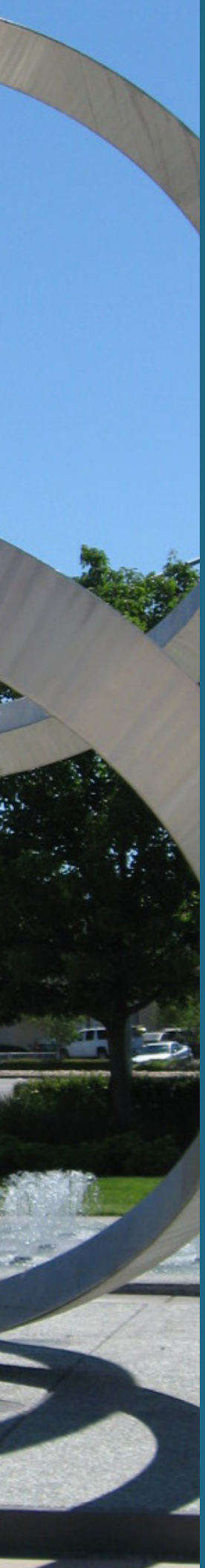
9 recreation, parks and community services



Introduction

Cupertino's parks, recreation programs and community services complement the built and natural environments and enhance the community. They enliven our Neighborhoods and Special Areas and help promote health, interactions and community-building.

This Element includes goals, policies and strategies for the development and maintenance of an exceptional and integrated system of high-quality parks, recreational amenities and community services that support current and future needs anticipated in Community Vision 2040. As Cupertino grows over time, the city's parks and recreation programs will have to adapt to meet changing needs. This Element ensures that the City will continue to provide high-quality parks and recreation programs, improve the distribution and access to these facilities, work with other community service providers, and protect open space.

CONTENTS:

RPC-2 Introduction

RPC-3 Context

- Parks and Open Space
- Park Standards
- Park Accessibility
- Recreation Programs
- Schools
- Library

RPC-18 Looking Forward

RPC-20 Goals and Policies

- Parks and Open Space
- Trails
- Recreation Programs and Services
- Community Services

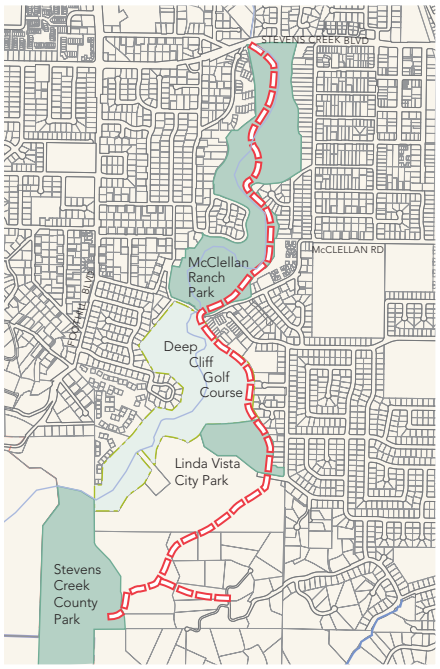
CONTEXT

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Cupertino currently has approximately 165 acres of City-owned public parks and open space areas. The City's park system is supplemented by a network of over 220 acres of local and regional interconnected trails that stretch from local open space preserves to the San Francisco Bay. In addition, there are many acres of open space preserves surrounding the city that are operated and maintained by regional agencies and districts, including over 40 acres of open space negotiated through public access agreements. **Figures RPC-1** and **RPC-2** show the locations of open space areas within and near Cupertino.

Local residents, visitors and employees also enjoy a wide range of community services provided by the City and other agencies and districts. Looking towards the future, the City will have to manage its resources effectively and coordinate with other agency providers to ensure that the community's growing and changing needs are met. The following is a summary of the future direction for the City's approach to planning, designing and managing open space to ensuring the community's continued health and quality of life.

FIGURE RPC-1
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE STEVENS CREEK CORRIDOR



Legend

- Existing City/County Public Open Space
- Existing Private Open Space
- Proposed Open Space Linkage

(Based on the September 23, 2002 Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Study)

N

0 0.5 1 Mile
0 1000 2000 3000 Feet
0 500 1000 Meters

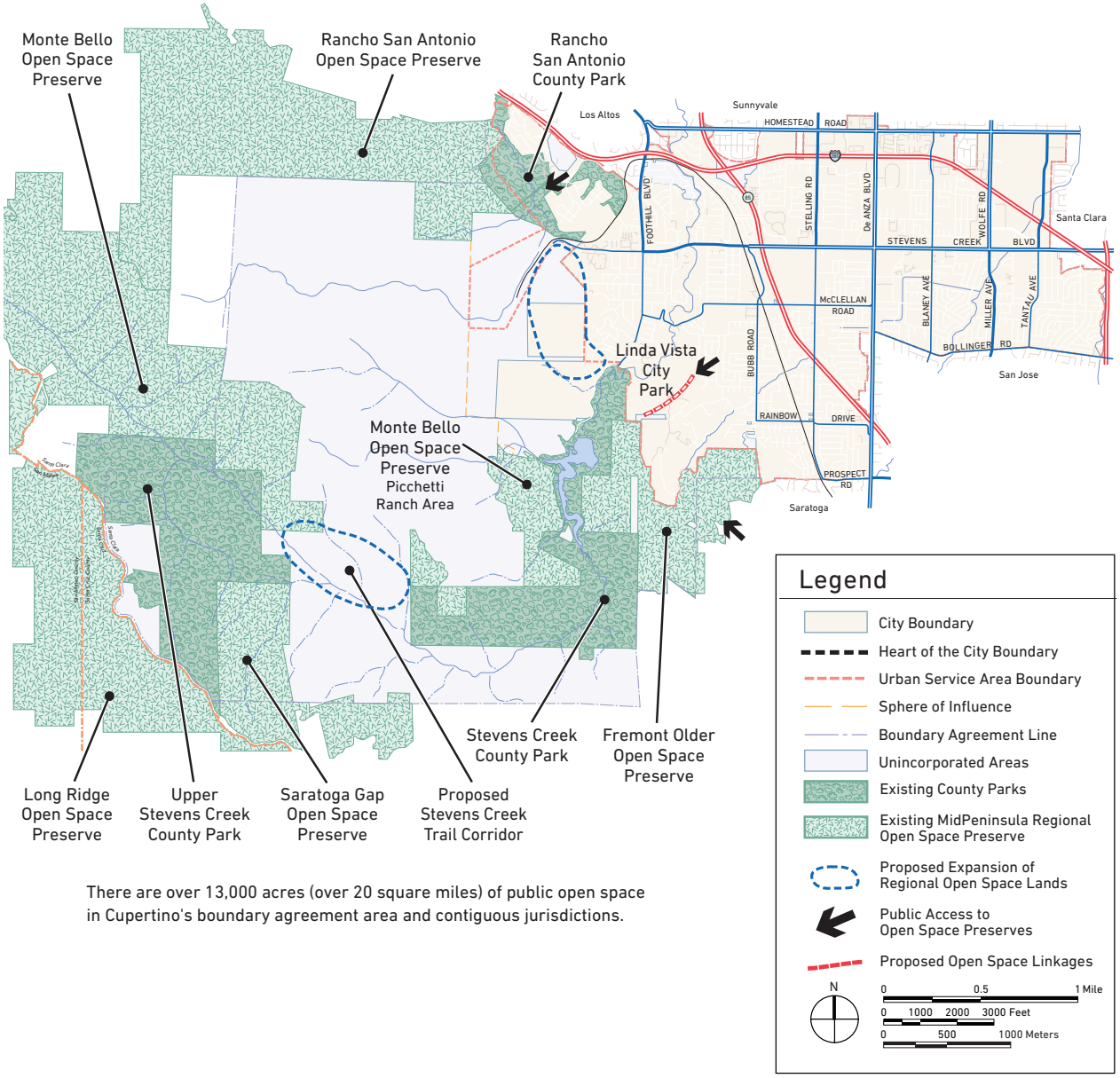
REGIONAL RESOURCES

Several public agencies share the task of acquiring and maintaining open space for the enjoyment within Cupertino and neighboring cities. Cupertino's land uses in and around these areas typically include low-intensity residential uses, which are consistent with protecting open space areas.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District was created in 1972 and manages about 62,000 acres of mountainous, foothill and bayland open space in 26 open space preserves. Preserves adjacent to Cupertino are located to the south and west around the foothills, and include Rancho San Antonio, Pichetti Ranch and Fremont Older.

FIGURE RPC-2
OPEN SPACE



There are over 13,000 acres (over 20 square miles) of public open space in Cupertino's boundary agreement area and contiguous jurisdictions.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS

The Santa Clara County park program was a voter-approved measure to acquire and develop a regional park system. County parks adjacent to Cupertino are located near the southwestern boundary of the city. The County Park plan emphasizes completing Upper Stevens Creek Park and its connection to Stevens Creek near Cupertino. Because the upper portions of Stevens Canyon are environmentally important, the County Parks and Recreation Department has made a commitment to purchase lands to connect these two parks. In 1997, as part of the development of a portion of the San Jose Diocese's St. Joseph's Seminary property, the County was able to acquire 133 acres of open space to add to its original holdings in the Rancho San Antonio County Park (which is now managed by the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District).

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT OPEN SPACE AREAS

Trails along creeks owned and managed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District supplement Cupertino's overall open space and park system. The District helped with the acquisition of open space lands within McClellan Ranch Park. The District works with cities and the county to provide access to creekside trails and parks for recreational opportunities.

CITY COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The City has an excellent system of community and neighborhood parks that provide a place for community gathering, recreation and healthy programs. All existing parks and open space areas are shown in **Figure RPC-3** and listed in **Table RPC-1**.

Community parks include Memorial Park and the Stevens Creek corridor area. Memorial Park is an urban park and facility venue for festivals located in the Heart of the City Special Area. The Sports Center, located at the intersection of Stevens Creek Boulevard and Stelling Road, provides a gym and tennis facilities. The Sports Center also has a small facility where teens can gather and play indoor sports. A Senior Center is located at the intersection of Stevens Creek Boulevard and Mary Avenue, which runs programs for seniors in Cupertino. The Quinlan Community Center, located on Stelling Road, runs the bulk of the art, dance, music and other community programs. All of these facilities are located around Memorial Park.

FIGURE RPC-3
PARK AREAS

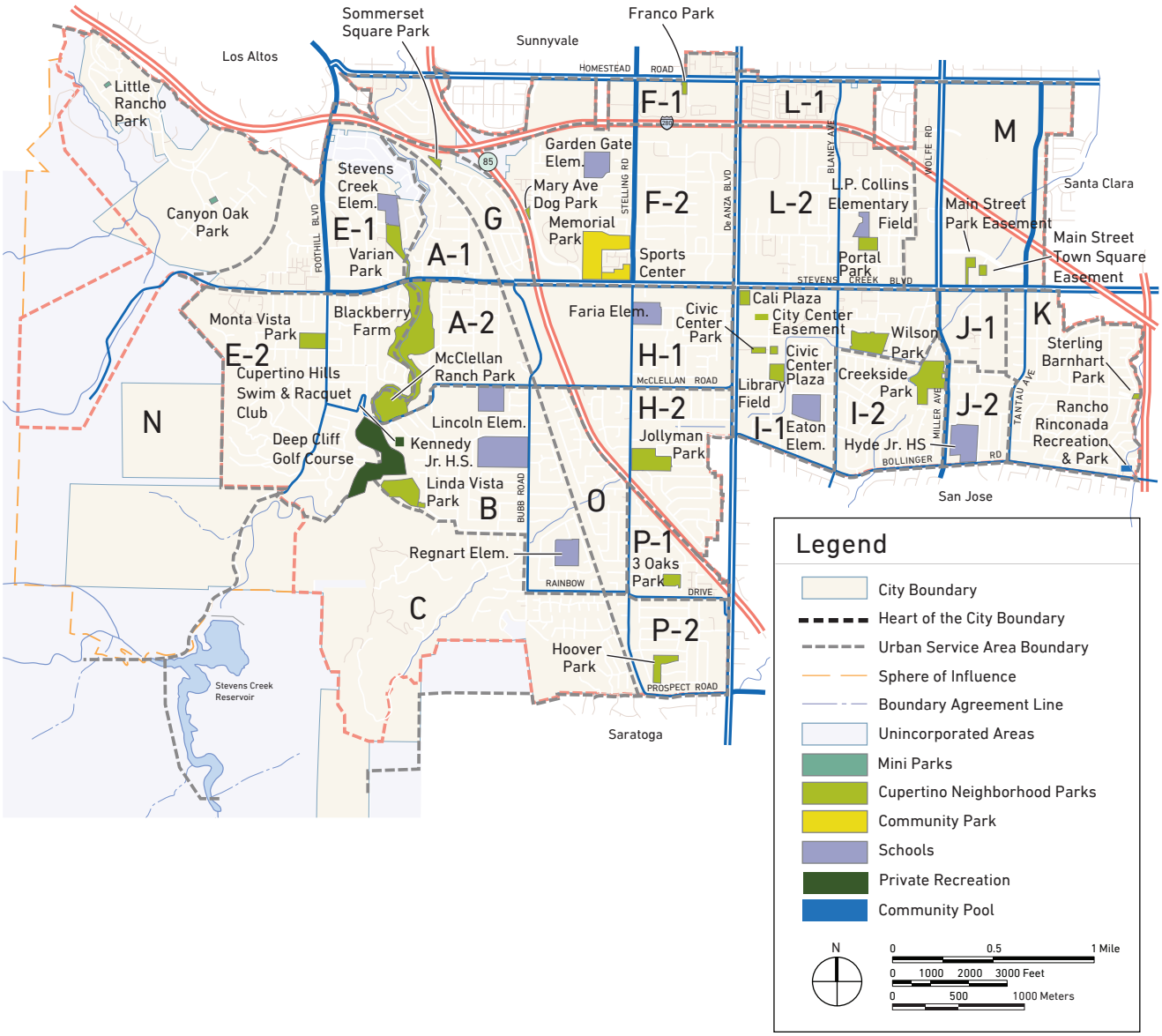


Table RPC-1 Existing Park and Recreation Acreage by Area

AREA	RES PARKS/ OPEN SPACE	ACRE	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	ACRE	COMMUNITY PARK	ACRE	SCHOOL	ACRE
A-1								
A-2	Stocklmeir Ranch Blesch Parcel Stevens Creek Trail	5.0 0.6 2.4			McClellan Ranch McClellan Ranch West (Simms Property) Blackberry Farm Park Blackberry Farm Golf Course	16.0 3.0 21.5 16.5		
B	Cupertino Hills Swim and Racquet Club***	2.98	Linda Vista	11.0			Monta Vista HS Kennedy Jr. HS Lincoln Elem. Regnant Elem.	10.0* 9.0 3.0 3.0
C								
E-1			Varian Park	6.0			Stevens Ck. Elem	3.0
E-2			Monta Vista	6.0				
F-1	Forge Apts	0.5*	Villa Serra	0.61	Franco Park	0.61	Homestead HS	10.0*
F-2					Memorial Park Sports Center	20.0 6.2	Garden Gate Elem.	3.0
G			Sommerset Square	2.0	Mary Avenue Dog Park	0.5		
H-1							Faria Elem.	3.0
H-2			Jollyman	11.5				
I-1	City Center Amphitheater	1.39*	Wilson Park Library Field	8.0 3.0	Cali Mill Plaza Park** Civic Center Park** Library Plaza Civic Center Plaza	1.0 0.7 1.0 0.5	Eaton Elem.	3.0
I-2			Creekside	13.0				
J-1							Cupertino HS	10.0*
J-2							Hyde Jr. HS Sedgewick Elem.	6.0 4.0*
K	Rancho Rinconada Swim Rec Facility**	2.0	Sterling Barnhart	0.6				
L-1								
L-2			Portal Park	4.0			Collins Elem. Portal Elem.	3.0 1.71*
M	Hampton Apt Arioso Apts	0.5* 0.5*			Main Street Park Easement Town Square Easement	.75 0.8		
N	Oak Valley (2) Canyon Oak Park	0.94 0.4			Little Rancho Park	0.34		
O								
P-1			Three Oaks	3.0				
P-2			Hoover	6.0				
Total by Park Type		14.32		74.71		89.4		36
Total All Types								214.43

Notes: * Not included in park acreage, **Privately owned, public access, ***Privately owned

The Civic Center complex, located in the central part of the city, provides an additional community venue for gathering and programs. It consists of City Hall, Community Hall and Library Field, which offers indoor and outdoor venues for meetings, functions and outdoor recreation. The Cupertino Library, a facility owned by the City but operated by the County Library District, is also located in the Civic Center complex.

The Stevens Creek Corridor, located in the Monta Vista Planning Area, has a natural environment with trails, swimming facilities, group picnic areas, historic orchard (Stocklmeir), historic ranch (McClellan Ranch), a nine-hole golf course (Blackberry Farm Golf Course) and related support facilities. Blackberry Farm Recreational area's swimming facilities, recreation programs and reserved picnic areas are only available in the summer, although access to the Stevens Creek Corridor trails is available year round. The City is in the process of preparing a Stevens Creek Corridor Master Plan to review the design and planning of facilities and programs throughout the Stevens Creek corridor. City objectives for the plan include accommodating year-around use of the facilities in the corridor; reviewing and revising the plans for the golf course, McClellan Ranch, Stocklmeir, McClellan Ranch West (Simms) and Blesch properties; incorporating the trail system; restoring Stevens Creek; and addressing neighborhood issues.

In addition to these community facilities, the City also has a system of neighborhood parks of varying sizes and types that are located throughout Cupertino. Each neighborhood park offers a variety of opportunities for passive and active recreation for adjacent neighborhoods and recreational programs for the community. Lastly, the City also has agreements with the school districts to maintain school fields in return for allowing the community to use the fields, when they are not in use by the schools.

PRIVATE AND SEMI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

There are several private, open space and recreational activity businesses in Cupertino that support the recreational needs of the community. They include the Deep Cliff Golf Course and the Cupertino Hills Swim and Racquet Club in the Monta Vista Planning Area, as well as riding stables in the foothills. The Rancho

Rinconada Recreation Center, a swim and recreational facility operated by a separate District, is available publicly to residents of the Rancho Rinconada Area. These facilities are valuable to the community because they often provide services that are not traditionally provided by the public sector on City or regional parklands.

Several hillside and urban subdivisions, and apartment complexes, offer both natural and built recreational facilities for their residents. Private open spaces that are accessible to the public include Cali Mill Plaza at the intersection of Stevens Creek and De Anza Boulevards, Civic Park in the Town Center development across from the Civic Center, and the park at the Main Street development along Stevens Creek Boulevard east of Wolfe Road. Lastly, utility power line corridors in the city's foothills provide public paths and trails through open space areas.

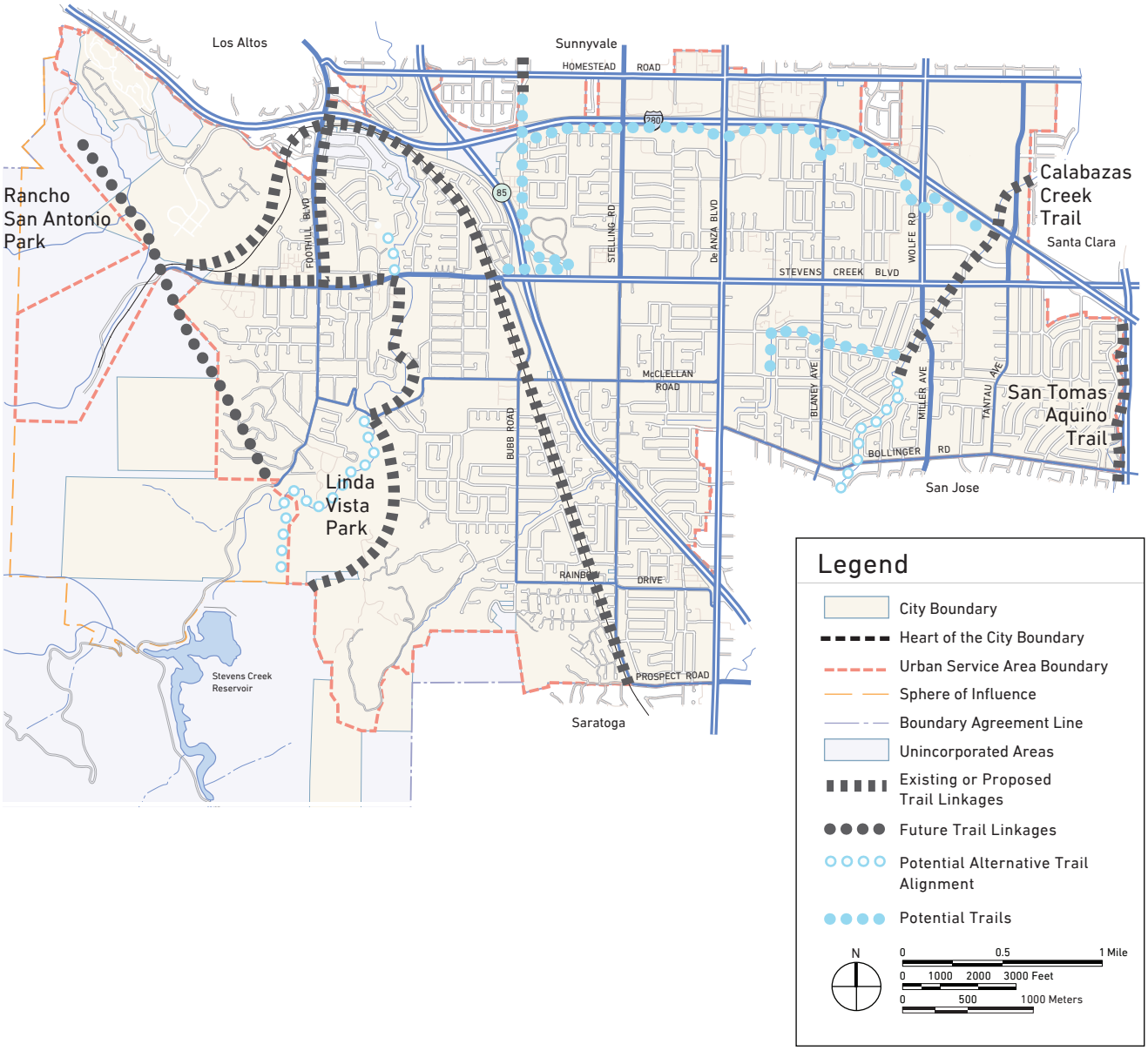
TRAILS

Trails and paths connect people to each other, create access to open space areas and parks, and provide an alternative to driving from place to place. Promoting more trails and connectivity along creeks, hillsides and through neighborhoods is a major objective of the General Plan. Providing access to open space and parks is not completely dependent on trails. Sidewalks and streets can also connect pedestrians to their destinations. However, occasional barriers often pose an issue when they break the continuity. Future plans for these areas should enhance connectivity to neighborhoods and other parts of the city. Each major trail corridor in Cupertino is discussed in greater detail below. In addition to these trail corridors, the City also seeks to expand access to other trails through grants and development review. **Figure RPC-4** identifies major trail linkages in Cupertino.

STEVENS CREEK

The 65 acre Stevens Creek corridor is Cupertino's most prominent urban open space/trail resource. The land is designated for recreation, parklands and farming, and provides flood plain area for the creek. Adjoining properties are zoned for low-density residential use. The Stevens Creek Corridor Plan retains

FIGURE RPC-4
TRAIL LINKAGE



the open space character of the Stevens Creek greenbelt between the Stevens Creek reservoir and Stevens Creek Boulevard, and offers historical significance relating to the Juan Bautista De Anza Trail designation.

The City is participating with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and adjacent cities including Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Mountain View in a Four Cities Coordinated Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Study to explore connections for a trail following Stevens Creek, extending to the San Francisco Bay. The study is currently in progress and is expected to be completed in 2015. The City will implement recommendations from the study endorsed by the City Council. The City's acquisition of Linda Vista Park, McClellan Ranch, Blackberry Farm, and the McClellan Ranch West (Simms), Stocklmeir properties, and more recently, the Blesch property support these planning efforts.

The 2002 Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility study concluded that it is feasible to construct 7.7 miles of separated and on-street multi-use paths connecting to Rancho San Antonio and Stevens Creek County parks. To complete the trail, a public trail easement through the approximately 150 acre former quarry property south of Linda Vista Park will be established when the property is proposed for development. The former quarry haul road connects Linda Vista Park to McClellan Road. It is under the same ownership as the quarry and is necessary to link these properties. Full build out of the Stevens Creek trail is expected to take about 10 to 15 years.

CALABAZAS CREEK

There is an opportunity for a trail along Calabazas Creek that would connect the South Vallco Planning Area to Cupertino High School and Creekside Park.

SAN TOMAS-AQUINO/SARATOGA CREEK

Cupertino's section of the 12 mile San Tomas-Aquino Trail crosses into the city from Santa Clara on Pruneridge Avenue, extends to bicycle lanes on Bollinger Road, and further extends north-south along the city limit between San Jose and Cupertino. The City has explored the potential to create a linear Lawrence-Mitty Park along the creek with the cooperation of Santa Clara County, neighboring jurisdictions and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Discussions on trail options in this area are ongoing.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The 8.7 mile proposed Union Pacific Rail Trail corridor extends through the cities of Cupertino, Saratoga, Campbell and the town of Los Gatos. The trail would link to the Los Gatos Creek Trail, connecting the two most heavily used parks in Santa Clara County: Rancho San Antonio County Park and Vasona County Park. A feasibility study found that this project is not feasible at this time. Acquisition of right-of-way or easements is anticipated if the Railroad goes out of service or if it is able to relinquish right-of-way. The corridor is designated as a proposed trail on the Trail Linkages diagram. Should the railroad corridor use change, provision for a continuous trail through the corridor must be included as a project component.

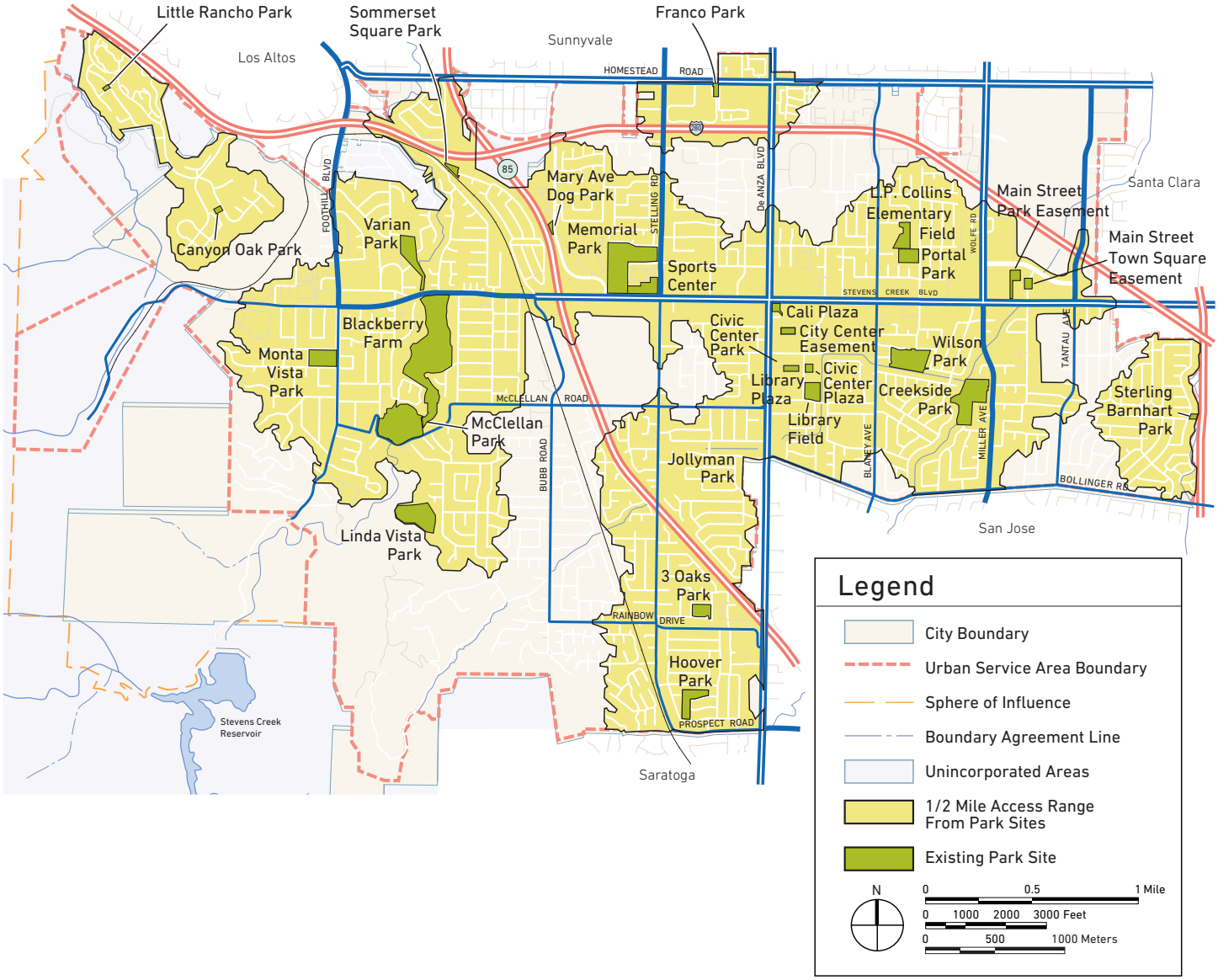
DON BURNETT BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge (formerly known as the Mary Avenue Bicycle Footbridge) links the Sunnyvale and north side of I-280 to De Anza College, Memorial Park and the Oaks Shopping Center. It was opened in 2009 and is enjoyed by pedestrians, bicyclists and school children. Its unique design creates a gateway into Cupertino and a landmark for the area.

INTERSTATE 280 TRAIL

This is a potential trail along the drainage channel on the south side of I-280. The trail has the potential of connecting several significant nodes in the city starting from the Calabazas Creek connection across from the Main Street development to Vallco Shopping District, and ending at De Anza Boulevard. The trail could be potentially extended west of De Anza Boulevard in a later phase. A number of development projects have contributed to a study and potential improvements to implement the trail. The timing of the study is expected to be coordinated with the redevelopment of the Vallco Shopping District and other developments in the area. The City will have to coordinate with the Santa Clara County Valley Water District on the project since it owns the drainage channel.

FIGURE RPC-5
PARK ACCESS



PARK STANDARDS

A well-planned park program incorporates a variety of facilities and programs to meet the community's needs. The program must also be flexible so that it can be updated as the community grows and changes in the future. The City is proposing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that responds to these issues. Key elements of such a master plan will include parks performance standards, a classification system of park type and a recreation program for the community. The master plan will also identify locations where additional capacity is needed to meet the current and future needs of its residents and workers and strategies to bridge the gaps.

The City is fortunate to have access to a multitude of trails and regional park resources within Cupertino, which, along with the City's inventory of available parkland, provides approximately 430 acres of park and recreation area for city residents (or approximately 7.37 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents). The City's inventory of available parkland, which includes community and neighborhood parks as well as publicly accessible parks through agreements, is approximately 210 acres (or approximately 3.6 acres per 1,000 residents). If the amount of parkland accessible due to agreements with the Cupertino Union School District is excluded, the available parkland is 174 acres (or approximately 2.98 acres per 1,000 residents).

The City's standard currently specifies three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. However, the City should continue to explore raising the parkland standard to five acres per 1,000 residents for its parks acquisition program.

PARK ACCESSIBILITY

One of the City's key objectives in planning for neighborhoods is to distribute parks and open space within the community so that all residents can safely walk or bike to a recreation facility. This has the advantage of improving neighborhood identity, social interactions and the overall health of the community.

Figure RPC-5 shows the neighborhoods and the 1/2 mile service area radius for neighborhood parks. The service area map includes walking and biking impediments due to physical barriers, such as freeways, railroad tracks or stream beds. In addition, busy streets may discourage some people, especially

Table RPC-2 Proposed park and Open Space Acreage Acquisition by Area

Area	Existing Park Acres	Potential Park Lands		Description
		Neighborhood Park	Community Park	
A-1				
A-2	65		5.59 33.00	Reuse Blackberry Farm for Community Park
B	28.98			
C				
E-1	9.0			
E-2	6.0			
F-1	1.22	3.5		
G	29.2			Memorial Park contains Neighborhood Facilities
H-1	2.5			
H-2	3.0			
I-1	11.5			
I-2	17.2			
J-1	13			
J-2				Neighborhood Park
K	6.0			
L-1	2.6	3.5		Neighborhood Park
L-2				Neighborhood Park
M	7			
N	1.55	3.5		Neighborhood Park
O	1.68			
P-1				
P-2	3.0			
Total Existing Park	6.0			
Lands	214.43			
Total Prop Parks Land	49.09			
Total All Park Lands	263.52			

young children, from visiting nearby parks. The Complete Streets policies in the Mobility Element will work in tandem with parks planning to ensure that key intersections connecting neighborhoods to services are improved for pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Table RPC-2 shows the park and open space acreage proposed by area. Acquisition strategies will include agreements to allowing community use of school sites, expanding and making modifications to existing parks, leveraging State and regional funding, and park dedication requirements for major new developments.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The City offers a variety of recreation programs for residents ranging from pre-school age children to its seniors. These include sports, arts, educational programs, teen programs, senior programs and services, special festivals and events and other activities. As the community profile changes, these programs will have to evolve to address their specific needs. The City is continuously working to refine and revise its programs to serve its population, while ensuring that the programs can be mostly maintained by fees charged. Programs such as environmental education, health and wellness, after school programs, art and cultural diversity programs, science and math camps, and adventure programs are examples of programs that are growing in need and popularity.

SCHOOLS

Cupertino is served by excellent institutions of public education. Cupertino Union School District, Fremont Union High School District and Foothill-De Anza Community College District provide nationally acclaimed elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. This group of school districts is one of the primary attractions of Cupertino for home buyers, particularly families with school-age children. While the City is not directly involved in the provision of education, it does control growth and development that can affect schools by increasing student enrollment beyond the means of schools to service them. In turn, it is crucial for the City to continue working directly with the school districts to maintain their current high quality.

In addition, the City should continue to coordinate with schools to partner on open space and cultural opportunities for community use. The City is already implementing, and hopes to expand, the field maintenance agreements with schools to allow community use when these facilities are not in use by schools. The City will also explore partnerships with De Anza College and the school districts to make available their theater, tennis courts and community meeting spaces for use by community groups.

LIBRARY

The Cupertino Library, operated by the Santa Clara County Library under the Joint Powers Authority Agreement, is an important community resource. The City continues to contribute to the library's annual operating costs, which are necessary to implement and enhance services provided by the County Library. In addition, the City built a new 54,000 square foot library in 2004, which replaced an outdated 23,000 square foot library. This new facility was needed to accommodate the needs of the growing community. Cupertino Library is now a key community destination in the Civic Center and runs a variety of reading programs and other community activities. A Civic Center Master Plan is currently being developed to meet the facility and parking needs of the various site elements, including the Library, Library Field, City Hall, Community Hall, and the plaza.

LOOKING FORWARD

As the Cupertino community grows and changes in age, diversity and ability, the City's parks and recreation programs will have to adjust to meet those needs. In cases where needed services are not provided by the City, the City will partner with other providers to ensure that community goals and expectations are met. The City will also have to look for ways to expand and deliver services in a manner that is fiscally-responsible by partnering with public agencies, service providers and private development, and looking for grants to supplement funding for projects. The City will also have to continually update its portfolio of facilities and recreation services to prioritize programs that are most needed and can serve the community in an equitable manner. The City should also explore ways to take advantage of sustainable practices to reduce facility maintenance costs.

The following are ways the City will address key challenges and opportunities facing Cupertino:

1. **EXPAND RECREATION FACILITIES.**
   As the City realizes added growth anticipated in Community Vision 2040 it will have to look at expanding facilities and programs. These can be achieved through careful master planning, implementation of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and partnering with agencies and private developers to increase park and open space.

2. **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS.**
   In the future, the City should look to balancing its recreation facilities so that each neighborhood and special area has easy access to parks and recreation services. Strategies to achieve this include removing physical barriers and improving pedestrian and bicycle paths to such facilities, prioritizing areas that are deficient in park space, retrofitting facilities and revising programs to meet community needs.

3 **COLLABORATION.**
The City will rely heavily on partnerships and collaboration with other service providers in sharing facilities and services, and ensuring that City plans meet the community's current and future needs. This will allow the City to deliver services in a manner that is efficient and fiscally responsible.

4 **SUSTAINABILITY.**
The City should explore ways to redevelop, build and maintain facilities and parks in an environmentally sustainable manner. Such practices will allow the City to reduce maintenance costs for buildings and landscaping, while also improving community health.

5 **FUNDING.**
The City should continue to explore ways to deliver services in a fiscally responsible manner by identifying new sources of funding through grants, working with developers to expand facilities and services, sharing facilities with other agencies and school districts, and reviewing recreation programs to ensure that they meet demand.

GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies in this section provide guidance on how the City can continue to serve the needs of the community through the growth and change in the horizon of Community Vision 2040.

GOAL RPC-1

Create a full range of park and recreational resources and preserve natural resources

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Parks and open space policies outline acquisition, development, distribution, access and maintenance of parkland in Cupertino in order to ensure that all residents enjoy easy access to these areas.

POLICY RPC-1.1: PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Prepare a citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan that outlines policies and strategies to plan for the communities open space and recreational needs.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-1.1.1: Stevens Creek Corridor Master Plan.
Prepare a master plan for the park and open space corridor along Stevens Creek including McClellan Ranch, McClellan Ranch West, Blackberry Farm, the Blackberry Farm golf course, Stocklmeir and Blesch properties and the Nathan Hall Tank House area. The plan should address a fiscally sustainable strategy that allows year-round community use of the park system, while preserving the areas natural resources and addressing neighborhood issues including connectivity and buffers.

RPC-1.1.2: Civic Center Master Plan.
Prepare a master plan that addresses the needs of the elements in the Civic Center area including City Hall, Community Hall, Library Field, Library programming, function and meeting space and community gathering space and parking needs.

POLICY RPC-1.2: PARKLAND STANDARDS.

Continue to implement a parkland acquisition and implementation program that provides a minimum of three acres per 1,000 residents.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-1.2.1: Park Size.
Require target for parks based on function and activity supported as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. While the preferred size for most neighborhood parks is about 3.5 acres for flexibility of use, smaller size parks may be considered based on opportunities and circumstances.

RPC-1.2.2: Amend Parkland Standard.
Explore increasing the parkland standard to five acres per 1,000 residents as part of the citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

POLICY RPC-1.3: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Ensure that CIP projects reflect the goals and policies identified in Community Vision 2040, establishing a criteria for ranking CIP proposals for the highest and best selection of community projects.

GOAL RPC-2

Distribute parks and open space throughout the community and provide services, and safe and easy access, to all residents and workers

POLICY RPC-2.1: PARKLAND ACQUISITION

The City's parkland acquisition strategy should be based upon three broad objectives:

- Distributing parks equitably throughout the City;
- Connecting and providing access by providing paths, improved pedestrian and bike connectivity and signage; and
- Obtaining creek lands and restoring creeks and other natural open space areas, including strips of land adjacent to creeks that may be utilized in creating buffer areas, trails and trail amenities.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-2.1.1: Dedication of Parkland.
New developments, in areas where parkland deficiencies have been identified, should be required to dedicate parkland rather than paying in-lieu fees.

RPC-2.1.2: Public Use of School Sites.
Zone all public school sites for public use to allow for the public to use sites, when not in use by schools, through shared arrangements.

RPC-2.1.3: Acquisition of Surplus Properties.
Explore acquisition of surplus school and agency properties for parkland. Take advantage of the Naylor Act to purchase surplus school sites.

POLICY RPC-2.2: PRIVATE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Encourage the continued existence and profitability of private open space and recreation facilities through incentives and development controls.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-2.2.1: Existing Facilities.
Encourage the continued existence of private recreational facilities through land use zoning and incentives.

RPC-2.2.2: New Facilities.

- Require major developments to incorporate private open space and recreational facilities, and seek their cooperation in making the spaces publicly accessible.
- Where feasible, ensure park space is publicly accessible (as opposed to private space).
- Encourage active areas to serve community needs. However, a combination of active and passive areas can be provided based on the setting.
- Integrate park facilities into the surroundings.
- If public parkland is not dedicated, require park fees based on a formula that considers the extent to which the publicly-accessible facilities meet community need.

POLICY RPC-2.3: PARKLAND DISTRIBUTION

Strive for an equitable distribution of parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. Park acquisition should be based on the following priority list. Accessibility to parks should be a component of the acquisition plan.

- High Priority: Parks in neighborhoods or areas that have few or no park and recreational areas.
- Medium Priority: Parks in neighborhoods that have other agency facilities such as school fields and district facilities, but no City parks.
- Low Priority: Neighborhoods and areas that have park and recreational areas which may be slightly less than the adopted City's parkland standard.
- Private Development: Consider pocket parks in new and renovated projects to provide opportunities for publicly-accessible park areas.

POLICY RPC-2.4: CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS

Ensure that each home is within a half-mile walk of a neighborhood park or community park with neighborhood facilities; ensure that walking and

biking routes are reasonably free of physical barriers, including streets with heavy traffic; provide pedestrian links between parks, wherever possible; and provide adequate directional and site signage to identify public parks.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-2.4.1: Pedestrian and Bike Planning.
Implement recommendations in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans to link employment and special areas, and neighborhood to services including parks, schools and neighborhood shopping.

RPC-2.4.2: Signage.
Adopt and maintain a master signage plan for all public parks to ensure adequate and consistent signage is provided to identify public recreational areas.

POLICY RPC-2.5: RANGE OF PARK AMENITIES

Provide parks and recreational facilities for a variety of recreational activities.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-2.5.1: Special Needs.
Extend recreational opportunities for special needs groups (seniors, disabled, visually-challenged, etc.) by making improvements to existing facilities and trails.

RPC-2.5.2: Recreational Facilities.
Explore the possibility of providing additional access to existing facilities such as gymnasiums, swimming pools and tennis courts.

RPC-2.5.3: Community Gardens.
Encourage community gardens, which provide a more livable environment by controlling physical factors such as temperature, noise, and pollution.

GOAL RPC-3

Preserve and enhance access to parks that have significant natural resources

POLICY RPC-3.1: PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS

Design parks to utilize natural features and the topography of the site in order to protect natural features and keep maintenance costs low.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-3.1.1: Native Planting.
Maximize the use of native plants and drought-tolerant planting.

RPC-3.1.2: Natural Habitat.
Where possible, restore and provide access to creeks and riparian habitat.

RPC-3.1.3: Nature Play Areas.
Where appropriate, consider establishing Nature Play Areas in lieu of the more conventional play equipment.

GOAL RPC-4

Integrate parks and public facilities within neighborhoods and areas

POLICY RPC-4.1: RECREATIONAL INTENSITY

Design parks appropriately to address the facility and recreational programming required by each special area and neighborhood based on current and future plans for the areas.

POLICY RPC-4.2: PARK SAFETY

Design parks to enhance public safety by providing visibility to the street and access for public safety responders.

GOAL RPC-5

Create an interconnected system of multi-use trails and provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access through the city and connections to local nodes and destinations

TRAILS

Trails policies encourage the provision of a system of linear connections along creeks, utility rights-of-way and other corridors in order to provide recreational opportunities, improve pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the city, improve safety, and preserve natural resources.

POLICY RPC-5.1: OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL LINKAGES

Dedicate or acquire open space land along creeks and utility through regional cooperation, grants and private development review.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-5.1.1: Pedestrian and Bike Planning. Implement recommendations in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that link trails and open space to neighborhoods and special areas.

RPC-5.1.2: Trail Projects. Implement trail projects described in this Element; evaluate any safety, security and privacy impacts and mitigations associated with trail development; and work with affected neighbors in locating trails to ensure that their concerns are appropriately addressed.

RPC-5.1.3: Dedicated Trail Easements. Require dedication or easements for trails, as well as their implementation, as part of the development review process, where appropriate.

RPC-5.1.4: Joint Use Agreement. Establish a Joint Use Agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District that enhances the implementation of a trail program which increases the use of, and sets standards and measures for, creek trails.

POLICY RPC-5.2: PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATHS

Develop a citywide network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways to connect employment centers, shopping areas and neighborhoods to services including parks, schools, libraries and neighborhood centers.

GOAL RPC-6

Create and maintain a broad range of recreation programs and services that meet the needs of a diverse population

RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Recreation programs and services policies provide guidance for the implementation of programs that serve the changing and growing needs of the community in order to ensure an exceptional quality of life.

POLICY RPC-6.1: DIVERSE PROGRAMS

Ensure that the City continues to offer a wide range of programs to serve diverse populations of all ages and abilities.

POLICY RPC-6.2: PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance the city's recreational programs and library service through partnerships with other agencies and non-profit organizations. Maintain and strengthen existing agreements with agencies and non-profit organizations, including the Library District, to ensure progressive excellence in the facilities, programs, and services provided to the diverse and growing Cupertino population.

POLICY RPC-6.3: ART AND CULTURE

Utilize parks as locations of art and culture and to educate the community about the city's history, and explore the potential to use art in facilities and utilities when located in parks.

POLICY RPC-6.4: LIBRARY SERVICE

Encourage the library to continue to improve service levels by incorporating new technology and expanding the library collections and services.

GOAL RPC-7

Provide high-quality, flexible and well-maintained community facilities that meet the changing needs of the community and are a source of community identity

POLICY RPC-7.1: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
Ensure that City facilities are sustainably designed to minimize impacts on the environment.

POLICY RPC-7.2: FLEXIBILITY
Design facilities to be flexible to address changing community needs.

POLICY RPC-7.3: MAINTENANCE
Design facilities to reduce maintenance, and ensure that facilities are maintained and upgraded adequately.

GOAL RPC-8

Cooperate with school districts to share facilities and meet community needs

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community services policies seek to enhance the quality of community services through partnerships and information sharing with providers.

POLICY RPC-8.1: SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Partner with school districts to allow community use of their sports fields and facilities.

STRATEGIES:

RPC-8.1.1: Shared Facilities.
Maintain and enhance arrangements with schools for the use of sports fields, theaters, meeting spaces and other facilities through maintenance agreements and other partnerships.

RPC-8.1.2: School Expansion.
Encourage schools to meet their expansion needs without reducing the size of their sports fields.

RPC-8.1.3: School Facility Needs.
Collaborate with schools on their facility needs through sharing of development information and partnerships through major development projects.