



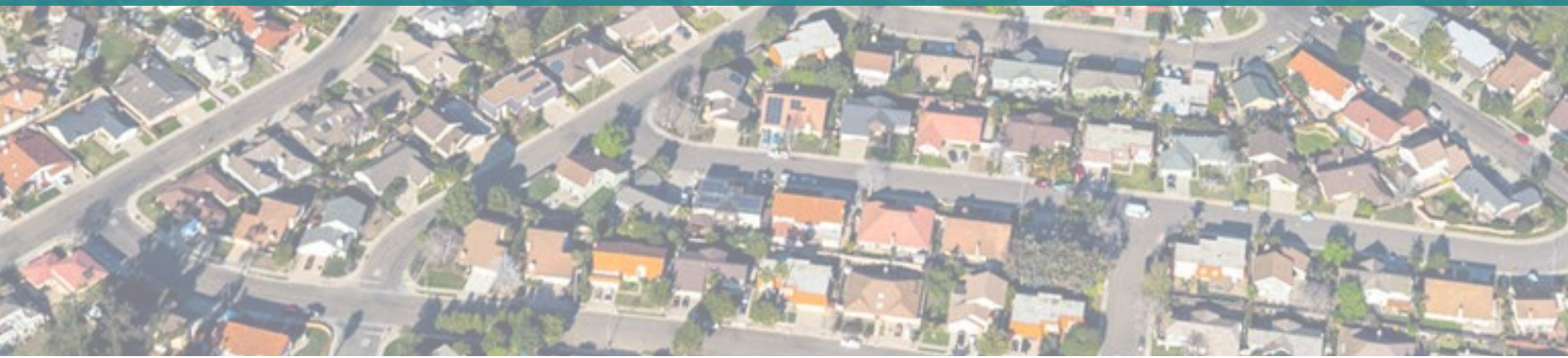
Santa Maria  
General Plan

**imagine**



# Recreation and Parks Policy Framework

Public Draft | January 31, 2025





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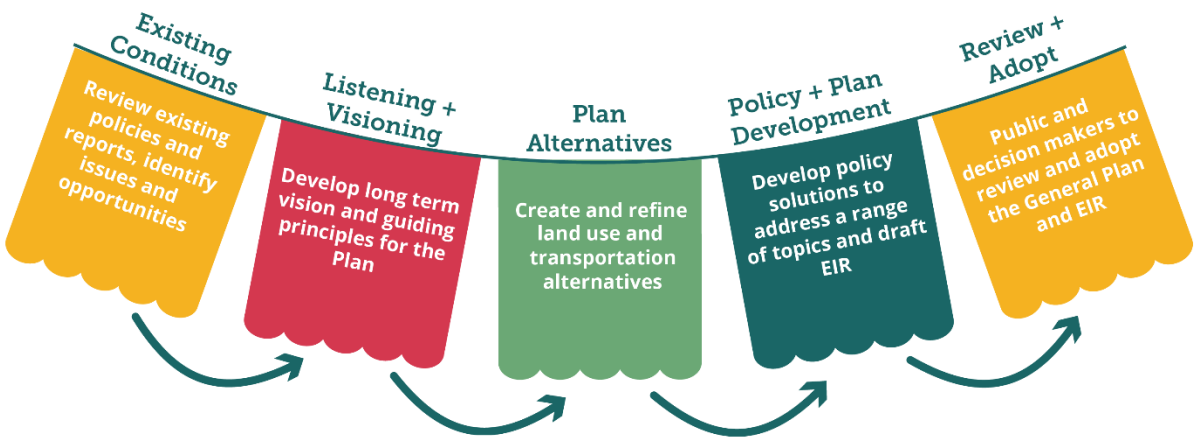
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# Recreation and Parks Policy Framework

## I. Introduction

The City of Santa Maria has embarked on its first comprehensive update to the General Plan, called “Imagine Santa Maria,” to create a forward-looking document that will serve as the blueprint for the city through the year 2045. A General Plan is a policy document required by State law that provides long-range guidance for land use, development and other issues such as economic growth, open space, conservation, affordable housing, and employment. The goals, policies, and implementation actions in the General Plan will serve as a compass for decision-makers and will shape future plans and actions of the City. This revised policy document will replace the existing General Plan.

The General Plan Update has five major phases, which are designed as step-by-step building blocks (see the image below). The project is currently in the “Policy and Plan Development” phase.



During the Existing Conditions phase, City staff worked closely with the consultant team to identify trends, issues, opportunities, and priorities, which are summarized in seven existing conditions reports that are available on the project website, [www.ImagineSantaMaria.com](http://www.ImagineSantaMaria.com). Throughout the Listening + Visioning Stage, community members shared their vision for the future, qualities of Santa Maria to preserve, and issues to address. This feedback was incorporated in the [Vision, Guiding Principles, and Areas of Change and Stability](#). From there, City staff and the consultant team developed [Plan Alternatives](#) to identify different land use, mobility, and urban design options the City has to achieve the community’s Vision and implement the Guiding Principles. City Council approved a [Preferred Land Use Alternative](#) in 2023.

This Recreation and Parks policy framework is a step in the General Plan Update process prior to drafting General Plan Elements. This framework highlights the key direction for the Recreation and Parks Element and includes goals, policies, and implementation activities to achieve that direction. Topics covered in this framework include recreational and park facilities and programming. This policy framework was developed by incorporating findings from previous project phases, including technical analysis, relevant content from the existing General Plan, current planning best practices and requirements from State law, and feedback

from community members, Technical Advisory Committee members, Planning Commission, City Council, and City staff. Nine policy frameworks have been prepared covering the following topics: Conservation and Open Space, Safety, Land Use and Community Design, Circulation and Mobility, Public Facilities and Services, Recreation and Parks, Economic Development, Noise, and Health and Environmental Justice. Community feedback on the frameworks will shape goals, policies, and implementation actions in the General Plan.

## II. Statutory Requirements

### General Plan Requirements

According to State law, General Plans must include information on “open space for outdoor recreation, including...areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes...and areas that serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations” (California Government Code section 65560(b)(3)). While State law recommends that these topics be covered in the Open Space Element, the City of Santa Maria will address these topics in a separate element to highlight their importance and role in supporting the overall high quality of life in the community.

### Regulatory Setting

Regulations that affect policy direction of this Element include:

**Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018.** In June 2018, voters in the State of California passed the Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018. This proposition allocated \$4 billion to put towards California’s most pressing water, park, and natural resource needs. Funding has gone toward issues such as regional water supplies and water quality, stormwater management, water recycling, flood protection and repairs, ocean and coastal protection, local parks and open districts, and clean water and drought preparedness. Many of the specific issues targeted by this bill are prevalent in the city, such as the need for flood protection and repairs, regional water supplies, and local parks and open space districts. Many cities like Santa Maria continue to rely on State and Federal funding in addition to local funding programs for the protection of natural resources.

**The Quimby Act.** The Quimby Act authorizes a city or county to require the dedication of land or to impose fees for park or recreational purposes as a condition of the approval of a tentative or parcel subdivision map if certain conditions are met. In-lieu fees must be used only for the purposes of developing or rehabilitating neighborhood or community park or recreational facilities, and if specified requirements are met, the jurisdiction may use those fees for rehabilitating and building parks in areas outside the neighborhood where the developer’s subdivision is specifically located.

## Definitions

The Recreation and Parks Policy Framework includes references to both park facilities and recreational facilities. To avoid ambiguity and ensure consistency, these terms are defined as follows:

- **Park facilities** refer to park lands and their associated facilities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, gardens, and restrooms.
- **Recreational facilities** refer to spaces or buildings for activities like sports, fitness, and other recreational activities, including gyms, pools, community centers, and sports courts.

### III. Related Vision and Guiding Principles

The General Plan Vision Statement describes Santa Maria as the community would like to see it in 2045. The Guiding Principles establish the direction the community should follow and the major ideas that the General Plan Update will put forward to achieve the community's shared Vision for 2045. The full [Vision, Guiding Principles, and Areas of Change and Stability](#), approved by the City Council in 2021, are available on the Imagine Santa Maria project website. The following full-sentence excerpts from the Vision and Guiding Principles informed the preparation of this policy framework:

#### Vision

*Santa Maria in 2045 is a community where families can establish and maintain multi-generational roots. It is close-knit, culturally diverse, and economically inclusive...*

*...People are proud of their history and heritage. This is reflected in the diverse, well-preserved historical resources and the attractive, inviting streets and public gathering places. Museums, art venues, a strong civic sector, and the many welcoming community events and celebrations are all evidence of a vibrant local culture.*

*Residents have convenient access on foot and by car, bus, and bicycle to jobs, schools, community amenities like parks and sports fields, and the region's natural environment.*

#### Guiding Principles

The following Guiding Principles establish the direction to follow to achieve the community's shared Vision for 2045.

##### *Culture, History, and Art*

*Celebrate and share Santa Maria's multicultural heritage and contemporary diversity. Preserve historic resources, foster the arts, maintain a strong sense of community through cultural festivals, and invite visitors to enjoy the richness of local expression and resources.*

##### *Community Design*

*Create public spaces that reflect the community identity, foster civic pride, and invite community members to gather, both informally and for events. Design streets, buildings, and landscaping that reflect the community's history, culture, and natural environment. Use lighting, street trees, benches, and other amenities to make sidewalks and public spaces safe and welcoming, with a focus on the Downtown and along the Main and Broadway corridors.*

##### *Community Health*

*Grow and expand physical and mental healthcare services to meet the needs of all residents. Improve community health by addressing the environmental justice priorities of disadvantaged communities, including seniors, low-income households, linguistically isolated families, the homeless, and youth, who comprise 35% of residents. Minimize residents' potential for exposure to noise, pesticides, and industrial pollution. Foster healthy lifestyles by expanding safe and attractive options for physical activity and by expanding healthy food access.*

### *Natural Environment and Resilience*

*Conserve water resources in the city and support efforts to maintain the Santa Maria River. Expand opportunities to enjoy the area's natural resources and the region's beauty. Safeguard the community from natural hazards, including those exacerbated by climate change.*

### *Transportation Innovations*

*Develop a balanced, equitable, affordable, and reliable transportation network where pedestrians, cyclists, trucks, cars, rail, and transit can safely and efficiently navigate to destinations within Santa Maria. Focus on maintaining existing roadways, expanding walking and biking options, and reducing congestion and maintenance costs. Transform corridors and streets from points of conflict among people, cyclists, cars, and trucks into places that bring neighborhoods and families together. Prepare for and expand regional connections with enhanced bus, rail, and air service. Prepare for technological advances like autonomous vehicles and remote work, and take advantage of opportunities and incentives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.*

### *Governance and Engagement*

*Continue to conduct and increase meaningful and inclusive civic engagement that empowers a diversity of perspectives in public decision-making. Provide residents and businesses with high-quality, equitable, and accessible customer service, including City communications and events in multiple languages and interpretation services. Partner with community organizations and institutions to build trust and increase participation, including among youth, who will be the city leaders in 2045.*

## IV. Setting the Scene: Issues and Opportunities

The sections below outline opportunities, strengths, issues, and challenges that drove the direction of the Recreation and Parks policy framework. This policy framework builds on the opportunities and strengths and identifies strategies to remedy the issues and challenges.

Opportunities, strengths, issues, and challenges were identified based on existing conditions, the Vision and Guiding Principles, technical studies, community engagement results, and conversations with City staff. Links to past project work may be found on the project website:

<https://www.imaginesantamaria.com/resources>.

### Opportunities and Strengths

**Enhance access to open space.** Santa Maria has multiple avenues to expand residents' access to open spaces, particularly in areas identified as underserved. Strategies to improve access include leveraging joint-use agreements with local schools, pursuing grants for parkland expansion, and developing the undeveloped portions of existing parks to enhance the city's green spaces. Additionally, strengthening partnerships with community organizations can extend both the reach and resources of park programming, making it more accessible to neighborhoods in need. (*Land Use and Community Design Existing Conditions Report*).

**Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan.** The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department completed an update of its Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan in December 2019. The plan identifies unmet needs in the Recreation and Parks system and develops realistic and implementable recommendations on how to improve recreational facilities in the future. To gather community feedback, a community survey was sent out to over 3,830 randomly selected households in Santa Maria. Key issues identified in the plan included safety at park facilities, engagement of Hispanic and Latino communities, and better community education regarding recreational programs and services. Continued implementation of the Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan will support equitable access to recreational opportunities for the entire community. (*Environmental Background Report*)

**Public Art Master Plan.** The Santa Maria City Council adopted the City's Public Art Master Plan in 2019, which was updated in 2022. The Public Art Master Plan presents goals and objectives related to public art, with strategies for implementing public art throughout the community. The Public Art Master Plan supports the commission of public art projects; identification of enhancement zones and public art projects; defining permanent and temporary installations; and cultivating partnerships with City and arts and cultural organizations.

**Expanded arts and cultural programming.** Santa Maria has an opportunity to expand arts and cultural offerings in public spaces, enriching the city's social and cultural landscape. By integrating diverse art installations, cultural festivals, and performances in parks and public areas, Santa Maria can foster a vibrant, inclusive environment for residents of all ages while strengthening social bonds and community pride. With policies that promote diverse and accessible programming, the city can position itself as a center for arts and culture and create a welcoming and enriching atmosphere for all residents. (*Finding from community engagement, input from City staff*).



## Issues and Challenges

**Park and recreational facility service and access.** Santa Maria’s current park service ratio of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents falls short of the City’s goal of 5.0 acres, which limits residents’ access to adequate green spaces and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the City has not met its per capita goals for community pools and senior centers, leaving these valuable recreational resources below desired levels. Addressing these gaps requires proactive strategies to expand parkland and recreational facilities, either through new developments or the enhancement of existing resources. This Element would set ambitious yet achievable targets, incorporating strategic facilities siting, joint-use agreements, and public-private partnerships to increase facility capacity and ensure equitable access to parks and recreational facilities citywide. (*Land Use and Community Design Existing Conditions Report*)

**Areas in need of parks.** Some areas of Santa Maria are particularly underserved by parks, creating disparities in residents’ access to green space. Notable underserved areas include:

- The northwest, between Blosser Road, Taylor Street, Broadway, and Donovan Road;
- Portions of the area east of US-101 and north of Main Street, and north of Main Street between US-101 and Broadway;
- The area north of Stowell Road, east of Broadway, south of Main Street, and west of US-101; and,
- The residential area north of Betteravia Road, east of Blosser Road, south of Battles Road, and west of Broadway

By prioritizing park development in these areas, the General Plan can promote equal access to outdoor recreation and foster a healthier, more inclusive community environment. (*Land Use and Community Design Existing Conditions Report, findings from community engagement*).

**Overcrowded parks.** Rapid population growth has led to overcrowding in Santa Maria’s parks, especially in areas with limited recreational alternatives. Overcrowding diminishes the quality of park experiences and strains amenities, which may become less accessible or maintained over time. To alleviate this pressure, the General Plan policies should expand current parks, create new parks, and/or establish smaller pocket parks in denser neighborhoods. (*input from City staff*).

**Recreational facility access.** Access to recreational facilities is a challenge, as most facilities are Downtown, leaving many outlying neighborhoods underserved. With only about 9% of residents within a five-minute walk of a facility, expanding access is essential. Solutions include developing satellite facilities in underserved areas, improving transit routes to existing sites, and offering mobile programming. (*Land Use and Community Design Existing Conditions Report*).

**Safety access to parks.** Some residents have raised safety concerns about pedestrian access to parks, citing issues with lighting, sightlines, and crossings. These concerns deter residents from fully utilizing parks, limiting social and recreational benefits. Addressing safety through design improvements—such as better lighting, marked crossings, and clear sightlines—can improve perceptions and ease access. (*Finding from community engagement*).

**Annexation.** As Santa Maria annexes new areas, the city faces the challenge of balancing new recreation and park facilities, utility infrastructure, and water supply with the maintenance of existing facilities and resources. Expanding services to annexed areas can strain city resources, placing additional pressure on water resources and potentially impacting the quality of upkeep in established parts of the city. Policies supporting phased development, sustainable water management, and cost-sharing will be essential to manage growth effectively while maintaining service quality across all neighborhoods. *(input from City staff).*

## V. Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

The Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions section outlines a forward-thinking vision to enhance the city's recreational opportunities, park facilities, and community programming. This section emphasizes equitable access, environmental sustainability, and robust partnerships to create a well-connected and inclusive network of recreational spaces.

Key goals include expanding modern and accessible recreational facilities, maintaining high-quality parks, and addressing the diverse needs of the city's residents through innovative and inclusive programming. The element also underscores the importance of sustainable practices, such as integrating green infrastructure and preserving open spaces, while ensuring facilities are safe, well-maintained, and resilient.

Implementation strategies focus on partnerships with public and private entities, community-driven solutions, and proactive planning to meet current and future demands. By prioritizing equity, cultural inclusion, and environmental stewardship, the Recreation and Parks framework aims to foster community wellness, connection, and pride for all Santa Maria residents.

Each goal, policy, and implementation action includes a source in parentheses. Sources include: the City's existing General Plan, State law, existing conditions reports, community input, guidance from City staff, industry or regional best practices, or related materials.

**Goal REC-1: Modern recreational facilities.** A comprehensive and well-integrated system of modern recreational facilities is accessible to all Santa Maria residents. (Revised; Policy 8)

**Policy REC-1.1: Facilities standards.** Maintain the standards outlined in Table 1 as recreational facilities are renovated and expanded. (Revised; Objective 8.1.c)

Table REC-1: Recreational Facilities Standards

Facilities Standards	
CLASSIFICATION	STANDARDS UNIT / PEOPLE
Playfields	
• Youth Baseball/Softball	1 unit/6,000
• Adult Softball	1 unit/10,000
• Regulation Baseball (lighted)	1 unit/30,000
• Soccer Fields	1 unit/5,000
• Football Fields	1 unit/50,000
• Tennis (lighted)	1 unit/2,000
• Handball/Raquetball	1 unit/3,000
Community Center Building (4,000-8,000 sq ft)	1 unit/25,000
Social-Cultural Center (15,000-20,000 sq ft)	1 unit/75,000
Performing Arts Center (20,000-30,000 sq ft)	1 unit/75,000
Senior Center (10,000-15,000 sq ft)	1 unit/50,000
Visual Arts Workshop	1 unit/50,000
Gymnasium (12,000-14,000 sq ft)	1 unit/25,000
Community Swimming Pool	1 unit/20,000
Aquatic Center (extended season; handicapped)	1 unit/50,000

Action REC-1.1.1: Produce a biennial status report—led by the Parks and Recreation Commission—on the conditions of recreational facilities and programs in the city to ensure City standards are being met. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-1.2: Temporary facilities.** Construct and maintain temporary recreational facilities to address short-term needs or serve areas awaiting permanent facility development. Temporary amenities should meet basic recreational needs and be removed or upgraded once permanent facilities are available. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-1.3: Multi-use public lands.** Promote the shared use of public lands where feasible (e.g., school playgrounds) for recreational purposes. (Revised; Objective 9.1.e)

**Policy REC-1.4: Existing facilities.** Ensure existing recreational facilities and infrastructure are not neglected in light of planned facilities in newly annexed parts of the city. (Community Input)

**Policy REC-1.5: Trails system.** Develop a system of accessible, well-maintained trails<sup>1</sup> that connects neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces and supports multiple uses, such as walking, biking, and running. (Community Input)

Action REC-1.5.1: Expand the scope of the City’s Active Transportation Plan to create a more robust Trails System Master Plan. (City Input)

<sup>1</sup> Please see the City’s Active Transportation Plan for a map of all trails.

Action REC-1.5.2: Implement and regularly update the Santa Maria Active Transportation Plan to enable safe pedestrian and cyclist connections to recreational facilities. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Goal REC-2: High-quality parks.** A robust network of high-quality parks meets the diverse needs of all Santa Maria residents. (Revised; Policy 9)

**Policy REC-2.1: Park standard.** Maintain the City's standard of 5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. (Revised; Policy 9.1)

Action REC-2.1.1: Adopt a park classifications system to support strategic growth and management of park facilities. (Best Practice)

Action REC-2.1.2: Adopt a park preservation ordinance to safeguard the existing supply of park lands in the city. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-2.2: Mitigation fees.** Require developers to pay park mitigation fees to ensure that new developments contribute to the expansion and maintenance of parks facilities. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

Action REC-2.2.1: Regularly review and update park mitigation fees to reflect current needs and construction costs. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-2.3: Park grants.** Pursue federal, state, and regional grant opportunities to support the development, improvement, and maintenance of parks and facilities. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Goal REC-3: Inclusive programming.** A diverse array of programming is inclusive, engaging, and responsive to the community, strengthening resident wellness, social connection, and cultural engagement. (Revised; Objective 8.1.a)

**Policy REC-3.1: Inclusive programming.** Offer inclusive and diverse recreational programming that meets the varied needs of all residents, including programs in Spanish and Mixteco. (Existing Conditions Report)

**Policy REC-3.2: Mobile programming.** Implement mobile recreational activities to reach underserved areas, bringing programs directly to neighborhoods to ensure equitable access to recreation across the city. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-3.3: Arts and culture.** Incorporate public art, cultural activities, and musical and theater performances into park spaces to foster community identity. When possible, partner with Santa Maria-based artists and organizations. (Best Practice)



Action REC-3.3.1: Implement the City's Public Art Master Plan by collaborating with stakeholders, artists, and arts organizations to enhance public spaces and celebrate the city's rich arts heritage.

**Policy REC-3.4: Community events.** Promote local community events that celebrate the city's cultural diversity, foster neighborhood pride, and strengthen community bonds. Facilitate events in public spaces, parks, and community centers, prioritizing activities that are inclusive, accessible, and reflective of residents' interests. (Community Input)

**Policy REC-3.5: Youth and senior programming.** Expand programs for youth and seniors to support healthy lifestyles and social connections, fostering physical activity, creative expression, and intergenerational community-building. (Community Input)

**Policy REC-3.6: Aquatics.** Develop aquatic programs and facilities to promote water safety, swimming skills, and recreational enjoyment for residents of all ages and abilities. (Existing Conditions Report)

**Policy REC-3.7: Marketing and outreach.** Use social media, community events, and partnerships with local organizations to increase awareness and participation in the City's recreation and parks programs. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Goal REC-4: Conditions and demand monitoring.** Recreational and park facilities are safe, functional, accessible, and meet City standards. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-4.1: Facilities monitoring.** Monitor growth and demographics to anticipate demand for recreational and park facilities to ensure adequate amenities are available to serve both existing and future residents. (Revised; Objective 8.1.b)

Action REC-4.1.1: Implement and regularly update the Leisure Needs Action Plan to guide investment in community facilities, ensuring balanced support for both structured and unstructured recreation spaces. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

Action REC-4.1.2: Development of a tri-annual review and update process for the City's Comprehensive Recreation and Park Plan. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

Action REC-4.1.3: Designate opportunity areas where future investments should be prioritized, with a specific focus on disadvantaged communities and historically underinvested neighborhoods. (Existing Conditions Report)

Action REC-4.1.4: Develop and regularly update a Recreation and Parks Facilities Master Plan for the planning, development, operation, and funding of services and facilities in the planning area (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Goal REC-5: Park access.** Equitable and barrier-free parks and recreational spaces are accessible for all Santa Maria residents, with facilities that are well-distributed and inclusive to residents of all ages and abilities. (Existing Conditions Report)

**Policy REC-5.1: Park distribution.** Ensure an equitable distribution of park facilities across all neighborhoods, with a focus on addressing gaps in underserved areas by prioritizing park development in areas with limited access. (Revised; Objective 9.1.b)

Action REC-5.1.1: Create a citywide heat map indicating parks, open spaces, and walking distances to identify gaps in access and address equitable distribution of facilities. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-5.2: Universal design.** Incorporate universal design principles in the development and renovation of parks to ensure that recreational spaces are usable by people of all ages and abilities. Design interventions include accessible paths, inclusive playgrounds, and other amenities that accommodate individuals with disabilities, ensuring full participation and enjoyment for all. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-5.3: SB 1000 neighborhoods.** Target new park improvements in SB 1000 disadvantaged communities (DACs) to improve public health outcomes, reduce heat island effects, and address long-standing inequities in access to park space. (Existing Conditions Report)

**Policy REC-5.4: Nuisance mitigation.** Avoid locating parks near high-volume roads, highways, or other sources of pollution to minimize exposure to noise, air pollution, and safety hazards. When proximity to such infrastructure is unavoidable, incorporate design features such as sound barriers, vegetation buffers, and safe crossings to mitigate potential health impacts. (Revised; Objective 9.1.h)

**Goal REC-6: Amenities and maintenance.** Recreational and park facilities that are well-maintained. (Community Input)

**Policy REC-6.1: Facilities maintenance.** Conduct routine maintenance of recreational and park facilities including upkeep, repairs, and enhancements to ensure long-term usability and safety. (Revised; Objective 9.1.c)

Action REC-6.1.1: Adopt standardized maintenance and inspection practices to ensure recreational and park facilities across the city receive the same level of service. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-6.2: Cost efficient maintenance.** Implement cost-effective maintenance strategies for parks facilities to ensure long-term sustainability, such as drought-tolerant landscaping and the use of smart irrigation technologies to reduce operational costs. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

Action REC-6.2.1: Study potential maintenance funding mechanisms and develop strategies to seek sustained funding, which may include the following: funding from public and private partners; bonds and

tax measures; assessment districts; and expanding fee-based recreational programming and leasing agreements. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-6.3: Safety.** Promote safety in parks by implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) features—such as proper lighting, clear sightlines, surveillance, and strategic landscaping—and supporting Park Rangers tasked with patrols of park facilities. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-6.4: Vandalism.** Reduce vandalism through proactive strategies such as regular maintenance and the use of vandal-resistant materials. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-6.5: Community support.** Create a network of volunteers to assist in maintaining park and recreational areas. Consider mobilizing after school programs, local businesses, and non-profit organizations assist with small maintenance, landscaping, and clean-up projects. (Best Practice)

**Goal REC-7: Partnerships.** Partnerships with public and private entities expand access to recreational and park facilities and services to maximize the availability of resources for the community. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-7.1: Joint Use Agreements.** Increase recreational resources through continued coordination with the Santa Maria school districts, Allan Hancock Community College, and Santa Barbara County. (Revised; Objective 9.1.a(2))

**Policy REC-7.2: County facilities.** Facilitate access to County-owned recreational facilities for city residents through cooperative agreements, ensuring that City and County assets complement one another to provide seamless service. (Revised; Goal 8 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-7.3: Public-private partnerships.** Encourage public-private partnerships to enhance recreational amenities and programming where public amenities are not available. (Revised; Goal 9 Implementation Programs)

**Policy REC-7.4: Programming partnerships.** Partner with local organizations to develop a multipurpose recreational facility for outdoor events, replacing the use of City parking lots for large gatherings and providing dedicated space for cultural and community activities. (Community Input)

**Goal REC-8: Resilient parks.** Parks and recreational spaces are resilient to environmental challenges and enhance local biodiversity. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-8.1: Protection of open space.** Preserve and expand open spaces that provide ecological and scenic benefits for residents. (Revised; Objective 9.1.f)

**Policy REC-8.2: Flood protection.** Incorporate flood management strategies into park areas, utilizing green spaces for stormwater detention to reduce flood risk and enhance public safety. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-8.3: Dual use infrastructure.** New and existing retardation basins, drainage easements, utility easements, and open space corridors may be improved for recreational purposes as conditions to development, only in cases where it is determined that the infrastructure serves a public benefit, such as a regional recreation space for use by the general public (i.e. sports field), and whose design, configuration, size, and public access meet the requirements of the Recreation and Parks Department and the Public Works Department. (Retained; Objective 9.1.d)

**Policy REC-8.4: Sustainable landscaping.** Promote the use of native plants and drought tolerant landscaping to enhance ecological value, reduce water consumption, and support local wildlife. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-8.5: Tree canopy and shade.** Expand tree canopy coverage in parks to provide shade, reduce urban heat island effects, and enhance visitor comfort. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-8.6: Biodiversity.** Support biodiversity in parks and open spaces by curating facilities that enable species movement while integrating ecological design and educational signage to enhance public awareness of urban conservation. (Best Practice)

**Policy REC-8.7: Green infrastructure.** Incorporate green infrastructure elements, such as bioswales and permeable surfaces, into parks to manage stormwater and improve water quality. (Best Practice)