Parks & Recreation

Chapter 8

City of Fremont
General Plan

Adopted December 2011

CITY OF
Fremont

This page intentionally left blank.

Introduction

Sustainable communities include parks and open spaces where residents and visitors can enjoy recreation, connect with nature, learn about local history, or gather with neighbors. Thanks to the foresight and vision of community leaders and citizens throughout Fremont's history, Fremont boasts an extensive park system anchored by 434-acre Central Park and supplemented by numerous citywide and neighborhood parks. Fremont's parks provide a range of recreational facilities, including sports fields, children's play areas, tennis and basketball courts, walking paths, and water features. Some parks also include historic structures, gardens and community centers. In addition to the City-operated parks, Fremont is home to several regional parks managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

In a 2007 on-line survey for the General Plan update, 84% of respondents rated the quantity and character of Fremont's parks and open space as a very high or high priority, the highest ranking for any single issue. The survey results confirm the value that Fremont residents place on their parks and open spaces.

Despite the array of parks and facilities available to the community, the parks system faces a number of serious challenges. Most of the City's parks are more than 20 years old and require increased maintenance at the same time that funds are becoming scarcer. It is also becoming more challenging to identify land suitable and obtainable for future park uses. Not only will demand for parks increase due to the amount of Fremont's anticipated population growth, but also due to the type of growth: residents of more compact, more vertical housing units are likely to turn to the parks system to meet their needs for recreation and to experience the outdoors. As the City's demographics change, the types of parks and recreational facilities the community desires may also change. The purpose of this chapter is to set a framework for meeting these challenges in the future.

WHY A PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT?

There is no State mandate that communities include a Parks element in their General Plans. Because of the value the community places on parks, however, Fremont included a Parks and Recreation element into the General Plan in 1991 (which formed the basis for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1995) and is retaining a Parks and Recreation element in the General Plan update.

Central Park's Lake Elizabeth

City Parks

Current & Future

As of January 2010, the City operates 53 parks, providing a wide range of recreation facilities to the community. Total acreage is about 1148 acres, with about 865 acres owned by the City. The remainder is leased from other agencies. Park acreage is currently sufficient to meet the City's goal of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. However, as Fremont has developed and grown, it has become increasingly difficult for the City to secure and purchase large parcels of land for citywide and neighborhood parks. This trend is likely to continue as the few remaining large vacant parcels in Fremont are developed over the next 20 years.

Fremont's current park inventory was acquired and developed primarily during the years of highest population growth, the 1950s through the 1980s. In those years, new development was primarily suburban in nature and facilities that were developed reflected the large school-age population. Since 1980, Fremont's population has grown older as the Baby Boom generation has aged and children make up a smaller percentage of the community. In 1980, the median age of Fremont residents was 28.7 years, while in 2008 it was about 36 years. The fastest growing category of Fremont's population is in the 85+ segment. The increase in median age of Fremont residents is projected to continue.

Changes in land use and transportation will also affect demand for City parks. Due to the City's increased emphasis on compact, urban style development near transit hubs, more residents are likely to have limited yard space attached to their homes and will likely depend on the City's park system for contact with nature and the outdoors. Also, as traffic congestion increases, fuel prices rise, and efforts to address climate change increase, residents are likely to seek recreation close to home and to utilize walking and cycling paths where they are available.

Park Categories

The previous General Plan included five parks categories. One of these categories, civic parks, was envisioned only in the City Center. In the General Plan update, the civic park category is expanded to reflect the City's desire to incorporate urban-style parks into the original towns of Niles, Warm Springs, Mission San Jose, Irvington, and Centerville. In addition, a new park category, linear parks, is being added to allow for development of former rail corridors and utility corridors into community amenities that can be used for walking, running, and cycling. The City's park categories are as follows:

Niles Town Plaza - Civic Park

Warm Springs Community Park

Citywide Parks

Citywide or community parks provide facilities which serve the needs of the entire community, often providing improvements typical of neighborhood parks for local residents. Citywide parks are not necessarily uniform in the facilities they provide. The greater size and accessibility of these parks allow for more active play than found in neighborhood parks. Active and passive recreation functions are included as standard facilities in citywide parks. Special cultural facilities such as theaters and museums can be considered for inclusion at selected citywide parks.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide for the daily recreation needs of residents in the area of the park. They contain limited active recreation opportunities such as hard surface playing courts and multipurpose fields. Recreation activities such as picnicking, strolling and informal play can also be accommodated in neighborhood parks. Unlike citywide parks, neither on-site parking nor lighting is provided.

Mini Parks

Mini parks provide limited recreation opportunities. Because of their small size or their configuration, these parks do not provide the same base level of facilities as neighborhood parks. Future mini parks will require a special funding source for maintenance, due to the relatively high cost of maintaining these parks.

Shinn House - Historic Park.

Historic Parks

Historic parks provide a means of preserving and interpreting historic sites and structures. The secondary purpose of these parks, when appropriate, is to serve and enhance citywide recreation needs. Historic parks are established around important historic buildings or other historic resources such as a plaza, monument or nursery.

Civic Parks

Civic parks are outdoor public places made up of plazas, squares and courtyards. Civic parks are typically developed as enhanced paved areas, and contain trees and ornamental landscaping features. These spaces serve as outdoor spaces where people can sit, relax, socialize, and enjoy the surrounding area. These spaces are also areas where assembly activities, such as outdoor concerts, fairs and art festivals could occur from time to time. They are intended to enhance the unique features of the City Center and the original towns of Niles, Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs, and Mission San Jose. Future civic parks will require a special funding source for maintenance, due to relatively high operational costs.

Linear Parks

Linear Park Example

Linear parks provide a recreational opportunity for walkers, runners and cyclists. They typically include a paved path, with limited landscaping and other amenities such as drinking fountains at some locations. Linear parks are typically constructed on former rail corridors, utility corridors, or other similar areas. In addition to their recreational benefits, linear parks provide a safe, convenient alternative to driving. This is a new park category included as part of the General Plan update.

Park Standards and Guidelines for the Development of Parks

The Parks and Recreation Element establishes standards and guidelines for the City's six categories of parks. The intent of establishing standards is to guarantee the provision of certain baseline facilities within parks by committing expenditure of development impact fees for baseline improvements. This assures a level of uniformity of facilities among parks serving similar functions. Base park standards are as follows:

Table 8-1
Citywide Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	Citywide Parks provide for a diverse range of recreational and cultural activities. These parks provide for the active and passive recreation needs for the largest portion of the City's population. Citywide parks are appropriate for the siting of special facilities. Citywide parks can also serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents.
Base Facilities Standards	• Restroom(s) • Drinking fountain(s) • Picnic tables and barbecues • Grass area with play equipment • Benches • Trash cans • Active recreation, such as facilities for organized, league practice, and pickup games (ball fields, tennis, etc.) and citywide recreation buildings and sports complexes. A portion of the active recreation facilities should be lighted for night use. • Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play • Pathway and parking lot lighting • On-site parking • Future citywide parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Provide cultural opportunities and active and passive recreation opportunities: • Cultural facilities, such as, theaters, museums, and festival grounds • Natural areas
	Provide facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as: • Office and storage • Bicycle parking • Curb-side parking
Optional Facilities Guidelines	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Table 8-2
Neighborhood Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	Neighborhood Parks provide for the daily recreation needs of residents in the area of the park. The primary recreation use is informal leisure and free play. Active recreation is limited to informal "pick-up" games and practice activities.
Base Facilities Standards	• Grass area with trees • Play area with play equipment • Benches • Trash Cans Provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities • Limited active recreation, such as hard surface playing courts (basketball, tennis, etc) and multipurpose sports fields for informal "pick-up" games and practice activities • Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play • Future neighborhood parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Provide passive recreation opportunities: • Natural areas Provide limited facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as: • Drinking fountains, • Barbecues and picnic tables, • Pathways
Optional Facilities Guidelines	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Table 8-3
Mini Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	Mini Parks provide for limited recreation needs of residents in the area of the park. The primary recreation use is informal leisure and free play. Site constraints (size and configuration) may limit recreation use.
Base Facilities Standards	Future mini parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities. • Limited active recreation, such as hard playing surfaces (half-court basketball, tennis, etc.) and turf areas for practice and "pick-up" games • Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play Provide limited facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as: • Drinking fountains • Barbecues and picnic tables • Pathways
Optional Facilities Guidelines	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Table 8-4
Historic Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	The primary purpose of historic parks is the preservation of historic structures or sites. The secondary aim is to provide a place to serve and enhance citywide activity needs. Historic parks are established around important historic buildings or other historic resources (such as a plaza, monument, or nursery). An historic park can also serve as a memorial to events of historic, cultural and/or social significance to the City of Fremont. The location of the historic park has a reasonable relationship to the event being commemorated.
Base Facilities Standards	• Grass area with trees • Play area with play equipment • Benches • Trash Cans Provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities • Limited active recreation, such as hard surface playing courts (basketball, tennis, etc) and multipurpose sports fields for informal "pick-up" games and practice activities • Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Optional Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Table 8-5
Civic Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	The purpose of civic parks is to provide interesting urban spaces that enhance the unique features of the City Center and Town Centers of Centerville, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Niles and Warm Springs.
Base Facilities Standards	Future civic parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Optional Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Table 8-6
Linear Parks - Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	The purpose of linear parks is to provide safe and readily-accessible connections between neighborhoods and to other City parks, and to encourage walking, jogging, bicycling and other forms of non-motorized recreational travel. Trail parks help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go.
Base Facilities Standards	Future linear parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
Recreation Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Optional Facilities Guidelines	Varies
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

Old Mission Park

Acquisition and Development of Parklands

Because the community values parks so highly, the City is retaining its standard of 5.0 acres per 1000 residents for acquisition and development of parkland. This is the basis on which the City collects development impact fees for the park system. With this standard in place, the parkland inventory will grow along with the community. In some cases, due to lack of maintenance funding, the City may acquire land for parks but defer development until maintenance dollars can be identified (a practice commonly referred to as "land banking").

The City will continue to utilize a variety of funding sources for acquiring and developing new parks. One important funding source is the development impact fee program, which requires new development to pay a proportionate share of costs for park land acquisition and development.

Special facilities, such as additional community centers, swimming pools, and a cultural arts facility have been discussed for inclusion in Fremont's park system. Should the City and community pursue completion of these special facilities, the City will seek broad-based mechanisms to finance land acquisition and development. Potential sources include grants, private donations, and any City funds that might be available through the Capital Improvement Program process.

The Recreation Commission analyzes potential park acquisition and development projects and makes recommendations to the City Council for prioritization and funding. These projects must be consistent with the development standards and guidelines for the different park types. Parcels to be acquired must be analyzed for consistency with the "Criteria for Selection of Park Sites," which is included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

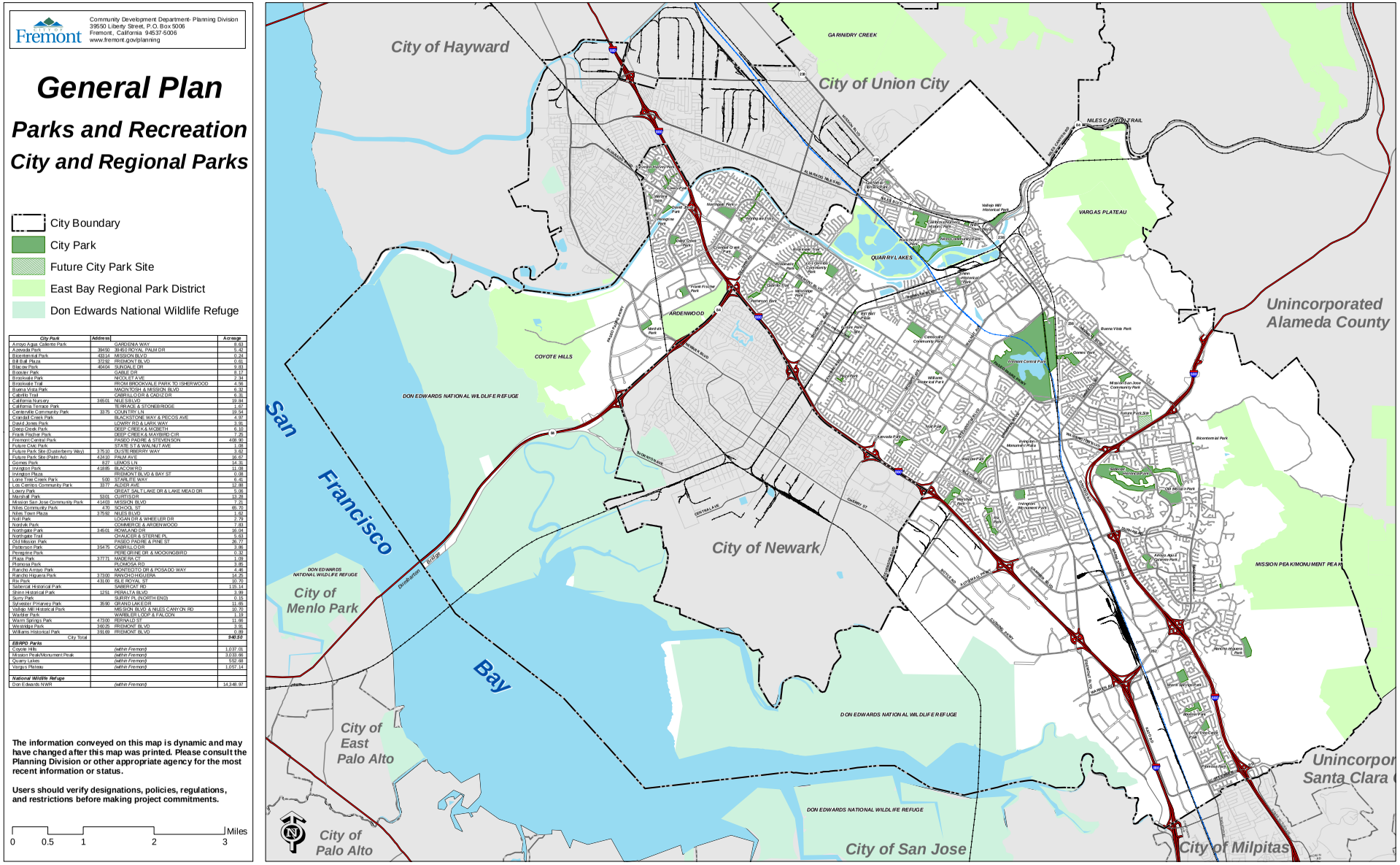
The City will also continue to work with other agencies through long term leases, joint use agreements and other cooperative agreements to provide park land and recreation facilities to be managed by the City of Fremont for public use.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The City adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1995. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides more detailed information about and direction for acquisition of park land and provision of park facilities. As an implementation measure of the General Plan update, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be updated to make it consistent with the new Parks and Recreation Element.

Diagram 8-1 shows the City and regional parks located in Fremont.

This page intentionally left blank.



City Park	Address		Acreage
Arroyo Agua Caliente Park		GARDENIA WAY	8.63
Azevada Park	39430	3H&3 ROYAL PALM DR	5.42
Bicentennial Park	43114	MISSION BLVD	0.24
Bill Ball Plaza	37292	FREMONT BLVD	0.61
Blacow Park	40404	SUNDALE DR	9.83
Booster Park		GABLE DR	8.17
Brookvale Park		NICOLET AVE	2.34
Brookvale Trail		FROM BROOKVALE PARK TO ISHERWOOD	4.56
Buena Vista Park		MAGNTOSH & MISSION BLVD	6.32
Cabrillo Trail		CABRILLO DR & CADIZ DR	6.31
California Nursery	34601	NILES BLVD	19.84
California Terrace Park		TERRACE & STONEBRIDGE	1.67
Centerville Community Park	3375	COUNTRY LN	19.54
Crandall Creek Park		BLACKSTONE WAY & PECOS AVE	4.97
David Jones Park		LOWRY RD & LARK WAY	3.91
Deep Creek Park		DEEP CREEK & MOBETH	6.10
Frank Fischer Park		DEEP CREEK & MAYBIRD CIR	7.25
Fremont Central Park		PASEO PADRE & STEVENSON	418.90
Future Civic Park		STATE ST & WALNUT AVE	1.08
Future Park Site (Dusterberry Way)	37510	DUSTERBERRY WAY	1.62
Future Park Site (Palm Av)	43410	PALM AVE	16.67
Gomes Park	827	LEMOS LN	14.31
Irvington Park	41886	BLACOW RD	11.98
Irvington Plaza		FREMONT BLVD & BAY ST	0.08
Lone Tree Creek Park	500	STARLITE WAY	6.41
Los Cerritos Community Park	3377	ALDER AVE	12.88
Lowry Park		GREAT SALT LAKE DR & LAKE MEAD DR	5.06
Marshall Park	5301	CURTIS DR	13.38
Mission San Jose Community Park	41403	MISSION BLVD	7.21
Niles Community Park	470	SCHOOL ST	65.70
Niles Town Plaza	37592	NILES BLVD	1.62
Noll Park		LOGAN DR & WHEELER DR	2.79
Nordvik Park		COMMERCE & ARDENWOOD	7.83
Northgate Park	34501	ROWLAND DR	16.04
Northgate Trail		CHAUCER & STERNE PL	5.63
Old Mission Park		PASEO PADRE & PINE ST	26.77
Patterson Park	35475	CABRILLO DR	3.88
Peregrine Park		PEREGRINE DR & MOCKINGBIRD	0.32
Plaza Park	37771	MADERA CT	1.09
Plomosa Park		PLOMOSA RD	3.85
Rancho Arroyo Park		MONTEDITO DR & POSADO WAY	4.46
Rancho Higuera Park	37300	RANCHO HIGUERA	14.25
Rix Park	43100	ISLE ROYAL ST	10.70
Sabercat Historical Park		SABERCAT RD	115.14
Shinn Historical Park	1251	PERALTA BLVD	3.99
Surry Park		SURRY PL (NORTH END)	0.15
Sylvester (Highway) Park	3590	GRAND LAKE DR	11.65
Vallejo Mill Historical Park		MISSION BLVD & NILES CANYON RD	10.70
Warbler Park		WARBLER LOOP & FALCON	1.19
Warm Springs Park	47300	FERNALD ST	11.66
Westridge Park	34025	FREMONT BLVD	3.91
Williams Historical Park	39169	FREMONT BLVD	0.89
City Total			**940.50**
EBRPD Parks			
Coyote Hills		*(within Fremont)*	1,037.01
Mission Peak/Monument Peak		*(within Fremont)*	3,033.66
Quarry Lakes		*(within Fremont)*	552.68
Vargas Plateau		*(within Fremont)*	1,057.14
National Wildlife Refuge			
Don Edwards NWR		*(within Fremont)*	14,348.97

Diagram 8-1 City and Regional Parks

This is a reduced image. Please see the most current color full-size maps available at the Fremont Planning Division or online at www.fremont.gov/planning
The information on this diagram is dynamic and may have changed since this page was last printed.

This page intentionally left blank.

Maintenance of Existing Parks & Facilities

Always Dream Play Park in Central Park

Most of Fremont's parks and associated facilities were acquired and constructed from the 1950s through the 1980s. Much of the park system's infrastructure is aging and in need of increasing levels of maintenance. Funding for maintenance and rehabilitation comes primarily from the City's General Fund, although an East Bay Regional Parks bond measure approved by voters in 2008 included limited funding to local jurisdictions for rehabilitation and maintenance of City parks. In its capital improvement spending plans for parks, the City prioritizes projects that can reduce maintenance costs.

As the City's parks and associated facilities continue to age, as new parkland is developed and added to the City's inventory, and as residents of more urban dwellings turn increasingly to the parks system, maintenance needs will continue to grow. Because funding for maintenance has historically been limited, future maintenance will likely become increasingly challenging unless new sources of funding are identified.

In 2005, the City Council commissioned a comprehensive report studying various methods of park financing and strategies for acquiring land to serve residents. The study also looked at opportunities for maximizing efficiency from existing maintenance funding and generating additional funding for park maintenance. One option suggested by the study was to ask the community to provide a dedicated funding stream for maintenance through a citywide assessment district.

As new parks are developed in conjunction with large residential projects, the City will continue to pursue long-term maintenance funding commitments from developers. The City will also continue to design its new parks to reduce long-term maintenance obligations. Nevertheless, in order for the City to maintain its existing parks and associated facilities, it may need to explore new funding sources, including assessment districts and bond measures, for park purposes. Broad public support will be critical in enacting any new assessment district, community facilities district, or bond measure, and any measure must incorporate extensive public input and involvement.

Mission Peak Summit

Coyote Hills

Other Park & Recreation Resources in Fremont

In addition to the parks operated by the City of Fremont, other agencies also provide important parks and recreation resources in the community. The most significant of these are described below.

East Bay Regional Parks

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is a special district operating in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Founded in 1934, EBRPD maintains and operates a system of 108,000+ acres of parkland that comprises the largest urban park district in the United States. The EBRPD operates four regional recreational facilities in Fremont: Mission Peak Regional Preserve (2999 acres); Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area (539 acres); Coyote Hills Regional Park (978 acres); and Ardenwood Historic Farm (205 acres). Of these, only Ardenwood Historic Farm is owned by the City of Fremont and is included in the City's park land inventory. In addition, the District operates the 12-mile-long Alameda Creek Trail, which extends from the mouth of Niles Canyon to the Bay. Together, these resources are used by the community for activities such as hiking, bicycling, walking, skating, fishing, picnicking, boating, swimming, and wildlife viewing. After Central Park (visited at least once in the past year by 87% of respondents), the next five most visited recreational facilities in Fremont as identified in a 2007 on-line survey for the General Plan were all operated by EBRPD: Coyote Hills Regional Park (56%), Ardenwood Historic Farm (53%), Alameda Creek Trail (43%), Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area (40%), and Mission Peak Regional Preserve (39%).

Two additional areas identified for inclusion in the Regional Park system by EBRPD:

- The District owns approximately 785 acres south of Niles Canyon Road, with plans to acquire additional property for development of the Vargas Plateau Regional Park, which was approved by the district board in April 2008.
- The former Dumbarton Quarry site is proposed for transfer to the District for incorporation into Coyote Hills Regional Park, according to the current reclamation plan.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers significant natural habitat for wildlife. The Refuge also provides a natural buffer against possible impacts to Fremont from sea level rise related to global warming. Approximately 10,000 acres of the Refuge's wetlands are located in Fremont. The Refuge offers extensive recreational opportunities, including nature/interpretive classes, hiking, and observation of wildlife.

San Francisco Bay Trail & Other Recreational Trails

Another recreational amenity for Fremont is the San Francisco Bay Trail, a planned 500-mile long trail around the Bay, of which 270 miles were completed as of 2005. There are two completed portions near Fremont. These two routes pass through Coyote Hills and along southern Fremont Boulevard. As of 2005, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Gap Analysis Study estimated that it would cost $9.5 million to complete the Bay Trail throughout Fremont (not including intervening Newark improvements). The City attempts to partner with private developments when the opportunity arises, which should gradually reduce the direct costs of completing the trail.

In addition to the Bay Trail, other recreational trails exist within the City as shown in Diagram 8-2. This diagram indicates existing and proposed recreational trails in Fremont. Recreational trails are considered off-road Class 1 facilities for biking, walking, or jogging. In some cases, use by equestrians may also be allowed. These trails include regional facilities such as the Alameda Creek Trail, the Bay Trail, and the proposed Union Pacific Corridor Trail. It also includes existing and proposed trails in the Hill Area which are typically managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Irvington Community Park Sports Field

School Facilities

The City has at times leased land from the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) for recreational use. These lands are not permanently committed to park use. They function as neighborhood parks, but are not bound by any guidelines or standards for recreation facilities. Because they are not dedicated as parkland, these school lands are not included in the City's parkland inventory.

In addition to lands leased by the City, the fields and playgrounds at schools owned and operated by FUSD are an important recreational resource. In the 2007 on-line survey, 40% of respondents indicated they had visited a local school playground or athletic field in the past year. While not formally classified as parkland, FUSD buildings and grounds are heavily utilized for recreation purposes under special district-issued permits, particularly by local ball clubs and private schools.

The City has also leased park lands to FUSD, including 5.1 acres for Ardenwood Elementary School and 5.5 acres for Forest Park Elementary School.

In addition to FUSD, both Ohlone College and the California Schools for the Deaf and Blind are public institutions with sizable open space areas and sports fields on their property.

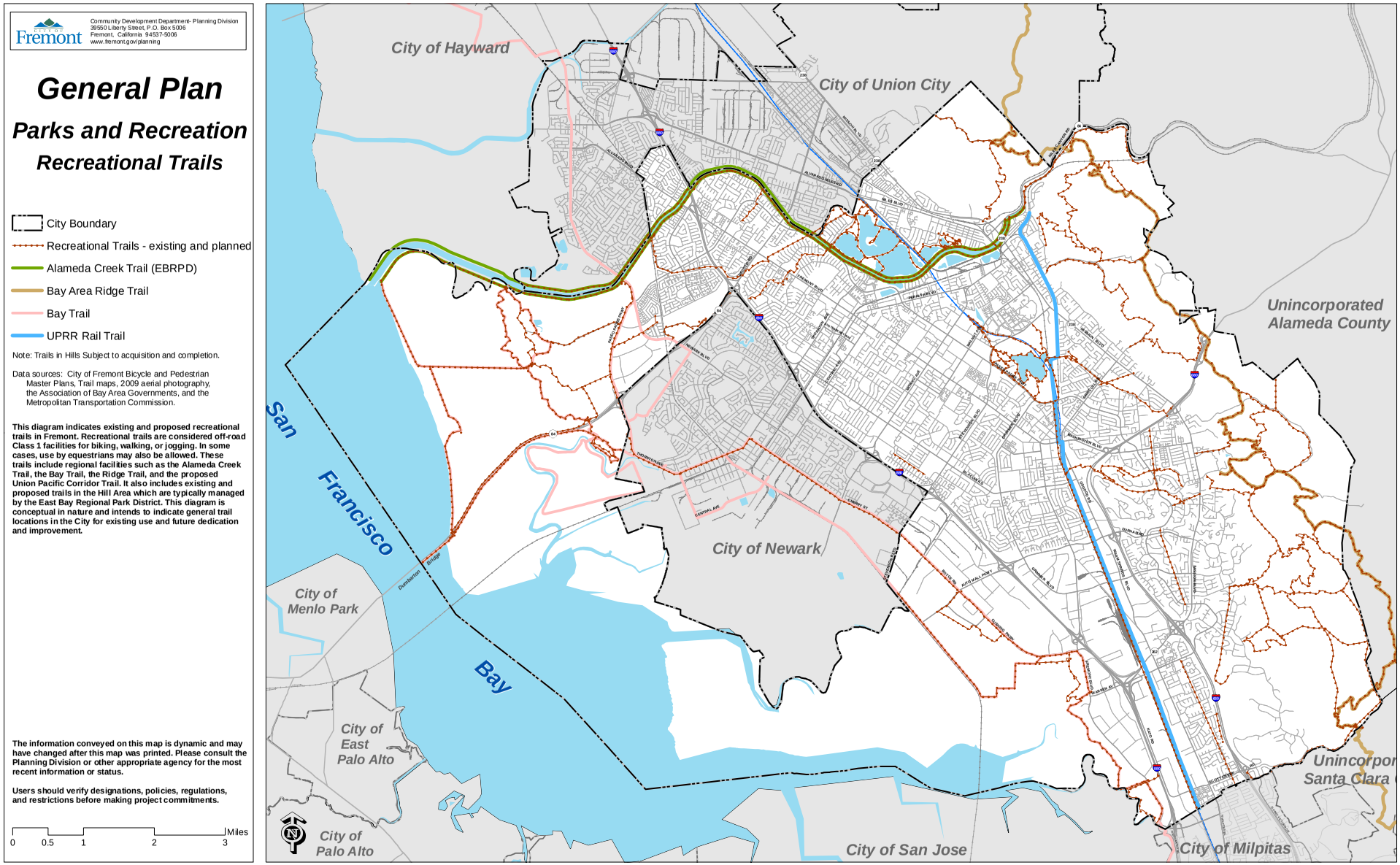


Diagram 8-2 Recreational Trails

This is a reduced image. Please see the most current color full-size maps available at the Fremont Planning Division or online at www.fremont.gov/planning
The information on this diagram is dynamic and may have changed since this page was last printed.

This page intentionally left blank.

Recreational Facilities and Programs

Soccer Practice

Irvington Community Center

The City of Fremont offers a range of recreational facilities, including recreation/community centers, a water play facility, sports fields, tennis courts, a golf course, and a dog park. In addition, other agencies such as the Fremont Unified School District and the East Bay Regional Parks District operate facilities that can be used by the public. In spite of the number and range of recreational facilities available to Fremont's residents, there are still challenges in meeting community demand for certain types of facilities, such as gymnasium space, sports fields and community centers, particularly on evenings and weekends. The level of demand in Fremont will likely continue to grow along with the projected increase in population between now and 2035. The City also offers an array of recreational programs for all ages, from the popular Tiny Tots program for young children; to extensive sports and art offerings for youth and teens; to adult sports programs and enrichment classes; to lifelong learning programs for seniors coordinated through the Senior Center. The recreational facilities described below are examples of the range of facilities found throughout the City's park system.

Community/Teen/Senior Centers

The City's Parks and Recreation Department operates five community centers: Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs, Central Park, and Los Cerritos. The Human Services Department operates the Fremont Senior Center in Central Park. The Teen Center in Central Park, while not open on a regular basis due to funding constraints, is available for special events. The Irvington Community Center offers gym facilities. A variety of recreation programs are offered at all the community centers and the Senior Center.

In addition to the existing Senior Center, the General Plan calls for new Senior Centers in both northern Fremont and the Warm Springs area to meet the needs of a growing population of older adults. In 2001-2002, the City identified a location for a new combined Senior/Community Center in Northgate Community Park and developed a design for the new facility, but due to funding constraints caused by a downturn in the regional economy, the project was put on hold.

Community and Senior Centers are also discussed in the Public Facilities Element.

Fremont Bank
Aqua Adventure Water Park

Swimming at Aqua Adventure

Fremont Park Golf Course

The Fremont Park Golf Course is a nine-hole executive course located in Central Park and operated by a private golf course management company. There is currently no 18-hole golf course in Fremont. A private course proposed in the late nineties for the Hill Area east of Interstate 680 in southern Fremont has not been built due in large part to the economic and environmental cost of development in a hillside setting.

Fremont Bank Aqua Adventure Water Park

In 2001, the City Council approved a project to utilize the site of the Puerto Penasco Swim Lagoon at Lake Elizabeth for a modern, family-oriented water play facility that would serve the residents of Fremont and the surrounding region. The Fremont Bank Aqua Adventure Water Park opened in 2009 and provides a wide range of interactive water-based activities and experiences, for people of all ages. The Water Park is focused on family fun, and, in addition to the many water-oriented activities, provides picnic areas for small and large groups wishing to enjoy celebrations of family events; company get-togethers; and similar activities.

The City provides seasonal swim lessons, lap swim, and other aquatic programs at the Water Park. In addition, year-round swim lessons are offered through a City contract with American Swim Academy.

Tennis and Basketball Courts

The Fremont Tennis Center in Central Park provides 18 lighted championship courts. The Center offers a wide range of low-cost programs and services, including court reservations, tennis lessons, and a pro shop. The Center has received the prestigious United States Tennis Association "Outstanding Recreational Facility Award" and the United States Professional Tennis Association's "Facility of the Year." Overall, the City provides 39 tennis courts and 17 basketball courts.

Sports Fields

Fremont's Central Park offers outstanding facilities for both softball and soccer. The Softball Complex provides six fields serving 130 leagues each year, while the Soccer Complex offers ten fields, used primarily by community youth groups. The fields provide benefits to the local economy by drawing visitors to Fremont for games and tournaments.

Additional sports fields are provided at the City's 11 other citywide parks. In addition, Fremont Unified School District facilities provide many sports fields that are utilized by the public when school is not in session. Overall, the parks system provides 17 baseball/softball fields, 14 soccer fields, and two football fields.

In order to reduce water usage and maintenance costs and to greatly increase usability, in 2008 the City installed synthetic turf fields at Irvington Community Park. The City may further utilize synthetic turf in parks based on review of the results of the Irvington project.

Dog Park

Olive Hyde Art Gallery

Skate Park

The Recreation Department provided a temporary skate park in Central Park for use by skateboarders from 2001—2009. The facility was open April through October. Originally built as a temporary park, the facility closed in 2009. A permanent skate park project is planned and included in the City's current Capital Improvement Program.

Dog Park

Central Park includes a dog park open to the public. The one-acre park is located adjacent to the Central Park Softball Complex with access off of Stevenson Boulevard.

Olive Hyde Art Gallery

The Olive Hyde Art Gallery is located at 123 Washington Boulevard in the Mission San Jose District. The City operates the gallery with the assistance of the Olive Hyde Art Guild, a community-based non-profit organization. The Gallery offers seven exhibitions a year, while the Guild sponsors arts education and scholarship programs.

Fremont Hillside

Sustainability in Park Operations

In addition to their recreational value, Fremont's parklands confer many environmental benefits to the community. With their tree cover and landscaping, parks provide bird and wildlife habitat, reduce the urban "heat island" effect, and reduce greenhouse gases. However, the park system also has environmental impacts. Park landscaping requires large amounts of water and pesticides are sometimes used; vehicles used by park rangers and maintenance crews emit greenhouse gases and pollutants; and impermeable parking and play surfaces can result in stormwater and pollutant runoff into local waterways. By "greening" its park operations, the City can make significant progress towards its sustainability goals.

Goals, Policies, and Implementing Actions

Goal 8-1: A Wide Range of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Provide a wide range of parks and recreational facilities to reflect the community's desire for a variety of recreational experiences.

• Policy 8-1.1: Parks and Recreational Facility Guidelines

Develop parks and recreational facilities consistent with the standards and guidelines included in the Parks and Recreation chapter of the General Plan and in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

> Implementation 8-1.1.A: Recreation Commission Review

The Recreation Commission shall review and recommend all proposed developments, acquisitions, and other arrangements for park land and recreational facilities for consistency with the standards in this chapter.

• Policy 8-1.2: Acreage Standards for Park Acquisition and Development

Acquire and develop park land using a standard of five (5) acres per one thousand (1000) residents.

> Implementation 8-1.2.A: Funding Sources

Pursue a wide range of funding sources for acquisition of park land and development of recreational facilities.

> Implementation 8-1.2.B: Requirements for New Development

Continue to require all new residential development to dedicate and develop parkland or make in-lieu payments consistent with State law, the City's impact fee programs, and with the City's five acres per one thousand residents standard.

• Policy 8-1.3: Standards for New Parks and Recreational Facilities

Acquire and develop new park lands and recreational facilities consistent with City standards.

> Implementation 8-1.3.A: Capital Improvement Program

Establish priorities and recommend funding for specific park land and recreational facilities through the Capital Improvement Program process.

> Implementation 8-1.3.B: Collaboration with Public Agencies

Pursue long term leases, joint use agreements and other cooperative agreements with public agencies for the provision of park land and recreational facilities to be managed for public use.

> Implementation 8-1.3.C: Land Banking

Consider purchasing land or accepting land dedication suitable for future park and recreational uses when the land becomes available ("land banking"), even if there are insufficient funds to develop and maintain facilities at that time.

• Policy 8-1.4: Interesting Urban Spaces

Develop civic parks, plazas and squares that provide interesting urban spaces in established districts and neighborhoods.

> Implementation 8-1.4.A: Civic Parks, Plazas and Squares

Seek opportunities to develop civic parks, plazas and squares that enhance the unique features of the City Center and older commercial districts such as Niles, Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs and Mission San Jose.

See the Land Use Element and the relevant Community Plans for additional policies related to enhancing the City Center and the Town Centers.

• Policy 8-1.5: Linear Parks

Acquire and develop linear trail parks that serve many functions including recreational opportunities, alternative transportation routes, aesthetic enhancements and the re-use of abandoned or underutilized transportation, utility, or other corridors.

> Implementation 8-1.5.A: Land Corridors for Linear Parks

Pursue acquisition of abandoned or underutilized land corridors for development into linear parks, consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and with the goal of providing safe and convenient recreational opportunities and mobility alternatives to cyclists and pedestrians.

See the Mobility Element for additional policies related to pedestrian and bicycle routes.

• Policy 8-1.6: Periodic Review of Park Categories and Standards

Regularly review park categories, standards and guidelines and revise as necessary to reflect changing community trends and needs.

> Implementation 8-1.6.A: Review and Update of Relevant Plans

Periodically review and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan as needed.

Goal 8-2: Well-Maintained Parks

A park system that features landscaping, fields, equipment, and structures that are well-maintained, attractive, and functional.

• Policy 8-2.1: Parks Maintenance

Ensure that the City can adequately maintain its parks and recreation facilities.

> Implementation 8-2.1.A: Possible Assessment District

Engage the community in a discussion to gauge interest in establishing a City-wide assessment district, a community facilities district, or other mechanism to fund parks maintenance.

> Implementation 8-2.1.B: New Fees to Support Maintenance

Consider new methods to generate funds for park maintenance.

> Implementation 8-2.1.C: Park Design to Minimize Maintenance

Continue to design parks and recreation facilities to not only provide the desired amenities but also to minimize ongoing maintenance costs where possible.

Goal 8-3: Interagency Collaboration

Collaborate with other entities including ABAG, FUSD, and EBRPD to maintain and expand opportunities for public recreation.

• Policy 8-3.1: Recreational Offerings and Facilities from other Agencies

Encourage other land and resource agencies to maintain and expand their offerings of recreational opportunities in Fremont.

> Implementation 8-3.1.A: Existing and Future Regional Parks and Trails

Work with EBRPD and others as needed to ensure recreational opportunities at existing parks (Ardenwood Historic Farm, Mission Peak Regional Preserve, Coyote Hills Regional Park, and Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area), as well as future parks (such as Vargas Plateau Regional Park and a planned park at the former Dumbarton Quarry.), and trails (such as the Alameda Creek Trail, Ridge Trail, and Bay Trail).

> Implementation 8-3.1.B: Future Regional Park at Dumbarton Quarry

Encourage EBRPD to move forward with its plans to open a Regional Park at the Dumbarton Quarry and facilitate the process to the extent possible.

> Implementation 8-3.1.C: Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge

Encourage the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, to maintain and enhance recreational offerings to the community.

> Implementation 8-3.1.D: Alameda County Flood Control District

Encourage the Alameda County Flood Control District to open access roads for trails and other land holdings for recreational use where feasible.

> Implementation 8-3.1.E: Trail Right-of-Way Dedication

Encourage property owners to dedicate right-of-way for trail access where indicated on the General Plan Recreation Trails Diagram. Require right-of-way dedication and improvement for development projects.

> Implementation 8-3.1.F: Bay Trail Right-of-Way

Ensure sufficient right-of-way and improvements for the Bay Trail along its alignment through Fremont.

> Implementation 8-3.1.G: Regional Trail Facilities

Encourage Regional Agencies to provide restrooms, parking, and staging facilities at trailheads of regional trails.

• Policy 8-3.2: Fremont Unified School District

Cooperate with the Fremont Unified School District to maintain and increase public access to school playing fields and playgrounds when not in use.

> Implementation 8-3.2.A: Public Access to School Fields and Playgrounds

Encourage FUSD to open its facilities to the public, particularly during the summer.

Goal 8-4: High Quality Recreation Programs and Facilities

Recreational programming and facilities that are valued by the public.

• Policy 8-4.1: Public Recreation Programs

Continue to offer an array of recreational programs to the public.

> Implementation 8-4.1.A: Self-Supporting Recreation Programs

Continue to offer high quality recreational programs that cover their own costs through user fees.

• Policy 8-4.2: New Recreational Opportunities

Where financially feasible, provide new recreational opportunities to the community.

> Implementation 8-4.2.A: Community/Senior Center in Northgate

When funds become available, construct and operate a combination Community Center/Senior Center in Northgate Community Park.

See the Public Facilities Element for additional discussion of community and senior centers.

> Implementation 8-4.2.B: New Facilities

When funds become available, develop and operate new facilities such as a community swimming pool.

> Implementation 8-4.2.C: Teen Center

When funds become available, open the Teen Center on a regular basis with continuing programming.

Goal 8-5: Sustainability

Sustainability in park development and operations.

• Policy 8-5.1: Resource Consumption in Park Operations

Reduce consumption of water, electricity, and fossil fuels in the construction, operations and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

>Implementation 8-5.1.A: Water Conservation

Reduce water consumption where possible through use of artificial turf, drought tolerant landscaping, water conservation technology, and use of recycled water in parks and recreation facilities.

> Implementation 8-5.1.B: Reducing Vehicle Emissions

Where practical, utilize bicycles or low emission/zero emission vehicles for park maintenance and operations.

• Policy 8-5.2: Stormwater Runoff

Reduce runoff of stormwater and pollutants from City parks

> Implementation 8-5.2.A: Impervious Surfaces

Encourage use of permeable pavement and reduction in amount of impervious surfaces in park construction.

> Implementation 8-5.2.B: Integrated Pest Management

Utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and other methods to reduce pollutant runoff from park operations.

See the Conservation Element for additional policies on water conservation and reducing stormwater pollution.

This page intentionally left blank.