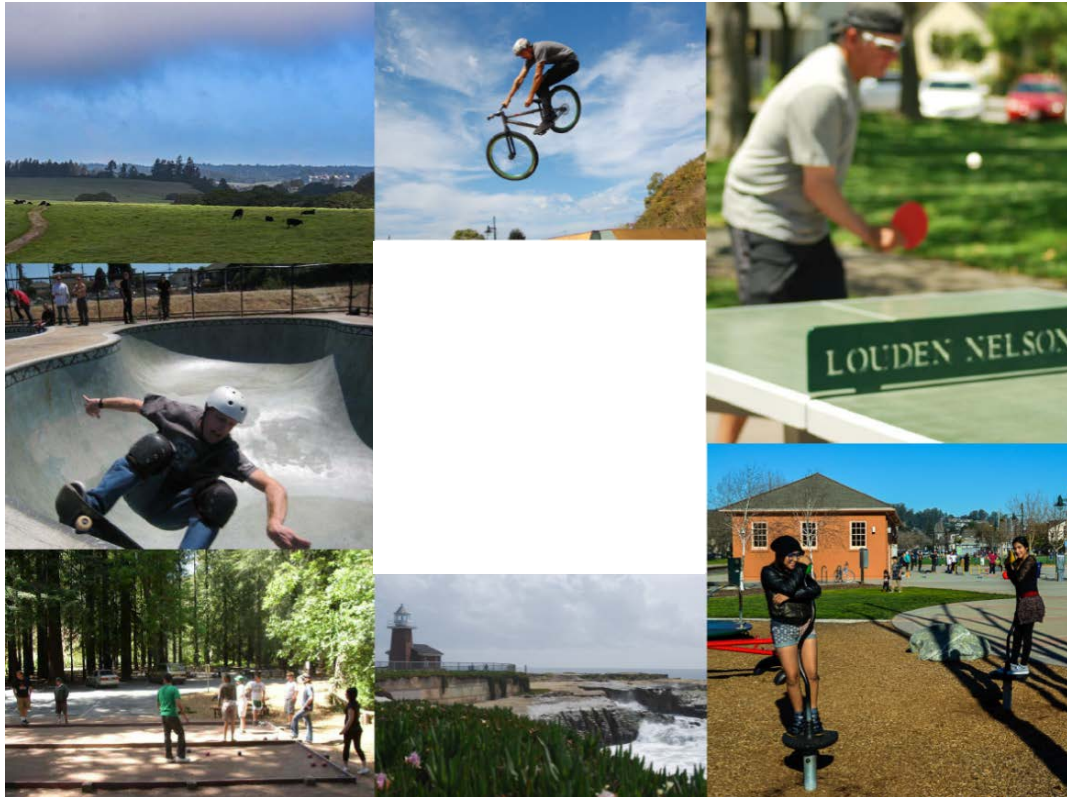


RECIRCULATED INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030

City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department

February 2019

REVISED

INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

SCH#2018012030

PREPARED FOR

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Parks and Recreation Department

PREPARED BY

DUDEK

Santa Cruz, California

February 2019

This page intentionally left blank.

NOTICE OF RECIRCULATION

The City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been revised and is being recirculated for public review in accordance with provisions of the California State CEQA Guidelines section 15073.5. New text and/or expanded analyses have been provided in the document, including Section I (Background and Project Description), Section VI Introduction, and some topics in Section VI, including aesthetics (light and glare), biological resources, geology and soils (erosion), hydrology and water quality, land use, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, and mandatory findings of significance (cumulative impacts). New text is shown in underlined text, and deleted text is shown as ~~strikeout text~~.

Comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration and revised Initial Study should be in writing to Noah Downing at the address below or emailed to NDowning@cityofsantacruz.com from February 11 through March 12, 2019.

City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Administrator of Environmental Quality of the City of Santa Cruz has prepared this Negative Declaration for the following described project:

Project: City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030

Application No: Not Applicable

Project Location: City of Santa Cruz; see Figure 1 in attached Initial Study.

Project Description: The City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030 is a guidance document that assesses existing conditions and community needs, and guides the short- and long-term planning of parks, recreational facilities, beaches, and open space-greenbelt lands. The Parks Master Plan includes goals, policies and actions for the provision of parks and recreational services, as well as, general recommendations for expanded recreational uses and specific recommendations for improvements at the City's individual parks, beaches, open spaces, and recreational facilities. The Parks Master Plan lays out recommendations for the next 15 years but is designed to be updated over time, providing a guiding framework while allowing for adjustments based on both presently anticipated and unforeseen future needs and community desires.

Applicant: Not Applicable

FINDINGS: The City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the proposed project and has determined, based on the attached Initial Study, that the project will have a less-than-significant impact on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures. Consequently, adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the *California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)*. This environmental review process was conducted and the attached Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the State *CEQA Guidelines* and the local City of Santa Cruz *CEQA Guidelines and Procedures*.

BASIS OF FINDINGS: The Initial Study finds that all potentially significant impacts that could be caused by the project can be reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of mitigation measures as described in the attached Initial Study. The following mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project, to ensure that any potential environmental impacts will not be significant.

Impact	Mitigation
Biological Resources: Implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future implementation of recommended improvements could result in indirect impacts to nesting birds if any are	MITIGATION MEASURE 1: Require that a pre-construction nesting survey be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist if future construction occurs near mature trees and wooded areas, including tree removal, is scheduled to begin between March and late

occurring within or near future construction areas.

Geology and Soils: Future trail construction, especially on steeper slopes and in areas of high erosion potential, such as Pogonip Open Space and DeLaveaga Park, could result in soil erosion if trails are not properly designed or standard erosion control measures are not implemented.

Hydrology-Water Quality: Runoff from new trails could result in erosion and degradation of water quality due to siltation if proper drainage and erosion control measures are not implemented.

Recreational Resources. The project includes recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

July to determine if nesting birds are in the vicinity of the construction sites. If nesting raptors or other nesting species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are found, construction may need to be delayed until late-August or after the wildlife biologist has determined the nest is no longer in use or unless a suitable construction buffer zone can be identified by the biologist. This measure also is a requirement of the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan (Standard 12).

MITIGATION 2: Implement site design and erosion control measures for new trails and other facilities in areas subject to high erosion hazards or adjacent to streams and wetland areas, including but not limited to, installation of temporary fencing on the outer edges of steep slopes and creek crossings to prevent inadvertent erosion and sedimentation from entering adjacent drainages and streams; conducting grading prior to the rainy season; protecting disturbed areas during the rainy season; and revegetating disturbed cut/fill areas.

MITIGATION 3: Limit trail use and/or implement seasonal trail closures as needed during the rainy season to prevent erosion due to trail use.

Implement Mitigation Measures 2 and 3.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 1, 2 and 3 will mitigate identified potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.


By: Tony Elliot, Director
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060


Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	1
II.	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	19
III.	ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	30
IV.	DETERMINATION	41
V.	REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCE LIST.....	42
VI.	EXPLANATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST RESPONSES	43
	Introduction	43
	1. Aesthetics.....	47
	2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources.....	53
	3. Air Quality	54
	4. Biological Resources.....	57
	5. Cultural Resources	70
	6. Geology and Soils	73
	7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	76
	8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	79
	9. Hydrology and Water Quality	81
	10. Land Use and Planning.....	85
	12. Noise	88
	13. Population and Housing.....	90
	14. Public Services.....	91
	15. Recreation	91
	16. Transportation and Traffic	92
	17. Tribal Cultural Resources	93
	18. Utilities and Service Systems	94
	19. Mandatory Findings of Significance	98

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Summary of Parks Master Plan Recommendations at Specific Parks
- B. Draft Action Plan Priorities

FIGURES

1.	Regional Location	3
2.	Existing Park Coverage	21
3.	Sensitive Habitat Areas.....	61

TABLES

1.	Parks Master Plan - Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions	8
2.	Existing City Parks, Open Space Lands and Beaches	23
3.	Major Sensitive Biological Resources at City Parks and Open Space Lands.....	59

This page intentionally left blank

I. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Application No.:** Not Applicable
2. **Project Title:** City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030
3. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060
4. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Noah Downing, Park Planner, 831.420.5362
NDowning@cityofsantacruz.com
5. **Project Location:** City of Santa Cruz; see Figure 1.
6. **Project Applicant's/Sponsor's Name and Address:** City of Santa Cruz, Same Address as above
7. **General Plan Designation:** Parks, Natural Areas, Coastal Recreation, Regional Visitor Commercial, and Community Facilities
8. **Zoning:** Parks (PK), Exclusive Agriculture (E-A) - Moore Creek Preserve only, Floodplain (F-P), Ocean Front Recreational (OF-R), Beach Commercial (C-B), and Public Facilities (PF)
9. **Project Background:**

Development of Parks Master Plan. The development of the City of Santa Cruz (City) Parks Master Plan 2030 (hereinafter referred to as Parks Master Plan) stems from goals and policies in the City's *General Plan 2030* and draws from other plans and studies conducted for specific parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities in the City. The Parks Master Plan process began in August 2014. Community meetings, open houses, surveys and stakeholder interviews were conducted to provide community outreach as part of the process of inventorying existing facilities and parks, identifying recreational needs, and providing recommendations. A number of meetings also have been held at the City's Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.

The City's *General Plan 2030* acts as the long-term planning document for the City. It presents goals, policies, and actions for future development and protection of resources and is organized in state-mandated elements as required by California law. The *General Plan*

2030 includes a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space chapter with goals, policies and actions to guide future development and maintenance of parks, open space and recreational facilities. This chapter of the General Plan provides a framework for the goals, policies, actions and recommendations in the draft Parks Master Plan to ensure consistency and comprehensive coverage. Furthermore, the General Plan specifically calls for development and maintenance of a citywide parks master plan that sets service standards and strategic goals for the development and maintenance of parks and related facilities (General Plan Action PR1.1.2).

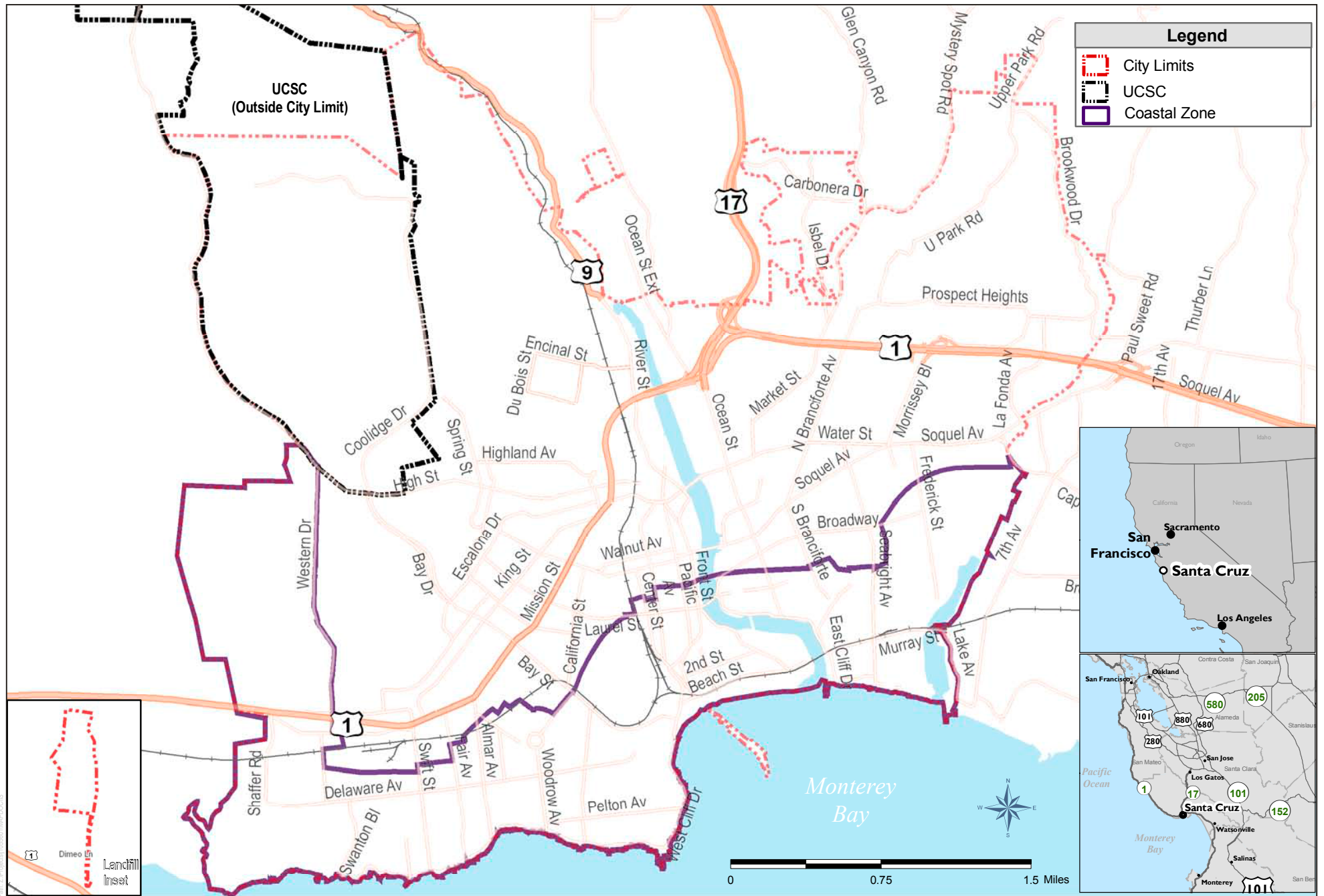
The *General Plan 2030* includes the following goals related to parks and recreation:

- Goal PR1: Ample, accessible, safe, and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreational facilities.
- Goal PR2: High-quality, affordable recreational programs, activities, events, and services for all.
- Goal PR3: Well managed, clean, and convenient public access to open space lands and coastline.
- Goal PR4: An integrated system of citywide and regional trails.

The Parks Master Plan is intended to help implement the *General Plan 2030*, providing more detailed direction and recommendations for the future development and maintenance of parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities in Santa Cruz. The objectives of the Parks Master Plan process are:

- Identify and assess the City's various existing parks, open space, and facility assets.
- Conduct a comprehensive outreach effort, including telephone surveys, community meetings, and interviews with key stakeholders and community members.
- Create a feasible vision and goals that prioritize community needs and desires for expansion and improvements.
- Generate policies to support community goals.
- Construct an implementable action plan to accomplish community goals, while establishing phasing and funding opportunities.

CEQA Environmental Review. An Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) were prepared and circulated for a 30-day public review period from January 22, 2018 through February 20, 2018. Comments were received from two public agencies (California Coastal Commission and California Department of Transportation [Caltrans]), five organizations (Beach Flats Junior Youth Group, Friends of Jessie Street Marsh, Friends of Pogonip, Sierra Club, and Wildlife Emergency Services), and 39 individuals. The comments are on file at the City Parks and Recreation Department.



SOURCE: City of Santa Cruz

DUDEK

FIGURE 1

Regional Location

City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030 Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration

This page intentionally left blank.

Generally, the comments received on the January 2018 IS/MND addressed:

- Potential impacts associated with expanding off-leash areas for dogs or expanding multi-use trails in Pogonip, Arroyo Seco, and DeLaveaga Park;
- Level of analysis regarding potential biological, erosion and drainage impacts associated with new trails, particularly in Pogonip, DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve and Arroyo Seco, and claims that the document defers studies and analyses related to these issues;
- Implementation of and potential changes to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan;
- Increased lighting at DeLaveaga Park, Depot Park, Neary Lagoon, Main Beach, San Lorenzo River and new parking lots;
- Impacts of a drone course;
- Conflicts with and potential to amend adopted management plans;
- Transportation impacts;
- Impacts of development of a drone course; and
- Support for the Beach Flats community garden.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5 requires a lead agency to recirculate a negative declaration when the document must be substantially revised after public notice of its availability has previously been given, but prior to its adoption. A “substantial revision” means:

- 1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or
- 2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.

Recirculation is not required under the following circumstances:

- 1) Mitigation measures are replaced with equal or more effective measures pursuant to Section 15074.1.
- 2) New project revisions are added in response to written or verbal comments on the project’s effects identified in the proposed negative declaration which are not new avoidable significant effects.
- 3) Measures or conditions of project approval are added after circulation of the negative declaration which are not required by CEQA, which do not create new significant environmental effects and are not necessary to mitigate an avoidable significant effect.

- 4) New information is added to the negative declaration which merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes insignificant modifications to the negative declaration.

The IS/MND has been revised to provide expanded analyses in response to public comments. This revised IS/MND is being recirculated for public review and comment due to revision of impact significance and new mitigation measures (geology-soils-water quality (erosion), as well as revised text. New text and/or expanded analyses have been provided in the document, including the Section I-Background and Project Description and some topics in Section VI, including aesthetics (light and glare), biological resources, geology and soils (erosion), hydrology and water quality, land use, transportation and traffic, and mandatory findings of significance (cumulative impacts). New text is shown in underlined type, and deleted text is shown with in ~~strikeout type~~.

Potentially significant impacts related to biological resources and erosion can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study. Under these conditions, a MND may be prepared pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines section 15070. Furthermore, the Initial Study did not identify significant effects that would require preparation of an EIR as outlined in the State CEQA Guidelines section 15065. Potentially significant impacts can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level and have been agreed to by the City, in which case an EIR need not be prepared solely because without mitigation, an environmental effect would be significant (State CEQA Guidelines section 15065(b)(1)).

10. **Project Description:**

Project Overview. The Parks Master Plan is a guidance document that assesses existing conditions and community needs, and guides the short- and long-term planning of parks, recreational facilities, beaches, and open space-greenbelt lands. The Parks Master Plan provides an analysis of the current parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities based on an assessment of the existing assets, quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the community outreach, emerging trends in recreation, and standards for park development. The Parks Master Plan includes goals, policies and actions for the provision of parks and recreational services, as well as, general recommendations for expanded recreational uses and specific recommendations for improvements at the City's individual parks, beaches, open spaces, and recreational facilities. The Parks Master Plan lays out recommendations for the next 15 years but is designed to be updated over time, providing a guiding framework while allowing for adjustments based on both presently anticipated and unforeseen future needs and community desires. The Parks Master Plan also will aid implementation of the City's General Plan, and the plan's recommendations are advisory.

Plan Components. The proposed Parks Master Plan includes the following components; key elements are described in the following sections:

- An inventory of existing conditions, parks, open space and recreational facilities
- An assessment of emerging trends and community needs

- Goals, policies and actions
- Recommendations for specific facilities
- Implementation and funding strategies

Goals, Policies and Actions

The proposed Parks Master Plan “envisions a quality park system that connects the surrounding greenbelts to the Pacific Ocean, preserves and protects its natural heritage, enhances its cultural and recreational environments, and provides a diversity of experiences that enrich lives and support a healthy community.” To achieve this vision, the Parks Master Plan includes goals, policies, and actions that expand upon the City’s *General Plan 2030* Parks and Recreation goals and policies. According to the proposed Parks Master Plan, these goals are based on community input, direction from the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, an understanding of current needs, and emerging trends in recreation. The goals also serve to comprehensively address six themes that emerged from the Parks Master Plan and public outreach processes, which provided a framework for the goals: (1) design excellence; (2) play, community health, and interaction; (3) stewardship and sustainability; (4) accessible and connected community; (5) partnerships; and (6) good governance.

The proposed Parks Master Plan 2030 includes seven goals with supporting policies and actions that address:

- Design
- Distribution
- Facilities
- Conservation and stewardship
- Safety
- Connectivity and access
- Administration and management

Table 1 summarizes the proposed Parks Master Plan goals, policies and actions. Overall the goals, policies and actions address the provision of additional parks and recreational facilities and new or expanded recreational uses, as well as actions to promote sustainability and avoid environmental impacts associated with park and recreational facility development or expanded uses.

Several goals and supporting policies provide the framework for the provision of parks, recreational facilities, open space uses, and trails. Goal I seeks to provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City. The accompanying policies and actions address sustainable landscaping design, resource conservation, habitat enhancement, and erosion and sedimentation reduction.

Table 1. Parks Master Plan – Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal	Policy	Actions
GOAL I. Design Provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City.	A. Design, upgrade and maintain parks and facilities with sustainable features and green building best management practices.	1. Use sustainable landscaping design and maintenance <u>to conserve water, prevent erosion and runoff, and provide habitat.</u> 2. Practice energy conservation. 3. Practice water conservation.
	B. Design, renovate and maintain parks to be attractive and functional, increase longer-term use, optimize space, and enhance the unique identity for each park.	1. Enhance settings when renovating parks. 2. Consider design features and site furnishings that add character. 3. When feasible, replace asphalt paths with decorative, permeable surfaces. 4. Create colorful and artistic expressions. 5. Consider function of landscaping in relation to the surrounding area. 6. Ensure that new parks have at least one street frontage for visibility and access. 7. Incorporate interactive arts and interpretive signage. 8. Coordinate site furnishings, plazas, paths and features. 9. Increase bike parking. 10. Provide adequate restrooms. 11. Develop and update site materials and furnishings. 12. Maintain signage program. 13. Increase replacement of deteriorating garbage cans. 14. Invest in quality materials and newer designs and technologies.
	C. Improve accessibility for all users to all parks and facilities.	1. Improve access for disabled users. 2. Consider needs of seniors. 3. Provide fitness facilities for all users. 4. Seek additional community garden space. 5. Increase bilingual services, programs and signage.
GOAL II. Distribution Provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City.	A. Distribute recreation amenities evenly throughout the community.	1. Seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional parkland. 2. Explore opportunities for partnerships. 3. Evaluate all lands for development of small parks and facilities. 4. Improve Joint Use Agreements with School District.
GOAL III. Facilities Provide parks and facilities to meet the existing and emerging needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.	A. When adding new uses to neighborhood parks, consider how the use meets unmet needs of the community in addition to meeting needs of the surrounding neighborhood.	1. Hold neighborhood meetings regarding recreational facilities.

Table 1. Parks Master Plan – Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal	Policy	Actions
	B. Scale recreational facilities to neighborhood parks that are compatible with the neighborhood character.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide neighborhood park uses. 2. Design considerations to include minimizing impacts of light spillover and noise and providing tree screening.
	C. Consider increasing the scale and uniqueness of each type of recreational facility located in a community park setting. Provide uses and experiences that are not common in neighborhood parks to draw use from the whole community.	None.
	D. Accommodate the need for more active sports fields for club, league and casual play.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct athletic field feasibility study to explore locations and options for additional multi-use field space. 2. Explore/expand cooperative agreements with Santa Cruz City School District and UCSC for use of sports fields. 3. Ensure sports fields have adequate drainage and lighting. 4. Expand opportunities for informal sports play.
	E. Develop playgrounds that meet a broad range of physical, creative and social needs for all demographics.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renovate and maintain playgrounds. 2. Assure accessibility and safety on all City playgrounds.
	F. Develop, improve and enhance trails to provide for a range of uses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop, improve and enhance trails to provide a range of uses. 2. Provide opportunities for classes, tours and practice space.
	G. Accommodate new and emerging trends and satisfy unmet needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide activities that improve physical activity and mental health for all ages, abilities and interests. 2. Expand concessions in parks and recreational facilities.
	H. Upgrade, acquire and develop new community recreational facility buildings to accommodate new and emerging recreational trends and satisfy unmet needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritize upgrading/optimizing existing community recreational facilities. 2. Capitalize on opportunities for partnerships and joint-use agreements. 3. Expand partnerships and concessionaire agreements. 4. Continue to seek community recreational facilities to host community events and programming. 5. Consider partnerships to allow for public recreational uses in the permanent Kaiser Permanente Arena.

Table 1. Parks Master Plan – Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal	Policy	Actions
	I. Seek opportunities to enhance off-leash dog use experiences while minimizing conflicts with other uses and wildlife.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New formal off-leash dog use areas in parks will be completely fenced and located in an underutilized area. 2. Identify a location for a fenced off-leash dog use area for the Lower Westside neighborhood. 3. Provide amenities and features that enhance experience for dogs and owners (e.g., drinking fountains and shade structures). 4. Consider creating smaller facilities for smaller dogs or dog training to reduce dog conflicts. 5. Increase enforcement of off-leash and dog access laws. 6. Clearly sign rules and etiquette to minimize conflicts. 7. Review existing day-use access areas for domestic animals on beaches and open spaces. 8. Consider locations for off-leash dog use near open spaces.
GOAL IV. Conservation and Stewardship Protect the City's natural resources, native wildlife habitats and plant communities, and environment.	A. Maintain and enhance natural habitats to increase biodiversity and sustain long-term ecological function.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand and maintain the diversity of native plant communities. 2. Understand and maintain the diversity of native wildlife. 3. Develop and implement restoration work plans to restore natural processes and control invasive species. 4. Improve habitat within urban parks and facilities. 5. Use native species. 6. Maintain and expand tree canopy coverage and manage forest diseases.
	B. Manage greenbelt and open spaces for conservation and to minimize recreational use impacts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance the habitat and populations of special status plant and animal species. 2. Protect, maintain and enhance habitat features that are important to native wildlife and native plant communities. 3. Protect water bodies, including creeks and riparian environments, from uses that would degrade value to native species.
	C. Support and seek funding for long-term projects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to partner with Resources Conservation District to reduce runoff, sedimentation and erosion. 2. Pursue reclaimed water, water capture and water recharge projects to decrease erosion and sedimentation and conserve water. 3. Continue to implement the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Climate Adaptation Plan 4. Continue to improve partnerships with local, state and federal agencies and organizations to address habitat, global warming, invasive species control, fishery management, and water pollution. 5. Ensure funding is available for the long-term restoration at specific sites.

Table 1. Parks Master Plan – Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal	Policy	Actions
	D. Provide more environmental education to the public.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide youth with environmental education programs. 2. Provide interpretive programs for the public.
GOAL V. Safety Maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for all park users.	A. Mitigate impacts of illegal activities on park use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use defensible space design treatments to deter illegal behaviors. 2. Explore rules and policies regarding park uses. 3. Develop a caretaker or park host program to help care for open spaces and community parks. 4. Explore partnerships and programs to provide information and referrals about mental health, drug abuse and homeless services. 5. Increase resources to remove trash and debris from illegal camping
	B. Increase patrols and enforcement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase park ranger/police presence and interaction. 2. Increase enforcement of park rules.
GOAL VI. Connectivity and Access Provide an integrated park system with clean, convenient access to parks, open spaces, and the coastline.	A. Continue to integrate, expand and improve the connective and accessible network of parks, open spaces and trails.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease land to enhance recreational corridors and extend network connectivity. 2. Implement the San Lorenzo Urban River Plan and enhance and maintain the recreational value of the riverfront. 3. Help develop and implement an integrated design, land use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives. 4. Support and help implement and maintain the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail multi-use path. 5. Acquire new open space when there are opportunities to increase access and improve public safety. Support acquisition and management of Lighthouse Field. 6. Work with Public Works Department to help implement the Active Transportation Plan and connect major parks with smaller loop options and spur trails that connect to the bike and pedestrian system. 7. Support a Felton-Santa Cruz recreational trail and commuter corridor. 8. Provide and maintain trails within parks and appropriate open space areas. 9. Develop trail head locations.
	B. Protect, maintain and enhance publicly accessible coastal, riverfront and open space areas to ensure they maintain a safe, quality appearance. Provide recreational and educational	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure adequate staffing levels. 2. Evaluate existing and develop new rules, policies and programs to promote a safe and clean environment. 3. Ensure existing facilities and site furnishings are updated and new ones are added in manner that ensures a quality appearance. 4. Continue to partner with agencies, organizations and community

Table 1. Parks Master Plan – Summary of Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal	Policy	Actions
	experiences that reflect the unique sense of place and identity of Santa Cruz.	members to keep coastal, riverfront, and open space areas pristine and attractive. 5. Maintain and improve access and the recreational value of coastal, riverfront and open space areas while ensuring new uses, facilities or site furnishings do not diminish natural resources.
GOAL VII. Administration and Management Establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community in a manner that maximizes involvement and support.	A. Administer parks and recreation facilities to continue to deliver quality parks and recreation services.	1. Develop maintenance and safety standards for parks and facilities and evaluate staffing levels to achieve goals. 2. Work with Parks and Recreation Commission to establish annual and maintain short-term and long-term priorities for capital improvement projects. 3. Coordinate efforts with California State Parks and other recreation providers.
	B. Continue to improve community outreach and communication.	1. Publicize park programs and facilities.
	C. Develop a sustainable funding mechanism for the maintenance and operation of City parks, open space, beaches, and facilities.	1. Increase funding for parks. 2. Develop and implement park programs and increase volunteer efforts. 3. Consider establishment of a parks endowment fund. 4. Consider prioritizing projects which are economic generators. 5. Utilize and support Friends of Parks and Recreation. 6. Evaluate fees and use rates to reflect current costs to provide services.

Goal II seeks to provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City, and Policy A specifically directs the City to continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional parkland. Although specific locations are not identified, the Parks Master Plan identifies the following potential types of properties or areas for expanded parks:

- 1) Areas that lack existing parks and amenities in close proximity
- 2) Larger properties that can accommodate a variety of recreational facilities
- 3) Underutilized land
- 4) Higher density growth areas
- 5) Properties with significant cultural heritage

This goal and policy also direct the City to explore opportunities for partnerships to use land within or adjacent to the City to help provide facilities to meet unmet needs. Existing and/or potential partnerships include joint-use agreements with: the Santa Cruz City School District to allow public use of outdoor recreational areas and sports fields during non-school hours; the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) for potential pickleball striping at the tennis courts at 207 Natural Bridges Drive; and Santa Cruz County to provide recreational facilities on the vacant, adjacent parcel near the lawn bowling facility at San Lorenzo Park. Other actions support partnerships with California State Parks (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1c) and partnerships that would allow for public recreational uses in a permanent Kaiser Permanente Arena during the Santa Cruz Warriors off-season (Goal III-Policy H, Action 5). It should be noted that development of a permanent Kaiser Permanente Arena is not part of the Parks Master Plan recommendations. The City's Economic Development Department is conducting a market and financial feasibility study to analyze market, location, size, operations, management, economic development benefits, and other factors for locating a permanent arena.

Goal III, and specifically Policy B and Action 1, seek to provide a range of neighborhood park uses including, but not limited to: off-leash dog use areas, ball fields, skateboard parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, ping-pong tables, playgrounds and tot-lots, climbing and exercise equipment, slack-lining, pickleball courts, community gardens, pump tracks, bocce courts, disc golf courses, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, sand volleyball courts, when designed to minimize impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. Some of these facilities are recommended for development or expansion at some existing parks as further discussed as follows.

Goal VI seeks to provide an integrated park system, and its supporting policies and actions call for the City to continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional land to enhance recreational corridors and extend network connectivity, especially properties and improvements that fill gaps within the existing trail system, expand recreational opportunities along existing corridors or provide important habitat and wildlife connections (Goal VI-Policy A, Action 1). The Master Plan also supports implementation of the Monterey

Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail¹ multi-use trail (Goal VI-Policy A, Action 4) and a Felton-Santa Cruz recreational trail and transportation/commuter corridor (Goal VI-Policy A, Action 7).

Recommendations for New/Expanded Uses

The Parks Master Plan policies and actions support new and expanded recreational uses and/or facilities, generally without providing specific site locations. New and expanded uses supported by the draft plan include the following, and where recommended in the Plan for future consideration, specific locations are noted:

- *Bike Parks:* Goal III-Policy G, Action 1I, calls for development of more bike parks, pump tracks, and jump facilities and features to meet a variety of skill levels.
- *Community Gardens:* Community garden space is supported in higher-density or lower-income areas (Goal 1-Policy C, Action 4), on the east side of the San Lorenzo River and in the Beach Flats area (Goal III-Policy G, Action 1c), and is suggested for consideration at specific locations (Round Tree Park, Star of the Sea Park, and Beach Area neighborhood).

It is noted that numerous comments on the January 2018 IS/MND indicated support to make the Beach Flats community garden permanent. The Parks Master Plan recommends that the City continue to pursue a permanent community garden space for the Beach area as part of the recommendations for the Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden, and includes actions that directs the City to seek opportunities for community garden space, particularly on the east side of San Lorenzo River and in the Beach Area as noted above.

- *Dog Facilities:* Goal III-Policy I and supporting actions directs the City to seek call for seeking opportunities to enhance off-leash dog use experiences while minimizing conflicts with other park uses and wildlife. Action 1 indicates that new formal off-leash dog use areas will be completely fenced and located in an underutilized area of a park. Action 2 calls for identifying a location for a fenced off-leash dog use area in the Lower Westside neighborhood. The Master Plan also includes recommendations for improvements or addition of dog facility amenities, i.e., shade structures and seating at Branciforte Dog Park, Frederick Street Park, Mimi de Marta Park, Ocean View Park, Pacheco Dog Park, Sgt. Derby Park, and University Terrace.

The Parks Master Plan also calls for increased enforcement of off-leash and dog access laws (Goal III-Policy 1, Action 5) and review of the existing day-use access areas for domestic animals onto beaches and open spaces with consideration of creation of a licensing program to manage off-leash dog use (Goal III-Policy 1, Action 7). At Mitchell's Cove, the Master Plan includes a recommendation to

¹ The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), in association with other regional agencies, proposes construction of a Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The MBSST network will be a multi-use system of bicycle and pedestrian from Lover's Point in Pacific Grove in Monterey County to Davenport in Santa Cruz County.

consider programs and enforcement to ensure that off-leash dog use does not overwhelm the small beach area.

- *Pickleball Facility:* Goal III-Policy G, Action 1g calls for the identification of a location for a pickleball facility with 6-10 courts and/or smaller facilities that can be located in different areas of the City. Goal II-Policy A, Action 2 calls for exploring partnerships to enhance joint-use agreements to provide facilities to meet unmet needs, listing the UCSC tennis courts at 207 Natural Bridges Drive as a potential opportunity. Other potential sites to locate a pickleball facility that are identified for further consideration include the following parks: Lower DeLaveaga Park and Washington Grove, Frederick Street Park, Sgt. Derby Park, San Lorenzo Park, and Star of the Sea Park.
- *Tennis Courts:* The proposed plan supports consideration of adding a tennis court facility on the east side of the San Lorenzo River (Goal III-Policy G, Action 1f).
- *Trails:* Goal II-Policy F, calls for enhancement of trail programs, trails, and infrastructure. Action 1 seeks to “develop, improve, and enhance trails to provide for a wide range of uses.” Actions 1b and 1j call for expansion of the trail network and connections, including creation of mountain bike spurs from multi-use trails. However, Action 1a also calls for evaluation of new trail uses through a public process to determine if they are appropriate for a specific space.
- *Drone Course:* The proposed plan calls for consideration of the establishment of a drone course (Goal III-Policy G, Action 1j), but the Master Plan does not propose a location or description of facilities that might be considered. Discussions with City staff indicate that this recommendation stems from an interest to provide a dedicated area and regulate this type of use. Currently there are no City regulations regarding use of drones in the City.
- *Expanded Concessions:* Goal III-Policy g, Action 2a calls for continued evaluation and monitoring of locations of mobile food vendors to determine whether concessions should be improved or expanded.

In addition, the Parks Master Plan supports future consideration of some types of facilities and additional studies to further evaluate potential options and locations for different types of park and recreational facilities including the following:

- *Athletic Fields* (Goal III-Policy D, Action 1): Conduct an athletic field feasibility study to explore locations and options for additional multi-use field space (e.g., can accommodate soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, baseball, and softball) and the use of synthetic turf to increase the duration of play.
- *Trail Uses in Open Space Areas* (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1a): Evaluate new trail uses through a public process to determine if they are appropriate for a specific open space, and help the City provide for a range of trail uses. Collect usage data on existing trails and study impacts to wildlife and habitat to inform the decision-making process.

- *Mountain Bike Facilities:* Consider creating spurs from multi-use trails to enable mountain bikers to reach more advanced features and terrain and a technical downhill trail (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1j).

With regards to future trail use, the draft Parks Master Plan also acknowledges that further evaluation and community input is needed prior to the formalization of new trails, such as in Pogonip Open Space and along Arroyo Seco canyon. New or expanded trails also are recommended at DeLaveaga Park and Moore Creek Preserve. Any proposed trails, trail alignments, and/or expanded trail uses that may be recommended as a result of future study would be subject to site-specific designs and project-specific CEQA environmental review.

Specific Facility Recommendations

The Parks Master Plan does support and/or include recommendations for new or expanded uses or facilities in some parks, primarily within community parks and open space areas. The Parks Master Plan also contains recommendations and action items for specific parks, open spaces, beaches, and community and recreational facilities along with detailed descriptions of amenities at each existing site. Attachment A provides a summary of key recommendations at specific sites. Most recommendations consist of minor improvements, the addition or replacement of site amenities, and/or the continued implementation of resource management programs. ~~The Parks Master Plan does support new or expanded uses or facilities in some parks, primarily within community parks and open space areas.~~

Potential opportunities for new or expanded playground areas are recommended at Central Park, Garfield Park, Harvey West Park, DeLaveaga Park, Main Beach, Sgt. Derby Park, and University Terrace Park. Considering opportunities for new and/or expanded trails and trail connections are recommended to be considered further at various locations, including at Arroyo Seco, DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip Open Space, as indicated above.

Major new or expanded parks, facilities or uses recommended in the Parks Master Plan are summarized as follows.

- DeLaveaga Park:
 - Audrey Stanley Grove – New off-season uses when Santa Cruz Shakespeare is not in production, but the Master Plan does not specify the type or frequency of off-season uses,
 - Golf Course – Implementation of the adopted DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan, which includes a new clubhouse, and golf course and drainage improvements,
 - Lower Park – Potential new parking and pedestrian bridge over Branciforte Creek to connect the George Washington Grove area with the baseball and sports field area, and

- Wilderness – Potential expansion of trails, consideration of separate downhill mountain bike or skill building facility, and consideration of locating a play area or other recreational use in the historic zoo area to the west of Prospect Heights along DeLaveaga Park Drive. Potential expansion of the multi-use trail network would be considered utilizing existing fire roads and ad-hoc trails.
- Harvey West Park: Creation of a small amphitheater at Wagner Grove and potential relocation of Ranger Station to another location, but a specific location is not identified.
- Main Beach: The Parks Master Plan recommends consideration of adding a seasonal tot lot and bike/valet bike parking near Cowell Beach, but does not propose a specific size, location, type of facility, or structures that may be included in a seasonal tot lot.
- Moore Creek Preserve: Potential addition of a parking area off of Highway 1 and a new trail.
- Pogonip Open Space: Clubhouse renovation, potential addition of a caretaker residence, site improvements that are included in the adopted Pogonip Master Plan, including implementation of the Sycamore Grove interpretive trail, as well as, trail assessment and potential new parking area near the Emma McCrary trailhead on Golf Club Drive.
- San Lorenzo Park: Increase events, a potential permanent seasonal food truck court, and the potential addition of unspecified recreational facilities on county-owned property.
- Sgt. Derby Park: Potential expansion of the skate park, tennis/pickleball facilities, and addition of a par course.
- University Terrace Park: Consideration as an opportunity for a mini soccer field.

The Parks Master Plan also includes some recommendations for new or renovated structures and new or expanded parking. These include the following:

- 1) Restrooms:
 - Potential new restrooms at Sgt. Derby Park, University Terrace Park, and Westlake Park , and
 - Restroom renovation at DeLaveaga Park.
- 2) New Structures: Permanent restroom, dressing room and small concession areas at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park.
- 3) Potential Structural Renovations:
 - Civic Auditorium: Interior improvements to renovate the interior of the facility as an arts, cultural, and entertainment venue,
 - DeLaveaga Golf Course Clubhouse: New clubhouse, which is included in the adopted DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (facility is currently being remodeled),

- Louden Nelson Community Center: Interior remodeling and upgrades, and
 - Pogonip Clubhouse – restore or renovate as recommended in the adopted Pogonip Master Plan.
- 4) Consideration of Creation of Parking:
- DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park,
 - Moore Creek Preserve, and
 - Pogonip Open Space.

The Parks Master Plan also recommends partnering with other stakeholder departments to develop and implement an integrated design, land use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public access, safety, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline. This recommendation also is part of the City's General Plan and Local Coastal Program (LCP).

Implementation and Funding Strategies

Goal VII addresses management and administration to establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community to maximize involvement and support. Policy A, Action 2 calls for establishing annual short-term and long-term priorities for capital improvement projects and maintaining conditions assessments to help inform the prioritization process. Policy B directs the City to continue to improve community outreach and communications. The proposed plan examines possible funding mechanisms available in California for municipal parks and recreation acquisition, improvements, and on-going operations and maintenance costs. The City has several existing sources of funds to pay for capital projects, including park dedication requirements and a park and recreation facilities tax. Other potential funding sources identified in the plan include grants, community benefits programs, bonds, new or expanded local taxes, land-based financing programs, enhanced infrastructure financing district, and charitable contributions. Goal IV-Policy C directs the City to support and seek funding for long-term projects. Goal VI-Policy C calls for development of a sustainable funding mechanism for the maintenance and operation of City parks, open space, beaches and facilities, and supporting actions identify ballot initiatives, expanded partnerships with private organizations, maintenance agreements with other entities, a parks endowment fund, or other alternative financing as potential options to augment Parks and Recreation Department funding.

The Parks Master Plan's Implementation section indicates that many action items will be ongoing or can be accomplished in a shorter time frame with available resources, but others will require long-term planning. The Plan indicates that an Action Plan will be maintained to help guide broader priorities and actions that will be a separate, but complementary document, to the Parks Master Plan 2030. It will be updated and maintained with input from the Parks and Recreation Commission and direction from the City Council. The Action Plan will include actions that are the highest priority for the City to pursue. A Draft Action

Plan has been prepared from the Parks Master Plan based on the Parks and Recreation Commission's ranking of highest priority actions and City Council's acceptance of the Action Plan pending environmental review is included in Attachment B.

11. **Public Agencies Whose Approval or Review Is Required:** None known, other than City of Santa Cruz, for the adoption and implementation of the Parks Master Plan 2030. Some of the recommended projects may need additional permits from other agencies at the time a specific project is proposed.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

City Location and Population. The City of Santa Cruz is located at the northern edge of Monterey Bay, approximately 32 miles south of San Jose and 75 miles south of San Francisco. The City is roughly 15.8 square miles in area, of which 12.7 square miles is land and 3.1 square miles is water. Santa Cruz's location, geography, and climate are conducive to recreation. The Monterey Bay and surrounding mountains provide diverse landscapes to accommodate a wide range of recreational interests and activities, and the mild climate facilitates year-round participation.

The City's existing population as of January 1, 2017, was approximately 59,950 (SOURCE V.4²). According to the draft Parks Master Plan, the City has lower percentages of children and seniors than the state-wide averages. Other important user groups include the UCSC and tourist populations; there are more than three million tourist visits to Santa Cruz County each year.

Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities. The City's parks system covers more than 1,700 acres of parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. The park system is comprised of neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. The parks system offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Many recreational facilities are located within individual parks and open spaces and some stand alone. Existing City parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities are identified in Table 2 and shown on Figure 2, and together include:

- 32 Neighborhood Parks (49 acres);
- 6 Community Parks (181 acres);
- 1 Regional Park – DeLaveaga Golf Course;
- 7 Open Space Lands (1,315 acres); and
- 4 Beaches (33 acres).

Neighborhood parks serve the recreational needs of those living or working within a service radius of 0.5 miles and provide recreational facilities such as children's play areas, picnic areas, athletic fields, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The City does not currently differentiate neighborhood parks from mini parks.

² All references, documents, and data sources are identified in Section V of this document.

Table 2. Existing City Parks, Open Space Lands and Beaches

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
Neighborhood Parks	Beach Flats Park	0.22
	Bethany Curve Greenbelt – Delaware to West Cliff	3.40
	Branciforte Dog Park	0.22
	Central Park	0.16
	Chestnut Park	0.28
	El Portal Park	0.21
	Frederick Street Park	3.97
	Garfield Park	1.78
	Grant Park	2.36
	John Franks Park	0.48
	La Barranta Park	2.26
	Laurel Park – 301 Center Street	1.77
	Lighthouse Avenue Park	0.35
	Mimi de Mart Dog Park	0.50
	Mission Plaza	0.94
	Moore Creek Overlook	0.12
	Neary Lagoon Park	1.27
	Ocean View Park	3.06
	Pacheco Dog Park	0.45
	Poets Park	0.13
	Rincon Park	0.06
	Riverside Gardens Park	0.52
	Round Tree Park	0.28
	Scope Park	0.1
	Sgt. Derby Park	3.65
	Star of the Sea	2.10
	Town Clock	0.19
	Trescony	2.00
	Tyrrell Park	1.20
	University Terrace	8.70
	Westlake Park	6.03
	Westside Pump Track (Leased)	
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>49</i>
Community Parks	DeLaveaga Park- Lower DeLaveaga Park, George Washington Park, Audrey Stanley Grove, DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course, DeLaveaga Archery Range	100
	Depot Park	9.00
	Harvey West Park	44.77
	Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park	1.25
	San Lorenzo Park – 137 Dakota Street	11.12
	West Cliff	14.64
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>181</i>
<i>CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE</i>		

Table 2. Existing City Parks, Open Space Lands and Beaches

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
Regional Parks	DeLaveaga Golf Course	151.00
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>151</i>
Open Space	Arana Gulch	67.7
	Arroyo Seco Canyon	33.94
	DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area	269
	Jessie Street Marsh	3.2
	Moore Creek Preserve	263.75
	Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge	37
	Pogonip	640.0
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>1,315</i>
Beaches	Its Beach (City-owned portion)	1.5
	Cowell Beach	5.0
	Main Beach	26.0
	Mitchell's Cove	0.4
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>33</i>
	TOTAL ACRES (rounded)	1,730

Community parks are designed to serve the entire community and are generally larger than neighborhood parks and offer unique facilities such as larger picnic areas, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, and recreation centers. They also host larger community events and recreation facilities. The City's standard for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people, with a service radius of 1.5 miles.

Regional parks serve the recreational needs of a regional population and are 150 acres in size or larger and offer active and passive recreation with activities and amenities not found in neighborhood and community parks, such as large areas of open space, large picnic facilities, golf courses, lake boating, ball fields, and multi-use trails. An accepted national standard for regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 people. DeLaveaga Park could be categorized as a regional park because it is greater than 150 acres in size and includes active and passive recreation activities that serve the region. However, many of the activities that are provided can also be described under Community Parks because they serve the entire community and are similar in scale to other community park uses. Therefore, DeLaveaga Park has multiple functions that are reflected in the inventory in different categories.

According to the Parks Master Plan, the City is currently underserved for neighborhood and community park space. To meet existing goals, a total of 67 acres of parks would need to be created to meet the forecasted population growth associated with the City of Santa Cruz *General Plan 2030* growth estimates.

The City's parks system includes seven open space properties, totaling about 1,315 acres that include Arana Gulch Open Space, Arroyo Seco Canyon, DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area, Jessie Street Marsh, Moore Creek Preserve, Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, and Pogonip Open space. The system also includes four beaches (Main, Cowell, Its, and Mitchell's Cove).

Additionally, there are a variety of community facilities, such as the Civic Auditorium, Loudon Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz Wharf, and Surfing Museum located inside the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse on Lighthouse Point. There are also joint-use agreements with the Santa Cruz City School District and Diocese of Monterey County that provide access to some school playgrounds during off-school hours.

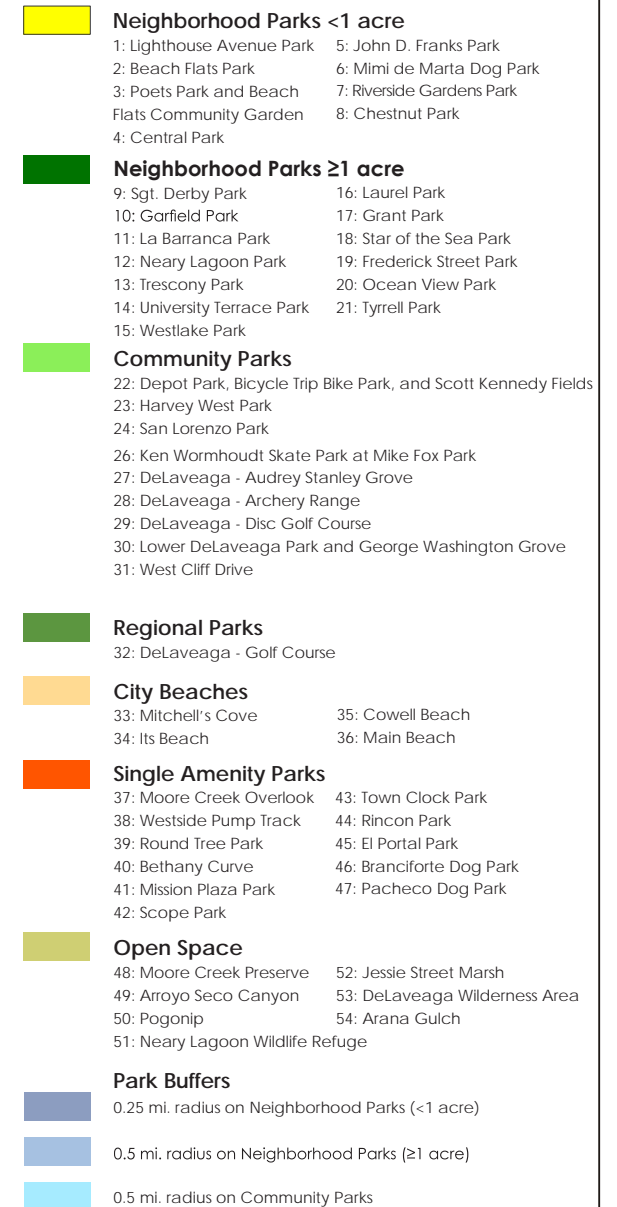
The City also provides nearly 35 miles of trails throughout the City, which not only allow for a variety of forms of recreation, but also serve as important links between parks, recreation facilities, and natural and urban areas in some areas. The existing trail system allows for hiking, biking, dog walking, and horseback riding. Many trails provide access through designated open spaces or along the coastline, and others provide linkages across the City to a regional network. According to the Parks Master Plan, significant trails in the City include the Santa Cruz Riverwalk, an important north-south connector along the San Lorenzo River and the Monterey Bay Scenic Rail Trail, which will provide a multi-use trail through the City, and ultimately connect Davenport to Monterey. Multi-use trails also provide mountain biking and horseback riding opportunities in DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area and Pogonip Open Space, and a paved multi-use path enables bicyclists to access and pass through Arana Gulch Open Space.

The City has adopted master or management plans for some facilities that help guide future uses and corresponding management actions for specific parks, open spaces, and beaches. Not all park assets have management plans. The draft Parks Master Plan indicates that some of these management plans could be updated to accommodate new facilities and activities to meet current needs and desires, but the proposed plan does not amend or supersede the existing adopted management or park master plans. Facilities with previously adopted master or management plans include the following:

- Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006)
- Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014)
- DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)
- DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002)
- Depot Park Master Plan (2001)
- Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998)
- Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan (2002)
- Neary Lagoon Management Plan (1992)
- Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2002)
- Pogonip Master Plan (1998)
- San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003)



Existing Park Coverage Map



SOURCE: City of Santa Cruz

DUDEK

FIGURE 2

Existing Park Coverage

City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030 Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration

This page intentionally left blank.

Existing Setting at Major Parks, Open Space Areas, and Recreational Areas. Most of the City's parks are located within developed areas of the City. A brief overview of some of the City's larger community parks and open space properties is provided as follows.

Arana Gulch Open Space features coastal prairie, riparian and oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, and the lower reaches of Arana Gulch Creek. Arana Gulch Open Space supports three sensitive habitat areas: (1) areas of Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*), a state-listed endangered species and a federally listed threatened species; (2) riparian habitat; and (3) seasonal wetlands.

The property has a recently developed ADA compliant, multi-use path that connects Brommer Street, Broadway, and Agnes Street, and also includes approximately one mile of trails on grasslands overlooking the Santa Cruz Harbor. Grazing is conducted onsite to help restore the Santa Cruz tarplant and coastal prairie habitat. A City-adopted Habitat Management Plan is being implemented in association with a Technical Advisory Group to help guide restoration efforts.

Arroyo Seco Canyon is a natural ravine with an approximately one mile long multi-use path (bike-pedestrian)/maintenance road connecting University Terrace Park to Grandview Street. The top section is paved. The Meder Creek Management Plan was developed by Public Works and provides recommendations for maintenance and restoration activities.

The *DeLaveaga Park Wilderness* area contains the undeveloped portions of DeLaveaga Park, and supports multi-use trails that connect the other DeLaveaga Park facilities located within the George Washington Grove, Lower DeLaveaga Park, and the Upper DeLaveaga Park areas. The City adopted a Master Plan for DeLaveaga Park in 1960 that conceptually depicts a trail system throughout the park. Arana Gulch Creek deposits sediment into the lower portion of the watershed, and the City works with the Resource Conservation District to seek grant opportunities for watershed enhancement projects.

DeLaveaga Golf Course is an 18-hole golf course with other facilities, including driving range, a barbeque group picnic area, a clubhouse with a banquet facility, and practice greens for putting and chipping. The operations of the golf course, driving range, and restaurant are leased to a concessionaire. The City maintains the golf course, and a maintenance yard is located on the site. The City adopted the DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan in 2002, which recommends a variety of improvements, including constructing a new clubhouse to accommodate larger events, installing a new irrigation system to conserve water, adding solar to the upper deck of the golf course to provide shade and conserve energy, performing tree management work to reduce dead and diseased trees, redesigning and updating the sand traps, leveling the tees, grading the fairways, increasing the parking areas, and improving the maintenance yard. Instead of constructing a new clubhouse, the City and lessee are currently renovating the existing one.

Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove are located along Branciforte Drive. George Washington Grove is located across Branciforte Creek to the north of Lower DeLaveaga Park and contains a seasonally opened group picnic area, two bocce ball courts, and restrooms. Lower DeLaveaga Park supports two softball fields, a large grass field, a sand volleyball court, two

horseshoe pits, and a playground. There is currently no access between these two portions of the park.

Depot Park is a community park in a developed area near the beach area, just outside of the downtown area. The park has an adult soccer field and practice area which can be used as two practice or youth fields. Other facilities include: the Depot Freight Building that have restrooms, which are open to park visitors; the only ramped, wooden bicycle park in the area; a large plaza area; picnic tables, and artwork; parking; and a small play features. A pathway connects the southern end to Beach Street towards Cowell Beach. The park includes the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center and adjacent parking area. An approximately half acre site at 101 Washington Street (former location of Lighthouse Liquors) was purchased for incorporation into the park and is currently being leased.

Harvey West Park is a large community park that is used for a variety of recreational activities, including recreation programming and summer camps, events, sports, and large gatherings. It contains a pump track, athletic fields, reservable picnic areas, a playground and tot lot, exercise equipment, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and bocce ball courts. The park hosts large community events. It also contains Community Recreational Facilities that include the Harvey West Pool, Wagner Cottage, Kids Kottage, and Scout and Clubhouse. The Ranger Station and Parks Maintenance Yard are also located on the grounds. Hiking trails connect to the Upper Westside Neighborhood and Pogonip Open Space.

Jessie Street Marsh is adjacent to Ocean View Park and East Cliff Drive and currently has an ad-hoc trail that extends from E. Cliff Drive to Lemos Avenue. The property is a City-owned wetland and open space site located north of San Lorenzo Boulevard and the San Lorenzo River, which was purchased by the City as part of the mitigation for the loss of parkland as a result of the City's Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWTP) Modification project in 1991 ("1991 Project"). It was intended that the marsh be enhanced with riparian plantings, wetland restoration, interpretive signage and construction of an accessible trail system.

The City's SWTP is located next to Neary Lagoon Park and the Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. The original 1991 Project concept contemplated removal of a total of 0.83 acres of riparian and wetland habitat (including 0.02 acre of COE jurisdictional wetland) during construction. As mitigation for the loss of habitat, the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (June, 1991) proposed as mitigation the establishment of an equal amount of riparian habitat adjacent to the SWTP on the south side of Neary Lagoon, as well as the establishment of approximately 0.6-0.9 acre of riparian habitat at Jessie Street Marsh and enhancement of approximately 0.2-0.4 acre of existing wetland at that location.³ On June 20, 1991, the Planning Commission denied the project and directed staff to create an environmentally superior design. As a result of concerns for the impact to riparian and wetland habitat, the SWTP Project design was modified to eliminate impacts to riparian or wetland habitat. The plans were revised and the final project avoided the wetland and riparian areas but

³ See, Final Supplemental EIR – City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Plan Modification Program – Addition of Secondary Treatment Facilities (Jones & Stokes - June, 1991), p. 2-7.

the project still did displace parkland and open space. The modifications represented revised mitigation measures for impacts of the original proposed project on a total of 0.83 acre of riparian habitat, including 0.02 acre of Corps jurisdictional wetlands.⁴

The SWTP Modification Project's EIR and Addendum also identified the loss of 3.8 acres of parkland and open space at Neary Lagoon as one of the significant environmental effects. On November 12, 1991, the City adopted the project's Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP), which specified lessening or avoiding the loss of parkland/open space impacts, in part, by acquiring Jessie Street Marsh, developing a management plan for the marsh, and funding capital expenditures as determined by the management plan.

The City has taken many steps to implement the MMRP to mitigate for the loss of parkland/open space. In 1996, the City acquired the Jessie Street Marsh property. In 1998, the City prepared the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan, which includes with goals to restore the marsh and improve access. The Plan identifies actions to improve hydrologic functions of the marsh (including hydrologic interaction with the San Lorenzo River), habitat restoration actions, and measures to enhance public access. Historically, Jessie Street Marsh was part of a large tidal estuary open to the San Lorenzo River. Since adoption of the plan, the City has implemented some management actions, including control of invasive plant species and marsh vegetation management. The City has not yet funded the capital expenditures in the management plan.

A major component of the plan was to create a tidal exchange between the freshwater marsh and the San Lorenzo Urban River. The Parks Master Plan indicates that this which was subsequently determined to be "unbuildable" during plan review by the City's Engineers. Throughout the years, the City has tried different approaches to implementing the Jessie Street Marsh in order to complete the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program.

In 2016, the City began a process to determine how to move forward with implementing the plan in consideration of safety, flooding, environmental restoration, and access comments received from community members. A consultant was hired to put together concept plans which are based on feedback from the neighborhood in order to help facilitate public outreach. Conceptual plans were presented to the public in December 2017 that included new access, riparian revegetation, and wetland enhancement. The plans are not in a final state. Direction has neither been provided by the Parks and Recreation Commission nor City Council. The conceptual plans are based on preliminary public feedback and it would be too speculative to review the project under CEQA at this stage as no action was taken to further develop this plan. Any future project is subject to CEQA. There are no current proposals to modify the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan.

⁴ See, Addendum of city of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification Program Supplemental EIR: Modification of Access Road Route and Clarifier Placement to Avoid Impacts on riparian and Wetland Habitat (Jones & Stokes - August 9, 1991), p. 1-3.

Moore Creek Preserve is a 246-acre natural preserve area that supports coastal prairie, riparian, and oak woodland habitats, as well mixed eucalyptus and Monterey cypress groves and special status species. The preserve has nearly three miles of hiking trails (no dogs are allowed) that wind through canyon, forest, and grassland natural settings. Many of the trails overlook the Pacific Ocean. Cattle graze the coastal prairie areas to help restore native plants and the Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*). Access to the site is limited. Visitors can park on Shaffer Road and cross Highway 1 to enter the southern entrance or park east of Western Drive to walk down Meder Street to enter the northeastern entrance.

Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge is a 37-acre-owned wetland and natural area situated in the central part of the City. Habitat areas include: freshwater marsh, open water, riparian and mixed oak woodland, and grassland.. Habitat and wildlife/fisheries management actions include removal of non-native plant and wildlife species, maintaining a balance between freshwater marsh and open water habitat through removal of tules and cattails, sediment removal, establishing and enhancing islands within the lagoon for waterfowl, grassland restoration, and conducting annual surveys and monitoring. The facility offers a boardwalk loop trail where visitors can bird watch and explore a variety of natural habitats such as riparian forest, freshwater marsh, mixed oak woodland, and open water. The floating walkway offers a truly unique experience within the City and region. Interpretive signs provide information about some of the wildlife that inhabit the refuge. The Museum of Natural History leads educational tours funded by the City.

Pogonip Open Space contains approximately eight miles of hiking trails and three miles of multi-use (hiking, biking, and horseback riding) trails that weave through a variety of natural and historic landscapes. The property supports a variety of plant communities, as well as sensitive habitat (coastal prairie) and special status species. The open space is located adjacent to Harvey West Park, UCSC (which includes trails that connect to Wilder Ranch State Park), and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. The Emma McCrary Trail was constructed in 2013 with the help of volunteers and has become a very popular trail, especially for mountain biking.

The City-adopted Pogonip Master Plan envisioned a variety of recreational and educational activities for the open space, including new trails. The Homeless Garden Project will soon be locating in Pogonip. The Homeless Garden Project is a non-profit organization that provides programs and training to people who are or have previously been homeless. The property includes the historic Pogonip Clubhouse, which was constructed in 1911 as the Casa del Rey Golf and Country Clubhouse. The clubhouse is currently in a dilapidated condition and is closed off from public access. The Pogonip Master Plan envisions the restoration of the Pogonip Clubhouse as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center, and a site for special events. The former tennis courts are also closed, and the swimming pool has been filled-in. The Parks Master Plan recommended replacing the tennis and pool area with event grounds and parking. The Parks Master Plan also planned for an outdoor education camp in the Lower Main Meadow and an interpretive trail through Sycamore Grove, which is located to the east of Highway 9 along the San Lorenzo River and is currently closed as a result of illegal camping issues. The habitat types most common along the San Lorenzo River within the City of Santa Cruz are ruderal grassland, mixed riparian forest, willow thickets, freshwater marsh, and brackish water tule marsh.

San Lorenzo Park is located along the eastern edge of the San Lorenzo River and is bordered by Water Street to the north; the Santa Cruz County Government Center, a hotel, and an apartment complex to the east; and Branciforte Creek to the south. The park is connected to downtown by a pedestrian bridge over San Lorenzo River. The benchlands area of the park is located within a San Lorenzo River floodplain. San Lorenzo Park hosts multiple events throughout the year and parking is often provided at the County Government Center and in the benchlands area for the events. The park has a playground, a tot-lot, a portable pump track, nine disc golf baskets, the San Lorenzo Lawn Bowling facility, and a pond with a small stage.

San Lorenzo River is the major watercourse through the City and a major physical feature in the City. The river originates in the Santa Cruz Mountains and traverses through the center of the City. Following severe flooding in downtown Santa Cruz in the winters of 1938, 1941, and 1955, the ACOE completed a flood control project along the San Lorenzo River in 1959 that straightened and confined the river within its current configuration. The project created a channelized flood control channel for the river's lower 2.5 miles south of Highway 1. The project included rip-rap levee banks, removal of all vegetation from the banks, and dredging of the river channel bottom with an excavated channel. Significant flood improvements along the river were completed in 2000 as part of the ACOE's San Lorenzo River Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Project. This project raised the river levee height, provided landscaping and improved the pedestrian/bicycle path on the levee, and rehabilitated three of the four downtown bridges (over the San Lorenzo River) to increase flood flow capacity. The habitat enhancement efforts focused on the land side of the levees in the study area which were landscaped with native trees, shrubs, and groundcover (SOURCE V6.a).

The West Cliff Pathway and accents is a multi-use path located on a coastal bluff along West Cliff Drive, which extends from Natural Bridges State Park to Cowell Beach. Stairs provide access to popular surfing breaks and beaches. The path and adjacent bluffs support a variety of coastal recreational activities, including ocean and wildlife viewing, rock fishing, biking, walking, and exercising. The park has benches, landscape accents, coastal overlook/viewing areas, artwork, and one turf field. The adjacent Monterey Bay is a popular surfing location, and areas also are used for swimming and kayaking. Surf contests are held at Steamer Lane and marathons are held along the pathway. The Surfing Museum is located at Lighthouse Point, which offers an unparalleled viewing opportunity of surfing. Natural Bridges State Park is located at the western edge of West Cliff, and Lighthouse Field State Park is located across the street from Lighthouse Point.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected by the Project: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

✓	Aesthetics	✓	Agricultural and Forest Resources	✓	Air Quality
✓	Biological Resources	✓	Cultural Resources	✓	Geology / Soils
✓	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	✓	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	✓	Hydrology / Water Quality
	Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources	✓	Noise
	Population / Housing		Public Services		Recreation
✓	Transportation / Traffic		Tribal Cultural Resources	✓	Utilities/Service Systems
✓	Mandatory Findings of Significance				

Instructions to Environmental Checklist

1. A brief explanation is required (see VI. "Explanation of Environmental Checklist Responses") for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question (see V. Source List, attached). A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that any effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier Analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion should identify the following on attached sheets:
 - a) *Earlier Analysis used.* Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
 - b) *Impacts adequately addressed.* Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) *Mitigation measures.* For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			✓	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	
2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement Methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✓
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?			✓	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			✓	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				✓
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				✓
4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			✓	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		✓		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			✓	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			✓	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			✓	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			✓	
6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. (V.1a, V.1b-DEIR) ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv. Landslides? 			✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		✓	✗	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			✓	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			✓	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				✓
8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				✓
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				✓
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼ miles of an existing or proposed school?				✓
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				✓
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			✓	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				✓
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local ground water table level (for example, the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				✓
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				✓
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				✓
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?		✓	✓	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood-hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h) Place within a 100-year flood-hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? (V.1b-Figure 4.7-1 in DEIR)				✓
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				✓
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			✓	
10. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
c) Conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan?				✓
11. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (V.1a)				✓
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? (V.1a)				✓
12. NOISE: Would the project:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?		✓	✓	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?				✓
c) Substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			✓	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			✓	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
13. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
14. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or need for new or physical altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?			✓	
b) Police protection?			✓	
c) Schools?			✓	
d) Parks?			✓	
e) Other public facilities?				✓
15. RECREATION. Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			✓	
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?		✓		
16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standard and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				✓
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (for example, sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (for example, farm equipment)?				✓
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				✓
17. Tribal Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				✓
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe				✓
18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				✓
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✓	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			✓	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			✓	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			✓	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✓
18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Would the project:				
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				✓
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of the past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			✓	
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				✓

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

See Section **VI--ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION** for discussion.

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	✓
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	
I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.	


 Noah Downing, Park Planner

2/5/19
 Date

V. REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCE LIST

1. City of Santa Cruz General Plan and EIR
 - a) Adopted June 26, 2012. *General Plan 2030*. Available online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/planning-and-community-development/general-plan-2030>
 - b) April 2012. "City of Santa Cruz *General Plan 2030* Final EIR." [SCH#2009032007] Certified June 26, 2012. Includes Draft EIR document, dated September 2011. Available online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/planning-and-community-development/general-plan-2030>
2. City of Santa Cruz Adopted Plans.
 - a) Adopted August 2016. *2015 Urban Water Management Plan*. Prepared by City of Santa Cruz Water Department.
 - b) Adopted 2013. *City of Santa Cruz Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012-2017*.
 - c) Adopted by City Council on February 28, 2006 and approved by the California Coastal Commission as a LCP amendment on May 9, 2008. *City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan*.
 - d) October 25, 1994. *The City of Santa Cruz General Plan and Local Coastal Program 1990-2005*. [Local Coastal Program portion] Available online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/planning-and-community-development/general-plan>
3. City of Santa Cruz Environmental Review Documents.
 - a) October 2017. "Downtown Plan Amendments Final EIR." [SCH#2017022050] Certified November 14, 2017. Includes Draft EIR document, dated July 2017. Prepared by Dudek. Available online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/planning-and-community-development/environmental-documents>
 - b) December 2015. "Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study. Shakespeare DeLaveaga Outdoor Theater."
 - c) October 2011. "Mitigated Negative Declaration-Initial Study, Pogonip Master Plan Amendment and New East Multi-Use Trail." [SCH#2010102006]. Prepared by Strelow Consulting.
 - d) 1998. "Pogonip Master Plan EIR." Final (June 1998) and Draft (February 1998) volumes. Prepared by Brady / LSA.
 - e) August 1991. "Addendum to City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification Program Supplemental Environmental Impact Report." [SCH# 89030705] Prepared by Jones & Stokes Associates.
 - f) June 1991. "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification Program, Additional of Secondary Treatment Facilities." [SCH# 89030705] Prepared by Jones & Stokes Associates.
 - g) November 1990. "Draft Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification Program, Additional of Secondary Treatment Facilities." [SCH# 89030705] Prepared by Jones & Stokes Associates.

4. California Department of Finance. 2017. "E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2017 with 2010 Census Benchmark." Available online at: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-5/>.
5. Monterey Bay Air Resources District.
 - a) April 17, 2013, Adopted. "Triennial Plan Revision 2009 – 2011." Final.
 - b) August 2008. *2008 Air Quality Management Plan for the Monterey Bay Region*.
 - c) February 2008. "CEQA Air Quality Guidelines."
 - d) Adopted April 1996-Revised February 2016. "Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act."
6. California Air Resources Board (CARB). June 17, 2016. "California Greenhouse Gas Inventory – 2016 Edition." Online at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/data.htm>.

Initial Study Preparation: Dudek (Stephanie Strelow) in association with the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department (Noah Downing)

VI. EXPLANATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST RESPONSES

Introduction

As defined in the State CEQA Guidelines (section 15382 [pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21068]), a "significant effect on the environment" is:

...a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether a physical change is significant.

Section 15064(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that an evaluation of significant effects "shall consider direct physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project." This section further specifies that an indirect physical change in the environment is a physical change in the environment which is not immediately related to the project, but which is caused indirectly by the project. An indirect physical change is to be considered only if that change is a reasonably foreseeable impact which may be caused by the project.

The project consists of a Parks Master Plan, which is a guidance document to inform park and recreational facility planning and development within the City and to implement the parks and

recreational goals set forth in the City's General Plan 2030. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of goals, policies, actions and recommended improvements that, if implemented, would result in could lead to expansion of or improvements to existing park and recreational facilities and uses and potential addition of new facilities and recreational uses, if implemented. Most of the improvements to existing facilities would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with addition of amenities, landscaping or minor improvements, and in some cases, minor expansion of existing recreational uses. Facility recommendations that may result in new or expanded development include potential new trails, several areas of potential new parking, development of a small amphitheater at Harvey West Park, construction of restrooms and small buildings, and renovation of existing structures. Potential new recreational uses and/or facilities recommended in the Parks Master Plan include additional recreational facilities, such as pickleball courts, community gardens, and off-leash dog use areas, and a drone course, but in most cases, specific site locations have not been identified for new uses. Most of the recommendations will require additional study, public input, planning and design, project specific and funding prior to implementation.

The Parks Master Plan does not include proposals or details regarding the location, design, size or siting of specific improvements. No project-specific site plans are proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan for expanded or new facilities, and the Plan would not directly result in development. However, implementation of the policies, actions and recommendations in the Plan would lead to improvement and development at City parks.

The Plan recognizes that additional efforts will be necessary to determine if the future projects should be pursued. Most of the recommendations will require additional study, public input, planning and design, project-specific CEQA analysis, and funding prior to implementation. The Parks Master Plan also acknowledges that while many policies and actions are aimed at improving environmental quality within the park system, some actions will require additional study before a specific project can be proposed. Feasibility studies are recommended for most new uses, such as athletic fields and trails, and no specific sites or trail alignments are identified in the draft Plan. Upon future completion of these studies, any proposed site-specific proposals projects would be subject to development of site plans and project-level CEQA environmental analysis once conceptual designs have been developed. The Plan also indicates that the Parks Master Plan neither replaces nor overrides the existing adopted management plans for the City's open spaces. If future projects are pursued to meet needs that were not already identified within an existing park management or master plan, that plan may need to be amended and CEQA review would be necessary.

This Initial Study analyzes potential impacts that could occur based on the types of uses and/or improvements generally recommended, as well as for specific facilities identified for existing parks and facilities. To the extent that future expanded uses or improvements may result in environmental impacts, the nature of the impact is addressed. The Initial Study describes the range of facilities and uses that are recommended in the Master Plan (pages 14-18). Each impact discussion addresses potential impacts associated with new or expanded facilities or uses where relevant to the topic being addressed. Attachment A summarizes recommendations for existing

facilities and identifies where sensitive resources and/or environmental impacts may occur, which are discussed in the IS/MND text. The IS/MND considers all components of the Master Plan in the analyses.

The IS/MND appropriately analyzes potential indirect reasonably foreseeable impacts that could occur as a result of adoption and implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future development of specific projects. No “reasonably foreseeable” projects are known with regards to new or expanded trails, off-leash areas for dogs, or at Jessie Street Marsh as summarized below.

- Expanding Multi-Use Trails. Although the Parks Master Plan calls for improvement, enhancement and expansion of trails, the Plan also clearly calls for evaluation of new trail uses through a public process to determine if they are appropriate for a specific space (Goal II-Policy F, Action 1a). Upon future completion of these studies, any proposed site-specific proposals would be subject to development of site plans and project-level environmental analysis.

The Parks Master Plan includes recommendations for consideration of new trails at Arroyo Seco, DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip, but does not does not include proposed trail alignments. Some potential locations were conceptually identified for DeLaveaga and Pogonip during the public process of developing the Plan, however, these were intended for discussion purposes and no specific trail alignments are recommended in the Master Plan. Therefore, there are no “reasonably foreseeable” trail projects. Any future trail would be considered and studied in accordance with the Master Plan policies and actions that call for additional study. In addition, recommendations for Pogonip Open Space include conducting a trails assessment to evaluate existing trail connections and use issues that would help inform the determination of whether or not future trail modifications or improvements are appropriate, and the Master Plan specifically indicates that potential impacts and mitigations related to new or expanded trails at Pogonip would be evaluated through the CEQA process conducted for future trail projects.

The IS/MND does address the types of impacts that could occur with development of new trails and identifies the proposed Parks Master Plan goals, policies and/or actions that include measures to prevent impacts. Impacts of trail development is addressed in the following sections: aesthetics-scenic views (page 47-52), air quality-grading/emissions (pages 55-57), biological resources (pages 57-69), erosion (page 74-75), and drainage/water quality (page 82-85).

- Jessie Street Marsh. The Parks Master Plan recommends improving the connection from the marsh to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk; hiring a consultant to work through design issues and public concerns with the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan; and to discuss potential modifications to the management plan through a public process. As previously indicated, the City started the process of developing a conceptual plan in 2017 to address community desires and concerns and to help facilitate community discussion. The consultant developed a conceptual site plan to collect input during an iterative outreach process. The City is currently working with the consultant to update the concepts based on feedback received during the meeting. Neither the Parks and Recreation Commission nor the City Council have

provided input in the planning process, and the concepts do not represent development plans. The conceptual plans show a new accessible trail, native revegetation, and measures to expand/enhance the existing wetland, in keeping with the provisions of the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan.

The Parks Master Plan does not identify changes to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan. At this time, it is not known if the Jessie Street Management Plan would be modified, and if so, in what ways. Thus, there is no proposal or concept to analyze. It would be speculative to try to determine what potential changes to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan may be considered and/or proposed in the future as a result of the process recommended in the Parks Master Plan. If a revision to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan or new improvement is proposed in the future, it would be subject to environmental review either as part of a plan amendment or project-level review. To the extent that future changes in the Jessie Street Marsh Plan or improvements may result in environmental impacts, such as impacts to wetlands, the nature of the impact is addressed in the Parks Master Plan Initial Study.

- Off-Leash Areas for Dogs. Goal III-Policy I and supporting actions directs the City to seek opportunities to enhance off-leash dog use experiences while minimizing conflicts with other park uses and wildlife. Action 1 indicates that new formal off-leash dog use areas will be completely fenced and located in an underutilized area of a park. Action 2 calls for identifying a location for a fenced off-leash dog use area in the Lower Westside neighborhood. Specific sites for new facilities are not identified in the Master Plan, but these type of facilities are usually small and located on a portion of an existing park in a developed area and would be fenced, thus avoiding sensitive resource areas.

The Parks Master Plan calls for increased enforcement of off-leash and dog access laws (Goal III-Policy 1, Action 5) and review of the existing day-use access areas for domestic animals onto beaches and open spaces with consideration of creation of a licensing program to manage off-leash dog use (Goal III-Policy 1, Action7). At Mitchell's Cove, the Master Plan includes a recommendation to consider programs and enforcement to ensure that off-leash dog use does not overwhelm the small beach area. One comment on the January 2018 IS/MND raised concern about failure to enforce rules on off-leash dog use in the past with reference to State Parks and a past court decision at Lighthouse Field State Park. As a result of that case, the City returned management of Lighthouse Field to the State Parks Department. The proposed Parks Master Plan does not propose legalizing illegal off-leash use, but rather supports fenced areas for such use and increased enforcement as indicated above.

The analyses in the IS/MND are at a "program" level that includes the policies, actions and general recommendations for improvements and new/expanded facilities or uses. The Master Plan includes actions to guide future selection and design of park and recreational facility improvements or expansion that would avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts. The Parks Master Plan includes policies and actions that are measures built into the project that would be implemented and as a result, would serve in some cases to mitigate potential impacts, such as potential impacts

related to biological resources, drainage, and erosion as discussed in the following sections. These actions, in combination with required compliance with existing City regulations would ensure that future improvements, when proposed, would be designed to minimize/mitigate impacts. Furthermore, future specific projects would be subject to project-level CEQA review.

1. Aesthetics.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;*
- *Substantially damage scenic resources, including visually prominent trees, rock outcrops, or historic buildings along a state scenic highway;*
- *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and surroundings, i.e., be incompatible with the scale or visual character of the surrounding area; or*
- *Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.*

(a) Scenic Views. Prominent scenic views within the City of Santa Cruz are primarily those that are oriented toward Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean or toward the Santa Cruz Mountains, which frame the northern boundary of Santa Cruz (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). Open space areas, including those that establish the greenbelt around the City, are significant contributors to Santa Cruz's natural setting and aesthetic quality. Arana Gulch Open Space, DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, Pogonip, Neary Lagoon, Younger Lagoon, Antonelli Pond, Arroyo Seco Canyon, and the Jessie Street Marsh are identified in the General Plan as being important natural features that provide scenic amenities and contribute to the identity of surrounding residential neighborhoods, as well as the San Lorenzo River that is an important defining feature through the City (Ibid.). It is noted, however, that neither Younger Lagoon nor Antonelli Pond are owned or managed by the City.

According to maps developed for the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR, scenic views are available along West Cliff Drive and from some parks and open spaces areas, including DeLaveaga Park, Pogonip Open Space, and Arroyo Seco drainages (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume-Figure 4.3-1). Limited portions of Arana Gulch Open Space, DeLaveaga Park, and Pogonip Open Space may be part of a distant mountain panoramic view from some locations in the City. Urban views are identified along San Lorenzo River and from Neary Lagoon.

There are no designated scenic highways or roads within the City. The *General Plan 2030* defines a scenic highway or scenic route as "a highway, road, drive, or street that, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty or historic or cultural interest." However, West Cliff Drive is a popular scenic route

along the coast, and is a primary location that offers prominent and panoramic views of the Monterey Bay.

In addition to West Cliff Drive, other coastal viewpoints with prominent ocean views include: the Municipal Wharf, East Cliff Drive and the Santa Cruz Harbor jetties. Prominent public ocean views from upper elevations are most predominant at locations on the UCSC campus, Moore Creek Preserve and segments of City roads, including the Arroyo Seco and Miramar/Alta Vista areas in the western portion of the City and limited areas along DeLaveaga Road (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume).

Recommendations for future park and facility improvements are for limited improvements, such as addition of amenities, such as benches, pickleball courts, or signage or small facilities located within an existing park unit that would not be highly visible. Potential new uses, such as pickleball courts, community gardens, off-leash dog parks, and tennis courts would not result in structural development that could affect limited scenic views in which park facilities are visible. New structural development is limited to potential restrooms at a few neighborhood parks within developed areas (Sgt. Derby Park, University Terrace Park, and Westlake Park) and permanent restroom and dressing room facilities at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park. None of these areas are within a mapped or known scenic or panoramic views.

Potential improvements at open space properties that have scenic views or may be part of a scenic view are limited to non-structural improvements, such as potential trails, although no specific alignments are provided in the Parks Master Plan. None of the recommended improvements would result in development that would obstruct or have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic view, which are primarily views of the Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz Mountains, because none of the improvements would be highly visible or located within a scenic view. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* on scenic views.

(b) Scenic Resources. Scenic resources are generally distinctive natural or historical structures with unique aesthetic qualities, such as prominently visible scenic trees and historic or other visually distinguished buildings. Landmarks are distinctive built and natural features that are highly visible or that help to define the identity of a particular place. In addition, to historical landmarks, the City's *General Plan 2030* defines "landmark" as a visually prominent or outstanding structure or natural feature that functions as a point of orientation or identification. The City has approximately 35 City-listed historic landmarks and approximately 600 listed historic structures, some of which may also be considered scenic resources depending on the visual prominence and the character of the building (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume).

According to maps developed for the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR (SOURCE V.1b. DEIR volume-Figure 4.3-1), visual landmarks include: Lighthouse Point, Santa Cruz Wharf, Depot Park, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz Harbor and the Walton Lighthouse at the Harbor, the Civic Auditorium, the Clock Tower in downtown, and

Holy Cross Church. Because of the City's varied topography, Santa Cruz has few built landmarks that are visible from many different parts of town. The Holy Cross Church on Mission Hill is a notable exception; its tall, white steeple can be seen from numerous vantage points in the City, even in low-lying areas such as the Harvey West District. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's brightly-painted roller coasters are even more distinctive, but since the Boardwalk is just a few feet above sea level, the roller coasters are not as widely visible (Ibid.).

Implementation of recommendations in the Parks Master Plan would not result in removal of or substantial damage to scenic resources. Most City parks and recreational facilities are located within developed neighborhood areas and would not affect scenic resources. Five parks or recreational facilities have been identified as visual landmarks: Depot Park, Lighthouse Point, the Civic Auditorium, the Town Clock, and the Santa Cruz Wharf. There are no structural or other improvements recommended at Depot Park or that would affect the visual character of the park as a visual landmark. While renovation to the Civic Auditorium is recommended in the Parks Master Plan, the recommendation relates to interior space renovations to improve the venue for arts, culture, entertainment, and programming. Furthermore, future projects would need to be consistent with the City's General Plan, and the General Plan requires superior quality design for existing or proposed landmark buildings (CD3.5.1). Therefore, the project would not result in impacts to visual landmarks, which may be considered scenic resources.

Existing open space lands, the San Lorenzo River and other watercourses may provide or contain scenic resources, such as prominently visible and distinctive trees. There are no recommendations in the proposed Parks Master Plan that would result in removal of trees or significant vegetation. Future improvements would need to be consistent with City policies and regulations regarding heritage trees, and General Plan policies and actions call for protection and management of tree resources with an emphasis on significant and heritage trees (NRC5.1), preservation of natural features that visually define areas within the City (CD1.1), and protecting existing significant vegetation and landscaping that provides scenic value (CD4.3.3). Additionally, Goal I-Policy A, Action 1f, of the proposed Parks Master Plan calls for increasing the number of trees and tree canopy at City parks and facilities, and Action 1g calls for expansion of the program to plant more trees. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts to significant trees, which may be considered scenic resources.

Thus, the proposed project would have no direct impacts on scenic resources and potential indirect impacts would be avoided or minimized with implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan and General Plan policies and actions that call for protection of significant and heritage trees. The project would result in *no impacts* to scenic resources.

(c) Effects on Visual Character of Surrounding Area. The visual character of the City of Santa Cruz is influenced by a blend of natural features, historic neighborhoods, and other development. Santa Cruz is strongly characterized by its coastal location along Monterey Bay, which defines the city's entire southern boundary. As indicated in subsection 1a), open space areas, including those that make up the City's greenbelt, also are significant contributors to

Santa Cruz's natural setting. The Santa Cruz Mountains and its foothills on the north provide a backdrop of open space views and offer panoramic views of the City and ocean (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). Key natural and open space features include the following:

- The coastline and beaches,
- The San Lorenzo River and other watercourses, parks and open space, and
- The background view of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

According to the City's General Plan, varied topography shapes the City's character and creates many public views throughout the community, including views of Monterey Bay and the City as a whole. Arroyos and steep coastal cliffs are identified as providing the greatest variation in the City's topography. Other features include pronounced hills—most notably the coastal terraces of the UCSC campus, Pogonip Open Space, the Carbonera area, and DeLaveaga Park; smaller hills (e.g., Beach Hill and Mission Hill) act as community landmarks; and shallow slopes toward Monterey Bay (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume).

Impact Analysis. The proposed Parks Master Plan would not result in direct impacts on visual quality as no development is proposed. Potential indirect impacts related to future implementation of recommendations in the Plan would be less than significant due to the low profile nature of proposed improvements and implementation of Parks Master Plan policies and actions that call for appropriate scale and design of new facilities. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of improvements, most of which would be considered enhancements with the addition of amenities or minor improvements, such as picnic and play areas, improved signage, and facility renovations. Expanded or upgraded playgrounds are recommended for consideration at Central, Harvey West, Frederick Street, Garfield, Lighthouse Avenue, and Sgt. Derby Parks. Most of the recommendations would not result in new structural development, and additions and improvements would be consistent with the aesthetics and visual character of existing parks and recreational facilities. Parks and recreational facilities are generally perceived as aesthetic amenities in a neighborhood or community.

The only potential structural development recommendations are potential restrooms at a few neighborhood parks within developed areas (Sgt. Derby Park, University Terrace Park, and Westlake Park) and permanent restroom and dressing room facilities the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park. None of the recommended projects would be out of scale with buildings in the surrounding areas, and they would not substantially degrade the visual character of the surrounding area.

The Parks Master Plan also calls for consideration of artificial turf for playing fields in some locations: DeLaveaga and Harvey West Parks, and potential development of an artificial turf playing field at Sgt. Derby Park and mini-soccer field at University Terrace Park. The use of artificial turf may look different than natural turf in some instances. However, the use of artificial turf has become widely used in many areas for playing fields, and designs have evolved that have established more a natural-looking appearance. The Parks Master Plan also calls for careful consideration of impacts of use of artificial turf when considering

whether or not to convert grass to synthetic turf fields (Goal III-Policy D, Action 3). Therefore, the use of artificial turf in the locations identified in the Master Plan, which are in existing developed areas, would not be expected to result in significant aesthetic impacts.

The proposed Parks Master Plan includes policies and actions that support sustainable and artistic designs (Goal I-Policy B and supporting actions) and continuity in overall park style and design (Goal I-Policy B-Action 11). Goal I-Policy B, Action 1, takes aesthetics into consideration and calls for enhancing existing settings when renovating parks through the use of complementary materials, colors, and features and the compatible placement, size, and layout for site furnishings, landscaping, pathways, plazas, artwork, and architectural features, while highlighting key natural features in the design. Goal III-Policy B also requires that the scale of recreational facilities be compatible with the character of the neighborhood in which they are located. Additionally, the General Plan calls for ensuring that development is designed to be in harmony with natural topography and vegetation (CD1.3) and that the scale, bulk, and setbacks of new development preserve public views of city landmarks where possible (CD3.2).

Implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan's policies and actions, as well as other General Plan policies, would ensure that the visual character of parks, open spaces, and other facilities is preserved and enhanced if recommended new and improved park and recreational facilities are constructed in the future. Implementation of recommended improvements at parks, community facilities, and open space areas would not adversely or substantially degrade the visual character of surrounding areas. Therefore, implementation of the Parks Master Plan would result in a *less-than-significant impact* on the visual character of the areas in which parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities are located.

(d) Light and Glare. The City of Santa Cruz is characterized by a combination of lighting associated with residential and urban development and relatively little lighting in open space areas at the edge of the City. Lighting is generally absent in open space properties and limited to shielded lighting for security in other parks and facilities. Nighttime lighting to allow use of recreational facilities is generally not provided, except for the lighting of the parking lot and fields at Harvey West and DeLaveaga Parks. However, many parks and facilities have lights for safety and security including Depot Park, Frederick Street Park, Grant Park, Harvey West Park, John D. Franks Park, Laurel Park, Mission Plaza Park, Riverside Gardens Park, San Lorenzo Park, Santa Cruz Riverwalk, Town Clock, and Tyrrell Park, as well as lighting along the west side of the Santa Cruz Riverwalk and on the Santa Cruz Wharf.

Impact Analysis. Implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan could result in the addition of facility lighting and some additional parking areas, but would not result in creation of a new source of substantial light or glare.

Parks Master Plan Goal III-Policy D, Action 3, calls for adequate lighting of sports fields. Recommendations are included in the plan for new or improved lighting at several existing facilities: continuing to renovate the field lighting at Harvey West ball fields; energy-efficient lighting at DeLaveaga Park ball fields; potential lighting at Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park, tennis courts at Neary Lagoon Park, and volleyball courts at the Main Beach; and explore field lighting at Depot Park. These facilities are in areas where street, path, and exterior building lighting already exist. Additionally, the Parks Master Plan Goal III-Policy B, Action 2 indicates that future designs should minimize impacts of light onto other properties. Goal 1-Policy A, Action 2a calls for installation of computer-controlled, energy-efficient lighting in parks and facilities and minimizing light spillover and wildlife impacts. Furthermore, the General Plan includes policies and actions to reduce light pollution (HZ5.1) and to consider appropriate lighting when reviewing proposed development or renovation of parks and recreation facilities (HZ5.1.3).

With implementation of the Parks Master Plan and General Plan policies and actions to prevent facility lighting from creating offsite impacts, the limited facility lighting recommended in the plan would not result in creation of a substantial new source of light or glare, and the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact*.

None of the improvements that are recommended in the Parks Master Plan would result in creation of a substantial new source of glare. Potential new parking areas are identified for consideration at DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, Pogonip Open Space, and Sgt. Derby Park. The potential locations are identified adjacent to existing roadways, although specific sites, designs, or number of spaces have not been identified. However, the areas envisioned are small and likely would accommodate a limited number of parking spaces. The recommendations are conceptual and additional study, planning, environmental analysis, and funding would need to occur prior to implementation. The sites are generally ringed with trees or in the case of Moore Creek not highly visible from public roads or viewpoints due to intervening topography and vegetation. The addition of parking contemplated in the Parks Master Plan would not result in large expanses of parking areas that could result in substantial glare from parked cars. Parks Master Plan Goal III-Policy B, Action 2, indicates that considerations in design should include providing appropriate tree screening. Furthermore, the City's General Plan calls for maintaining high-quality landscaping on City-owned lands, parking lots, and parks. With sensitive siting, design, and installation of landscaping as set forth in the Parks Master Plan and General Plan, future parking improvements, if implemented, would not result in introduction of a substantial source of glare, and the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact*. Furthermore, adopted master plans for Pogonip Open Space and Moore Creek Preserve would require amendment to allow parking areas, which would be a separate action in the future should the City pursue these improvements. Both an amendment to existing management plans and facility improvements would be subject to ~~necessitate additional~~ environmental review at the time a site is selected and plans are ~~being~~ developed.

2. Agriculture and Forest Resources.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Convert prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of state importance to non-agricultural uses;*
- *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract;*
- *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land;*
- *Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or*
- *Involve other changes to the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.*

(a-c, e) Agricultural Lands. The City does not contain prime or other agricultural lands as mapped on the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), but is designated as “Urban and Built-up Land” (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.15-1). Moore Creek Preserve is designated as “grazing land,” in the FMMP. Grazing currently occurs on the property, primarily as a means to restore natural habitat and endangered species. However, there are no recommendations in the Parks Master Plan that would affect grazing at Moore Creek. Grazing also is conducted at Arana Gulch Open Space to help restore the Santa Cruz tarplant and coastal prairie habitat.

Except for Moore Creek Preserve and Arana Gulch Open Space, none of the other existing City parks, community facilities, or open space lands is used for grazing or agricultural production or are located adjacent to lands that are in agricultural production. Grazing formerly occurred at Pogonip Open Space, and the proposed Parks Master Plan recommends renovation of the former cattle grazing infrastructure and re-initiation of grazing on the property. The Parks Master Plan policies and actions also support community garden space in higher-density or lower-income areas (Goal 1-Policy C, Action 4), on the east side of the San Lorenzo River and in the Beach Flats area (Goal III-Policy G, Action 1c), and for consideration at specific locations (Round Tree Park, Star of the Sea Park). The City currently provides community garden plots at Beach Flats Community Gardens (not city-owned), Lighthouse Avenue Park, Riverside Gardens Park, and Trescony Park. The facilities are located in developed areas and contain small plots that are available to rent for personal recreational enjoyment and non-commercial food production.

Therefore, the project and future implementation of park and recreational facility improvements would not interfere or conflict with agricultural operations or lead to conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* on agricultural resources.

(c-e) Forestry Resources. There are no areas in the City that are zoned Timberland Preserve that are considered forestry resources. No commercial timber harvesting occurs within the City. Areas of mixed evergreen, redwood forest, and oak woodlands occur within the City,

primarily within the city-owned open space greenbelt lands. Furthermore, Goal I-Policy A, Action 1f, of the proposed Parks Master Plan calls for increasing the number of trees and tree canopy, and Action 1g calls for expansion of the program to plant more trees. Thus, the proposed project would not result in or lead to the conversion of forest lands to other uses. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* on forestry resources.

3. Air Quality.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan;*
- *Violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, i.e. result in generation of emissions of or in excess of 137 pounds per day for VOC or No_x , 550 pounds per day of carbon monoxide, 150 pounds per day of sulfur oxides (SO_x), and/or 82 pounds per day of PM_{10} (due to construction with minimal earthmoving on 8.1 or more acres per day or grading/excavation site on 2.2 or more acres per day for PM_{10}) pursuant to impact criteria for significance developed by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District ("CEQA Air Quality Guidelines," February 2008);*
- *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors);*
- *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollution concentrations; or*
- *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.*

(a) Conflict with Air Quality Management Plan. In 1991, Monterey Bay Air Resources District⁵ (MBARD) adopted the *Air Quality Management Plan* (AQMP) for the Monterey Bay Region in response to the California Clean Air Act of 1988, which established specific planning requirements to meet the ozone standards. The California Clean Air Act requires that AQMPs be updated every three years. The MBARD has updated the AQMP five times. The most recent update, the Triennial Plan Revision 2009-2011, was adopted in 2013. The 2013 AQMP relies on a multilevel partnership of federal, State, regional, and local governmental agencies. The 2013 AQMP documents the MBARD's progress toward attaining the state 8-hour ozone standard, which is more stringent than the state 1-hour ozone standard. The 2013 AQMP builds on information developed in past AQMPs and updates the 2008 AQMP. The primary elements from the 2008 AQMP that were updated in the 2012 revision include the air quality trends analysis, emission inventory, and mobile source programs (SOURCE V.5a).

The Air District's adopted procedure to determine project consistency with the AQMP is based on residential units. The proposed project does not include residential units, and future implementation of recommended improvements at existing parks and recreational facilities would not result in significant vehicle trips or emissions. The proposed project will not result in new population growth, and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the

⁵ Formerly the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.

AQMP. Therefore, implementation of the Parks Master Plan is not expected to result in conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of the AQMP, and the project would result in *no impact*.

(b-c) Project Emissions. To protect public health, both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have established ambient air quality standards (AAQS) that are the maximum levels of ambient (background) air pollutants considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety to protect public health and welfare. The national standards address six criteria pollutants, including ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, fine particulate matter (both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, which refer to particles less than 10 microns and 2.5 microns, respectively), and lead. The state standards, which are generally more stringent than the federal standards, apply to the same pollutants as the federal standards, but also include sulfate, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride.

The North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB), in which the project site is located, is under the jurisdiction of the MBARD and includes Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. The NCCAB is currently in attainment for the federal PM₁₀, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide standards and is unclassified or attainment for the federal PM_{2.5} and lead standards. The basin is designated non-attainment for the state ozone and PM₁₀ standards, and is in attainment for all other state standards, except for carbon monoxide for which it is unclassified. The MBARD's 2013 AQMP identifies a continued trend of declining ozone emissions in the air basin primarily related to lower vehicle miles traveled (SOURCE V.5a).

Impact Analysis. The project would not result in development or direct emissions, but implementation of future improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan could result in indirect emissions due to increased vehicle travel. However, vehicle or construction-related emissions would not result in an air quality violation or contribute significantly to existing air quality non-attainment explained as follows.

Recommendations in the proposed Parks Master Plan would not result in significant new development that would result in a substantial increase in vehicle trips or air emissions. Most improvements would improve or add amenities at existing parks and recreational facilities. The plan's goals and policies promote pedestrian and bicycle linkage between facilities. Most existing parks and recreational facilities are within walking distance of neighborhoods. (See also Section 16.) There are no significant new parks or recreational facilities that would generate traffic, leading to air emissions. None of the type of uses and improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan would result in a stationary source of emissions.

The proposed plan does promote increased use at several parks. The Plan recommends increased programs and events/concerts at San Lorenzo Park, but this facility is regularly used for events that were often attended without a vehicle due to limited parking in the area, optimal trail access, and its central location near Downtown and public transit. Additionally, event holders rent the parking lots at the adjacent County Government

Center. The plan recommends expansion of use of the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park for private and public events during the Santa Cruz Shakespeare off-season. A small amphitheater within an existing redwood grove is also recommended at Harvey West Park, this is envisioned as a short-term day use area that could accommodate small weddings or other ceremonies that would likely be using the Clubhouse or reservable picnic areas as the primary event location, as well as educational youth camp activities during the summer time.

The range and type of off-season events at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park are not known, but based on previous environmental review of the facility, it is expected that events would be limited to an attendance level of 200 for events such as meetings and other non-music events that are likely to occur on weekends. Given limited use and frequency, traffic and resulting emissions are estimated to be limited and temporary without resulting in significant air emissions (SOURCE V.3b). Should more substantial use be proposed in the future, additional environmental review would be required at the time of project-specific proposals. In accordance with the *General Plan 2030* and EIR, future development projects are required to conduct air emissions calculations where project size exceeds significant screening sizes presented in the AQMP to determine whether emissions exceed MBARD's adopted significance thresholds or potentially violate air quality standards.

The MBARD's "CEQA Air Quality Guidelines" indicate that 8.1 acres could be graded per day with minimal earthmoving or 2.2 acres per day with grading and excavation without exceeding the PM₁₀ threshold of 82 pounds per day. Since the recommendations in the plan are mostly for improvements to existing facilities, grading that exceeds these limits is not expected. Even with potential new trail development as recommended in the plan, site preparation and/or grading would not reach this level.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan and future improvements would not result in substantial air emissions or cause a violation of air quality standards, resulting in a *less-than-significant impact*.

(d) Sensitive Receptors. Future parks improvements would not be expected to result in uses that typically could expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. For CEQA purposes, a sensitive receptor is defined as any residence, including private homes, condominiums, apartments, and living quarters; education resources such as preschools and kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) schools; daycare centers; and health care facilities such as hospitals or retirement and nursing homes (SOURCE V.5c). None of the type of uses and improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan would result in a stationary source of emissions or expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of pollutants.

(e) Odors. According to the MBUAPCD CEQA Guidelines, land uses associated with odor complaints typically include landfills, agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, refineries, and landfills. The proposed Parks Master Plan

includes recommendations for improvement of existing parks and recreational facilities. Neither adoption/implementation of the plan nor construction of recommended improvements would involve uses or construction activities that are generally associated with the creation of objectionable odors. Upon completion of construction, there would be no long-term operations associated odors as none of the types of parks or recreational facilities contemplated in the plan would have activities that would result in the creation of objectionable odors. Potential new off-leash areas for dogs would be fenced, and trash receptacles are provided for dog waste, which would prevent/minimize odors. The Master Plan also calls for clear signage on rules and etiquette to minimize conflicts at off-leash areas to educating users of the importance of cleaning up waste. Therefore, there would be *no impact* related to generation of odors.

4. Biological Resources.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications on; or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;*
- *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service;*
- *Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;*
- *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;*
- *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or*
- *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.*

(a-c) Special-Status Species and Sensitive Habitat Areas. Some of the City's parks and open spaces contain sensitive habitats and/or support special status species, while many of the City's neighborhood parks are developed facilities within developed neighborhoods and do not contain sensitive biological resources. Sensitive habitats generally include riparian habitat and corridors, wetlands, habitats for legally protected species and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern, areas of high biological diversity, areas providing important wildlife habitat, and unusual or regionally restricted habitat types. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), managed by CDFW, maintains a working list of "high-priority" habitats for inventory (i.e., those habitats that are rare or endangered within the borders of California). CNDDB high-priority habitats are generally considered sensitive habitats under CEQA (SOURCE V1.b, DEIR volume).

Four of the habitat types found within the City of Santa Cruz are recognized as sensitive habitat types: freshwater wetland, salt marsh, riparian forest and scrub, and coastal prairie portions of grassland habitats. Except for freshwater wetland, these habitat types correspond to habitat types that the CNDDDB has designated as high priority. In addition, coastal bird habitat is considered sensitive habitats because of high biological diversity. Additionally, any area supporting a special-status species would also be considered a sensitive habitat. Locally, the overwintering monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) habitat is considered sensitive due to its restricted range and CNDDDB ranking as rare (SOURCE V1.b, DEIR volume).

Special-status species include species listed as threatened or endangered under provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered under provisions of the California ESA. Species formally proposed for federal listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are afforded limited legal protection under the ESA. Other special-status plant species are those on List 1A, List 1B, or List 2 of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*, as well as wildlife species of special concern identified by the CDFW (SOURCE V1.b, DEIR volume).

Eight special-status plant species and 39 special-status wildlife species have been identified as occurring within City limits. Three of plant species are listed: robust spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta*), federally listed as endangered; Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*), federally listed as threatened and state listed as endangered; and San Francisco popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys diffusus*), state listed as endangered. Most of the locations are within publicly protected lands (Pogonip Open Space, Arana Gulch Open Space, DeLaveaga Park, and Moore Creek Preserve). Six of the wildlife species are listed: Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela Ohlone*), federally listed as endangered; coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), federally and state-listed as endangered; steelhead rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), federally listed as threatened; tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), federally listed as endangered and a state-listed “Species of Special Concern”; California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), federally listed as threatened and a state-listed “Species of Special Concern”; and brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), state listed as endangered. Most of the locations of these species occur within the City are within publicly protected open space lands (SOURCE V1.b, DEIR volume).

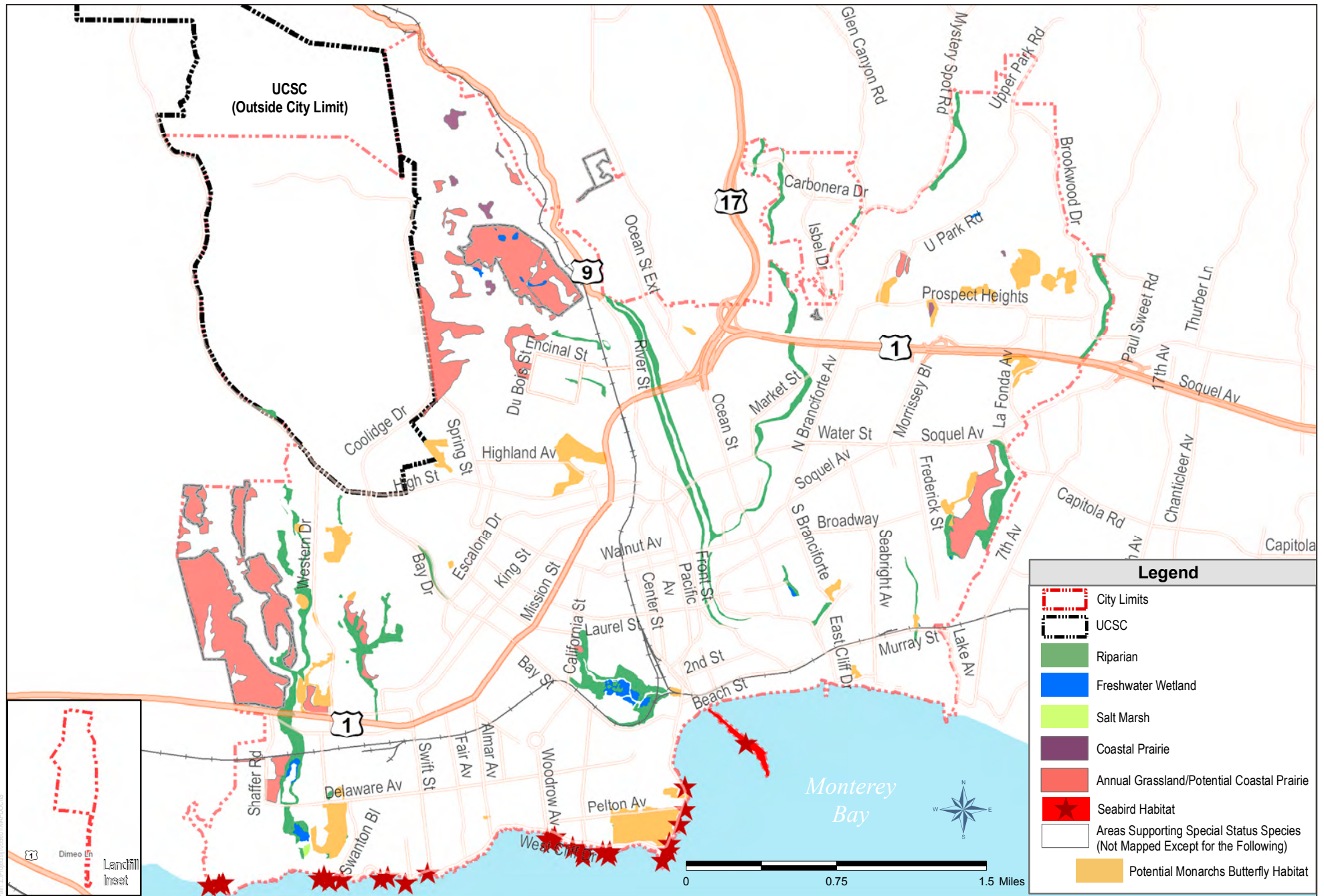
A number of existing City parks and open spaces contain or are in proximity to sensitive habitat areas and/or areas known to support special-status species. According to maps developed for the City’s *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR, areas that are within a mapped sensitive habitat area (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.8-3) include Arana Gulch Open Space, DeLaveaga Park, Jessie Street Marsh, Moore Creek Preserve, Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, Pogonip Open Space, Santa Cruz Riverwalk, Santa Cruz Wharf, and University Terrace as well as riparian habitat adjacent to other water courses throughout the City. Table 3 summarizes existing and potential location of sensitive habitat and/or special-status species in the City’s park system, and sensitive habitat areas are shown on Figure 3.

Table 3. Major Sensitive Biological Resources at City Parks and Open Space Lands

Park-Open Space-Facility	Sensitive Habitat	Special Status Species
Arana Gulch Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal prairie • Riparian • Potential monarch butterfly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Cruz tarplant • Nesting bird species
Arroyo Seco Canyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian • Coastal prairie • Potential monarch butterfly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nesting bird species
DeLaveaga Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal prairie • Riparian • Potential monarch butterfly • Oak woodlands • Wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Cruz tarplant • California Species of Special Concern (birds) • Nesting bird species
Jessie Street Marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential nesting bird species
Moore Creek Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal prairie • Riparian • Potential monarch butterfly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco popcornflower • Ohlone tiger beetle • California red-legged frog • Southwestern pond turtle • California Species of Special Concern (bats) • Nesting bird species
Neary Lagoon Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian • Freshwater wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwestern pond turtle • California Species of Special Concern (birds) • Nesting bird species
Pogonip Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal prairie • Riparian forest • Freshwater marsh • Seasonal wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust spineflower • San Francisco popcornflower • Gairdner's yampah • California red-legged frog • Southwestern pond turtle • Ohlone tiger beetle • California Species of Special Concern (bats, birds, woodrat) • Nesting bird species
Santa Cruz Riverwalk San Lorenzo River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian • <u>Freshwater Wetland</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steelhead and coho salmon • Tidewater goby • <u>Western pond turtle</u> • Nesting bird species
Santa Cruz Wharf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea bird habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California brown pelican • Nesting bird species
West Cliff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea bird habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California brown pelican • Nesting bird species

SOURCE: City of Santa Cruz *General Plan 2030* EIR, City of Santa Cruz Local Coastal Program, Pogonip Master Plan EIR, Pogonip Master Plan Amendment and New East Multi-Use Trail Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study

This page intentionally left blank.



SOURCE: City of Santa Cruz

DUDEK

FIGURE 3

Sensitive Habitat Areas

City of Santa Cruz Parks Master Plan 2030 Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration

This page intentionally left blank.

Impact Analysis: Implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future implementation of recommended improvements could result in ~~indirect~~ impacts to sensitive habitat and special-status species that would ~~not be avoided or minimized~~ considered significant with implementation of policies and actions in the Parks Master Plan and General Plan, as well as with mitigation or other measures in previously adopted park/open space management plans and CEQA documents.

Some project areas are within or near areas of sensitive habitat or known or potential occurrence of special-status species and sensitive habitat, primarily in the open space areas as summarized on Table 3. Most recommended improvements are for minor improvements or addition of amenities to existing parks and facilities within developed areas that do not support sensitive habitat or special status species. No significant structural improvements or park expansion is proposed, although some improvements, such as trails, are proposed to be explored further at Pogonip Open Space, DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek, Jessie Street Marsh, and the Santa Cruz Riverwalk.

At Pogonip Open Space, potential restoration of the Pogonip Clubhouse and construction of a road, parking lot, infrastructure and other improvements are recommended. Design and siting of these facilities would need to ~~that~~ take into account management provisions in the adopted Pogonip Master Plan and adopted mitigation measures in the Pogonip Master Plan EIR, which would avoid impacts to sensitive habitat areas and special-status species.

At DeLaveaga Park, the Parks Master Plan recommends permanent restroom and dressing room facilities at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater and a potential pedestrian bridge over Branciforte Creek in Lower DeLaveaga Park. Permanent facilities at the amphitheater likely would be located within the existing developed footprint where temporary facilities are located, and construction would not result in significant impacts if siting and design avoid areas of sensitive habitat, habitat restoration, and comply with the City-wide Creeks and Wetland Management Plan setbacks for the adjacent Arana Gulch watercourse. Similarly, a pedestrian bridge over Branciforte Creek is anticipated to have the bridge abutments and supports located outside of the channel, although minor areas of riparian vegetation may be trimmed or removed. However, this type of project also would be subject to development standards in the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan.

Future trail construction could affect sensitive biological resources if not properly sited and designed to avoid sensitive resources. The proposed Parks Master Plan recommends additional trails at DeLaveaga Park and Moore Creek Preserve, as well as trail connections to Arroyo Seco and potential new trails at and to Pogonip Open Space. ~~and The Parks Master Plan does not recommend or identify specific trail locations or alignments.~~ Potential trails at DeLaveaga Park are anticipated to generally follow existing fire roads and ad-hoc trails. No specific trail alignment locations are proposed at DeLaveaga or other parks and open spaces. The Parks Master Plan specifically calls for additional study of

trails uses in open space areas. New trails would be developed as a result of conducting a feasibility study with a public process to determine appropriate locations and uses for expanded or new trails as set forth in the Parks Master Plan. Recommendations for Pogonip Open Space include conducting a trails assessment to evaluate existing trail connections and use issues that would help inform the determination of whether or not future trail modifications or improvements are appropriate, and the Master Plan specifically indicates that potential impacts and mitigations related to new or expanded trails at Pogonip would be evaluated through the CEQA process conducted for future trail projects.

The Master Plan requires new off-leash dog use areas to be completely fenced, and these types of facilities are usually small and located within existing parks and/or developed areas as evidenced by the nature and location of existing facilities. These type of facilities typically would not result in significant environmental impacts due to their small size and typical location within existing parks outside of sensitive areas. The provision of fencing within parks in developed areas would prevent impacts to sensitive species and habitat, which are primarily located in the City's open space areas.

The Parks Master Plan Goal III-Policy G, Action 1j calls for consideration of establishment of a drone course, but the Master Plan does not propose a location or description of facilities that might be considered. Potential impacts would primarily be associated with possible disturbance to birds/wildlife if a facility is sited in proximity to open space areas. However, the Master Plan includes actions to protect habitat and prevent impacts to wildlife which would direct selection of a site away from sensitive habitat areas.

No other Parks Master Plan policies, actions or recommendations would adversely affect biological resources. Lighting is recommended at the Main Beach, Depot Park, and Neary Lagoon Park, but policies and actions in the Plan seek to direct lighting so that there is no offsite illumination or impacts on wildlife habitat (Goal 1-Policy A, Action 2).

Potentially significant impacts to sensitive habitat areas and/or special-status plant and wildlife species could occur without careful review, design, and construction of future improvements facilities. Although no specific development is proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan, some development is foreseeable under the plan. Feasibility studies would be conducted for new trails and facilities before site designs were undertaken, and protection of sensitive biological resources and avoidance of impacts would be taken into consideration, in accordance consistent with goals and with policies and actions in both the Parks Master Plan that call for protection of sensitive habitat and species. The General Plan 2030 sets forth protocols for evaluation of sensitive biological resources as part of project-specific development and environmental review.

The proposed Parks Master Plan includes a number of goals, policies, and actions to protect special status species and sensitive habitats, which would be implemented and would to avoid or minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitat and species as a result of

new or expanded trails or other facilities. They are identified below. In particular, the actions included with Goal IV-Policy B call for wildlife surveys prior to site-specific development or increases in use to avoid impacts to special status species and wildlife and to protect sensitive habitat.

- 1) Goal IV and supporting policies and actions promote conservation and stewardship and seek to protect the City's natural resources, native wildlife habitats and plant communities, and environment.
 - Policy A seeks to maintain and enhance natural habitats to increase biodiversity and long-term ecological function.
 - ~~Policies and actions are included to~~ Inventory, monitor, and (as needed) restore resources as well as improve habitat, including conversion of turf areas to native landscaping, where appropriate (Actions 1-4).
 - Develop management strategies for protection of sensitive wildlife habitats (Action 2b).
 - Policy B specifically calls for management of the City's greenbelt and open spaces for conservation and to minimize recreational use impacts. Supporting actions identify measures to protect and avoid impacts to special-status species.
 - Protect and enhance the habitat and populations of special status plant and animal species (Action 1).
 - Monitor locations and conditions of special status plants and wildlife and their habitats within a park or open space (Action 1a).
 - Conduct wildlife surveys prior to site-specific development or unusual anticipated increase in use with modification of the project or use to avoid impacting special status plants and wildlife species (Action 1b).
 - Ensure resource conservation and environmental sensitivity in project design and construction (Action 1c).
 - Evaluate new uses for potential impacts to watershed, riverine, stream, and riparian environments. (Action 1d).
 - Protect areas with special status species from negative human activities and other impacts such as erosion, trampling, and litter. Examples of protective measures include trail rerouting, educational signs, and fencing (Action 1e).
 - Protect special status species as a priority (Action 1f).
 - Protect, maintain and enhance habitat features that are important to native wildlife and native plant communities (Action 2).
 - Avoid, minimize, or off-set impacts on wildlife and native vegetation when planning trails and other facilities (Action 2a).
 - Revegetate plants native to the specific habitat in buffer/setback areas adjacent to creeks and wetlands (Action 2b).

- Evaluate the wildlife habitat value associated with human-made structures before altering or removing them and avoid or mitigate any impacts (Action 2f).
 - Discourage human intrusion into sensitive wildlife habitats by appropriate placement of facilities and trails (Action 2g).
 - Reduce conflicts between wildlife and humans through notification and education, control of human access and, as a last resort, control of wildlife presence or movement in concert with State and/or Federal agencies (Action 2i).
 - Evaluate new uses for potential impacts to watershed, riverine, stream, and riparian environments (Action 2k).
 - Conserve creek, riparian, and wetland resources in accordance with the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan, San Lorenzo Urban River Plan, Moore Creek Interim Management Plan, Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan, and the Neary Lagoon Management Plan (Action 2m).
 - As part of the CEQA review process for new projects, evaluate and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive habitat (including special-status species) for sites located within or adjacent to these areas (Action 2n).
 - Protect water bodies, including creek systems, riparian environments, and wetlands from uses that would degrade their value to native species (Action 3).
- 2) Goal I and supporting policies and actions support the creation of sustainable parks, including recommended actions to select materials and native plants to enhance biodiversity and attract pollinators and birds in parks and to increase the number of trees and tree canopy to provide habitat (Policy A, Actions 1e and 1f).

In addition, existing adopted management plans for some areas, such as Pogonip Open Space, Neary Lagoon, Arana Gulch, Jessie Street Marsh, and Moore Creek Preserve, provide additional management measures to avoid impacts to sensitive habitat areas. Trail development at Pogonip, including implementation of the Sycamore Grove interpretative trail, also would be subject to mitigation measures included in the Pogonip Master Plan EIR to protect special status species and sensitive habitats (BIO-1a-1j, 2e, 3) in addition to or in combination with actions specified in the Parks Master Plan and other measures that may be recommended as part of future project-specific designs and CEQA reviews.

Should new facilities or trails be proposed in the future as a result of studies undertaken pursuant to recommendations in the Parks Master Plan, specific project-site level environmental reviews may be needed once design and construction details are developed. The City's *General Plan 2030* also includes policies for protection of sensitive habitat areas and special-status species, including protocols to be following regarding surveys for special-status species.

Implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan policies and actions in conjunction with compliance with provisions of the General Plan, adopted parks master and management plans, and local regulations and plans, especially the City-wide Creeks Wetlands and Management Plan, as well as future environmental review of specific projects that may be proposed in or near sensitive areas, would result in improvements that would avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive habitat and special status. Therefore, ~~compliance with existing City plans, policies, ordinances and other potential future mitigations as determined by future analysis of specific project designs~~ the project would not result in direct impacts to sensitive biological resources, and potential indirect impacts as a result of future improvements would result in less-than-significant impacts to special status species and sensitive habitat areas.

(d) Wildlife Movement/Nesting. Wildlife corridors are segments of land that provide a link between these different habitats while also providing cover. Wildlife dispersal corridors, also called dispersal movement corridors, wildlife corridors or landscape linkages, are features whose primary wildlife function is to connect at least two significant or core habitat areas and which facilitate movement of animals and plants between two or more otherwise disjunct habitats (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). Three main corridors have been identified within the City that could provide connectivity between core habitats within or adjacent to the city: western corridor (Moore Creek), central corridor (San Lorenzo River and major tributaries), and eastern corridor (Arana Gulch) (Ibid.).

Nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are found throughout the City, especially within the City's open space properties and along water courses.

Impact Analysis: Implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future implementation of recommended improvements could result in indirect impacts to nesting birds if any are occurring within or near future construction areas.

Areas within the City contain trees that provide habitat for nesting birds. Some recommended improvements may affect existing mature trees or occur near nesting areas, particularly in open space areas, potentially resulting in impacts to nesting birds if any are present. Birds and active nests of all native species are protected under the federal MBTA, regardless of their lack of regulatory status (e.g., state/federal listing and species of special concern). However, the City's existing ordinances and planning documents would control future development projects' ability to alter or remove trees or shrubs. Should any trees be removed as a result of a future project, such disturbance should occur during the non-nesting bird season (mid-September through January). However, if ground-disturbing activities must occur during the breeding season (February through August) in areas of potential nesting, pre-construction nesting surveys should be conducted to determine whether any nesting species are present. Removal or disturbance during nesting season (February 1 to August 31) when these species are nesting is considered a *significant impact*.

Implementation of the following mitigation measure will reduce this potential impact to a *less-than-significant* level. Furthermore, the proposed Parks Master Plan includes policies and actions to increase tree planting and tree canopy in the City for a number of reasons, including to increase bird nesting opportunities (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 4d).

MITIGATION 1: Require that a pre-construction nesting survey be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist if future park facility construction or tree removal occurs near mature trees and wooded areas, ~~including tree removal, and~~ is scheduled to begin between March and late July to determine if nesting birds are in the vicinity of the construction sites. If nesting raptors or other nesting species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are found, construction may need to be delayed until late-August or after the wildlife biologist has determined the nest is no longer in use or unless a suitable construction buffer zone can be identified by the biologist. This measure also is a requirement of the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan (Standard 12).

None of the recommended improvements in the Parks Master Plan would interrupt or adversely affect wildlife movement corridors. Goal IV-Policy B, Action 2h call for identification and elimination of barriers (e.g. remove unnecessary fences, old barbed wire, and other barriers) and provide safe crossings (e.g. protect existing and promote additional wildlife crossings and use wildlife friendly fencing) to enhance wildlife movement. Goal IV-Policy A, Action 3h seeks to study, enhance and expand wildlife corridors. Furthermore, potential future development of new trails would be subject to site-specific review and would be required to comply the City's *City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan*, which establishes requirements for setbacks that would protect wildlife movement in the corridor. Therefore, adoption and implementation of the Parks Master Plan would not directly or indirectly substantially interfere with wildlife movement or with established wildlife corridors, and would result in *no impact*.

(e) Conflicts with Local Ordinances - Tree Removal. Chapter 9.56 of the City Municipal Code defines heritage trees, establishes permit requirements for the removal of a heritage tree, and sets forth mitigation requirements as adopted by resolution by the City Council. Resolution NS-23,710 adopted by the City Council in April 1998 establishes the criteria for permitting removal of a heritage tree and indicates that one or more of the following findings must be made by the Director of Parks and Recreation:

- 1) The heritage tree or heritage shrub has, or is likely to have, an adverse effect upon the structural integrity of a building, utility, or public or private right of way;
- 2) The physical condition or health of the tree or shrub, such as disease or infestation, warrants alteration or removal; or
- 3) A construction project design cannot be altered to accommodate existing heritage trees or heritage shrubs.

City regulations require tree replacement for approved to include replanting three 15-gallon or one 24-inch size specimen or the current retail value which shall be determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation. Removal would be permitted if found in accordance with the criteria and requirements previously outlined. Approval of a tree removal permit automatically requires replacement trees as previously set forth. Removal of a heritage tree that is consistent with the criteria, provisions, and requirements set forth in City ordinances is not considered a significant impact. Since future development would be subject to City regulations, any future removal of trees would be required to comply with City requirements, and therefore, any removed heritage trees would be replaced in the ratio required by the City and no significant impacts related to conflicts with local ordinances would occur.

There are no recommendations in the Parks Master Plan for trees, except for one specific recommendation for tree pruning at Garfield Park, and inclusion of several policies and actions that seek to increase tree planting and tree canopy. Any future tree trimming or removal would be subject to the City's regulations regarding heritage trees, and overall tree cover could increase with implementation of policies and actions in the Parks Master Plan. Actions included in the Master Plan regarding trees include:

- 1) Increase the number of trees and tree canopy to increase carbon sequestration, reduce heat island effect, and provide habitat (Goal I-Policy A, Action 1f).
- 2) Expand the dedication planting program to plant more trees (Goal I-Policy A, Action 1g).
- 3) Increase the tree canopy and/or provide plants and features that provide habitat value in public right-of-ways, drainage areas, or on other lands managed by the Parks and Recreation Department (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 4c).
- 4) Inventory trees and increase the tree canopy to increase bird nesting opportunities, improve air quality, decrease heat island effect, and increase carbon sequestration (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 4d).
- 5) Maintain and expand tree canopy coverage and manage forest diseases, when necessary, to protect native biological diversity and critical ecosystem functions (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 6).
- 6) Complete an inventory to quantify the number of trees on public lands including streets, parks, and open spaces. Increase the City's urban tree canopy by 10% between 2008 and 2020 (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 6b).
- 7) Promote the Urban Forestry Program to provide new trees for public property, celebrate Arbor Day, and increase the number of neighborhood tree plantings. Coordinate the preservation of trees whenever possible. Expand the Heritage Tree Grant Program (Goal IV-Policy A, Action 6c).

Therefore, the project would not result in conflicts with local tree ordinances, and there would be *no impact*.

(f) Habitat Conservation Plans. There are no adopted Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Conservation Plans in the City.

5. Cultural Resources.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines*;*
- *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource;*
- *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries;*
- *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or*
- *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074.*

**Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, "historical resources include a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources; a resource included in a local register of historical resources; and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.*

A "substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource" means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired. The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or local register of historical places.

(a) Historical Resources. According to maps developed for the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR no existing City parks or recreational facilities are located within a designated national historic district (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.9-4). Four of the existing community facilities structures within the study area are included in the City's Historic Building Survey, and one other structure, Pogonip Clubhouse, may be a historic resource. The structures listed in the in the City's Historic Building Survey include:

- Civic Auditorium (Volume II)
- Depot Park – Southern Pacific Freight Depot (Volume I)
- Louden Nelson Community Center (Volume II)
- Museum of Natural History (Volume I)
- Santa Cruz Wharf (Volume I)

The Pogonip Clubhouse is not included in the City's Historic Building Survey, but is identified as a historic resource (SOURCE V.3d, DEIR volume).

Impact Analysis. The proposed project could result in renovations to locally designated historic structures. There are four structures that are listed in the City's Historic Building Survey that may be considered a historic resource, as well as the Pogonip Clubhouse. Except for the Pogonip Clubhouse, the renovation of the other structures is expected to include mostly interior improvements. Future projects would be subject to conducting historical evaluations to determine whether the structure is a historic resource that could be significantly impacted under the definition of CEQA. If a significant impact is identified, appropriate mitigation measures would be required and/or a project-specific CEQA review to consider substantial alteration or demolition of a historic resource that would substantially and materially alter the significance of the resource. It is noted that rehabilitation of the Pogonip Clubhouse would be in accordance with measures identified in the Pogonip Master Plan and Master Plan EIR in which plans would be developed in consultation with a professional historical architect, and potential impacts would be less than significant (SOURCE V.3d, DEIR volume). Therefore, the proposed project would result in *less-than-significant impact* to historic resources.

(b, d) Archaeological Resources. According to maps developed for the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR, many existing parks and facilities are located within a mapped "sensitive" archaeological area (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.9-1) and/or within a "sensitive" historical archaeological area (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.9-3). The City's General Plan (Action HA1.2.2) requires preparation of archaeological investigations on sites proposed for development within designated sensitive archaeological and/or historical archaeological areas, except for exempt uses within "sensitive" areas described as follows. The exemption is for minor project that generally involve spot excavation to a depth of 12 inches or less below existing grade. Exempt projects may include building additions, outdoor decks, or excavation in soil that can be documented as previously disturbed.

HA1.2.2. Require preparation of archaeological investigations on sites proposed for development within areas identified as "Highly Sensitive" or "Sensitive" on the "Areas of Historical Archaeological Sensitivity" map, except for exempt uses within "Sensitive" areas as described below, prior to approval of development permits. The investigation shall include archival research, site surveys and necessary supplemental testing as may be required, conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The significance of identified resources shall be ascertained in accordance with CEQA definitions, and impacts and mitigation measures outlined if significant impacts are identified, including, but not limited to recovery options and onsite monitoring by an archaeologist during excavation activities. A written report describing the archaeological findings of the research or survey shall be provided to the City. Minor projects with little excavation may be exempt from this requirement. Minor projects generally involve spot excavation to a depth of 12 inches or less below existing grade, or uses that have virtually no potential of resulting in significant impacts to archaeological deposits.

Exempt projects may include: building additions, outdoor decks, or excavation in soil that can be documented as previously disturbed.

Additionally, the City's accidental discovery procedures (Municipal Code Section 24.12.430) would also apply to properties in the study area in the event construction encounters unidentified archaeological deposits. This regulation requires that construction be stopped if archaeological resources are encountered during construction, and that the Planning Director be notified and the discovery analyzed. If determined to not be an archaeological resource, then construction could proceed, but, if determined to be a resource, then implementation of appropriate measures would be required.

Impact Analysis. Implementation of future improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan that are located within sensitive archaeological areas would be required to prepare archaeological investigations and implement any mitigation measures should a significant impact be identified. Since most of the proposed improvements involve little or no structural development, no significant grading and excavation is expected. However, compliance with the City's policies and regulations ensure that archaeological resources are addressed and mitigated as part of potential future development and construction at City parks and/or if unknown resources are encountered during construction. Future development indirectly accommodated by the proposed Parks Master Plan would not result in a significant impact with implementation of required archaeological investigations required by the General Plan, and the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact*.

(c) Paleontological Resources. According to maps developed for the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR, parts of the City and some parks are located within areas of mapped geologic formations with potential paleontological resources (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.9-5). Four geologic units within the City are known to contain fossils: Late Pleistocene alluvium, the Purisima Formation, the Santa Cruz Mudstone, and the Santa Margarita Sandstone (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). Although Holocene alluvium is generally considered too young to contain paleontological resources, this geologic unit is moderately sensitive for paleontological resources because it is underlain by sedimentary geologic units that have a high paleontological sensitivity (Ibid.). General Plan Action HA1.2.3 requires the City to notify applicants within paleontologically sensitive areas of the potential for encountering such resources during construction and condition approvals that work would be halted and resources examined in the event of encountering paleontological resources during construction. If the find is significant, the City would require treatment of the find in accordance with the recommendations of the evaluating paleontologist. Treatment may include, but is not limited to, specimen recovery and curation or thorough documentation.

Since most of the proposed improvements involve little or no structural development, limited or no significant grading and excavation is expected. However, future construction could result in discovery of unknown paleontological resources with or without the proposed project. With application of the notification process required by the General Plan, future

development would not result in significant impacts in the event that paleontological resources are discovered during construction, and the project would result in an indirect *less-than-significant impact* on paleontological resources.

6. Geology and Soils.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects resulting from the rupture of a known earthquake fault, seismic ground shaking, landslides, or seismic-related ground-failure, including liquefaction, and that cannot be mitigated through the use of standard engineering design techniques;*
- *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in an onsite or offsite landslide or slope failure;*
- *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and subsequent sedimentation into local drainage facilities and water bodies;*
- *Be located on an expansive soil, as defined by the Uniform Building Code (1997) or subject to other soil constraints that might result in deformation of foundations or damage to structures, creating substantial risks to life or property; or*
- *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available.*

(a-i) Seismic and Geologic Hazards. The project site is located in a seismically active region of California, and the region is considered to be subject to very intense shaking during a seismic event. The City of Santa Cruz is situated between two major active faults: the San Andreas, approximately 11.5 miles to the northeast and the San Gregorio, approximately nine miles to the southwest. There are no active fault zones or risk of fault rupture within the City (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR).

(a-ii-iv,c) Seismic and Geologic Hazards. The project site is located in a seismically active region of California and the region is considered to be subject to very intense shaking during a seismic event. According to maps developed as part of the City's adopted *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan and General Plan EIR, areas of the City that are identified as being subject to liquefaction hazards are mostly found along rivers and creeks and in the downtown area (SOURCE V.1a and V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.10-4). According to maps developed as part of the City's *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR, there are few mapped landslide areas in the City, but there may be landslides at the edges of DeLaveaga Park and Moore Creek Preserve (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.10-3).

Impact Analysis. The projects recommended in the Parks Master Plan are outdoor recreational facilities without new structural development, except for several recommended restroom facilities in urban parks and restroom and ancillary buildings at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga and potential renovations at the Civic Auditorium and Loudon Nelson Community Center. The limited structural projects

identified in the Plan would be subject to compliance with state and local building codes. To the extent that the project will result in development that would expose people or structures to seismic shaking and liquefaction, implementation of policies in the City's adopted General Plan, compliance with building codes would ensure and other potential future mitigation measures as determined by future analysis of specific project designs would result in *less-than-significant impacts* related to exposure of people to and substantial damage to structures as a result of seismic and geologic hazards.

(b, d) Soils and Erosion. Soils throughout the City vary. Soil erosion potential is the susceptibility of the soil to erosion by water or wind. The City's General Plan defines erosion as "the loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water, and/or the gradual wearing away of the upper layers of earth. Erosion of soils is influenced by bedrock and soil types, steep slopes, and construction methods. The risk of erosion depends upon the type of soil, slope of the land, slope length, rainfall amount and intensity, and vegetation cover. Removal of vegetation and the disturbance of the ground. Impervious surfaces from urban development can also concentrate runoff, causing gullying and other problems. The result may include not only the loss of valuable soils but also sedimentation of stream beds, habitat degradation, landslides and increased downstream flooding potential. In general, erosion potential increases with the steepness of slope (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR volume).

Impact Analysis: Implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future implementation of recommended improvements could result in indirect impacts related to erosion resulting from future park and recreational facility improvements. The projects recommended in the Parks Master Plan are outdoor recreational facilities without new structural development, except for several recommended restroom facilities in urban parks and restroom and ancillary buildings at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park. These limited structural projects identified in the Plan would be small and located on generally flat topography and would be subject to compliance with state and local building codes. Compliance with City regulations regarding stormwater and erosion control would prevent substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil associated with potential future development, resulting in a *less-than-significant impact*.

Future trail construction, especially on steeper slopes and in areas of high erosion potential, such as Pogonip Open Space and DeLaveaga Park, could result in soil erosion if trails are not properly designed or standard erosion control measures are not implemented. This would be considered a *potentially significant impact*. Concerns also have been raised in the past about mountain bike use and potential erosion impacts. Previous City reviews found that trail design is the most important issue associated with soil erosion, and potential erosion impacts can be mitigated through trail design, trail maintenance, and seasonal closures (SOURCE V.3c). The impacts depend on trail design, site specific issues (such as soil type), and lack of trail maintenance. Future new trails and/or uses will be subject to a separate study and public review process that would address appropriate designs.

The Parks Master Plan includes specific policies and that would be implemented and would avoid or minimize potential erosion impacts, which are identified below.

- Furthermore, the Parks Master Plan includes policies and actions to prevent Reduce erosion and sedimentation from roads and trails (Goal IV-Policy B, Action 3a).
- Minimize potential erosion from new trails using sustainable design features and improve existing eroding trails (Goal IV-Policy B, Action 2c).
- Realign trails or improvements to address runoff, erosion, steepness of grade, and/or use conflicts (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1f).
- Conduct trail assessments to plan for maintenance projects, grants, and volunteer efforts to help maintain trails (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1h).
- Create and maintain sustainable design guidelines and maintenance standards for existing trails (Goal III-Policy F, Action 1i).

Implementation of the proposed Parks Master Plan policies and actions would serve to avoid or minimize potential erosion from new trail development. Future trails and other projects also would be subject to project-level environmental review. Trail development at Pogonip, including implementation of the Sycamore Grove interpretative trail, also would be subject to mitigation measures included in the Pogonip Master Plan EIR to prevent erosion (GEO-1i-1r, WAT-1b-c) in addition to or in combination with actions specified in the Parks Master Plan. These measures include provision for seasonal trail closures to reduce trail-related erosion and water quality impacts during the wet season. In addition, Mitigation Measures 2 and 3 below would ensure that potential erosion impacts from future trails and other development are less than significant.

MITIGATION 2: Implement site design and erosion control measures for new trails and other facilities in areas subject to high erosion hazards or adjacent to streams and wetland areas, including but not limited to, installation of temporary fencing on the outer edges of steep slopes and creek crossings to prevent inadvertent erosion and sedimentation from entering adjacent drainages and streams; conducting grading prior to the rainy season and protecting disturbed areas during the rainy season; and revegetating disturbed cut/fill areas.

MITIGATION 3: Limit trail use and/or implement seasonal trail closures as needed during the rainy season to prevent erosion due to trail use.

(e) Use of Septic Systems. All of the City's parks and recreational facilities are connected to City sanitary sewers, and would not use septic systems. The Pogonip Clubhouse was formerly served a septic system, which is not currently in operation. The Pogonip Master Plan recommends that the existing wastewater collection pipeline in Golf Club Drive be extended to serve the Clubhouse and adjacent buildings. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or*
- Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.*

(a) Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Climate change refers to any significant change in measures of climate, such as average temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns over a period of time. Climate change may result from natural factors, natural processes, and human activities that change the composition of the atmosphere and alter the surface and features of the land. Significant changes in global climate patterns have recently been associated with global warming, an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth's surface, attributed to accumulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere. GHG gases trap heat in the atmosphere, which in turn heats the surface of the Earth. Some GHGs occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes, while others are created and emitted solely through human activities (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR volume). Climate change models predict changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, water availability, and rising sea levels, and these altered conditions can have impacts on natural and human systems in California that can affect California's public health, habitats, ocean and coastal resources, water supplies, agriculture, forestry, and energy use (Ibid.).

The most common GHG that results from human activity is carbon dioxide, followed by methane and nitrous oxide (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR volume). The primary contributors to GHG emissions in California are transportation, electric power production, industry, agriculture and forestry, and other sources, including commercial and residential uses. Approximately 81% of California's emissions are carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuel combustion (Ibid.).

The State of California passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), which requires reductions of GHG emissions generated within California. The Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 and AB 32 (Health and Safety Code, Section 38501 et seq.) both seek to achieve 1990 emissions levels by the year 2020. Executive Order S-3-05 further requires that California's GHG emissions be 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050. AB 32 defines GHGs to include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.

CARB is the lead agency for implementing AB32. In accordance with provisions of AB 32, CARB has completed a statewide Greenhouse Gas Inventory that provides estimates of the amount of GHGs emitted to, and removed from, the atmosphere by human activities within California. In 2007, CARB approved a statewide limit on the GHG emissions level for year 2020 consistent with the determined 1990 baseline (427 million metric tons (MMT) CO₂E). In 2008, the CARB adopted the *Climate Change Scoping Plan: A Framework for Change (Scoping Plan)* in

accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 38561. The *Scoping Plan* establishes an overall framework for the measures that will be adopted to reduce California's GHG emissions for various emission sources/sectors to 1990 levels by 2020. CARB determined that achieving the 1990 emissions level in 2020 would require a reduction in GHG emissions of approximately 28.5 percent from the otherwise projected 2020 emissions level (i.e., those emissions that would occur in 2020), absent GHG-reducing laws and regulations (referred to as "business as usual" (BAU)). The *Scoping Plan* identified 18 emissions-reduction measures that address cap-and-trade programs, vehicle gas standards, energy efficiency, low carbon fuel standards, renewable energy, regional transportation-related GHG targets, vehicle efficiency measures, goods movement, solar roofs program, industrial emissions, high-speed rail, green building strategy, recycling, sustainable forests, water, and air (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume).

In 2014, the CARB adopted the *First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan: Building on the Framework (First Update)*. The stated purpose is to "highlight California's success to date in reducing its GHG emissions and lay the foundation for establishing a broad framework for continued emission reductions beyond 2020, on the path to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050." The *First Update* found that California is on track to meet the 2020 emissions reduction mandate established by AB 32, and noted that California could reduce emissions further by 2030 to levels squarely in line with those needed to stay on track to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 if the state realizes the expected benefits of existing policy goals.

In conjunction with the *First Update*, the CARB identified "six key focus areas comprising major components of the state's economy to evaluate and describe the larger transformative actions that will be needed to meet the state's more expansive emission reduction needs by 2050." Those six areas are: (1) energy; (2) transportation (vehicles/equipment, sustainable communities, housing, fuels, and infrastructure); (3) agriculture; (4) water; (5) waste management; and (6) natural and working lands.

During the 2000 to 2014 period, per capita GHG emissions in California have continued to drop from a peak in 2001 of 13.9 MT per person to 11.4 MT per person in 2014, representing an 18 percent decrease. In addition, total GHG emissions in 2014 were 2.8 MMT CO₂E less than 2013 emissions. The declining trend in GHG emissions, coupled with programs that will continue to provide additional GHG reductions going forward, demonstrates that California is on track to meet the 2020 target of 431 MMT CO₂E (SOURCE V.6).

The City's *General Plan 2030* includes goals, policies and actions on climate change, including reducing community-wide GHG emissions 30 percent by 2020, reducing 80 percent by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels), and for all new buildings to be emissions neutral by 2030. In October 2012, the City also adopted a "Climate Action Plan" (CAP) that outlines the actions the City will take over the next 10 years to reduce GHGs by 30%. The CAP addresses citywide greenhouse emissions and reduction strategies. The CAP outlines the actions the City and its partners may take pertaining to reduction of GHG emissions to meet the goals and implement

the policies and actions identified in the *General Plan 2030*. The CAP provides City emissions inventories; identifies an emissions reduction target for the year 2020; and includes measures to reduce energy use, reduce vehicle trips, implement water conservation programs, reduce emissions from waste collection, increase solar systems, and develop public partnerships to aid sustainable practices. Measures are outlined for the following sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community programs.

Impact Analysis. The Parks Master Plan recommends park and recreational facility improvements, which, when designed and constructed, may generate GHG emissions from construction vehicles and equipment, and in limited cases from new vehicle trips. However, as discussed in Section 16, most parks are accessible by non-vehicular modes, and while some projects may increase vehicle trips, many of the improvements include multimodal elements that will provide non-vehicular modes of travel. New structural facilities, and subsequent energy use, also is limited to several restroom and accessory buildings. None of the recommended improvements would result in new stationary sources of emissions.

The level of analysis provided in this program level document does not include quantification of GHGs that may result from implementation of specific projects recommended in the Parks Master Plan as expressed through the recommended actions and improvement projects. Any attempt to do so would be too speculative in nature, because specific projects are not designed at this time and such quantification would require a level of design detail to determine the type and quantity of construction equipment required. Currently, any such estimates would be speculative, but future projects subject to CEQA will provide such detail for analysis as may be required. Potential emission sources, however, can be described in general terms and provided as follows.

Furthermore, the proposed Parks Master Plan includes policies and actions that would result in offsets to any minimal increase in GHG emissions that may occur as a result of implementation of the Plan. A key goal of the Parks Master Plan is to create and strengthen connections to and around parks and recreation facilities and community destinations. Additionally, Goal I-Policy A, Action 1f calls for increasing the number of trees and tree canopy to increase carbon sequestration. Action 2 identifies other energy conserving practices to reduce energy use, including computer-controlled, energy-efficient lighting in parks and facilities, installation of solar products or panels, and implementation of the CAP's short-term and long-term projects. New construction also is subject to the City's green building requirements that require the use of green technologies and materials designed to reduce GHG emissions.

Global climate change is not confined to a particular project area and is generally accepted as the consequence of global industrialization over the last 200 years. A typical project, even a very large one, does not generate enough GHG emissions on its own to influence global climate change significantly; hence, the issue of global climate change is, by definition, a cumulative environmental impact. The State of California, through its

governor and its legislature, has established a comprehensive framework for the substantial reduction of GHG emissions. This will occur primarily through the implementation of AB 32, Executive Order S-3-05, and SB 375, which will address GHG emissions on a statewide cumulative basis.

Therefore, implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future park and recreational projects is not anticipated to generate substantial GHG emissions at a level that may have a significant impact on the environment (measured here by whether such increases would hinder the City's ability to implement programs in its CAP or the state's ability to meet AB 32 goals for reduction of GHGs). Additionally, improvements and projects developed in accordance with recommendations in the Parks Master Plan would serve the City's population, and City growth and impacts were evaluated in the *General Plan 2030* EIR, which concluded that GHG impacts would be less than significant.

Therefore, the project is expected to result in a *less-than-significant impact* related to GHG emissions. Additionally, emissions are expected to be at least partially offset with implementation of the state's *Scoping Plan* strategies to improve fuel and vehicle efficiency standards. Therefore, GHG emissions resulting from future park improvements projects are not considered significant, and the project's incremental effect is less than cumulatively considerable.

(b) Conflicts with Climate Action Plan. The project is consistent with the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Specifically, the plan's Goal I supports sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City, and supporting policies and actions call for conservation of resources. Policy A, Action 1f, calls for increasing the number of trees and tree canopy within the City to increase carbon sequestration. Goal IV-Policy C, Action 3 supports continued implementation of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan. Other actions support energy-efficient lighting and technologies, including potential installation of solar panels at some parks facilities. These Master Plan components are consistent with measures and programs in the CAP that target energy and municipal GHG reductions. Therefore, the project would result in *no impact* as it would not conflict with an applicable GHG reduction plan.

8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;*
- *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;*
- *Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or waste within ¼ miles of an existing or proposed school;*

- *Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;*
- *Impair the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan; or*
- *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.*

(a-d) Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The project consists of adoption and implementation of a Parks Master Plan. The proposed Plan will guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Plan identifies a range of projects that would result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Projects identified in the Parks Master Plan would not result in new structural development, except for several restrooms. No specific development is proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan.

The Parks Master Plan addresses park and recreational facilities and identifies improvements to enhance the quality of the parks system. While some sites within the planning area may contain toxic materials (cleaning agents, gasoline, etc.), no specific development will be permitted upon adoption of the Parks Master Plan that is not already allowed under the General Plan and current zoning. The types of uses and activities associated with the Parks Master Plan park and facility recommendations generally would not require transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials and would not result in exposure to health hazards or creation of a health hazard. There are no sites located within the City that are included on a list of hazardous materials compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 (known as the Cortese List). Therefore, *no impacts* relating to hazardous substances will result by the adoption of the Parks Master Plan.

(e-f) Location Near Airports. The City is not located near an airport or airstrip. The site is not included in a state hazardous materials site list.

(g) Emergency Response. The City of Santa Cruz has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that details the City's concept of operations in response to disasters. The EOP outlines how information and resources are coordinated for disasters or threat of disasters. The City of Santa Cruz Emergency Operations Center Manager endeavors to conduct annual trainings, tabletop exercises, and other drills that support the preparedness and response capabilities of city staff and the readiness of the Emergency Operations Center. Information updates and tabletop discussions are conducted to clarify staff roles and responsibilities in the EOC, in the Department Operations Centers (DOCs), and in the field to help protect people and property (SOURCE V.2b).

The proposed Parks Master Plan does not include a change to the existing circulation pattern within the City, although new bicycle and pedestrian facilities may be added in the future. Implementation of the Parks Master Plan improvements and projects would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation routes. The project will not significantly impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and there would be *no impact*.

(h) Wildland Fire Hazard. According to maps developed as part of the City's recently adopted *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan EIR and General Plan, all of the City's open space areas are located in extreme or high fire hazard areas (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.6-1). Other City parks are generally in developed areas and not located within mapped wildland fire hazard areas. The City of Santa Cruz has initiated a number of wildfire mitigation programs in the past at City greenbelt lands, including the DeLaveaga Vegetation Management Program. The City also continues to maintain and develop cooperative agreements with the County, UCSC, the California Department of Forestry, and other fire protection agencies to collaboratively avoid or minimize the threat from wildland/urban interface fires (SOURCE V.2b).

Impact Analysis. Parks and residential facilities would not result in construction of habitable structures, e.g., residential structures and would not expose people to a significant risk related to injury or damage or create a new risk to fire. The project could result in additional use at some facilities, and in particular at the Audrey Stanley Grove outdoor amphitheater in DeLaveaga Park with potential expanded use. However, continued implementation of fire prevention measures that have been undertaken throughout the City as set forth in the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan would minimize risks. Therefore, impacts resulting from the potential exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including wildlands adjacent to urbanized areas or when residences are intermixed with wildlands, is considered *less than significant*.

9. Hydrology.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;*
- *Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge;*
- *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or alteration of a stream in a manner that would result in substantial offsite erosion or siltation or flooding;*
- *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff which would exceed capacity of existing or planned storm drain facilities, cause downstream or offsite drainage problems, or increase the risk or severity of flooding in downstream areas;*
- *Substantially degrade surface water quality;*
- *Result in construction of habitable structures within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, which would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to flooding;*
- *Locate structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows;*
- *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; or*

- *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death as a result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.*

(a) Violation of Water Quality Standards. The proposed project does not include discharges that would result in violation of water quality standards.

(b) Groundwater. The project site is located within a developed area and would not affect groundwater supplies.

(c-e, f) Drainage and Water Quality. The City is served by a public storm drainage system. Section 24.14.050 of the City's Municipal Code requires preparation of a drainage plan. Drainage improvements will be required to be designed in accordance with City standards and Public Works requirements.

Within urbanized areas such as the City, pollutants frequently associated with stormwater include sediment, nutrients, oil and grease, heavy metals, and litter. The primary sources of stormwater pollution in urban areas include automobiles, parking lots, landscape maintenance, construction, illegal connections to the stormwater system, accidental spills, and illegal dumping.

Urban runoff and other "non-point source" discharges are regulated by the 1972 federal Clean Water Act (CWA), through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that has been implemented in two phases through the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). Phase I regulations, effective since 1990, require NPDES permits for stormwater discharges for certain specific industrial facilities and construction activities, and for municipalities with a population size greater than 100,000. Phase II regulations expand the NPDES program to include all municipalities with urbanized areas and municipalities with a population size greater than 10,000 and a population density greater than 1,000 persons per square mile. Phase II regulations also expand the NPDES program to include construction sites of one to five acres (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume).

The City has developed a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) to fulfill the requirements of the Phase II NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) (General Permit) and to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged in urban runoff. In compliance with the Phase II regulations, the City's comprehensive SWMP is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP) and to protect water quality (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). The City also adopted an ordinance for "Storm Water and Urban Runoff Pollution Control" (Chapter 16.19 of the city's Municipal Code), as part of its Storm Water Management Plan in accordance with the RWQCB's requirements. The ordinance identifies prohibited discharges and required Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and new development. City regulations (Municipal Code section 16.19.140) requires that any construction project, including those undertaken under any permit or approval granted pursuant to Titles 15 (Streets and Sidewalks), 18 (Buildings and Construction), and 24 (Zoning) of the City Code, shall implement

best management practices including the City's mandatory BMPs as detailed in the latest BMP manual published by the City's Public Works Department. BMPs shall be maintained in full force and effect during the duration of construction of a project. The City's BMP manual requires a development project to include a structural or treatment control BMPs, or a combination of BMPs, to reduce potential pollutant loadings in storm water runoff to the maximum extent practicable.

The City's mandatory BMPs, as detailed in the latest BMP manual published by the City's Public Works Department, must be implemented to protect water quality into the municipal storm drain system. Additionally, future projects would be subject to the Central Coast Post-Construction Requirements that were enacted by the Central Coast RWQCB in July 2013 subsequent to the City's adoption of the *General Plan 2030*.

Construction activity on projects that disturb one or more acres of soil must obtain coverage under the state's General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit, 99-08-DWQ). Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling or excavation. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must list BMPs that the discharger would use to protect storm water runoff and the placement of those BMPs.

Impact Analysis. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of projects that would result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Most of the improvements would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with addition of amenities or minor improvements. There would be limited structural development or creation of impervious surfaces that would affect storm water runoff, and there are no recommendations that would lead to alteration of existing drainage patterns.

New facilities recommended include several restrooms at neighborhood parks, restroom and dressing rooms at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park, and potential small parking lots at Lower DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip Open Space. The potential structural development is not anticipated to result in substantial amounts of impermeable surfacing, and future parking lots are expected to be relatively small with capacity of approximately 30 vehicles or less. A pedestrian bridge over Branciforte Creek at DeLaveaga Park would be designed to avoid construction in the creek and in accordance with standards in the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management to protect water quality. The City has a comprehensive stormwater management program developed and implemented in compliance with federal and state requirements. Future development would be subject to these requirements that would prevent water quality degradation, including implementation of project-level construction Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Future trail construction would not alter existing hydrologic patterns as no structural development is typically associated with trails. Runoff from new trails could result in

erosion and degradation of water quality due to siltation if proper drainage and erosion control measures are not implemented. As indicated in section 6(b,d), the Parks Master Plan includes actions to prevent or minimize erosion with appropriate design and construction of new trails, and additional erosion control mitigation measures are included in this Initial Study to ensure that any erosion from future trail development is minimized and less than significant.

Future development would be subject to the City's stormwater management requirements in which both volume and quality of stormwater runoff would be assessed, required BMPs incorporated into designs, such as bioretention and use of pervious pavement. Furthermore, the proposed Parks Master Plan includes several policies and actions that seek to manage runoff and prevent erosion and sedimentation, which would serve to avoid or minimize runoff and water quality impacts. These include the actions identified in section 6(b,d) above, as the well as those identified below.

- Use sustainable landscaping design and maintenance practices to conserve water, prevent erosion and runoff (Goal I-Policy A, Action 1).
- Increase the number of bioswales to increase percolation, entrap and filter sediments, and reduce stormwater runoff from developed areas (Goal IV-Policy B, Action 3b).
- Increase bioswales and continue to implement stormwater erosion best management practices to reduce runoff, erosion, and sedimentation (Goal I-Policy A, Action 1h).
- ~~Goal IV-Policy C, Action 1 calls for~~ Continue to partnership with the Resources Conservation District to reduce stormwater run-off, sedimentation, and erosion (Goal IV-Policy C, Action 1).
- Pursue reclaimed water, water capture, and water recharge projects to decrease erosion and sedimentation and conserve water (Goal IV-Policy C, Action 2).

Furthermore, trail development at Pogonip, including implementation of the Sycamore Grove interpretative trail, also would be subject to mitigation measures included in the Pogonip Master Plan EIR to prevent water quality degradation resulting from stormwater runoff or (WAT-1d through 1i, 1k, 1m-p, 1r, and 1s) in addition to or in combination with actions specified in the Parks Master Plan.

Goal III-Policy D, Action 1, calls for consideration of synthetic turf as part of an athletic field feasibility study conducted in the future to explore locations and options for additional multi-use field space. The Parks Master Plan also includes recommendations to consider use of synthetic turf at several City parks: Lower DeLaveaga, Harvey West, and University Terrace Parks. Synthetic turf can result in increased runoff and often require subsurface treatment to control runoff and drainage of sports fields. Goal III-Policy D, Action 3, seeks to ensure that sports fields have adequate drainage and lighting to increase the duration of play and that careful consideration be given to health,

environmental, and long-term costs when determining whether or not to convert grass to synthetic turf fields, which would include consideration of drainage issues.

Therefore, with implementation of proposed Parks Master Plan policies, actions and recommendations, which would avoid or minimize runoff and water quality impacts, as well as City requirements, future parks improvements would not result in a significant impact related to drainage, runoff or water quality. The City's regulatory requirements and BMPs, as detailed in the "Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual" published by the City's Public Works Department, must be implemented as part of development projects, and projects over one acre in size would be required to prepare a SWPPP to protect water quality during construction. Therefore, with implementation of the Parks Master Plan policies and actions and other required City regulations for stormwater compliance, the potential impact to storm water drainage systems and water quality as a result of future park and recreational facility improvements or development is considered *less than significant*.

(g-j) Flood Hazards. According to maps developed as part of the City's recently adopted *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan and General Plan EIR, areas subject to flood hazards generally include areas along the San Lorenzo River, including most of the downtown, and several other drainages including Arroyo Seco and Arana Gulch (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.7-1). According to maps developed as part of the City's recently adopted *General Plan 2030* and included in the General Plan and General Plan EIR, some areas along the coast, including Neary Lagoon, are located in a mapped tsunami inundation zone (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR Figure 4.7-2).

The proposed Parks Master Plan does not include recommendations for habitable structures, except for several small restroom and similar facilities, none of which are located in a flood hazard area. Construction of recommended improvements at Neary Lagoon Park and Wildlife Refuge would not result in new habitable development or increased exposure to tsunami hazards. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration operates a tsunami warning system, giving several hours' notice to allow evacuation of threatened areas to prevent injuries. None of the project components would result in construction of habitable structures or increase exposure to inundation from dam failure or tsunamis. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* related to flood hazards.

10. Land Use and Planning.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Physically divide an established community;*
- *Conflict with any applicable City land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; or*

- *Conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan.*

(a) Division of Established Community. The project consists of a Parks Master Plan that recommends improvements at parks and recreational facilities throughout the City. Implementation would not result in development that would physically divide an established community. Therefore, the project would result in *no impact*.

(b-c) Consistency with Local Policies/ Plans. The proposed Parks Master Plan was developed to be consistent with the park and recreation goals and policies of the City's General Plan. The proposed Master Plan does not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Master Plan actions that call for protection of sensitive resources and avoidance of impacts are consistent with those of the General Plan. Recommendations in the Parks Master Plan are consistent with adopted management plans for the City's open spaces, except the Master Plan indicates that some amendments to existing management plans, such as Jessie Street Marsh, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip Open Space, may be necessary to implement some of the recommendations in the Parks Master Plan. Updates to existing plans would need to conform to the General Plan and would undergo a future planning process prior to implementation.

Some parks and recreational sites are located in the coastal zone and subject to policy and regulatory provisions in the City's Local Coastal Program (LCP). Comments from the California Coastal Commission on the January 2018 IS/MND indicates that the extent to which the Parks Master Plan "aligns" with the City's LCP is relevant in assessing environmental effects of the Plan. The letter references the City's LCP regarding West Cliff Drive, East Cliff Drive, sensitive habitat near Neary Lagoon, and regional trails. Review of the proposed Parks Master Plan did not identify any conflicts with the City's LCP policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Parks Master Plan specifically calls for conserving creek, riparian, and wetland resources in accordance with the City-wide Creeks and Wetlands Management Plan, San Lorenzo Urban River Plan, Moore Creek Interim Management Plan, Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan, and the Neary Lagoon Management Plan (Goal IV-Policy B, Action 2m). The Master Plan also includes policies and actions to protect sensitive habitats and special status species as section 4(a-c) above.

Specific Parks Master Plan recommendations include:

- East Cliff and West Cliff Drive Plans. Goal VI-Policy A, Action calls for development and implementation of an integrated design, land use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public safety, access, connectivity, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline. This is similar to and consistent with existing LCP policies that call for preparation of this plan. In the section of recommendations for specific facilities, the Parks Plan recommends inclusion of Bethany Curve in a planning analysis of a West Cliff Drive Master Plan.

- Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan. The Parks Master Plan does not identify changes to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan or a specific design to address issues related to tidal exchange. The recommendations included in the Master Plan for Jessie Street Marsh are to: improve the connection from the marsh to the Santa Cruz Riverwalk; hire an engineering consultant to work through design issues and public concerns with the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan; and discuss potential modifications to the plan through a public process. At this time, it is not known if the Jessie Street Management Plan would be modified, and if so, in what ways. Thus, there is no proposal or concept to analyze. It would be speculative to try to determine what potential changes to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan may be considered and/or proposed in the future as a result of the process recommended in the Parks Master Plan. If a revision to the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan or new improvement is proposed in the future, it would be subject to environmental review either as part of a plan amendment or project-level review. Additionally, the City's LCP calls for developing, implementing, and maintaining "updated" management plans for the protection and enhancement of natural areas throughout the City, including Jessie Street Marsh (LU3.4).
- Pogonip Master Plan. Under recommendations for specific facilities, the Parks Master Plan recommends "exploring modifications" to the existing Pogonip Master Plan in two ways:
 - 1) Conduct a trails assessment to evaluate existing trail conditions and use issues and identify ways to improve access, recreational enjoyment, and connectivity. The assessment will help inform the determination of whether or not future trail modifications or improvements are appropriate and provide for a range of uses (hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking). As part of the process, the City would create clearer maintenance standards, identify use conflicts and solutions, develop a signage and educational program, assess long-term maintenance costs associated with any future improvements, and evaluate potential environmental impacts and mitigations through the CEQA process.
 - 2) Consider adding a parking area near the Emma McCrary trail on Golf Club Dr. in the meadow immediately to the northwest of the vehicle access gate.
- Moore Creek Preserve. Under the recommendations section for Moore Creek Preserve, a recommendation has been added to consider developing a parking area off of Highway 1 to improve access to the property.

Furthermore, the master plans for Pogonip Open Space and Moore Creek Preserve would require amendment to allow parking areas, which would be a separate action in the future should the City pursue these improvements. Both an amendment to existing management plans and facility improvements would be subject to ~~necessitate additional~~ environmental review at the time a site is selected and plans are ~~being~~ developed.

The project site is not subject to any Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Conservation Plans.

12. Noise.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the County's "Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise" chart;*
- *Expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels;*
- *Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels above existing levels if it will expose outdoor activity areas of noise-sensitive land uses to a 5 dB increase in noise where existing noise levels are below 60 dBA L_{dn} , a 3 dB increase in noise where existing noise levels are between 60 and 65 dBA L_{dn} , or a 1.2 dB increase in noise where existing noise levels are above 65 dBA L_{dn} . An outdoor noise standard of 65 dBA (CNEL) at the property line shall be used in the assessment of operational noise impacts; or*
- *Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing levels.*

(a-b) Exposure to Noise. Parks, open spaces and recreational facilities located throughout the City. For neighborhood park uses, normally acceptable exterior noise levels are 70 decibels (dB) and conditionally acceptable levels are identified as 65-75 dB (SOURCE V.1b-DEIR volume). Normally acceptable noise levels are higher for golf courses at 75 dB.

Generally, park and recreational facilities are located within existing neighborhoods and would not expose users to excessive noise sources. The majority of the project recommendations consist of minor improvements and added amenities. Further, no development is proposed along major roadways within the planning area that may be exposed to exterior noise levels that exceed acceptable standards. Therefore, the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact* regarding exposure to noise.

(c) Permanent Noise Increases. As indicated above park and recreational facilities are generally located within existing neighborhoods. Open spaces tend to have a quieter ambient noise level and typically support quieter recreational uses, such as walking, hiking and biking. Sports fields often are located in parks in developed neighborhoods, but also are located in natural settings, such as DeLaveaga Park and Harvey West Park.

Impact Analysis. Generally, park and recreational facilities do not generate substantial noise levels. The recommendations and improvements recommended in the proposed Parks Master Plan are at existing facilities and would not lead to new uses that would result in substantial increases in noise. Implementation of the improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan is not expected to significantly increase vehicles trips or result in substantial increases in noise levels due to increased traffic.

The Master Plan recommends expanded use at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park during the off-season. The existing amphitheater capacity is

approximately 500 people during the Santa Cruz Shakespeare season. Private events during the off-season are limited to 200 people. No specific changes are identified, but if events are generally held during the day and without amplified music or loud speakers, no significant noise increases would be expected. The environmental review for the outdoor amphitheater concluded no significant noise generation or impacts would result from the Santa Cruz Shakespeare use (SOURCE V.3b), and the City has not received complaints from this use.

Expanded uses that are within similar sound levels would not be expected to result in significant impacts. Should concerts or other events with amplified music or speaking be proposed, the expanded use would need to conform to the City's noise regulations. Section 24.14.260 of the City's Municipal Code prohibits noise levels of more than five dBA above the local ambient for residential properties and six dBA for commercial/industrial properties. Therefore, compliance with City regulations would ensure that sound levels do not result in significant impacts. It is likely that an acoustical study would be needed to confirm that any events with amplified sound systems would not exceed these standards. Development of a small outdoor amphitheater also is recommended at Harvey West Park, and the amphitheater would be small and limited to day use with sound restrictions to ensure compliance with the City's noise ordinance. Therefore, the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact* related to permanent increases in noise levels.

(d) Temporary Construction Noise. Construction noise is a temporary noise source that is generated from a variety of construction activities. These activities can include demolition, hauling of materials, grading, building construction, and construction traffic. Generally, construction equipment can generate noise levels in the range of 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet. However, construction noise is generally not constant during the daytime hours and stops toward the evening when construction crews complete their daily work.

Impact Analysis. Short-term noise could occur from construction activities that relate to projects identified in the Parks Master Plan. However, very little new development is proposed, and most recommendations are improvements that would not result in significant increases in noise. There would be a temporary increase in existing noise levels during construction of development projects accommodated by the Parks Master Plan. The proposed project would not directly result in temporary increases in noise due to construction as no projects are proposed as part of the proposed project. Construction activities associated with projects and improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan are not expected to create significant sources of groundborne vibrations or other excessive noise events.

Noise impacts resulting from construction depend on the noise generated by various pieces of construction equipment, the timing and duration of noise-generating activities, and the distance between construction noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors, as well as existing ambient noise levels. Noise generated during construction would vary

throughout the construction period and on any given day, depending on the construction phase and the type and amount of equipment used at the construction site. The highest noise levels would be generated during grading of the site, with lower noise levels occurring during building construction and finishing. Overall, construction noise levels would be temporary, be short-term, and fluctuate throughout the construction period. Because construction noise impacts would be temporary, the impact of construction noise would be less than significant.

The General Plan EIR concluded that future development would result in construction of varying sound level and duration, which could be an annoyance to adjacent residents. However, with implementation of the General Plan policies to minimize exposure to construction noise levels, the increase in temporary noise levels from construction-related activities would be considered a less-than-significant impact. The General Plan seeks to ensure that construction activities are managed to minimize overall noise impacts on surrounding land uses (HZ3.1.3). Development projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and typical conditions of approval include limiting the day and times of day during which construction and/or heavy construction can be conducted, provision of notification to neighbors regarding construction schedules, and implementation of a process to receive and respond to noise complaints. These are some of the types of measures that would be implemented by the City to manage and minimize construction noise impacts. Therefore, temporary increased noise levels during construction of future parks projects and improvements is considered a *less-than-significant* impact.

(e) Location Near Airports. The project site is not located near an airport or private airstrip.

13. Population and Housing.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure;*
- *Displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; or*
- *Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.*

(a) Population Growth. The proposed project consists of adoption and implementation of a Parks Master Plan. No residential development is proposed, and the project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth.

(b) Housing. The proposed project consists of adoption and implementation of a Parks Master Plan, and implementation and future improvements would be located in parks and recreational areas and would not result in displacement of existing housing or people.

14. Public Services.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with provision of new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which could cause significant impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service for fire protection, police protection, schools and parks.*

The project consists of a program-level plan document to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of projects that would result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Most of the improvements would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with addition of amenities, landscaping or minor improvements.

The Parks Master Plan was developed in response to resident needs. Most projects would not result in a substantial increase in use of existing facilities. The plan addresses the need for adequate public parks and recreational facilities to accommodate residents and visitors within the City. While, continued and future uses at parks facility may result in additional calls for police or fire emergency services, these would not be of the magnitude that would result in the need for new or expanded fire or police facilities. Therefore, potential indirect project impacts resulting from future improvements and park uses are considered *less than significant*. The project would not result in population growth or have an impact on schools.

15. Recreation.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Increase the use of existing parks or recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated; or*
- *Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.*

(a) Increased Use of Parks. Santa Cruz offers residents and visitors a wide range of parks, open space, beaches, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City has responsibility for management, maintenance, and operation of more than 1,700 acres of parks and open space lands, and various community/recreational facilities, and oversees development of new parks and improvements within City-owned parks, open space, beaches and community facilities.

The proposed Parks Master Plan includes improvements to existing facilities, and no new parks or facilities are specifically identified. The projects and recommendations in the Parks Master Plan will support the City's resident and visitor population. While, increased use at some facilities may occur, with ongoing City maintenance and the Plan's administration

policies and actions, future continued and/or expanded would not be expected to be of a magnitude that would cause substantial physical deterioration to facilities. Therefore, the impact is *less than significant*.

(b) New Recreational Facilities. The proposed Parks Master Plan recommends improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities within the planning area, but no site-specific proposals are included in the plan. Future development will be subject to compliance with City General Plan policies and regulations, as well as project-level review. Potential impacts would be evaluated and, if necessary, mitigated when specific project designs are completed. As such, projects would be evaluated and designed to avoid significant impacts. Potential indirect significant impacts to biological resources ~~and noise~~ as discussed in this Initial Study would be avoided or minimized with implementation of the policies and actions included in the Master Plan to protect sensitive biological impacts. Potential impacts related to erosion would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, potential impacts resulting from development of parks and recreational facilities are considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

16. Transportation/Traffic.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit;*
- *Change the level of service of a State Highway roadway segment from acceptable operation (LOS A, B, or C) to deficient operation (LOS D, E or F);*
- *Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;*
- *Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (for example, sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (for example, farm equipment);*
- *Result in inadequate emergency access; or*
- *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, programs that support supporting alternative transportation (for example, bus turnouts, bicycle racks).*

(a, d-f) Traffic and Transportation System Performance. Most City parks and recreational facilities are accessible by non-vehicular travel modes. The project consists of a program level plan document to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies recommendations ~~a range of projects~~ that could result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Most of the improvements would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with the addition of amenities, landscaping or minor improvements. No new facilities or structural development

are identified that would result in significant increased traffic volumes. No specific development is proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan. Feasibility studies would be conducted for new or expanded parks and facilities before site plans are developed, and future proposed improvements and projects will be subject to additional environmental analysis once project-level plans are developed, which would include traffic analyses prepared in accordance with City's Traffic Impact Study Guidelines (City of Santa Cruz, *Traffic Impact Study Guidelines*, October 2017).

Potential expanded use at the Audrey Stanley Grove amphitheater at DeLaveaga Park and San Lorenzo Park is expected to occur on weekends and/or during the day outside of weekday AM and PM peak hours for traffic and, thus, would not result in significant traffic increases.

Potential small parking lots at Lower DeLaveaga Park, Moore Creek Preserve, and Pogonip Open Space are identified for consideration in the Parks Master Plan. The introduction of new parking areas could result in an increase in traffic. However, future parking lots are expected to be relatively small with capacity of approximately 30 vehicles or less given the limited site availability in the areas where additional parking would be considered. This minor increase in parking would not be expected to result in a substantial increase in peak hour traffic; the weekday PM peak hour is the standard for impact analysis in the City of Santa Cruz.

The Parks Master Plan recommendation to consider developing a parking area off of Highway 1 to improve access to the Moore Creek Preserve does not provide a specific proposal in terms of size, layout or driveway location. Further study and design would be necessary should the City decide to propose a parking area in the future. The Parks Master Plan also acknowledges that recommendations in the Plan are conceptual and further study would be needed once specific improvements are proposed, sited and designed.

Therefore, potential indirect project impacts related to traffic resulting from future improvements and/or expanded uses would be considered *less than significant*.

(b) Conflicts with Congestion Management Programs. There are no adopted congestion management programs for the project area.

17. Tribal Cultural Resources.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k) or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to*

be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1.

State Assembly Bill 52, effective July 1, 2015 after the City's adoption of the *General Plan 2030*, recognizes that California Native American prehistoric, historic, archaeological, cultural, and sacred places are essential elements in tribal cultural traditions, heritages, and identities. The law establishes a new category of resources in the CEQA called "tribal cultural resources" that considers the tribal cultural values in addition to the scientific and archaeological values when determining impacts and mitigation. Public Resources Code section 21074 defines a "tribal cultural resource" as either:

- (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
 - (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- (2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1.

(a-b) Tribal Cultural Resources and Consultation. The California Public Resources Code section 21084.2 establishes that "[a] project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." The Public Resources Code requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. To date, no such request has been made to the City of Santa Cruz. As discussed in section 5(b,d), implementation of future improvements recommended in the Parks Master Plan that are located within sensitive archaeological areas would be required to prepare archaeological investigations and implement any mitigation measures should a significant impact be identified, including tribal cultural resources. Compliance with City regulations also would ensure that archaeological resources are addressed and mitigated if unknown resources are encountered during construction. Thus, the project would result in no impact to tribal cultural resources.

18. Utilities and Service Systems.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board;*
- *Result in a water demand that exceeds water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources, and new or expanded supplies or entitlements may be needed;*

- *Require or result in construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;*
- *Require or result in construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;*
- *Result in wastewater flows exceed treatment plant capacity; or*
- *Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste demands.*

(a) Exceed Wastewater Treatment Requirements. The project does not include any features that would require discharge or be subject to wastewater treatment or discharge requirements.

(b, d) Water Supply. The project site is located within the service area of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, which serves an approximate 20-square-mile area. The service area includes the entire City of Santa Cruz, adjoining unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County, a small part of the City of Capitola, and coastal agricultural lands north of the City. The City's *General Plan 2030* EIR provides a comprehensive analysis of impacts of water demand within the City's service area, including potential buildout accommodated by the General Plan. The General Plan EIR predicted that water supplies would be adequate in normal years to serve estimated growth within the City of Santa Cruz water service area, although the documents acknowledge that the outcome of the pending HCP may affect supplies. The *General Plan 2030* EIR concluded that impacts to the City's water supply would be significant and unavoidable during times of drought and potentially during normal years by the year 2030. Measures are identified in General Plan policies and actions to further conserve water, reduce demand, and implement a desalination facility to provide a supplemental water supply during droughts.

Subsequent to the City's *General Plan 2030*, the City prepared and adopted the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The 2015 UWMP reports that water demand in the City's water service area has ranged between nearly 3,800 million gallons per year (MGY) in 2006 to approximately 2,500 MGY in 2015 (SOURCE V.2a). The 2015 water demand was during the second year of a severe drought with water use restrictions and rationing in place. The adopted 2015 UWMP forecasts a 20-year water demand forecast at approximately 3,200 MGY, which is slightly reduced from the estimated 3,500 MGY forecast in the 2010 UWMP that was used in the General Plan EIR analysis due to continuing conservation efforts (Ibid.). Until recently, the general trend in system demand was one in which water use rose roughly in parallel with account and population growth over time, except during two major drought periods in the late 1970s and the early 1990s. Around 2000, this pattern changed and system demand began a long period of decline, accelerated by pricing changes, drought, economic downturn, and other factors (Ibid.). The UWMP predicts a decrease in water use of approximately 100 MGY over the next 20 years despite regional population growth forecasts. The 2015 UWMP estimates a 20-year water supply at about 3,200 MGY in the year 2035 based on deliveries for average years, projected water demands, and available surface water flows consistent with ecosystem protection goals regarding fish habitat.

There are several constraints and challenges that affect the long-term reliability of the City's water supplies that are discussed in the General Plan EIR. The primary constraint relates to potential water shortfalls during multi-year droughts. In addition, the City also faces other challenges that potentially could affect water supplies, including: potential flow releases associated with a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) currently under development, the outcome of water rights petitions, groundwater availability and climate change issues. Given water supply reliability issues discussed in the previous section, the City of Santa Cruz has actively considered and pursued water supply and demand management projects over the past 20 years to supply options and to enhance the reliability of the system. Based on recommendations from the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC), the Council included the following recommendations for water augmentation strategies in the 2015 UWMP:

- Additional water conservation with a goal of achieving an additional 200 to 250 million gallons of demand reduction by the year 2035.
- Passive recharge of regional aquifers by working to develop agreements for delivering surface water as an in lieu supply to the Soquel Creek Water District and/or Scotts Valley Water District so they can "rest their wells", help aquifers recover, and store water that can become available to the City of Santa Cruz Water Department in drought years.
- Active recharge of regional aquifers by using existing and some potential new infrastructure in the regionally shared Purisima aquifer in the Soquel-Aptos basin and/or in the Santa Margarita/Lompico/Butano aquifers in the Scotts Valley area to store water that can be available for use by Santa Cruz in drought years.
- A potable water supply using advanced treated recycled water as its source, as a supplemental or replacement supply in the event the groundwater storage strategies described above prove insufficient to meet the Plan's goals of cost effectiveness, timeliness and yield. In the event advanced treated recycled water does not meet the needs, desalination would become the last element (SOURCE V.2a).

~~The City's General Plan 2030 EIR considered development of approximately 777,000 square feet of industrial space throughout the City to the year 2030 (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume), and the proposed project would be within the total and remaining unbuilt industrial development evaluated in the General Plan EIR. Based on industrial water use rates developed for the General Plan EIR, the proposed project would result in an estimated water demand of 1.3 MGY, which would be within the buildout and water demand estimates evaluated in the General Plan EIR. Given the nature of the proposed use as a storage facility, however, project water use would be expected to be much lower.~~

Both the General Plan EIR and the subsequently City-adopted 2015 UWMP predict that water supplies will be adequate in normal years to serve estimated growth within the City of Santa Cruz water service area, although the documents acknowledge that the outcome of the pending HCP may affect supplies. The *General Plan 2030* EIR concluded that impacts to the City's water supply would be significant and unavoidable during times of drought and potentially during normal years by the year 2030 with growth and development within the

City's water service area if recent water use trends change. Measures are identified in General Plan policies and actions to further conserve water, reduce demand and implement a supplemental water supply during droughts. The 2015 UWMP adopted after the adoption of the General also calls for continued water conservation and a supplemental water source, although the 2015 UWMP modified and expanded the range of strategies for developing a supplemental water use than previously considered at the time the General Plan EIR was prepared.

Impact Analysis. The project consists of a program level plan document to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of projects that would result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Most of the improvements would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with addition of amenities, landscaping, or minor improvements. No new facilities or site-specific development is proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan. Feasibility studies would be conducted for new parks and facilities before site plans are developed, and future proposed improvements and projects will be subject to additional environmental analysis once project-level plans are developed. While there may be some increased use in potable water demand, the proposed Parks Master Plan includes policies, actions and recommendations that call for sustainable landscaping and maintenance practices to conserve water, conduct water audits and replace irrigated turf in some locations. The Master Plan also supports other water conservation strategies, including the use of recycled and captured stormwater. Thus, any potential increased water demand associated with future park development is expected to be offset by reductions in current irrigated turf. Therefore, the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact*.

(b, d, f) Wastewater Treatment and Solid Waste Disposal. The project site is located within the service area of the City of Santa Cruz. As indicated above, the project consists of a program level plan document to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development in support of the City's *General Plan 2030*. Future improvements could result in incremental increases in wastewater generation, especially at that limited new restrooms (DeLaveaga, Sgt. Derby, University Terrace, and Westside Parks) and solid waste generation. However, the General Plan EIR concluded that wastewater treatment and landfill capacity were adequate to serve additional growth. While future improvements may result in increased wastewater and solid waste generation, City services are adequate to serve continued growth and buildout accommodated by the City's General Plan (SOURCE V.1b, DEIR volume). The project will be served by existing utilities and will have no measurable effect on existing sewer or solid waste disposal facilities. Therefore, the project would result in a *less-than-significant impact*.

(c) Storm Drainage Facilities. See discussion under Section 9—Hydrology.

19. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State CEQA Guidelines, City of Santa Cruz plans and policies, and agency and professional standards, a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- *Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory;*
- *Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of the past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.); or*
- *Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.*

(a) Quality of the Environment. The project consists of a program level Parks Master Plan. The master plan proposes projects on a concept and program level. No specific projects are proposed at this time. None of the recommended improvements would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment as discussed in this document. As discussed in Section IV, none of the projects would have substantial impacts on plant, fish, or wildlife populations. The proposed project could result in indirect impacts to biological resources (nesting birds) that can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level as discussed in this Initial Study.

(b) Cumulative Impacts. The project consists of a program-level plan document to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Parks Master Plan identifies a range of improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. No specific development is proposed as a part of the Master Plan. The City's parks and recreational facilities will serve city residents and visitors. The Santa Cruz City Council adopted an updated *General Plan 2030* in 2012 and certified the accompanying EIR. The analyses in the EIR provide an assessment of cumulative impacts within the City with projected growth in the City, including UCSC growth and development. The General Plan EIR identified four significant cumulative impacts related to population and housing, noise, traffic, and water supply. The proposed project does not include residential uses and would not contribute to cumulative population impacts. Some parks are in the western portion of Santa Cruz may be accessed by vehicles and contribute to traffic-related cumulative noise and traffic impacts. However, residential trip generation rates included in the General Plan EIR cover all types of trips, including recreational, and any incremental traffic increases related to recreation are taken into account in the General Plan EIR analysis. Most parks and recreational facilities are accessible by bicycle and/or walking, and policies and actions in the City's General Plan seek to improve non-vehicular access, which will reduce vehicle miles traveled and shift travel to alternative modes of transportation. Some of the recommendations could result in increased water use, but the plan includes provisions to reduce water use, such as potential conversion of turf to synthetic grass. Therefore, the project would not result in a contribution to

identified significant cumulative impacts, except for water demand, and the project's contribution would not be cumulatively considerable given Parks Master Plan policies, actions, and recommendations that would result in reductions in existing water demand.

There are no other known cumulative projects to which the proposed Parks Master Plan would contribute to cumulative impacts. It is noted that the Pogonip Homeless Garden Project is moving forward and is included in the Pogonip Master Plan and was evaluated in the Pogonip Master Plan EIR. The potential site-specific impacts of this facility was addressed in an addendum to the Pogonip Master Plan EIR.

(c) Substantial Adverse Effects on Human Beings. No environmental effects have been identified that would have direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings.

This page intentionally left blank.

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Cowell & Main Beaches	Beach	Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014)	Facility improvement, partnerships, potential expanded uses, maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue/improve beach cleanup efforts • Continue to form partnerships/support volunteer efforts • Improve ADA access • Maintain beach curfew • Consider improvements to Junior Lifeguard Headquarters and storage area • Consider installation of seasonal tot lot • Renovate Beach Street restrooms. • Consider bike parking/bike valet in parking area near Cowell Beach • Consider improvement of volleyball court layout at Main Beach to increase the number of courts • Explore seasonal lighting at volleyball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetics – lighting • Biological Resources- lighting
Its Beach	Beach		Regulatory, partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve coordination with State to maintain rules and enforcement 	
Mitchell's Cove	Beach		Programs-Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider programs and enforcement regarding off-leash dog use 	
Arana Gulch	Open Space	Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006)	Resource management, partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Habitat Management Plan implementation • Explore Joint Use Agreement with Port District for use of restroom • Provide educational tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources- sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds
Arroyo Seco	Open Space	Meder Creek Management Plan (1999)	Trail connections, amenities, signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential formalization of existing ad-hoc trail connections from neighborhoods to the east • Potential provision of exercise equipment, benches and interpretive and park signage at key locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources- sensitive habitat, nesting birds
DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area	Open Space	DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)	Trail expansion, potential downhill mountain bike facility, new play area or recreational use, resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the multi-use trail network, utilizing existing fire roads and ad-hoc trails • Consider a separate downhill mountain biking facility or skill building area • Consider locating a play area or recreational use in historic zoo area • Continue work with Resource Conservation District to implement Arana Gulch Creek Stormwater Watershed improvement projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources- sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Jessie Street Marsh		Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998)	Trail connection and resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connection from marsh to Santa Cruz Riverwalk • Address design issues and public concerns with Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, nesting birds
Moore Creek Preserve	Open Space	Moore Creek Interim Management Plan (2002)	Parking improvements, amenities, new trail, habitat management, signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider parking area off of Highway 1 • New trail and entry signage • Improve cattle grazing fencing • Habitat management • Explore opportunities to enhance access and connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds
Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge	Open Space	Nary Lagoon Management Plan (1992)	Replace walkways, maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace floating walkways • Biological evaluation of maintenance activities and recommendations for restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds
Pogonip Open Space	Open Space	Pogonip Master Plan (1998)	Trail improvements, clubhouse renovation, caretaker residence, grazing, potential new parking, trails assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore/renovate Pogonip Clubhouse • Implement Sycamore Grove Interpretive Trail • Consider caretaker residence • Enhance restoration efforts • Renovate cattle grazing infrastructure and begin grazing • Construct road, parking lot, infrastructure, site improvements • Explore modifications to Master Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct trails assessment • Consider parking lot near Emma McCrary Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds • Cultural Resources - historic
DeLaveaga Park Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove	Community Park		Potential new parking, potential new recreational use (pickleball), pedestrian bridge, renovations and amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create additional parking area • Construct pedestrian bridge over Branciforte Creek • Renovate restrooms • Ball field renovations • Consider artificial turf • Consider as potential location for pickleball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat • Water Quality- Branciforte Creek
Depot Park, Bicycle Trip Bike Park & Scott Kennedy Fields	Community Park	Depot Park Master Plan (2001)	Bike park and playground improvements, amenities, potential new uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike park improvements-durable ramps • Additional playground equipment/facilities • Explore lighting field to increase use • Explore new uses for the parcel at 101 Washington Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetics – lighting • Cultural-historic resources

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Harvey West Park	Community Park		Facility use expansion and renovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade sports field complex • Expand playground • Consider adding a small amphitheater to Wagner Grove 	
Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park	Community Park		Facility improvements and repairs and new programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs and improvements to skate park • Consider addition of lighting • Increase programming to teach skateboarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetics - lighting
San Lorenzo Park	Community Park		Renovation, amenity upgrades, new and expanded uses; partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider comprehensive park renovation with upgrades and possible renovation or removal of pond • Increase programs and events/concerts • Consider permanent or seasonal food truck court • Partner with County to provide recreational facilities on County-owned land 	
West Cliff	Community Park		Partnerships for plan preparation and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with stakeholders to develop and implement integrated plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources- sensitive habitat, nesting birds
Beach Flats Park	Neighborhood Park		Park Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential installation of outdoor table game near Beach Flats Community Center • Add bicycle parking racks • Replace playground matting 	
Bethany Curve	Neighborhood Park		Landscaping and Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant native gardens • Renovate paths • Include in West Cliff Drive Master Plan 	
Branciforte Dog Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dog play features, shade structures and seating 	
Central Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve playground area • Add picnic tables 	
Chestnut Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities and signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add signage 	
El Portal Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider installing art work or interpretive elements 	

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Frederick Street Park	Neighborhood Park		Expanded playground, renovation, and park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve off-leash dog area • Expand playground with new equipment • Renovate/replace volleyball court • Improve drinking fountains and stairs to Harbor • Install drainage and erosion control in picnic areas 	
Garfield Park	Neighborhood Park		Expanded playground and park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand/upgrade playgrounds • Add maintenance shed • Improve drinking fountains • Tree root pruning 	
Grant Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace restrooms • Add tot-lot swing 	
John D. Franks Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add picnic tables, play equipment and fitness equipment 	
La Barranca Park	Neighborhood Park		New use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert turf areas to demonstrate garden using recycled water 	
Laurel Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing • Install parcourse equipment and volleyball sleeves • Install underground electrical connections for community events • Improve garden area for potential senior and teen gardening programs 	
Lighthouse Avenue Park	Neighborhood Park		Playground expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground expansion to offer more features 	
Mimi De Marta Dog Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add dog play features and additional seating 	
Mission Plaza Park	Neighborhood Park		Minor improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add interpretive signage on history of site and surrounding area 	
Neary Lagoon Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider lighting tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetics – lighting • Biological Resources- lighting

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Ocean View Park	Neighborhood Park		Minor improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider fencing off-leash dog use area or relocating Upgrade playground equipment Provide paved surface road Add native gardens 	
Pacheco Dog Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add dog play features, seating, tables 	
Poets Park and Beach Flats Community Garden	Neighborhood Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to pursue permanent community garden space for Beach Area 	
Round Tree Park	Neighborhood Park		Signage and additional recreational uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add parking signage Consider additional recreational uses-exercise area, tot lot, community garden 	
Scope Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore or paint new mural 	
Sgt. Derby Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities, access-parking improvements, expansion of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve entrances, parking Joint-use with Santa Cruz City Schools-use of equipment and develop artificial turf field Expand skate park, tennis/pickleball facilities, playground Add parcourse Evaluate adding restroom Resurface pathway 	
Star of the Sea Park	Neighborhood Park		Park amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider additional facilities, such as community garden, pickleball court, basketball court, soccer field, play equipment 	
Trescony Park	Neighborhood Park		Minor improvements and signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide porta-potty Add signage Improve pathway 	
Tyrrell Park (Museum of Natural History)	Neighborhood Park		Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert landscaping to demonstrative gardens Add habitat features Add bike parking Upgrade plaster whale sculpture 	

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
University Terrace Park	Neighborhood Park		Structural improvement, park amenities and new mini-soccer field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add permanent restroom with maintenance shed • Update playground equipment • Consider a mini soccer field (synthetic) 	
Westlake Park	Neighborhood Park		Structural improvement, park amenities and new mini-soccer field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential restroom • Install walkway around lake 	
Westside Pump Track (Leased)	Neighborhood Park		Minor improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider paving pump tack 	
Civic Auditorium	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility	Civic Auditorium Concept Design Study (2012) and Business Planning Study (2015)	Renovation and additional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate • Explore possibility indoor pickleball league 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural-historic resources
DeLaveaga Park Audrey Stanley Grove	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Additional facilities and expanded use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand use of amphitheater for private and public events during the Santa Cruz Shakespeare off-season • Add permanent restroom, dressing room and small concession areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic, noise • Biological resources-sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds • Noise
DeLaveaga Park DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Facility fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a pay-for-play facility to improve maintenance, including tree protection, erosion control, invasive species removal, plant restoration 	
DeLaveaga Park DeLaveaga Golf Course and Maintenance Yard	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility	DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002)	Implement adopted plan with recommended expanded facilities, improvements and resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Golf Course Master Plan-new clubhouse, new irrigation system to conserve water, tree management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-nesting birds
Depot Park Freight Building	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Minor improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential addition of exterior storage • Upgrade interior space and potential interior connection to restroom • Potential addition of kitchenette 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural-historic resources

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Harvey West Park-Harvey West Pool	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Further study and potential renovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider use and business plan study to improve operations and funding opportunities, identify renovations and increase community use 	
Harvey West Park Kids Kottage and Wagner Cottage	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Restroom improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve restrooms 	
Harvey West Park Scout and Clubhouse	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Minor renovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor renovation to improve function and appearance, such as enhancing entry and patio areas 	
Louden Nelson Community Center	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Facility-structural renovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funds to continue renovate and update building, including remodeling restrooms and kitchen area, interior improvements, and redesigned Teen Center exterior yard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural-historic resources
Pogonip Clubhouse	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility	Pogonip Master Plan	Structural improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore/renovate Clubhouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural-historic resources
Santa Cruz Wharf	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility	Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan (2014) Not Adopted environmental review underway	Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-department coordination to implement Wharf Master Plan Renew lease for Wharf Yard and consider workshop and storage structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, nesting birds Cultural-historic resources
Surfing Museum	Community, Recreational and Cultural Facility		Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider removal of turf and replacement with native plants and/or plaza 	
DeLaveaga Park – Lower DeLaveaga Park Office	Other		Minor improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add covered space for tool/equipment storage at existing office and maintenance shed 	

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Parks Master Plan 2030 Recommendations

Facility	Classification	Relevant Plans	Type of Improvement Recommended in Plan	Description	Potential Environmental Issues / Impacts
Downtown	Other		Potential new parklets and mini-parks; tree protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to build parklets, plazas and mini-parks with potential recreational facilities on top of parking garages • Seek opportunities to improve connections to San Lorenzo River • Continue installation of tree protection fencing 	
Harvey West Park Ranger Station	Other		Potential ranger station relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider relocating ranger station 	
Santa Cruz Riverwalk	Other	San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003)	Plan implementation, partnerships and site amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement SLURP • Multi-department/agency partnerships • Install amenities-artwork, site furnishings, amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Resources-sensitive habitat, special status species, nesting birds

No recommendations:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Flats Community Center • Moore Creek Overlook • San Lorenzo Park Lawn Bowling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmelita Cottages • Park Maintenance Yard • Senior Citizens Opportunity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Hall Complex • Rincon Park • Town Clock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeLaveaga Archery Range • Riverside Gardens Park |
|---|--|--|---|

DRAFT PARKS MASTER PLAN 2030

DRAFT ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

The draft Parks Master Plan 2030 (PMP) includes a number of goals, priorities, and actions to help improve the parks system in Chapter 4.1. The Parks and Recreation Commission ranked the numerous actions in the draft Parks Master Plan 2030 based on their overall value to the community. The highest ranking actions from the assessment are listed in descending order, from highest to lowest priority, under each corresponding goal. Actions are numbered to correspond to the goal and policy wherein each action is listed in the PMP. For example, GIII.PH.A5 = Goal III, Policy H, Action 5 on page 4.1-17 in the draft PMP.

Goal I. Provide attractive and sustainably maintained parks and facilities throughout the City.

GI.PA.A1 (Pg. 4.1-4)	Use sustainable landscaping design and maintenance practices to conserve water, prevent erosion and run-off, and provide habitat and food sources.
GI.PB.A10 (Pg. 4.1-7)	Provide an adequate level of service of restroom facilities and renovate existing restrooms to maintain a clean, safe, inviting appearance. Place restrooms at larger or more extensively used neighborhood parks.
GI.PB.A8 (Pg. 4.1-6)	Carefully coordinate the site furnishings, plazas, pathways, passive and active recreational features and spaces, and landscaping to create meaningful experiences, minimize conflicts between new and existing uses, and optimize use.
GI.PC.A2 (Pg. 4.1-8)	Consider the needs of seniors in circulation and park design and expand recreational facilities for seniors.
GI.PC.A3 (Pg. 4.1-8)	Provide fitness facilities for all users and encourage multi-generational play spaces.
GI.PB.A12 (Pg. 4.1-7)	Maintain a signage program and other features that help maintain a united identity for the parks system as a whole.

Goal II. Provide ample parks and facilities throughout the City.

GII.PA.A1 (Pg. 4.1-9)	Continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional parkland: 1) in areas that lack existing parks and amenities in close proximity, 2) larger properties that can accommodate a variety of recreational facilities, (3) underutilized land, 4) higher density growth areas, or 4) properties with significant cultural heritage.
GII.PA.A2 (Pg. 4.1-9)	Explore opportunities for partnerships to use land within or adjacent to the City to help provide facilities to meet unmet needs. Examples include improving the joint-use agreements with the school district to allow public use of outdoor recreational areas during non-school hours, working with UCSC to provide pickleball striping at the tennis courts at 207 Natural Bridges Drive, and partnering with the County to provide recreational facilities on the vacant, adjacent parcel near the lawn bowling facility at San Lorenzo Park.
GII.PA.A3 (Pg. 4.1-9)	Evaluate all lands, regardless of size, for the development of small parks and facilities.

Goal III. Provide parks and facilities to meet the existing and emerging needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

GIIL.PF.A1 (Pg. 4.1-14)	Develop, improve, and enhance trails to provide for a range of uses.
GIIL.PD.A4 (Pg. 4.1-12)	Expand opportunities for informal sports play.
GIIL.PE.A1 (Pg. 4.1-12)	Renovate and maintain playgrounds to create more unique and interesting play experiences.
GIIL.PH.A5 (Pg. 4.1-17)	Consider partnerships to allow for public recreational uses in the permanent Kaiser Permanente Arena during the Santa Cruz Warriors off-season.
GIIL.PG.A1 (Pg. 4.1-16)	Provide activities that improve physical activity and mental health for all ages, abilities, and interests.
GIIL.PE.A2 (Pg. 4.1-13)	Assure accessibility and safety on all City playgrounds.
GIIL.PB.A1 (Pg. 4.1-11)	Provide neighborhood park uses including, but not limited to, off-leash dog use areas, ball fields, skateboard parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, ping-pong tables, playgrounds and tot-lots, climbing and exercise equipment, slack-lining, pickleball courts, community gardens, pump tracks, bocce courts, disc golf courses, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, sand volleyball courts, when designed to minimize impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.

Goal IV. Protect the City's natural resources, native wildlife habitats and plant communities, and environment.

GIV.PA.A3 (Pg. 4.1-20)	Develop and implement restoration work plans to restore natural processes and control invasive species.
GIV.PB.A1 (Pg. 4.1-24)	Protect and enhance the habitat and populations of special status plant and animal species.
GIV.PB.A2 (Pg. 4.1-24)	Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat features that are important to native wildlife and native plant communities.
GIV.PB.A3 (Pg. 4.1-26)	Protect waterbodies, including creek systems, riparian environments, and wetlands from uses that would degrade their value to native species.
GIV.PA.A4 (Pg. 4.1-21)	Improve habitat within urban parks and facilities.

Goal V. Maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for all park users.

GV.PA.A1 (Pg. 4.1-29)	Use defensible space design treatments to deter illegal behaviors.
GV.PB.A1 (Pg. 4.1-30)	Increase park ranger/police presence and interaction.
GV.PA.A5 (Pg. 4.1-30)	Increase resources to remove trash and debris from illegal camping.
GV.PB.A2 (Pg. 4.1-30)	Increase enforcement of park rules.
GV.PA.A3 (Pg. 4.1-29)	Develop a caretaker or park host program to help care for open spaces and community parks.

Goal VI. Provide an integrated park system with clean, convenient public access to parks, open spaces, and the coastline.

GVII.PA.A1 (Pg. 4.1-31)	Continue to seek opportunities to purchase or lease additional land to enhance recreational corridors and extend network connectivity. Seek properties and improvements that fill gaps within the trail system, expand recreational opportunities along existing corridors, or provide important habitat and wildlife connections.
GVII.PB.A1 (Pg. 4.1-32)	Ensure staffing-levels are adequate to patrol, maintain, and clean the coastal, riverfront, and open space areas.
GVII.PB.A2 (Pg. 4.1-32)	Evaluate existing and develop new rules, policies, and programs to ensure they promote a safe and clean environment.
GVII.PA.A9 (Pg. 4.1-32)	Develop trailhead locations.
GVII.PA.A2 (Pg. 4.1-31)	Implement the San Lorenzo Urban River Plan and enhance and maintain the recreational value of the riverfront.
GVII.PA.A3 (Pg. 4.1-31)	Help develop and implement an integrated design, land-use, recreation, cliff stabilization, and landscape plan for West Cliff and East Cliff Drives to enhance public safety, access, connectivity, preservation, and recreational enjoyment along the coastline.
GVII.PA.A4 (Pg. 4.1-31)	Support and help implement and maintain the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail multi-use path. Seek opportunities for additional parkland along the corridor. Consider adding complementary features and design treatments at existing parks along the trail such as by placing wayfinding signage and maps, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, picnic areas, shade structures, artwork, or plazas adjacent to the trail.

Goal VII. Establish, maintain, and operate parks, facilities, and programs in a manner that is cost effective and manageable while engaging the community to maximize involvement and support.

GVII.PC.A1 (Pg. 4.1-35)	Increase funding for parks.
GVII.PA.A1 (Pg. 4.1-34)	Develop maintenance and safety standards for parks and facilities and evaluate staffing levels to achieve goals.
GVII.PC.A6 (Pg. 4.1-36)	Evaluate fees and use rates to reflect the current costs to provide services. During the fee study, consider the viability of use passes to help offset maintenance costs.
GVII.PC.A5 (Pg. 4.1-36)	Utilize and support Friends of Parks and Recreation (FOPAR) to help in their fundraising, scholarship, and funding of smaller special projects to improve the parks system.
GVII.PA.A3 (Pg. 4.1-34)	Coordinate efforts with CA State Park and other recreation providers to ensure public use areas are adequately maintained.

