know/No opinion	0.5%	2%

The response to this question differs if we divide the responses by age. Residents of the city under 34 years of age are more likely to believe the city is doing an excellent job maintaining parks and trails than residents 55 and older. All of the responses to this question divided by age are presented in the following table.

### Q13: Evaluate maintenance of parks and trails

	<b>18 thru 34</b>	<b>35 thru 44</b>	<b>45 thru 54</b>	<b>55 and older</b>
Excellent	37.6%	30.6%	29.5%	24.3%
Very good	51.3%	48.0%	55.1%	56.4%
Satisfactory	10.3%	19.1%	15.4%	18.6%
Poor	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Very poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't know/No opinion	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%

Those interviewed were then asked if they would be more likely to use the city’s parks and trails for active or passive recreational activities. The question read as follows: *“Think about how you use the parks and trails in San Ramon. Would you say that you use the parks and trails in the City of San Ramon for active recreation activities like baseball, basketball, tennis, soccer, biking, running, or other sports, or passive recreation activities like picnicking, walking, biking, or simply enjoying natural settings?”* In response, 41.7% said they would participate in passive activities while 28.5% said they use the city’s parks for active activities. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q14: Active or passive recreation activities**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Active activities	28.5%
A combination of both	26.7%
Passive activities	41.7%
Don't know	2.5%
Refused	0.7%

These responses are very similar to those collected in 1994<sup>3</sup>. All of the responses from both surveys are presented in the following table.

**Q14: Active or passive recreation activities**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
Active activities	28.5%	24%
A combination of both	26.7%	29%
Passive activities	41.7%	41%
Don't know	2.5%	7%
Refused	0.7%	0%

Non-parent residents of the city are much more likely to participate in a passive activity than are parents. Parents are much more likely to be involved in an active activity or a combination of passive and active activities. All of the responses to this question divided by parent status are presented in the following table.

**Q14: Active or passive recreation**

	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
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<sup>3</sup> The 1994 question differed from the 2007 version in that it presented fewer examples of what was considered an active and a passive activity.

**activities**

Active activities	25.0%	31.1%
A combination of both	12.5%	37.2%
Passive activities	56.6%	30.5%
Don't know	4.3%	1.2%
Refused	1.6%	0%

Residents of the city were then asked to anticipate the types of activities in which they would be involved in 10 years. The language of the question used to ask them to anticipate life 10 years from now read as follows: *“I want you to think about the future. I would like you to think about how you will use the parks and trails in 10 years. Would you say that 10 years from now you will use the parks and trails in the City of San Ramon for active recreation activities like baseball, basketball, tennis, soccer, biking, running, or other sports, or passive recreation activities like picnicking, walking, hiking, or simply enjoying natural settings?”* In response, residents of the city indicate that they will be involved in more passive activities in 10 years and fewer active activities. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q15: Active or passive 10 years from now**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Active activities	21.0%
Combination of both	28.0%
Passive activities	47.7%
Don't know	2.7%
Refused	0.7%

If we divide the responses to this question by age, it becomes clear that the older a resident of the city is the more he or she anticipates participating in more passive activities 10 years from now. All of the responses to this question divided by age are presented in the following table.

**Q15: Active or passive 10 years from now**

	<b>18 thru 34</b>	<b>35 thru 44</b>	<b>45 thru 54</b>	<b>55 and older</b>
Active activities	29.1%	30.6%	17.3%	8.6%
Combination of both	38.5%	38.2%	25.6%	10.0%
Passive activities	29.9%	30.1%	55.1%	74.3%
Don't know	2.6%	1.2%	1.3%	5.0%

Refused	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	2.1%
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A large majority of the residents of the city believe that the city’s parks and trails are very safe. Each person interviewed was asked: *“Do you believe that the parks and trails in San Ramon are very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?”* In response, 66.0% said that the city’s parks and trails were very safe. Only 1.5% believe the city’s parks and trails are somewhat or very unsafe. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q16: Safety of parks and trails**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Very safe	66.0%
Somewhat safe	31.7%
Somewhat unsafe	1.3%
Very unsafe	0.2%
Don't know/No opinion	0.8%

## Park and Trail Use: Activities

Those interviewed for this study were presented with 11 activities in order to determine if these were the kinds of activities in which they participate when visiting a city park today or might participate in 10 years from now. In this portion of the interview, the sample was divided into two equal groups. Half of those being interviewed were presented with the following language in order to explore the activities in which they participate today: *“I am now going to read a list of activities that might take place in a park or on a trail. For each, please tell me whether the activity is something you personally always, often, sometimes, or never do when you visit a park or a trail.”* The other half of those being interviewed were presented with the following language, designed to ask them to anticipate what they might be doing in 10 years: *“Here is another question where I want you to think about what you will be doing in the future. I am now going to read a list of activities that might take place in a park or a trail. For each, please tell me whether the activity is something that 10 years from now you believe you personally will always, often, sometimes, or never do when you visit a park or a trail.”*

Overall, the responses to these questions indicate that residents of the city are more likely to appreciate nature or walk when they visit a city park or trail than they are to play tennis or basketball. The responses collected from those asked to anticipate what they will be doing in 10 years indicate that the use of the parks for such passive activities will increase while participation in more active activities remains constant. Comparing the responses from the two groups also indicates that there will be an increase in bike riding, visits to playgrounds, participation in family activities, and picnicking in the future.

All of the responses to these questions are presented in the following table.

		<b>Now</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Q18A: Appreciate nature</b>	Always do	33.6%	44.1%
	Often do	27.2%	27.1%

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	Sometimes do	32.9%	24.1%
	Never do	6.0%	4.7%
	Don't know	0.3%	
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q17A: Walk or hike	Always do	23.3%	30.4%
	Often do	34.6%	34.8%
	Sometimes do	35.9%	31.1%
	Never do	6.0%	3.3%
	Don't know	0.3%	0.3%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q25A: Participate in family activities	Always do	14.6%	23.4%
	Often do	26.9%	31.4%
	Sometimes do	45.5%	38.5%
	Never do	13.0%	6.4%
	Don't know/No opinion		0.3%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q21A: Visit a playground	Always do	13.6%	17.1%
	Often do	27.6%	25.8%
	Sometimes do	32.6%	40.8%
	Never do	26.2%	16.4%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q19A: Ride a bike	Always do	7.0%	17.7%
	Often do	20.3%	22.7%
	Sometimes do	42.2%	37.8%
	Never do	30.6%	21.4%
	Don't know/No opinion		0.3%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q20A: Picnic	Always do	3.7%	10.0%
	Often do	12.3%	20.4%
	Sometimes do	59.1%	58.9%
	Never do	24.9%	10.4%
	Don't know/No opinion		0.3%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q22A: Play or watch baseball or softball	Always do	8.3%	10.0%
	Often do	15.6%	15.7%
	Sometimes do	28.6%	38.1%
	Never do	47.5%	36.1%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q23A: Play or watch soccer	Always do	8.3%	6.4%
	Often do	15.9%	19.1%
	Sometimes do	25.2%	37.1%

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	Never do	50.2%	37.1%
	Don't know	0.3%	0.3%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Q26A: Visit a dog park</b>	Always do	5.3%	8.0%
	Often do	10.0%	12.4%
	Sometimes do	21.6%	29.8%
	Never do	63.1%	49.8%
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Q24A: Play or watch basketball</b>	Always do	1.7%	5.0%
	Often do	8.0%	8.7%
	Sometimes do	26.6%	35.8%
	Never do	63.5%	50.5%
	Don't know	0.3%	
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Q27A: Play tennis</b>	Always do	1.0%	2.3%
	Often do	4.3%	10.4%
	Sometimes do	29.6%	38.1%
	Never do	65.1%	49.2%

At the end of this section of the survey, each individual was asked either: *“Is there another activity you do when you visit a park or trail that was not on this list?”* or *“Is there another activity that was not on this list that you believe you will do when you visit a park or trail 10 years from now?”* The question presented depended on whether the individual had been in the group asked questions about what they do today or were among those asked to anticipate what they would be doing 10 years from now. In both groups, a large number of those interviewed repeated one of the activities presented in the survey. By assigning each of the individual responses to a broad category, we are able to create the following tables. The first presents the activities named by those asked about the things they are doing today. The second table presents the responses from those asked to anticipate their activities 10 years from now. The verbatim responses to each of these questions are presented in Appendix B and Appendix C at the end of this report.

**Q28A: Activity not on this list: Now**

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
An item from the list presented	23	28.0%

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Other sports	11	13.4%
Community events	10	12.2%
Run or jog	9	11.0%
Rollerblade or skateboard	9	11.0%
Other/Miscellaneous	8	9.8%
Swimming	6	7.3%
Fly kites or model planes	6	7.3%

**Q28A: Activity not on this list: Future**

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Other/Miscellaneous	20	22.7%
An item from the list presented	14	15.9%
Other sports	13	14.8%
Run or jog	8	9.1%
Fly kites or model planes	7	8.0%
Rollerblade or skateboard	6	6.8%
Golf	6	6.8%
Walk the dog	5	5.7%
BBQ	5	5.7%
Community events	4	4.5%

## Outdoor Park Facilities

A series of questions was included in the survey in order to explore the adequacy of the outdoor park facilities available in the city. Eleven different facilities were presented and then each individual was asked if there were facilities that the city needs but that were not presented in the survey. The language used to introduce this series of questions read as follows: *“I am going to read you a list of outdoor park facilities. Please state whether you think the community has too few, too many, or just the right amount of each to adequately meet community needs.”* The responses indicate that a majority believes the city has just about the right number of each of the facilities presented. More than one-third of those interviewed believe the city needs more trails designed for mountain biking or hiking and more community gardens.

In the following table, the facilities presented are ranked according to the percentage that stated the city had too few of the facilities described. As this ranking is used, it is important to note that the percentage indicating they do not know if the city has too many or too few increases when residents are presented with bocce ball courts and cricket fields.

	<b>Too few</b>	<b>Just about right</b>	<b>Too many</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Q37: Trails designed for mountain biking or hiking	38.7%	50.0%	0.8%	10.5%
Q34: Community gardens	36.0%	52.7%	1.2%	10.2%
Q38: Parking lots within parks	24.5%	70.8%	1.3%	3.3%
Q39: Bocce ball courts	24.3%	39.7%	3.8%	<b>32.2%</b>
Q32: Group picnic areas	22.8%	72.0%	1.2%	4.0%
Q31: Tennis courts	19.2%	67.2%	2.3%	11.3%
Q35: Outdoor basketball courts	18.5%	67.2%	2.3%	12.0%
Q33: Cricket fields	17.5%	36.0%	6.7%	<b>39.8%</b>
Q30: Soccer fields	17.0%	69.5%	4.3%	9.2%

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Q36: Skateboard or BMX parks	13.2%	69.2%	4.0%	13.7%
Q29: Baseball or softball fields	12.3%	74.5%	5.0%	8.2%

For two of these facilities — trails and group picnic areas — dividing the responses according to the ethnic background of the individual being interviewed is important. Non-Asian residents of the city are much more likely to see a need for additional trails designed for mountain biking or hiking than are Asian residents. This information is presented in the following table.

		<b>Q73: Ethnicity</b>		
		<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African- American, Hispanic or Other</b>
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q37: Trails designed for mountain biking or hiking	Too few	41.5%	27.1%	40.8%
	Just about right	46.3%	64.5%	49.3%
	Too many	1.0%	0.9%	
	Don't know	11.2%	7.5%	9.9%

Asian, Hispanic, and African-American residents of the city have a different reaction to the adequacy of the number of group picnic areas in San Ramon when compared to the responses collected to this question among the city's white or Caucasian residents. This information is presented in the following table.

		<b>Q73: Ethnicity</b>		
		<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African- American, Hispanic or Other</b>
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Q32: Group picnic areas	Too few	20.5%	29.0%	28.2%
	Just about right	73.7%	67.3%	70.4%
	Too many	1.2%	0.9%	
	Don't know	4.5%	2.8%	1.4%

The response to a question about the adequacy of the community gardens in the city also depends on the gender of the individual being interviewed. Women are much

more likely than men to see a need for more community garden space in San Ramon. This information is presented in the following table.

		<b>Gender</b>	
		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Q34: Community gardens</b>	Too few	30.4%	41.4%
	Just about right	56.4%	49.0%
	Too many	1.4%	1.0%
	Don't know	11.8%	8.6%

Whether the individual being interviewed was a parent also had a significant impact on how the individual judged the adequacy of the number of tennis courts, cricket fields, outdoor basketball courts, and soccer fields. This information is presented in each of the following tables.

<b>Q31: Tennis courts</b>	<b>Q65: Children 18 or younger</b>	
	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Too few	12.5%	24.1%
Just about right	68.4%	66.3%
Too many	2.7%	2.0%
Don't know	16.4%	7.6%

<b>Q33: Cricket fields</b>	<b>Q65: Children 18 or younger</b>	
	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Too few	12.5%	21.2%
Just about right	34.0%	37.5%
Too many	8.6%	5.2%
Don't know	44.9%	36.0%

<b>Q35: Outdoor basketball courts</b>	<b>Q65: Children 18 or younger</b>	
	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Too few	13.7%	22.1%
Just about right	67.6%	66.9%
Too many	2.0%	2.6%
Don't know	16.8%	8.4%

<b>Q30: Soccer fields</b>	<b>Q65: Children 18 or younger</b>	
	<b>Non-parent</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Too few	12.9%	20.1%
Just about right	69.1%	69.8%
Too many	5.1%	3.8%
Don't know	12.9%	6.4%

At the end of this series of questions, each individual was asked: *“Are there any outdoor park facilities that are not currently available in the community that you believe should be provided in order to better meet community needs?”* The largest group of related responses cited the need for additional swimming pools. The second largest group includes responses where residents cited the need for other sports facilities. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table. The verbatim responses to this question are presented in Appendix D at the end of this report.

**Q40: Outdoor park facilities not currently available**

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Other/ Miscellaneous	43	31.9%
Swimming pools	28	20.7%
Other sports	17	12.6%
An item from the list presented	15	11.1%
Benches, tables, and restrooms	9	6.7%
Water park or pond	9	6.7%
Dog parks	7	5.2%
More trails	7	5.2%

## **Participation in Recreation Programs**

To explore the types of recreation programs in which residents of the city might participate, 12 different activities, programs, or classes were presented during the interview. The language that introduced this section of the survey read as follows: *“In the following questions, I am going to read you a list of specific recreation activities, classes, and programs. For each, please tell me if you or someone in your household would be likely or unlikely to participate in that recreation activity, class, or program.”* All of the responses to these

questions make it clear that residents are most likely to participate in library, fitness, health, or other sports-oriented programs. They are least likely to participate in summer programs that also offer all-day child care, senior programs, or ethnic dance programs. All of the responses to the questions in this section of the survey are presented in the following table. The information in the table has been ranked by the percentage that said they were likely to participate in the program described.

<b>Activity, program, or class</b>	<b>Likely to participate</b>	<b>Unlikely to participate</b>	<b>DK/ Refused</b>
Q55: Library services or programs	80.5%	19.5%	
Q45: Fitness or health classes	76.7%	23.2%	0.2%
Q51: Sports-oriented programs	66.7%	32.8%	0.5%
Q49: Swimming classes	61.2%	38.7%	0.2%
Q48B: Dance classes	53.5%	46.2%	0.3%
Q47: Nature classes	51.7%	48.3%	
Q52: Visual arts classes	48.5%	50.7%	0.8%
Q53: Vocal or instrumental music classes	46.8%	52.8%	0.3%
Q50: Theater classes	38.3%	61.5%	0.2%
Q46: Summer recreation programs with all-day day care	35.3%	64.5%	0.2%
Q54: Classes designed for senior citizens	28.8%	70.7%	0.5%
Q48A: Ethnic dance classes	27.2%	72.4%	0.3%

There are two related cross tabulations of these responses that should be discussed as these results are used by the Park and Community Services Department. We need to separate the responses to these questions according to parent status and age.

In the following table, the percentage likely to participate among non-parents and among parents are separated. In the far right column, the difference between the percentage of parents and non-parents more likely to participate in the activity, program, or class is presented. The difference in the way parents and non-parents react to the programs presented is greatest for sports-oriented programs and senior

citizen programs. Someone in a parent household is much more likely to participate in a sports-oriented program. Someone in a non-parent household is more likely to participate in a class designed for senior citizens. The response in these two groups is most alike for fitness or health classes and nature classes.

Activity, program, or class	Pct. Likely to participate		Difference between reaction among parents and non-parents
	Non-parent	Parent	
Q55: Library services or programs	69.1%	89.0%	19.9%
Q45: Fitness or health classes	75.8%	77.3%	1.5%
Q51: Sports-oriented programs	42.6%	84.6%	42.0%
Q49: Swimming classes	43.4%	74.4%	31.0%
Q48B: Dance classes	37.9%	64.6%	26.7%
Q47: Nature classes	49.6%	53.2%	3.6%
Q52: Visual arts classes	42.2%	53.2%	11.0%
Q53: Vocal or instrumental music classes	29.7%	59.6%	29.9%
Q50: Theater classes	26.6%	47.1%	20.5%
Q46: Summer recreation programs all-day day care	17.6%	48.5%	30.9%
Q54: Classes designed for senior citizens	50.8%	12.5%	-38.3%
Q48A: Ethnic dance classes	22.7%	30.8%	8.1%

In the next table, the responses to these questions are separated by age. This information makes it clear that interest in sports-oriented programs drops off significantly above age 54. Interest in programs for senior citizens, as might be expected, is concentrated among those over 55. We can also see that there is more interest in summer recreation programs with all-day day care among residents under 45 years of age than was apparent in the responses collected from all of the residents of the city.

Activity, program, or class	Pct Likely to participate
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	18 thru 34	35 thru 44	45 thru 54	55 and older
Q55: Library services or programs	76.9%	86.1%	85.3%	71.4%
Q45: Fitness or health classes	84.6%	77.5%	77.6%	67.1%
Q51: Sports-oriented programs	81.2%	89.0%	65.4%	31.4%
Q49: Swimming classes	70.9%	79.2%	56.4%	38.6%
Q48B: Dance classes	55.1%	65.6%	54.4%	33.9%
Q47: Nature classes	47.0%	53.8%	53.2%	52.1%
Q52: Visual arts classes	52.1%	52.0%	45.5%	44.3%
Q53: Vocal or instrumental music classes	53.8%	61.8%	42.3%	25.0%
Q50: Theater classes	31.6%	48.6%	42.3%	27.1%
Q46: Summer recreation programs with all-day day care	46.2%	51.4%	29.5%	15.0%
Q54: Classes designed for senior citizens	6.0%	7.5%	24.4%	77.1%
Q48A: Ethnic dance classes	51.3%	31.3%	26.1%	13.1%

At the end of this section of the questionnaire, each individual was asked: “*Are there classes or programs that were not on this list that you believe should be available in San Ramon?*” Most named a class or program that did not fit into a broad category. Of those that could be classified, residents expressed a need for classes or programs in computers, foreign languages, or cooking. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table. The verbatim responses to this question are presented in Appendix E at the end of this report.

**Q56: Classes or programs not on this list**

	Count	Percentage
Other/ Miscellaneous	61	37.7%
Computers	17	10.5%
Foreign languages	16	9.9%
Cooking	16	9.9%
Specific sports	16	9.9%
Arts and crafts	9	5.6%
Specific visual arts	8	4.9%
An item presented on the list	8	4.9%
Specific dance	6	3.7%

Yoga

5

3.1%

## The Importance of Cultural Arts

To assess the importance residents of the city place on the cultural arts, each person was asked to agree or disagree with the following statement: *“It is extremely important to explore cultural arts through local theater, dance, music, and visual arts programs and classes.”* In response, 40.5% strongly agree and 49.8% agree with this statement. Only 9.0% disagree or strongly disagree. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

### Q57: Important to explore cultural arts

	Percentage
Strongly agree	40.5%
Agree	49.8%
Disagree	7.5%
Strongly disagree	1.5%
Don't know	0.7%

Women are more likely to strongly agree with this statement than are men.

Disagreement with this statement is also stronger among men than among women.

All of the responses to this question divided by gender are presented in the following table.

### Q57: Important to explore cultural arts

	Male	Female
Strongly agree	33.4%	47.4%
Agree	52.4%	47.4%
Disagree	10.5%	4.6%
Strongly disagree	2.7%	0.3%
Don't know	1.0%	0.3%

When the responses to this question are separated by ethnic group, it is clear that Asian, Hispanic, and African-American residents of the city are more likely to strongly agree with this statement than are white or Caucasian residents.

Disagreement with this statement is lowest among Hispanic and African-American residents. All of the responses to this question divided by ethnic group are in the following table.

**Q57: Important to explore cultural arts**

	<b>White or Caucasian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African- American, Hispanic or Other</b>
Strongly agree	37.2%	45.8%	52.1%
Agree	52.0%	45.8%	43.7%
Disagree	8.6%	5.6%	2.8%
Strongly disagree	1.7%	0.9%	1.4%
Don't know	0.5%	1.9%	0.0%

## **The Use of Classes, Programs, and Facilities**

Three questions were included in the survey in order to determine how frequently residents of the city use recreation programs and park facilities. The first of these was asked only of residents with a child 18 or younger living in the household. These parents were asked: *“Which of the following best describes how often one of the children in your household participates in one of the classes or recreation programs available in San Ramon: 1) More than once a week; 2) Once a week; 3) Once a month; 4) Once a year; or 5) Never?”* In response, 14.0% said they have a child who participates in a class or program more than once a week and 31.8% said their children participate once a week. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

<b>Q66: Child participates in class or recreation program</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
More than once a week	14.0%
Once a week	31.8%
Once a month	20.1%
Once a year	18.4%
Never	14.9%
Don't know	0.9%

Compared to the results of the 1994 survey, these numbers indicate that the number of children participating at least once a week has increased since 1994. To make the results of each survey comparable, the 1994 data was reconfigured to reflect the way in which this question was asked in 2007. This allows the responses from both surveys to be presented in the following table.

<b>Q66: Child participates in class or recreation program</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
More than once a week	14.0%	14%
Once a week	31.8%	17%
Once a month	20.1%	22%
Once a year	18.4%	24%
Never	14.9%	23%
Don't know	0.9%	0.0%

Each individual interviewed was asked: *“Which of the following best describes how often you or one of the other adults in your household utilizes the services of the Parks and Community Services Department including classes, programs, events, or facilities: 1) More than once a week; 2) Once a week; 3) Once a month; 4) Once a year; or 5) Never?”* In response, 19.8% said that an adult in their household utilizes the services of the Parks and Community Services Department more than once a week with an additional 21.8% stating that someone in the household utilizes these services once a week. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

<b>Q67: Adult utilizes Parks and Community Services</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
More than once a week	19.8%
Once a week	21.8%
Once a month	29.0%
Once a year	20.2%
Never	8.7%
Don't know	0.5%

Finally, each person interviewed was asked: *“Which of the following best describes how often you or someone in your household uses one of the park facilities in San Ramon: 1) More than once a week; 2) Once a week; 3) Once a month; 4) Once a year; or 5) Never?”* In response, 31.5% said that someone in the household uses one of the parks in the city more than once a week with 31.7% stating that someone in the household uses one of the parks at least once a week. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

<b>Q68: Frequency of park facilities use</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
More than once a week	31.5%
Once a week	31.7%
Once a month	26.7%
Once a year	7.0%
Never	3.0%
Don't know	0.2%

Compared to the responses collected when this question was asked in 1994, park use has increased in the city. All of the responses from both surveys are presented in the following table.

**Q68: Frequency of park facilities use**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>1994</b>
More than once a week	31.5%	22%
Once a week	31.7%	24%
Once a month	26.7%	30%
Once a year	7.0%	17%
Never	3.0%	5%
Don't know	0.2%	1%

## A New Theater

Three questions were included in the 2007 survey to explore the reaction residents have to the building of a new theater in the Dougherty Valley. This topic was introduced in the survey with the following language: *“The city will open a new 600-seat theater this fall. This theater is a project being completed in cooperation with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. It will be located on the campus of the new high school now under construction in the Dougherty Valley.”* Each person interviewed was then asked: *“Do you believe you or someone in your household will be extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely to attend a community theater performance at this new theater?”* In response, 17.2% said they were extremely likely to attend a performance at the new theater. In addition, 28.5% said they were very likely to attend. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q41: Likely to attend performance at new theater**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely likely	17.2%
Very likely	28.5%
Somewhat likely	37.5%
Somewhat unlikely	9.7%
Very unlikely	6.8%
Don't know	0.3%

As might be expected, the residents of the city living in the Dougherty Valley believe they are more likely to attend a performance at the new theater. But more than 10% of the residents of all three of the major areas of the city say they are extremely likely to attend a performance (with more than 25% stating they are very likely to attend). All of the responses to this question divided by area are presented in the following table.

**Q41: Likely to attend performance at new theater**

South of Montevideo	North of Montevideo/ Outside	Dougherty Valley
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		<b>Dougherty Valley</b>	
Extremely likely	12.6%	13.3%	25.8%
Very likely	25.2%	27.3%	32.5%
Somewhat likely	37.0%	41.3%	32.5%
Somewhat unlikely	12.6%	10.7%	6.2%
Very unlikely	12.6%	6.6%	3.1%
Don't know	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%

All of those interviewed were then asked: *“Which of the following do you believe is an appropriate cost for an individual ticket to a community theater performance at the new theater? 1) Less than \$10; 2) \$10 to \$15; 3) \$16 to \$20; 4) \$21 to \$25 or 5) More than \$25.”* A majority, 52.0%, believe \$10 to \$15 is an appropriate cost. 18.2% selected a higher cost and 27.5% said the cost should be less than \$10. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q42: Appropriate cost for ticket**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than \$10	27.5%
\$10 to \$15	52.0%
\$16 to \$20	15.5%
\$21 to \$25	2.5%
More than \$25	0.2%
Don't know	2.3%

Those who said they were likely to attend a performance at the new theater were then asked: *“What type of theatrical performances would you or someone in your household be interested in attending at the new theater?”* Individuals were allowed to name more than one type of performance. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

**Q43: Type of Performance**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Musical theater	29.9%
Drama	22.4%
Comedy	10.2%
Other	8.4%
Children's theater	7.0%

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Orchestral	6.5%
Dance	4.9%
Locally based entertainment	4.1%
Opera	2.3%
National or regional touring companies	2.3%
Don't know	2.1%

## A Source of News

Each individual was asked: “Where do you get information about local issues?” The majority named the newspaper as their source for local information. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

### Q69: Source of information about local issues

	<b>Percentage</b>
Newspapers	53.0%
Radio or TV	5.8%
Internet	14.7%
Neighbors and friends	11.7%
Other	13.0%
Don't know	1.8%

It is very important to divide the responses to this question by age, however, in order to use them to plan a communications program in the city. Residents older than 45 years of age are relying on the newspaper for information in much larger numbers than residents of the city 44 or younger. For the city’s younger residents, the Internet is a much more important source of information. All of the responses to this question divided by age are presented in the following table.

### Q69: Source of information about local issues

	18 thru 34	35 thru 44	45 thru 54	55 and older
Newspapers	37.6%	45.7%	60.3%	65.7%
Radio or TV	7.7%	5.2%	3.8%	7.9%
Internet	21.4%	20.8%	12.2%	5.0%
Neighbors and friends	10.3%	17.3%	11.5%	6.4%
Other	21.4%	9.8%	10.3%	12.9%
Don't know	1.7%	1.2%	1.9%	2.1%

Those who said they rely on the newspaper were also asked: “On which newspaper do you rely on most of the time?” A very large majority, 72.6%, named the San Ramon Valley Times. All of the responses to this question are presented in the following table.

### Q70: Newspaper relied on most

#### Percentage

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San Ramon Valley Times	72.6%
Tri Valley Herald	10.7%
SF Chronicle	3.8%
Sentinel	3.5%
Other	9.4%

## **Appendix A**

If the individual interviewed said they had lived in San Ramon for less than 5 years, he or she was asked where they had lived before San Ramon. 68.4% named another location in the Bay Area; 10.2% named a location in California but outside the Bay Area; 17.5% named a location outside California but inside the United States, and 4.0% named a location outside the United State.

### ***The Bay Area***

- Alamo, CA
- Alamo, CA
- Benicia, CA
- Berkeley, CA
- Berkeley, CA
- Brentwood, CA
- Brentwood, CA
- Brentwood, CA
- Castro Valley, CA
- Concord, CA
- Concord, CA
- Concord, CA
- Danville, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA

- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Dublin, CA
- Fairfield, CA
- Fremont, CA
- Hayward, CA
- Livermore, CA
- Livermore, CA
- Livermore, CA
- Los Gatos, CA
- Menlo Park , CA
- Milpitas, CA
- Milpitas, CA
- Newark, CA
- Newark, CA
- Oakland, CA
- Oakley, CA
- Palo Alto, CA
- Palo Alto, CA
- Pinole, CA
- Pinole, CA
- Pleasant Hill, CA
- Pleasant Hill, CA
- Pleasant Hill, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA

- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Pleasanton, CA
- Redwood City, CA
- Redwood Shores, CA
- Richmond, CA
- San Bruno, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- San Jose, CA
- San Jose, CA
- San Jose, CA
- San Leandro, CA
- San Lorenzo, CA
- San Pablo, CA
- San Rafael, CA
- South San Francisco, CA
- Sunnyvale, CA
- Union City, CA
- Union City, CA
- Walnut Creek, CA
- Walnut Creek, CA
- Walnut Creek, CA

***In California but Outside the Bay Area***

- Bakersfield, CA
- Chico, CA
- Davis, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Los Angeles, CA

- Mission Viejo, CA
- Oxnard, CA
- Palm Springs, CA
- Rocklin, CA
- Roseville, CA
- Salinas, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Santa Cruz, CA
- Southern California
- Southern California
- Tracy, CA
- Tracy, CA

### ***Outside California but Inside the USA***

- Albuquerque, NM
- Apple Valley, MN
- Arizona
- Atlanta, GA
- Boston, MA
- Branchburg, NJ
- Chicago, IL
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Fairlawn, NJ
- Florida
- Fort Collins, CO
- Grants Pass, OR
- Hawaii
- Indianapolis, IN
- Irvin, TX
- Ithaca, NY
- Ledyard, CT
- Massachusetts
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Mount Arlington, NJ
- New York, NY
- New York, NY
- Newark, NJ
- Ogden, UT
- Oregon
- Pullman, WA
- Rochester, NY
- Springdale, AK

## ***Outside the United States***

- Denmark
- India
- India
- India
- India
- Japan
- Sweden

## **Appendix B**

Is there another activity you do when you visit a park or trail that was not on this list?

### ***Run or jog***

- Jog or run
- Jogging or running
- Jogging
- Run or walk
- Running
- Running jogging
- Running
- Running
- Sometimes jog around the track

### ***An item from the list presented***

- Activities for the kids
- Barbeque
- Bicycle
- Bring the kids there
- Chase my granddaughter
- Children's gym, preschool facilities in the parks
- Friend or family get together
- Hike
- Hiking
- I just walk and enjoy it.
- I just walk around the park.
- In the sand
- Leisure walks
- Maintain tennis courts
- Play with kids
- Play with the kids
- Read, play with grandkids
- Sand areas for little ones
- Tennis and swimming
- The hiking. I walk the iron horse a lot.
- Visit friends
- Walking and running
- Watching birds or animals

## ***Rollerblading or skateboard***

- Roller skating/rollerblading
- Rollerblade
- Rollerblading
- Rollerblading
- Skate park
- Skateboard
- Skateboard
- Skateboarding
- Skateboarding or skate park

## ***Community events***

- City events like fireworks and concert
- Concerts
- Enjoy summer concerts in the park
- Fourth of July celebration and wind festival
- Listening to the orchestra in Central Park on Sunday nights
- Outdoor concerts
- Outdoor concerts
- The art and wind fair on Memorial Day
- We do regular activities; art and wind stuff
- Wind festivals, 4th of July

## ***Walk the dog***

- Play with my dog
- Walk dogs
- Walk the dog
- Walk the dogs
- Walking the dog
- We walk the dogs and bike.

## ***Other sports***

- Bocce ball
- Football, organized teams, and playing around
- Football
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Other common sports
- Play bocce ball and rock climb
- Play football
- Volleyball
- Volleyball
- Volleyball

### ***Fly kites or model planes***

- Fly kites
- Flying kite in the park
- Frisbee and kites
- Model airplane flying and watching
- Shoot off rockets
- We like to fly aircraft; gliders.

### ***Other***

- Laying in the sun and reading
- Play chess or ping pong
- Qigong practice
- Sleep, reading
- Swimming
- Swimming
- Treasure hunting
- Water play

## **Appendix C**

Is there another activity that was not on this list that you believe you will do when you visit a park or trail 10 years from now?

### ***Run or jog***

- Jogging
- Jogging
- Run and jog
- Running
- Running
- Running primarily
- Running
- Running

### ***An item from the list presented***

- Bike riding
- Family outings
- Have a party in the park, use the facilities
- I would like to see more hiking trails.
- Just enjoy nature and the creation God has made and enjoy life and the surroundings
- Mainly biking
- Observe nature, enjoy the outdoors
- Picnic
- Play with my grandkids
- Playgrounds for the children
- Tennis
- Walking is probably the main one
- Walking
- Watch soccer

### ***Rollerblade or skateboard***

- Roller hockey
- Rollerblade
- Rollerblading
- Rollerblading
- Skate boarding or riding bike on a manmade path
- Skateboarding (kids)

## **Community events**

- Enjoying the park with concerts
- Listen to concerts that they bring to the park
- Music, the 4th of July stuff, fireworks, and the art and wind festival/art classes at the community center
- Plays or band concerts in the park

## **Fly kites or model planes**

- Fly a kite and rollerblade
- Fly kites
- Fly kites ride dirt bikes
- Flying kites, launching rockets, playing flag and tackle football
- Kite and walking

## **Other sports**

- American football
- Badminton, courts in the parks
- Bocce ball
- Bocce ball
- Bocce ball courts
- Other sports like maybe football and things of that nature
- Play cricket
- Play cricket
- Play volleyball
- Use the playground, volleyball
- Volleyball
- Volleyball and bocce ball
- Volleyball

## **Swimming**

- Aquatics
- Swim
- Swimming
- Swimming
- Swimming pool
- Swimming
- Swimming

## **BBQ**

- Barbecue

- Barbeque
- BBQ
- BBQ maybe
- BBQ

## **Golf**

- Golf
- Golf
- Golf
- Golfing but there is no spending San Ramon???
- Maybe a putting green or something to do with golf
- Play golf

## **Other**

- A community vegetable garden would be fun.
- Beer keg events
- Craft work or park craft activities
- Doggy poop bags
- Exercise station along the way. It would be nice to have those.
- Have meetings
- Just keep it clean
- Just sitting in the park in the shade
- Kung fu; tai chi
- Napping in the grass, photography, art
- Nature conservation
- Photography
- Play chess
- Possibly lead a botany expedition
- Ride a horse if it's available
- Rock climbing
- There's a problem with the landscaping. It's nice in some and not in others. Old ranch estate area has been neglected during the past 10 years.
- They could improve the dog park.
- Walking my dogs
- Water areas where there are gardens

## **Appendix D**

Are there any outdoor park facilities that are not currently available in the community that you believe should be provided in order to better meet community needs?

### ***Swimming pools***

- A community pool
- A good lap pool, heated swimming pool
- Additional swimming
- Another community pool
- Another swimming pool
- Community pool
- Indoor pools
- Kid's pool or a pool
- More golf courts and swimming
- More swimming centers
- More swimming
- Need more swimming pool facilities because the Cal High one is pretty crowded
- Pool, handball court
- Pool
- Pools
- Swimming pool area
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pools for exercise classes
- Swimming pools
- Swimming pools
- Swimming pools
- Swimming
- Swimming

### ***Other sports***

- A city football stadium for use
- Badminton and tennis combined hard court. You could change out the nets.

- Croquet fields and lawn bowling fields
- Disc golf; racquet ball courts
- Football field
- Golf
- Horse shoes
- Horseshoe pits
- Lacrosse fields
- Lacrosse fields
- Maybe a sand pit volleyball court
- Open gym
- Roller hockey
- Volleyball court
- Volleyball court
- Volleyball courts and sand volleyball courts
- Volleyball

### ***An item from the list presented***

- Cricket field
- Another BMX track or bike park
- Bocce ball
- Cricket parks
- Cricket. We need a field where we can play.
- Cricket/cricket fields
- Currently, there is no designated cricket field. We have to share on the baseball field.
- Just parking
- More bocce ball courts
- More lighted tennis courts
- More parking lots
- More things like tennis or bocce ball. The community is aging.
- Need more tennis courts
- Parking will be a problem 10 years from now.
- The kids need more things for baseball. They need batting cages.

### ***Dog parks***

- Dog park
- Grassy dog parks
- I'd like to see a dog park at Central Park.
- I'm not aware of a dog park.
- Large dog park
- More dog parks
- More dog parks

### ***Benches, tables, restrooms***

- Bathrooms

- Benches along iron horse trail
- More bathrooms
- More benches along the trails
- More picnic tables
- Picnic type areas. The bathrooms aren't staying open as long as they should. When I walk at night, the bathrooms are locked.
- Public restrooms or water fountains in the parks
- Sinks in the parking lots
- There are not enough shady parts in parks.

### ***Water park or pond***

- A lake
- A little fishing area like man made lake. Build a velodrome for bikes.
- A place where children can play with remote control boats
- A water park for kids would be great. Just something little.
- A water park like Central Park
- Maybe a lake or a pond would be cool
- Water feature at Dune Acres
- Water park for kids
- Water parks coming out of the ground

### ***More trails***

- Biking and walking trail
- More hiking trails
- More natural hiking trails
- More jogging trails
- More running trails
- The hiking or running trails
- You need more trails on the west side and we need more parks because there are not any near where I live.

### ***Other***

- A park course. You run and there are exercise stations in the area.
- A– quarter-mile track for running
- An arboretum or a sculpture garden or a combination of the two
- An outdoor area for playing music or playing chess
- Auditorium where music can happen and exhibitions
- Baby swings
- Celebration facilities for weddings, parties, or reunions
- Classes I can take with my teenagers like dance, art, exercise, etc.
- Community center; more musical activities
- Empty area that has been here for 17 years and looks very unkempt; it could be picnic area
- Enclosed parks or playgrounds for kids in the winter time
- Fitness course

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- Forest hill
- Handicapped-accessible playground for kids with disabilities
- It is hard to walk or jog on the Iron Horse Trail because of the rollerbladers and bikers.
- Model railroad
- More flower gardens; more raised flower beds
- More forests
- More parks closer to residential areas
- More sandboxes
- More swings because some parks don't even have them
- More things for kids that are educational. Art education. More playgrounds for kids.
- Non-skateboard recreational place for kids to meet and play
- Not enough fields with lights and artificial turf
- Open-space preserves that developers cannot develop on
- Organize more things for the parks, like concerts, especially for the middle age group that don't have children
- Playground equipment
- Rock climbing walls
- Rock climbing
- Satisfactory for the little ones but not for when they get older
- Skateboard parks
- Skating rink
- Soccer fields need to be fixed along with baseball fields at the high school
- Someplace where you could do a campfire for scouts
- Something handicapped-accessible
- The Forest Home Farms needs to be open more.
- Theater or something
- There should be a toddler park wherever there is a normal park.
- There's a piece of land that was to be a park. They promised a park and now it's a parking lot for tractors.
- They could use ball walls to play tennis so people can play on either side of they wall if they don't have a partner to still practice.
- They need an undercrossing at i580 on Iron Horse Trail.
- Things for people who are handicapped
- Yoga and ping pong

## **Appendix E**

Are there classes or programs that were not on this list that you believe should be available in San Ramon?

### ***Foreign languages***

- Foreign language classes
- Foreign language classes
- Foreign language
- French and foreign language classes
- French classes, cooking classes
- I would like to see more language classes actually.
- Language classes
- Language classes
- Language learning classes
- Language — French or Spanish
- Language
- Language
- More language classes
- More second languages; more that I speak
- Spanish classes
- They should have more of a variety of language classes.

### ***Cooking***

- Cooking and nutritional classes
- Cooking and parenting classes
- Cooking for children, the art activities aren't aimed toward teenage just teenage???, and more plays. More in the way of theater and art.
- Cooking
- Cooking
- Cooking
- Cooking
- Cooking

## **Computers**

- Computer classes
- Computer classes and personal finance classes
- Computer classes or foreign language classes
- Computer classes, dance classes, history of the valley, opening up the farm more frequently than once a month
- Computer classes
- Computer, multimedia
- Computer program classes
- Computer
- More computer classes
- More computer classes
- More with computers and self-help
- Summer computer classes
- Tech., computer classes or writing classes
- Technology-related classes, computers, public service/volunteering; how to be more involved in the community

## **Specific sports**

- Archery
- Bocce ball
- Classes in bocce ball
- Community snowboarding trip
- Golf or tennis lessons; training for dogs
- High school team programs
- Kayaking classes
- More tennis classes for adults and adult swimming
- Roller hockey
- Scuba
- Scuba
- Soccer, baseball, and karate for the kids
- Swimming
- Tennis classes, have instructors teach you how to play tennis or golf
- Tennis classes
- Triathlon classes

## **Arts and crafts**

- Arts and crafts
- Arts and crafts and cooking classes
- Arts and crafts, calligraphy, pottery, and ceramics
- Craft classes

- Crafts, photography, and home improvement classes
- Knitting
- Knitting, sewing, and needlepoint
- Maybe crafts and kids activities; paintball and rock climbing, for example
- More arts and crafts classes

## **Yoga**

- Do more yoga classes and more stuff like yoga, probably Pilates
- Yoga health and wellness classes; nutrition classes
- Yoga
- Yoga

## **Specific visual arts**

- Art classes, because my wife's an artist
- Children's art classes
- I think there should be more clay classes.
- More art classes
- Painting
- Painting
- Pottery
- Specifically, a stained glass class

## **Specific dance**

- Ballroom dancing
- Children's dance class or beginner dance class
- Dance classes
- Dance, such as ballroom dancing
- Dance; general instruction
- Dancing for older people

## **An item from the list presented**

- Health classes
- Instrumental classes
- More day camps
- More fitness lessons
- Some medical things. Teaching how to take care of yourself as you get older. People with things like diabetes or arthritis. Things to help yourself.
- Swimming classes, water aerobics
- Swimming
- There was no mention of music. Orchestra.

## **Other**

- I would like to see more classes offered during off-school hours.
- I'd like to see a hula hoop class or dance because it's low cost and fun!
- Scheduling
- Adult education
- Babysitting classes
- Book clubs. I mean for all children where people can just get together.
- Business classes; Self-improvement classes
- Camera club, photography, language classes, something with travel
- Chess classes
- Chess; in San Ramon we hardly find any advanced chess classes.
- Community college classes or closer community college or educational facilities
- Community walks and nature activities for kids
- Covered pool
- CPR class
- Creative writing, tennis classes
- Dog training
- Educational classes
- Educational with a historical background to it; something that teaches residents the history of the valley
- Exercise programs in the evening that start at 7 PM or 8 PM or a weekend class.
- Financial and college-related programs
- Firearms — safety and range activities
- Fishing classes
- Gardening-type classes
- Hiking groups
- I think they should have a story time through the libraries for children 1 and older. The one they have, you need to be 3 and older. Fitness classes. They need a kick boxing class, and more rigorous classes. The ones they have are more towards senior citizens.
- I wish the library was a little more welcoming. Dublin Library seems so much more welcoming than the San Ramon library. The resources are pretty much the same but I usually go to Dublin.
- I would like adult basic bridge or card classes.
- I'd like to see more classes at the gardens. Again, I would like to see some dance classes that could be teenager/adult together. Also, I am going to say motorcycle safety. I think it would be a good program to have.
- Indoor swimming pools
- It's not necessarily the type, but more the timing. For example, people who work on the nights or weekends; if programs could be offered during the day, my wife would like to attend a yoga class, but it is hard to find one during daytime hours.
- Jewelry fabrications, clay guild. Look at the civic arts program in Walnut Creek; it's the best in the country in terms of a local city-run program. That's where I go.
- Karate or martial arts
- Karate-type arts
- Karate
- Language arts classes
- Lego classes
- More multinational classes
- More afternoon programs for kids
- More classes for babies and toddlers

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- More outdoor education type classes
- More available for older people or working people that are available at times when they go
- More teen activities
- More weekend classes for parents
- Nature classes
- Need more classes for the seniors citizens like trips
- People between the age of 45 and senior exercise classes
- Pilates
- Probably like gardening and landscaping classes
- Probably more stuff for kids in the early evening for parents who work rather than just during the day
- Promote chess more, advanced chess clubs like Berkeley
- Rock climbing, meditation classes, cultural classes, towards different ethnicities
- Self-defense class for women every week or two
- Senior center swimming or just more senior activities
- Some kind of safety class having to do with outdoor; CPR
- Special needs classes for those who are not completely functional
- Special needs programs
- There is a shortage of classes for preschoolers and toddlers. Fremont has so much more offered for that age group. Art classes, cooking, gymnastic classes for the preschool level. The after-school programs are excellent for the elementary kids; the variety of choices.
- They don't offer things for people who work all day. Things after 7 PM or things on the weekends would be better. To have a fitness center where people in the community could use the fitness center. Adult hours so no competition with the kids. Have some cooking as well but not just basic. Young people could meet people in a place other than a bar and with a local chef. They would be expensive.
- Things of scientific interest for kids
- Toddler gym classes
- Travel classes
- Writing courses

***Appendix X.B  
General Plan Policies***

## **SAN RAMON 2020 GENERAL PLAN**

The following summarizes selected General Plan policies that relate to the development of the Parks and Community Services Master Plan Update. They are composed of Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies.

### **PARK AND RECREATION CHAPTER**

#### **GUIDING POLICY**

6.5-G-1 Create and maintain a high-quality public park system for San Ramon.

#### **IMPLEMENTING POLICIES**

- 6.5-I-1 Establish and maintain a standard of 6.5 acres of public parks per 1,000 residents, and public facilities to be within one-half mile of all homes with only usable acreage considered in meeting this standard.  
*It is the City's intent to meet this criterion with functional acreage only. Private recreation facilities (such as golf courses and homeowners' association amenities including mini parks, tot-lots, and picnic areas) shall not be substituted for required parkland.*
- 6.5-I-2 Provide varied community park and recreational opportunities accessible to all City residents.  
*It is the City's goal to ensure that parks in San Ramon are easily accessible to its citizens, including the physically disabled, and to provide recreational equipment that people of all ages and abilities can use.*
- 6.5-I-3 Establish a minimum size for neighborhood parks of two acres or more.  
*Smaller parcels cannot accommodate recreational facilities that make neighborhood parks work.*
- 6.5-I-4 Provide passive and active elements within the City's parks to meet the needs of citizens of all ages and interests.  
*While it is important to provide recreation facilities for athletics and team sports, it is equally important to develop natural settings for the enjoyment of passive activities, such as picnicking or walking.*
- 6.5-I-5 Require residential developers to make contributions to the City's park system.  
*The City's Parkland Dedication Ordinance shall be applied to all residential development and shall be used to determine a developer's dedication of functional park acreage. In-lieu fees are required when suitable land is not available or desired for dedication. Such fees are intended to give the City flexibility to purchase parkland elsewhere in the City or to improve existing parks.*
- 6.5-I-6 Encourage contributions to the City's park system by non-residential developers.  
*In addition to improving park facilities for its residents, it is the City's goal to provide active and passive parks for use by employees of San Ramon businesses. The park needs of this group can be partially met by encouraging contributions of parkland or funds from non-residential developers.*
- 6.5-I-7 Complete all parkland dedication requirements for each development prior to occupancy.
- 6.5-I-8 Encourage the development of landscaped and dedicated open spaces, parkways, trail systems,

and special community service facilities in new developments.

*Trails or undevelopable portions of active parks shall not be included when calculating the City's park acreage standard.*

- 6.5-I-9 Cooperate with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to promote joint development and use of school sites located within the City and its Sphere of Influence.  
*Joint development and use of school sites is especially important in developed areas where park standards have not yet been achieved. This approach will help meet community needs for neighborhood parks during periods of parkland acquisition and development.*
- 6.5-I-10 Seek partnership opportunities with the private sector and with other public agencies to enhance park facilities and provide leisure time activities.
- 6.5-I-11 Identify, acquire, and preserve sites of historic interest.
- 6.5-I-12 Cooperate with the East Bay Regional Park District to further preserve open space, ridgelines, and corridors of scenic beauty in and around San Ramon.  
*Within San Ramon's sphere of influence, the East Bay Regional Park District manages and maintains the Bishop Ranch Open Space, the Little Hills Recreation Area, and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. San Ramon continues to work with the Park District to identify, preserve and develop additional areas for parks and open space of regional significance.*
- 6.5-I-13 Designate Big Canyon within the Westside subarea as a nature preserve and seek to add it to the City's park system as a specialized recreation area with limited access.
- 6.5-I-14 Adopt and implement a 10-year Parks and Community Services Master Plan to be reviewed biennially and updated quadrennially.  
*The Parks and Community Services Commission implements the Master Plan, updates it biennially, and ensures that the development of parks and community facilities proceed as planned.*
- 6.5-I-15 Adopt a service level "A" of maintenance in all our parks and recreational facilities. The maintenance and upkeep of parks and recreational facilities is necessary for the economic health of the community as stated in San Ramon's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## **TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION CHAPTER**

### **GUIDING POLICY**

- 5.4-G-1 Design and reconfigure collector and local roadways to improve circulation and to connect residential and commercial areas of the City.

### **IMPLEMENTING POLICIES**

- 5.4-I-6 Implement controlled or permit-only parking restrictions in residential areas adjacent to California High School. This policy is prohibited in its application to additional residential areas or areas adjacent to public parks within the City of San Ramon.

### **GUIDING POLICY**

- 5.6-G-1 Encourage bicycling and walking as alternatives to the automobile.

### **IMPLEMENTING POLICIES**

- 5.6-I-1 Establish a network of on- and off-roadway bicycle routes to encourage their use for commute, recreational, and other trips. Improve and expand bicycle routes for commuters in San Ramon. The design of bike routes shall consider the safety of cyclists.
- 5.6-I-2 Develop bicycle routes that provide access to schools and parks.
- 5.6-I-3 Emphasize the Iron Horse Trail as a major north-south route for non-motorized transportation.
- 5.6-I-4 Require bicycle parking, storage and other support facilities as part of any new office and retail developments and public facilities.
- 5.6-I-9: Study the feasibility of bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings on the Iron Horse Trail at Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road.

## **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION CHAPTER**

### **GUIDING POLICIES**

- 8.3-G-1 Acquire, preserve, and maintain open space and its natural resources for future generations.
- 8.3-G-2 Strengthen the City's partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County and nonprofit trustee agencies to expand the ridgeline and hillside open space system in the City's Planning Area.  
*Open space lands contribute to the quality of life in San Ramon and help establish its character. Ridgeline and hillside trails, including the East Bay Regional Parks District Calaveras Ridge Trail, as well as other ridgeline trails proposed by this General Plan, can provide access to these open space lands.*

### **IMPLEMENTING POLICIES**

- 8.3-I-3 Preserve as open space significant creek, trail, and viewshed corridors, areas of riparian and wildlife habitat, and prominent topographic features.
- 8.3-I-4 Require maintenance plans for open space areas, including identified natural resources such as ridges and creeks. Use East Bay Regional Park District standards as a guide for the management and maintenance of open space, except in the Dougherty Valley, which has separate regulatory agency maintenance requirements.

*Requirements for the preparation and approval of maintenance plans, including surveys of biotic resources, are included in Ordinance 129. Standards from the Parks and Community Services Master Plan that address the management and maintenance of open space may be incorporated as conditions of project approval and are designed to control potential hazards, provide appropriate geologic setbacks, provide mechanisms for repair of hazards, maintain potential for continued grazing lands where appropriate, and specify techniques to maintain a visually pleasing landscape. The minimum abatement standards of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District shall also be incorporated as conditions of project approval as a means of minimizing fire hazard through the use of fuel modification, firebreaks, and other techniques. A maintenance plan may be included as part of a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP), prepared when development in the Rural Conservation designation could potentially affect sensitive habitat areas, sensitive species habitats, migratory patterns, and riparian corridors identified in the General Plan. Refer to Policy 4.6-I-8.*

- 8.3-I-8 Encourage public access to creek corridors with a system of trails.  
*These would be subject to standards and permitting requirements of regulatory agencies.*

### **GUIDING POLICY**

- 8.4-G-1 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.  
*This guiding policy expresses the goal of Measure G and recognizes that achieving that goal is a cooperative effort.*

### **IMPLEMENTING POLICIES**

- 8.4-I-4 Establish an Advisory Committee to the Parks and Community Services Commission for Open Space to assist in establishing preservation and acquisition priorities pursuant to Policy 8.4-I-6 below.  
*The Committee will advise the City Council and the Parks and Community Services Commission on setting priorities for open space acquisition and preservation.*
- 8.4-I-7 Use open space in new development to create greenbelts that delineate the edge of urban areas.  
*Other implementing actions will create additional open space in the Planning Area, which will create a backdrop for the City and trail linkages between parks and regional open space.*
- 8.4-I-10 Acquire open space classified as "important" pursuant to Policy 8.4-I-5, on a priority basis as funds are available using the following criteria:
- Lands under threat of immediate development or degradation;
  - Lands currently for sale;
  - Lands that can be acquired under favorable terms and conditions;
  - Land critical for protecting a watershed, sites for the continued existence of a species, significant wetlands, or habitat critical to wildlife;
  - Lands that are contiguous to existing open space properties and that provide continuity with current uses and buffers, lands supporting ecosystems that complement existing open space, or land that abuts existing public lands; or
  - Lands that provide trail connection for passive recreation.
- 8.4-I-11 Revise the City's Parks and Community Services Master Plan to include planning and management policies for ridgelines, and agricultural lands, and important open space acquired by the City.

- 8.4-I-12 Explore additional options for open space acquisition in consultation with East Bay Regional Parks District, the County, and private nonprofit trusts, such as the Trust for Public Lands.
- 8.4-I-15 With voter approval, allow exemptions from the provisions of Ordinance 197, specifically the prohibition of development on or adjacent to Major and Minor Ridges, only where:
- The area to be preserved as permanent open space includes upper ridges and visible hillsides with a total area that is at least four times the area to be developed. A portion of this 80 percent open space commitment, not to exceed five percent of the total site area, may be provided by dedication of permanent open space off-site on a 2:1 basis (two acres of off-site open space = one acre of on-site open space). Only land that is within one-half mile of the area for which the exemption is sought, is designated as a Ridgeline Protection Zone by Ordinance 197, or is on a hillside visible from Central Park would meet the City's standards for a Specialized Recreation Area and qualify as off-site open space under this provision;
  - The area to be developed is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB);
  - Trail connections to existing and planned trails are provided;
  - Habitat protection for sensitive species is assured; and
- The development includes enforceable commitments to increase the City's stock of affordable housing, consistent with the General Plan.

*Appendix X.C  
Previous Master Plans*

### **ALCOSTA COMMUNITY PARK SITE**

*(Future development, not currently scheduled)*

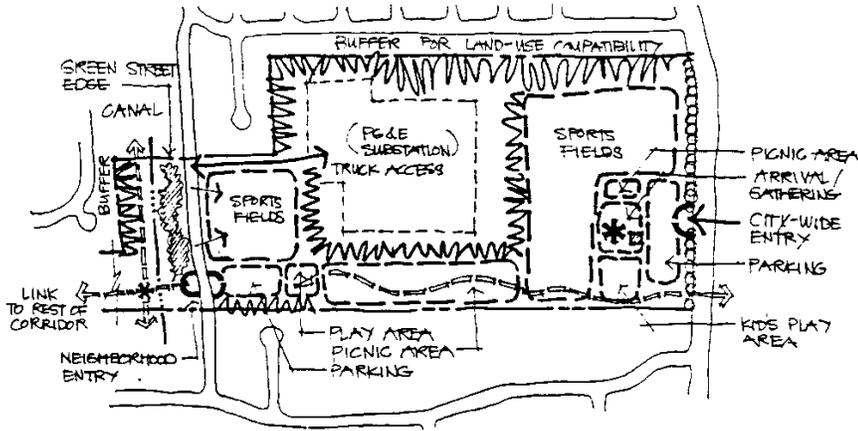
The major design objectives for the 45 acre Alcosta Community Park Site (P.G.& E. substation), are to utilize the utility corridor to meet large-scale recreational needs and to establish a circulation system that ties residential areas to regional trail resources.

Components of the design should include:

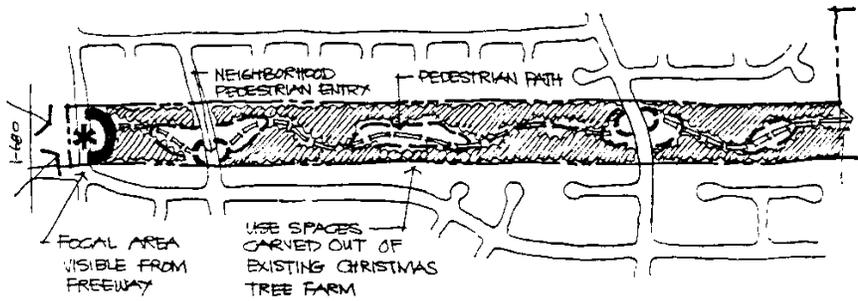
- o vegetative buffers as necessary to mitigate incompatibilities between residential use, park use, and utility use;
- o definition of use spaces within the Christmas tree farm to allow for informal picnicking and other passive activities;
- o a meandering pedestrian path continuing throughout the utility corridor and establishing a potential linkage to trails along the San Ramon Valley Iron Horse Trail;
- o a main entry off of Alcosta Boulevard; small neighborhood pedestrian entries off of residential streets;
- o a group picnic area close to parking and restroom facilities;
- o provision of a truck access route to the P.G. & E. substation;
- o a focal area visible from the freeway;
- o a variety of sports fields to accommodate organized recreational play;
- o several play areas to meet the needs of children of all ages;
- o off-street parking relating to the park entry off of Alcosta Boulevard.

City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan  
Appendices

City of San Ramon  
Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan 1991 - 200



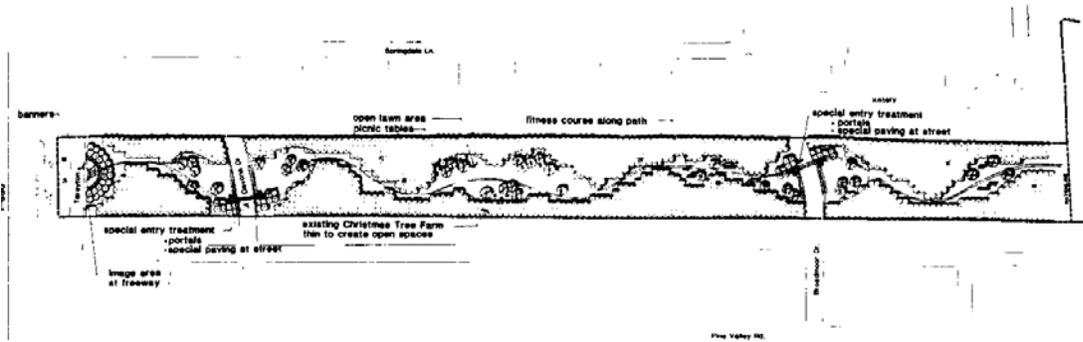
Conceptual Park Diagram



Conceptual Park Diagram

*City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan  
Appendices*

*City of San Ramon  
Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan 1991 - 2001*



CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN



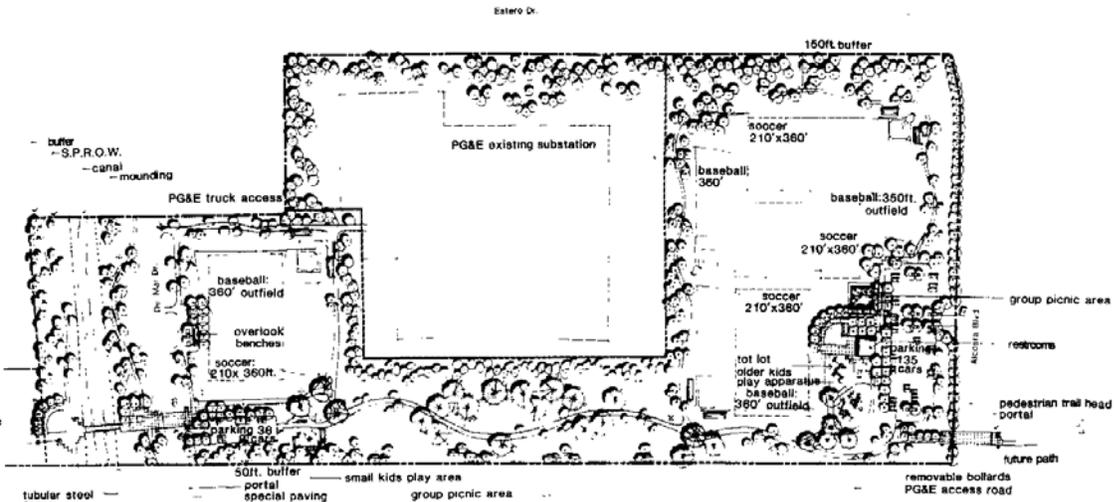
**Alcosta Community Park**

CITY of SAN RAMON  
SAN RAMON PARKS MASTERPLAN



*City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan Update and Strategic Action Plan  
Appendices*

*City of San Ramon  
Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan 1991 - 2001*



CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

**Alcosta Community Park**  
CITY OF SAN RAMON  
SAN RAMON PARKS MASTERPLAN





**CROW CANYON GARDENS**  
(Future improvements scheduled for 1998-99)

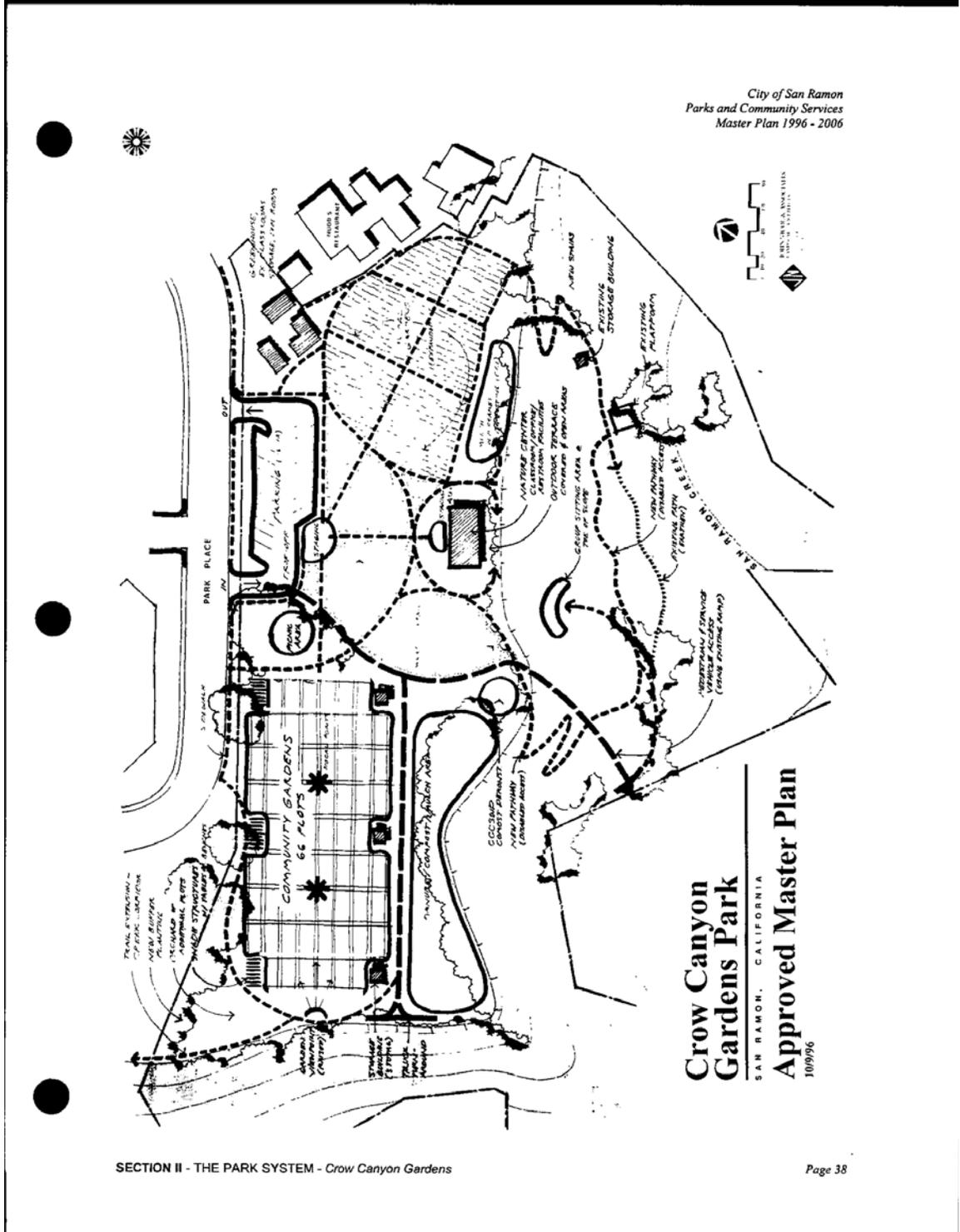
**20 Boardwalk**

Purchased by the City in 1991, the 7 1/2 acre Crow Canyon Gardens is a unique site that celebrates a very special section of San Ramon Creek with extensive demonstration, community and production gardens under cultivation. The Crow Canyon Gardens are envisioned to be a special place that takes full advantage of its unique rural like setting.

Future improvement design elements adopted by the Parks and Community Services Commission in 1996, include:

- ◆ continued use and expansion of the community gardens for the use and enjoyment of all segments of the community;
- ◆ outdoor education areas within the creek environment;
- ◆ a creek trail that celebrates the creek setting and allows fully accessible trail access;
- ◆ restoration of the riparian habitat indigenous to the creek;
- ◆ off street parking and drop off area for garden visitors;
- ◆ a "nature center" which will provide classroom, office, restroom, storage and sheltered picnic area for education/recreation activities;
- ◆ access path system that links the varying elements of the gardens and also provides necessary vehicular access to key areas in the gardens;
- ◆ a meandering system of paved pedestrian paths that parallels the creek and allows visual access into the riparian environment;
- ◆ creation of permanent composting area and bee education area.

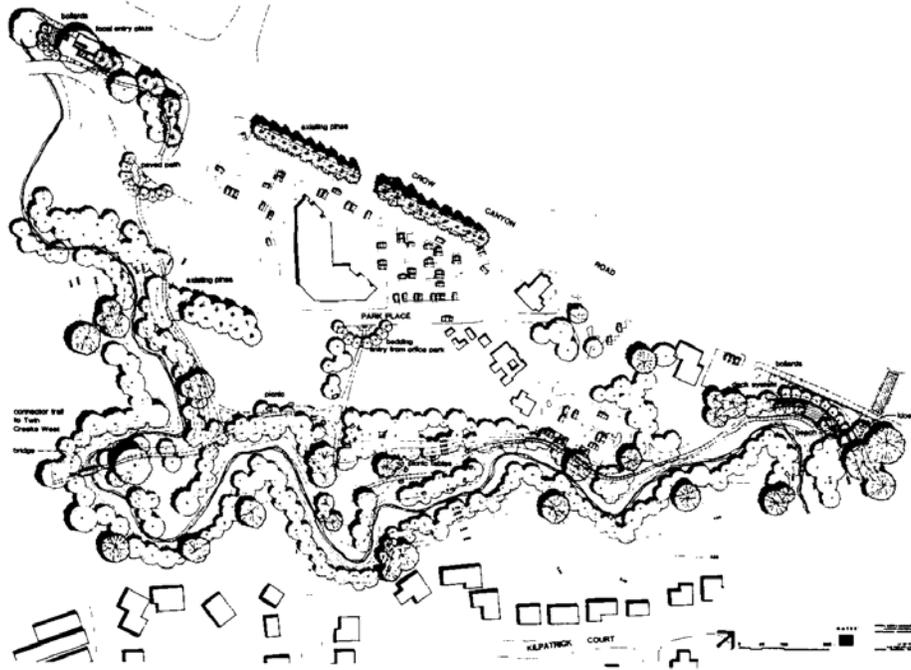




City of San Ramon  
 Parks and Community Services  
 Master Plan 1996 - 2006

**Crow Canyon  
 Gardens Park**  
 SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA  
**Approved Master Plan**  
 10/9/96

City of San Ramon  
Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan 1991 - 2001



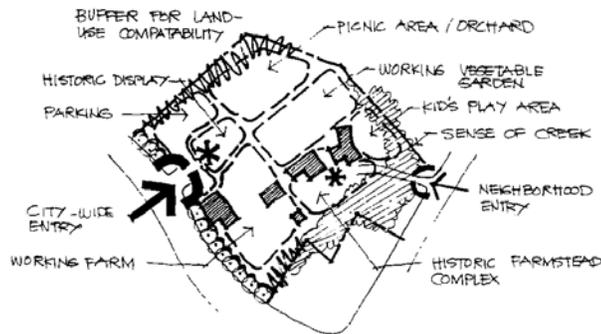
Crow Canyon Gardens

### **San Catanio Creek Park Site** *(Future development, not currently scheduled)*

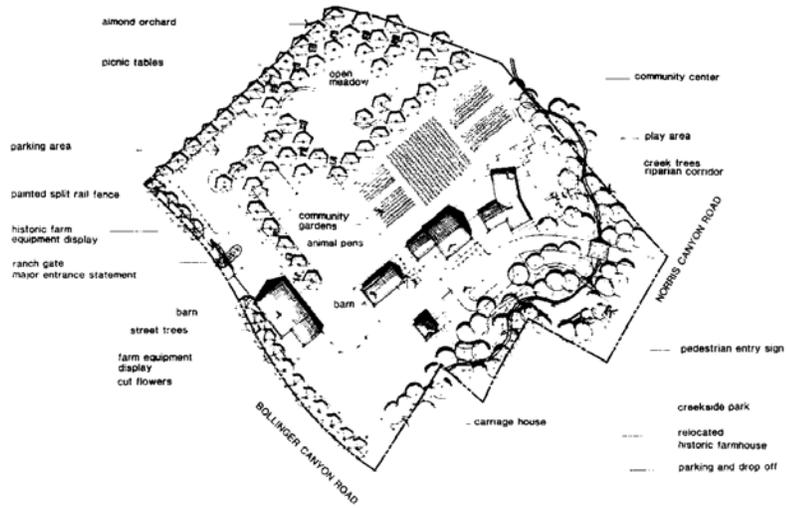
The San Catanio Creek Park Site, previously known as the Wiedemann/Kaplan Wood Lot, will allow the citizens of San Ramon the opportunity to celebrate their city's rural history as well as to enjoy the natural beauty of San Catanio Creek.

Design features should include:

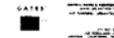
- o Entry from Norris Canyon Road focused on a complex of historic buildings which form the core of the working farm;
- o an entry statement, such as a rustic ranch gate, to lead the majority of automobile traffic into the parking area off of Bollinger Canyon Road;
- o interactive, educational facilities related to rural living, and our ranching and farming heritage.



City of San Ramon  
Parks and Community Services  
Master Plan 1991 - 2001



**San Catanio Creek Park**  
CITY of SAN RAMON  
SAN RAMON PARKS MASTERPLAN



*Appendix X. D  
Forest Home Farms Master Plan*





Current and Proposed Building Uses

Existing Conditions Site Plan

North: Right

Scale: Not to Scale

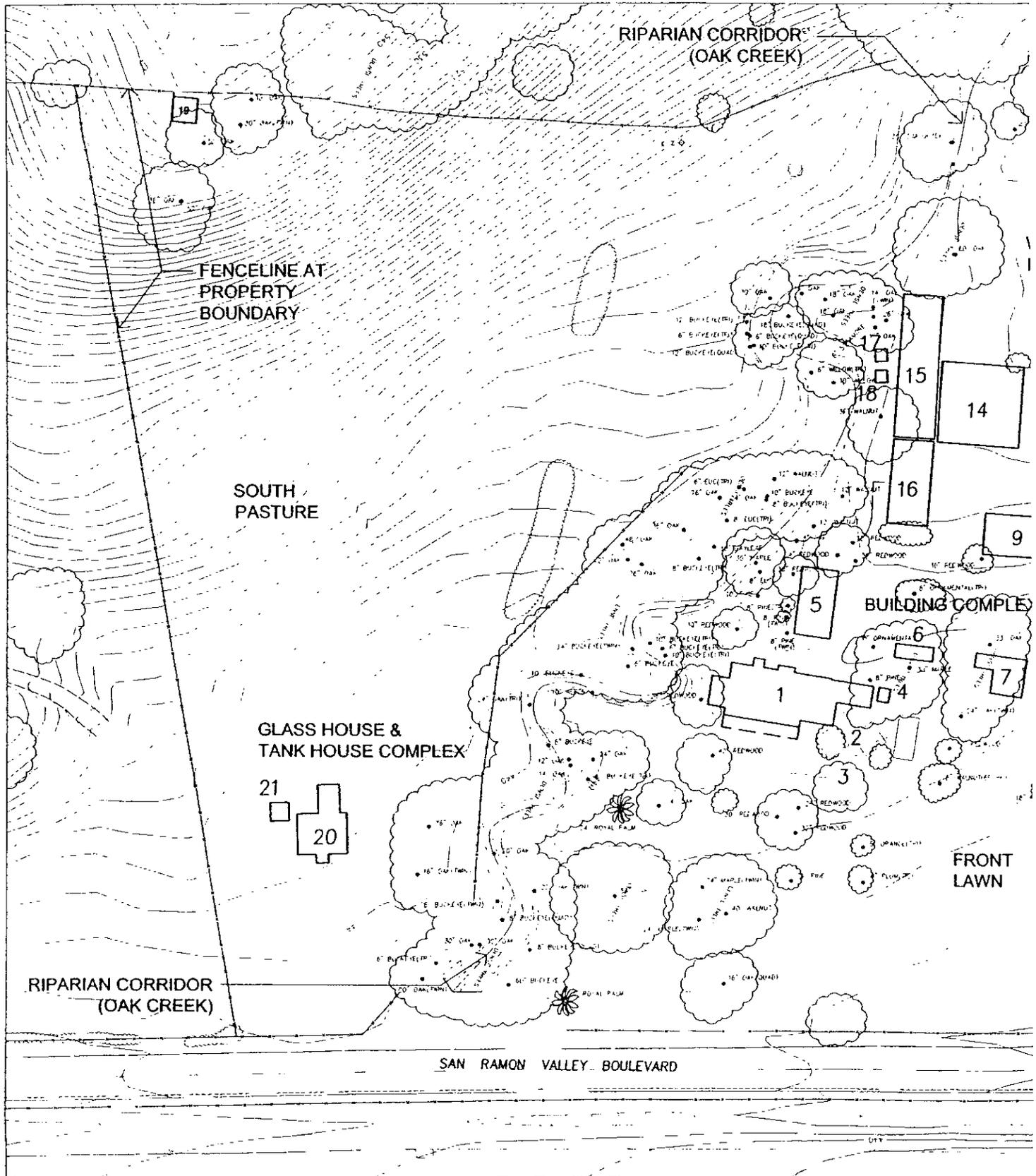
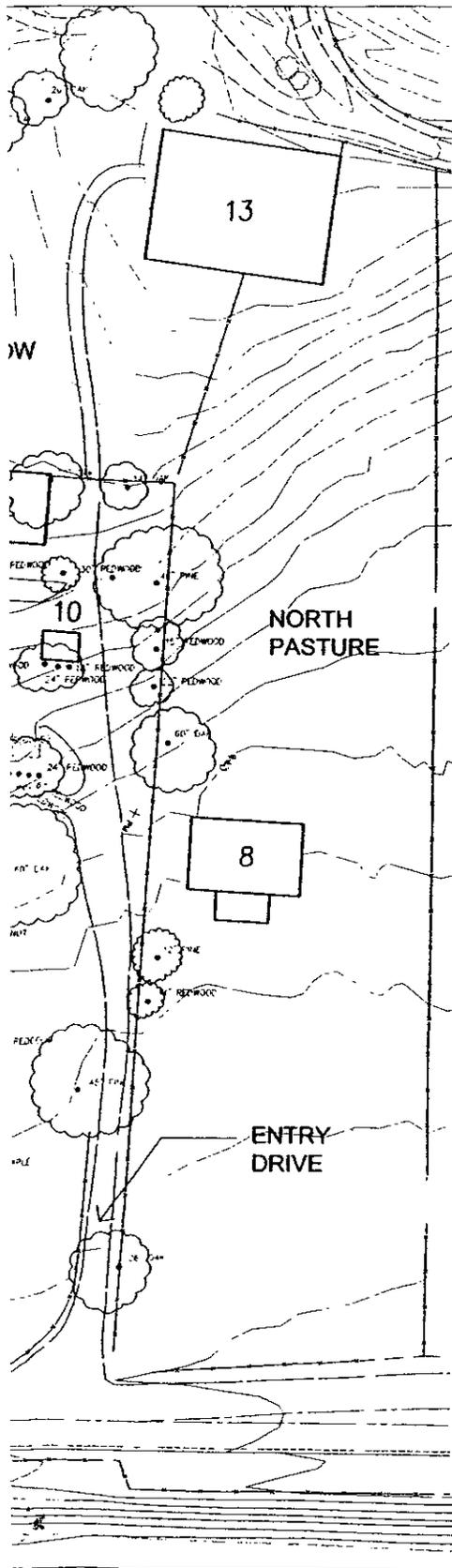


Figure 3



Key

Structure No./Name	Current Use	Proposed Use
Structure 1/Boone House	1st Floor: 2 apartments, storage 2nd Floor: 3 apartments	1st Floor: Research center, Museum, museum store, gallery, arts center, office, kitchen, toilet rooms, laundry room for facility and tenants, one disabled-accessible apartment and storage 2nd Floor: 3 apartments
Structure 2/Pergola	Garden ornament	Garden ornament
Structure 3/Grotto	Garden ornament	Garden ornament
Structure 4/ Gardening shed	Garden implement storage	Garden implement storage
Structure 5/ Carport	Carport	Demolish
Structure 6/ Meat House	None	Interpretive
Structure 7/ House	Single-family dwelling	Single-family dwelling for caretaker
Structure 8/ Barn	None	Livestock
Structure 9/ Machine shop and tool shed	Machine shop, garage and tool shed	Machine shop, classroom and storage
Structure 10/ Granary	Storage	Storage
Structure 11/ Gasoline shed	Interpretive	Interpretive
Structure 12/ Barn	Wood storage	Interpretive
Structure 13/ Agricultural machinery and vehicle storage building	Agricultural machinery storage	Agricultural Machinery and Vehicle Storage, occasional dances and theater
Structure 14/ Walnut processing plant	Garage	Classroom, interpretive, group picnic, toilet rooms in addition
Structure 15/ Walnut processing plant	None	Interpretive
Structure 16/ Walnut processing plant	Garage	Classroom, interpretive
Structure 17/Outhouse	None	Artifact
Structure 18/Outhouse	None	Artifact
Structure 19/Cistern	None	Interpretive
Structure 20/Glass House	None	1st Floor: Museum, tea room, kitchen and uni-sex disabled accessible toilet room 2nd Floor: Research center
Structure 21/Glass tank house	None	Interpretive

*Appendix X. E  
Northwest Specific Plan – Parks and Open Space*

## CHAPTER 5: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Open space, both active and passive, is a key feature of the Northwest Specific Plan, and serves as a framework for the land use patterns within the Plan Area. The Plan Area will contain parks and open space areas as essential components of its design framework. Each land use within the Plan Area will be oriented around open space and/or parks, and will be inter-connected via a combination of trails and roadways. The parks and open space system (illustrated in Figure 5-1) offers a variety of parks, playfields, open space, and conservation areas that fulfill a variety of neighborhood and community needs, as well as resource protection and education objectives.

The City of San Ramon General Plan contains policies that require that at least 75% of the Plan Area is designated for non-residential uses, including schools, parks, common and public open space uses, ownership and maintenance of public and private open space, and design of open amenities such as staging areas, trails, and connections. The Land Use Program for the Plan, as detailed in Chapter 2-Land Use, includes approximately 88-acres of residential development and 265-acres of non-residential development and permanent open space (for a ratio of 75% of non-residential development in the Plan Area).

The eastern portion of the Plan Area provides approximately 72-acres of residential development with approximately 218-acres of non-residential and permanent open space (including common open space and Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) areas within neighborhoods); in compliance with the 75/25 General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element development ratio. In addition, the developers of the eastern portion of the Plan Area will provide an additional 144-acres of adjacent off-site permanent open space, in order to achieve a total open space ratio of 80/20 (illustrated in Figure 5-2). The western portion of the Plan Area includes approximately 16-acres of residential development, with a corresponding 47.5-acres of open space, also in compliance with the General Plan's development ratio of 75/25.



*Open space, both active and passive, is a key feature of the Northwest Specific Plan.*

## Parks and Open Space Goals, Objectives and Policies

The following goals, objectives, and policies have been established to guide the implementation of the Northwest Specific Plan Area's open space and parks system.

**GOAL 1.** An open space and park system that is compatible with and sensitive to the natural environment and surrounding resources, provides active and passive recreational facilities, functions as a prominent aesthetic resource, provides links to a greater regional park and open space network, where frequent use is encouraged through location, accessibility and amenities.

### **Preservation of Natural Resources**

**Objective A:** Orient land uses around sensitive resource areas, ensuring preservation of vegetation, open space, natural resources, and significant topographic features.



View of Bollinger Creek.



Existing oak woodlands outside of development areas shall be protected.

### **Policies:**

1. *No development or grading for development shall occur within major ridgeline protection zones, unless as demonstrated as an exception in the General Plan (General Plan Figure 8-3).*
2. *Protect existing oak woodlands outside of identified development areas, and provide for replacement of affected oak woodland habitat, in accordance with Figure 5-1.*
3. *Preserve Bollinger Creek and the surrounding riparian corridor. Development shall not occur within 100' of the centerline of Bollinger Creek.*
4. *Require a maintenance program, such as a GHAD, Landscape Overlay, Homeowners' Association (HOA), or combination of the above for protected open space areas, including ridges, riparian corridors, Bollinger Creek, replantings and other natural resources.*
5. *The enhanced riparian and wildlife corridor located within the portion of the plan area east of Bollinger Road shall be improved and maintained as a passive open space amenity, with an average overall width of not less than 200 feet, as conceptually shown in Figure 5-1 and detailed in Figure 7 of the Biological Assessment (included as Appendix A).*



**Legend**

- Public Trails
- Trail Connections
- Riparian Corridor
- Parks
- Preserved Open Space
- Private Open Space (Conceptual Locations)
- Neighborhood Park (Conceptual Location)
- Specific Plan Boundary
- Creeks

**Trails and Open Space System**  
**Figure 5-1**





# Offsite Open Space Preservation Area

Figure 5-2





*Taria Preserve*  
SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA



DAVID GATES & ASSOCIATES  
10000 Spring Valley Road, Suite 200, Clayton, CA 94520  
Tel: 925.754.1111 Fax: 925.754.1112

OCTOBER 2004

### ***Balance of Development and Open Space***

Objective B: Maintain a balance of residential development, non-residential development, and passive and active open space within the Plan Area.

#### **Policies:**

1. *Ensure that at least 75% of the Plan Area is designated for non-residential development or open space, as per the requirements in the City of San Ramon General Plan.*

### ***Community Park Facilities to Meet a Variety of Needs***

Objective C: Provide park facilities that meet the needs of the residents of the Plan Area and surrounding communities for a variety of passive and active recreational facilities.

#### **Policies:**

1. *Develop and dedicate an approximately 12.7-acre community park as a turnkey facility, with a variety of recreational facilities to provide passive and active recreational opportunities.*
2. *Ensure that the community park is connected to adjacent land use areas by either sidewalks or trails.*
3. *Provide a pedestrian connection via a dedicated easement from the community park to Mill Creek Hollow Park, south of the Plan Area.*
4. *Provide common open space areas integrated with residential development to support both active and passive open space uses.*
5. *Provide a neighborhood park (approximately 2-acres) within the western portion of the Plan Area.*

### ***Open Space Management and Maintenance***

Objective D: Develop an Open Space Management Plan to ensure funding methods for ongoing maintenance and operations for public and private open space in the Plan Area, including trails facilities.

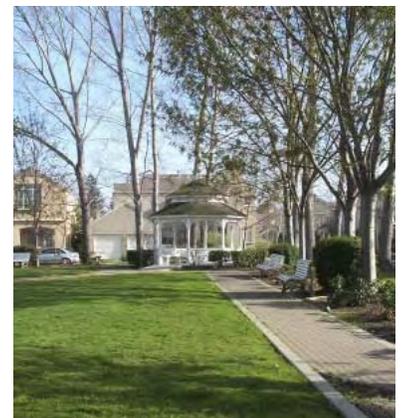
There are several options for open space management within the Plan Area, including developing a GHAD or other special assessment district, establishing a HOA, or arranging a partnership with the EBRPD and/or the City of San Ramon. A combination of ownership and maintenance could also occur. The options and



*Proposed community park facility.*



*Examples of pedestrian connections.*



*Common open space areas shall be integrated with residential development.*

requirements for an Open Space Maintenance Plan are discussed further in the Implementation Chapter.

**Policies:**

1. *Develop and implement an Open Space Management Plans, as part of the entitlement processes for future development applications within the Plan Area. Open Space Management Plans will specify ongoing funding mechanisms for open space management, ownership patterns, and responsibilities for maintenance.*

### Open Space and Resource Protection Areas

There are several primary organizing components of the open space system within the Plan Area, including the riparian corridor, preservation of major ridgelines, and significant open space areas surrounding the residential neighborhoods. Additionally, the open space areas within the Plan Area will be linked via a trail system to regional open space areas.



*An illustration of the Riparian Corridor bisecting Neighborhood A.*



*Existing drainage swale within the Faria property to be maintained as a riparian corridor.*

### **Riparian and Wildlife Corridor**

The Land Use Plan delineates an approximately 8.9-acre corridor in the western portion of the Faria property as an area that should be protected, and maintained as a riparian corridor.

No development, grading, or construction is permitted within the corridor, with the exception of perimeter fencing and drainage facilities, including water quality and detention ponds as needed to provide wetland habitat and help control drainage.

As conceptually illustrated in the accompanying graphic, the riparian and wildlife corridor will include a meandering riparian drainage swale and a series of small wetland habitat areas and connecting ponds. The ponds will help to support adjoining wetland areas support wildlife movement, and enhance the planned storm water filtration system, while the corridor will connect major on- and off-site open space areas to the north of Neighborhood A, with the community park and additional open space to the south, as well as existing Mill Creek Hollow Park further to the south.

The average overall width of the riparian and wildlife corridor shall be a minimum of 200 feet. The planned facilities are to be improved and maintained in accordance with a Biological Assessment to be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, which is included as an appendix to this document (Appendix A).

### ***Protection of Major Ridgelines***

The General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element and the RCOD contain policies and standards for the protection of Major and Minor Ridgelines, and limit where grading and development may take place within the planning area.

Ordinance 197 was adopted by the City in 1990 and incorporated certain RCOD policies into the City's prior General Plan. It also extended the RCOD to cover a greater area in the City, including land that is above 500 feet in elevation. Ordinance 197 restricts development adjacent to ridgelines, on steep slopes, and along creek corridors, and it is designed to maintain an environmental balance consistent with the existing vegetation, soils, geology, slopes, and drainage patterns.

According to the City's General Plan, the entirety of the Plan Area is located within the RCOD, and governed by Ordinance 197, requiring the protection of ridgelines through limiting grading and development within 100 vertical feet of major ridgelines and 50 feet of minor ridgelines. There are three identified major ridgelines located within the Plan Area. However, as specified in the General Plan, all of one of the major ridgelines and a portion of another may be altered by grading within the Plan Area (see Figure 1-5 of the Introduction).

### ***Residential Neighborhoods Integrated with Open Space***

As detailed in Chapter 2, Land Use and Community Design, the Plan's land use program includes five distinct residential neighborhoods organized around an open space system, which is designed to preserve natural resources and create accessible and functional community open space amenities. The intent of the open space system is to maintain natural resources, and create a high-quality environment through the inclusion of a community park, an education facility, a house of worship, and a passive open space system with trails, and a riparian/wildlife corridor.



*The General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element and the Resource Conservation Overlay District (RCOD) contain policies and ordinance standards for the protection of Major and Minor Ridgelines.*



*View of open space within Bollinger Canyon Subarea, to be protected through recordation of a conservation easement.*

The Plan's open space system extends beyond the Plan Area's boundaries, with the permanent preservation of open space within the Bollinger Canyon Subarea. This area consists of approximately 144-acres of additional off-site open space adjacent to the Plan Area, to be protected through recordation of a conservation easement. When added to the on-site open space preserved within the eastern portion of the Plan Area (the Faria property), these additional 138-acres will increase the ratio of open space to residential development area for the Faria property to 80/20 (using the 2-acres of off-site open space equivalency to 1-acre of on-site open space standard as outlined in the General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element).

### ***Linkages to Regional Open Space Resources***

Another characteristic of the Plan Area is linkages to regional open space resources through a public trail system. Within the Plan Area, a public trail system is proposed to be fully developed and improved per EBRPD standards. The proposed trail system follows the major roadway connecting all neighborhoods to the Plan Area's community facilities, and eventually leads to the existing Mill Creek Hollow Neighborhood Park immediately to the south. Additionally, the proposed trail system is planned to serve as a regional trail link, running north-south along the ridgeline directly east of Bollinger Canyon Road, and to the adjoining EBRPD open space area to the north of the Plan Area.



*The public trail system of the Northwest Specific Plan will supplement existing regional trails with new connections.*

EBRPD owns and maintains several areas in the vicinity of the Plan Area, including the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, the Bishop Ranch Open Space area, and several parcels located north of the Specific Plan Area which EBRPD is in the process of acquiring to create a connection to Las Trampas. Integrated within these preserved open space areas are the existing Iron Horse Trail running parallel to San Ramon Valley Boulevard and I-680, the Las Trampas Ridge Trail within the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, the Calavaras Ridge Trail, and future trail connections planned by EBRPD. The public trails system proposed for the Plan Area will supplement these existing regional trails with new connections to the surrounding regional open space amenities that offer a variety of recreational opportunities such as hiking and equestrian riding.



*Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Trail.*

## Park Facilities

Several different types of active and passive recreational opportunities will be developed within the Plan Area, including a community park, a rose garden, an extensive trail system, the passive riparian and wildlife corridor, a tot lot, and interconnecting open space areas within the residential neighborhoods.

### Community Park

As previously discussed, an approximately 12.7-acre community park is planned for the southern portion of the Plan Area, east of Bollinger Canyon Road, to be developed as a turnkey facility. The park is intended to provide a range of recreation opportunities for the residents of the neighborhoods within the Plan Area, as well as visitors to the area and residents of the community. The community park is envisioned as a series of terraces, gently stepping down the slope to provide flat, usable recreational areas. The park is surrounded by open space areas to the south and to the northeast, and is located across the roadway from Neighborhood B, and the house of worship.



Proposed Community Park (Source: David Gates & Associates)

The community park is envisioned to include facilities such as soccer and baseball fields with sloping areas for spectators, large grassy areas, a community services/maintenance building, picnic areas, a tot lot, an amphitheater, and parking



*The community park is envisioned to include recreational facilities such as soccer and baseball fields.*

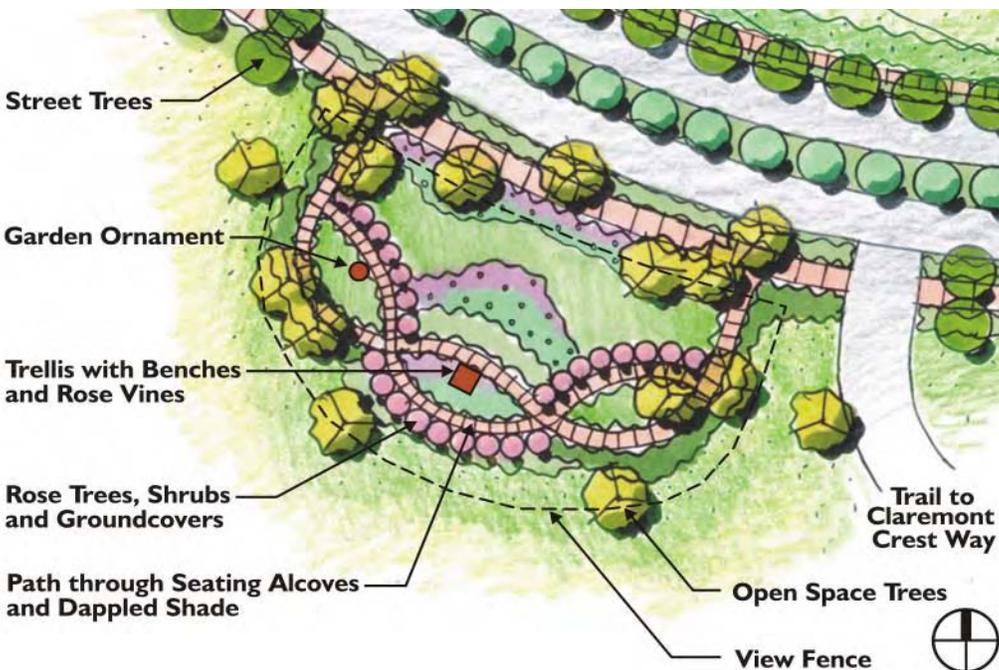
facilities.

Pedestrian access is a key element of the community park design. A pedestrian crossing will be provided near the southwest corner of the park, to connect the site to nearby residential uses, the house of worship, and Mill Creek Hollow Park. The park entry will be located on the main internal access road through the Plan Area, and the entry way will be landscaped in a manner that is consistent with the residential development within the Plan Area. Parking areas will be located adjacent to the main internal roadway. The accompanying graphic illustrates a conceptual plan for the community park.

**Rose Garden**

A .5-acre memorial rose garden planned for the area adjacent to the western community entryway, east of Bollinger Canyon Road. This garden is envisioned as a small, intimate space that provides an area for residents to sit and enjoy the natural environment, and helps to define and enhance overall character of the community.

The rose garden will include shaded seated areas, and internal pathways. The



rose garden will be pedestrian accessible, located adjacent to a sidewalk, with a pedestrian trail connecting southward to Claremont Crest Way. The garden will be enclosed with a view fence to help control deer intrusion. A variety of plant materials and garden ornaments and trellises will help to create a pleasant, inviting environment throughout the year.

*Proposed Rose Garden (Source: David Gates & Associates)*

**Neighborhood Open Space Areas**

Within the Plan Area there shall be a variety of common neighborhood areas that provide both active and passive open space opportunities. These neighborhood open space areas could serve as functional community amenities for residents, supplementing the Plan Area’s proposed community facilities and enhancing the visual quality of the neighborhoods.

All neighborhoods will be surrounded by passive open space, creating a setting that enhances the visual quality of the Plan Area and delineates each neighborhood with a natural buffer. Passive open space is also proposed to be located within Neighborhoods A and D. Neighborhood A is planned around a riparian and wildlife corridor that intersects residences and the entry road, and Neighborhood D is designed with an informal meadow. Both of these areas are also linked by pedestrian paths and ultimately to the public trail system within the Plan Area. Neighborhood E will also contain a small neighborhood park that could be developed with a tot-lot and pedestrian trail easements, connecting to open space areas.

Additionally, within each of the residential neighborhoods is proposed a system of common open space areas dispersed in central and peripheral locations. These common open space areas will help to provide a distinctive identity to the neighborhoods.



*All neighborhoods will be surrounded by passive open space.*



*Examples of common open space areas for neighborhoods.*