City of Santa Maria
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan
Appendix

The mission of the Recreation and Parks Department is to enrich the lives of the residents of Santa Maria and surrounding areas through the provision of quality recreation and park facilities, programs and services, while being intuitive and responsive to the leisure needs of our customers.

October, 2013

Prepared by:
Harison & Associates
Stakeholder Interviews

Introduction: The City of Santa Maria is undertaking a Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan and seeking community input to assist in this process. Interviews with key Community Leaders are one method being used to engage community participation. Other methods are Focus Groups, Community Meetings and Telephone Survey.

Interview Questions for Community Stakeholders

1. What are the most important community characteristics that make the City of Santa Maria a great place to live, work, and play?

2. What are the key issues or trends that may be negatively impacting those important community characteristics?

3. What role can parks, recreation and community services play in addressing those issues, and support the community characteristics?

4. What are the most important services, programs and facilities for residents in Santa Maria in the future?

5. What does the Recreation and Parks Department do best in providing parks, facilities, programs, and services to community residents?

6. How can the Recreation and Parks Department improve in providing facilities, programs, and services to community residents?

7. Do you see any obstacles that may impact the Department’s ability to achieve success in the future?

8. What is your vision for park and recreation services and facilities in the next 5 or 10 years?

9. How do you see the Department taking a leadership role in delivering services and facilities in the future?

10. Additional Comments
NOTE: All interviews will be confidential. No statements will be attributed to a specific individual. A summary report will be produced of all salient thoughts presented.
Stakeholder Interview Summary

I. Background

The Department of Recreation and Parks' mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Santa Maria through quality recreation programs and services; and to provide safe and well-maintained facilities and parks, while anticipating the changing needs of the community. The department operates 254 acres of developed parkland in 27 neighborhood and community parks, part of the 1,774-acre Los Flores Ranch Park property, the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, the Hagerman Softball Complex, Paul Nelson Aquatics Center, Elwin Mussell Senior Center, Veterans' Memorial Center and other community centers. The department provides programs in aquatics, youth and adult sports, therapeutics and senior services, Special Olympics, community classes and events, youth and teen programs, and Families for the First Decade programs. It also manages the City's Urban Forest Program.

The Department is undertaking a Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan that will guide the Department as it plans for the future. Harison & Associates was retained by the City to provide consulting services to complete the assessment and develop an Action Plan.

II. Stakeholder Interviews

Community involvement is essential to an effective needs assessment process. One step in the process is community stakeholder interviews. To that end, eight (8) interview sessions were held at the Recreation and Parks Department office on March 5, 2013. The interview sessions were scheduled for 45 minutes; and included representatives from community organizations, local business, and health care, Santa Maria–Bonita School District, County Probation and the media. The interviews are one method being used to engage community involvement. Other methods that will be included are Focus Groups, Community Meetings and a Telephone Survey.

The interviews provided the opportunity to seek insight into the issues, needs, strengths, and challenges, in serving the residents of Santa Maria. These interviews lay the ground work for an engaging and active public planning process. The interview questions served as a guide to an open and candid
discussion about the Department’s programs, parks and facilities. The interview questions are included at the end of the summary. The stakeholders’ comments are summarized in topical categories derived from the interviews conducted by Barbara Harison. There is some overlap and redundancy in the different categories e.g. a response listed as an issue may also be listed as an improvement needed. This summary strived to be true to the responses from interviewees. When the same response was given more than once a (✓) check mark is used to indicate the repeated response.

A. Important Community Characteristics

The most important community characteristic shared by the stakeholders was the small-town feel of Santa Maria, where people know each other. They also stated that it was a family oriented community and good place to raise children. Stakeholders also liked the climate.

- Safe Community
- Family oriented community – good place to raise kids✓✓✓
- Good schools
- Business friendly community✓
- Climate✓✓✓
- Good location
- Small town feel – not urban- people know each other and help✓✓✓✓✓
- Open to working with other social entities and agencies
- Good hospital
- Positive political leadership
- Good recreation facilities
- Safe community
- Trees, hills open space not all concrete
- City focus on serving people
- Caring and generous community-understand the value of giving✓
- City services are great and well run✓
- Lots of parks and open spaces
- Diversity is a positive
- Hard working people agricultural community
- Pro-growth good for entrepreneurs
- Conservative and pro-military
B. Threats or issues that challenge the community character

The list of issues and challenges is diverse with concerns about the economy and funding as well as concerns that relate to the community demographics and the loss of a core downtown area.

- Lack of cultural events/venues
- Some residents can’t afford to pay for recreation
- Lack of support for immigrant population; can have negative community image
- High unemployment
- Lack of educated work force in the city
- Orcutt residents use city parks but city ignores them
- Community does not attract young adults-college grads do not return
- Undocumented residents – anti-immigrant attitude from some of the public
- Illegal immigration hurts the economy they need to assimilate to the culture
- Affordable housing some have not place to live and overcrowded in rental housing (Newlove area)
- Becoming too big and lose small town feel
- Lost downtown – heart of the city need to get it back
- Services, schools, parks, can’t keep up with growth
- Need to keep stable population people move in and stay
- City Budget limited –stretching $$$
- Need to keep a balance of demographics – ethnicity and age
- Different ethnic groups have different values and may not want to participate in public programs
- Some negative image or myth of gang issues and undocumented troubles
- Gang violence
- Outreach/communication with Hispanic and other ethnic groups in their language
- Low education levels 65% with no high school degree
- Real estate market issues difference between Orcutt and North city area
- Code enforcement overdone and permit process is disincentive to business
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- More shopping opportunities to keep agricultural $$ in Santa Maria
- Available open space is limited – have to go to agricultural land
- Hard to get to Las Flores for the experience it offers
- Some of the Hispanic community is not reflected in city leadership
- Some parks run down and hazardous
- Parks in low income areas get less attention
- Furloughs
- Inter-department communication
- Some recreations programs underutilized or not promoted well

C. Recreation and Parks Department Strengths

The key Department strengths noted by the stakeholders were the diversity of classes and programs and good maintenance of parks and facilities.

- Progress made on Las Flores Park
- Well run facilities ✅
- Good maintenance ✅✅✅
- Diversity of Classes/programs ✅✅
- Good staff – open, accessible and willing to help – staff friendly and welcoming ✅ ✅
- Good history of service
- Pro-recreation Commission
- Do well with limited funds
- Special Olympics
- Collaboration with other organizations e.g. ASES
- Cooperation with schools and joint use of open space and gyms
- Sports programs
- Variety of facilities
- Partnerships with business for events e.g. Ice Rink – very positive
- Events
- PLAY as non-profit partner
- Good promotion activity guide and other methods
- Sports Leagues that include businesses
- Allowing use of parks and facilities for other community or private events
D. Important Services Programs and Facilities

Youth programs were the most frequently program considered “important” by the stakeholders.

- Public Safety
- Public infrastructure including parks
- Youth programs
- Open space for free informal play or pick up sport
- Picnic areas for families
- Play lots
- Clean and well maintained parks
- Need some youth facilities/programs in underserved areas of the City (Northwest)
- Better walking and bicycle paths circulation and places to go enroute
- Programs for aging baby boomers—active seniors
- Outreach to teens
- Senior Center needs for future
- Programs for all age groups
- Beautification of the City
- Pre-school outreach and parenting—wellness tie in with schools
- Culturally relevant programs
- Concerts in Parks Events
- Focus on Family
- Educational components in recreation offerings
- Volunteer programs as mentors—youth and adult interface as recreation club (PAL-KEY Club Models)
- Community Walks
- Safe Parks
- Outdoor recreation—trails, open space, parks

E. Improvements Needed for Recreation and Parks

There were a variety of responses to the question “How can the Recreation and Parks Department improve in providing facilities, programs, and services to community residents? There were concerns expressed about fees that can be
high and discourage participation by some residents. Overall there is a need for better marketing and use of all media and going to the people in their neighborhood to let them communicate their needs and interests.

- Better facilities in parks e.g. Fletcher
- Connectivity with other recreation amenities via trails or safe pedestrian walkways✓
- Recognize and embrace Orcutt residents
- More facilities and services in Northwest area – older parts of the city✓
- Youth diversion programs
- Programs for older teens
- Better promotion and information on Youth Center to schools, probation counselors, youth serving organizations, social media
- Access or convenience to current Youth Center not easy for some youth
- Decrease fees on some programs to get more use/participants✓✓
- Programs for young adult professional
- Executive housing Not sure what was intended with this comment
- Upscale recreation and cultural entertainment (night life)
- Attract new young families
- Active programs for younger seniors
- More partnerships with local organizations and business sponsors✓
- More hard court uses for other activities
- Rules and policies can be a deterrent to some groups
- More outreach to Hispanic immigrant community to identify their needs and enhance access to outlets for play outdoors without costs✓
- Upgrade inspection and safety and maintenance in parks✓
- Some sports facilities well worn – what are standards
- Park security/patrol-cooperate with Police Dept. to market that parks are safe✓
- More emphasis on outdoor – back to nature – recreation is health
- Space for free play especially near multi-family housing (overcrowded) – not just organized activities
- Survey communities or neighborhoods to test new ideas and programs
- Go to the people for meeting and listening in their neighborhood for better response✓✓
- Promotion of programs-Social Media, Email include businesses✓
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- Seasonal planning around agricultural industry
- Online facility scheduling
- Outreach to churches
- Events in neighborhoods not just one central location
- Health education, exercise, yoga marketed to farm workers
- Use community liaisons to build network and be the face of R&P
- Transportation coordination
- More features in parks small group picnics more tables

F. Obstacles/Challenges to Department’s success in the Future

The stakeholders expressed that the key challenge to the Department’s success is the uncertainty of funding. There is also concern that segments of the population do not mix well and some recreation programs and facilities may not appeal to all in the same way.

- People do not mix and neighborhoods or ethnic groups insular ✓
- Short on facilities north of Main St.
- Funding Uncertainty ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Low income tax base and decline in property tax revenue
- Ag community image not always positive
- High social cost for some demographic segments
- Community resistance to change
- Parks and recreation needs to be involved in early planning stages of development
- Available land for open space
- Some segments of population cannot pay to play
- Lack of transportation from some neighborhoods to parks and events
- Self – defeated attitude
- Lack of use of diverse media outlets/options ✓
- Inability to move ahead and think outside the box and change ways
- Resistance to risk – need to think like investors and be creative
- Change of Personnel could lose experience and history

G. Vision for Future and Department’s Role
There were a variety of responses to the Vision for the Department’s future. Stated in different ways there is a future with greater community outreach, assertive marketing, more volunteerism, and public/private partnerships. Retention of open space, parks and better trails/walkways for active outdoor recreation are part of the Vision.

- Active recreation✓
- Multi – use trails (walk and bike) off road
- Work with trail groups and developers to link Santa Maria Bikeway and Las Flores Park
- Stronger role and more involvement and outreach in City planning and development process and annexations✓
- More open space – maintain park/population acreage ratio – expansion of city limits✓
- Las Flores is complete
- Regional recreation planning with other organizations: YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, schools
- More outreach and community ambassadors and pro-active planning with community✓✓
- Embedded with volunteers and community to advocate for Recreation and Parks Budget✓
- Recreation viewed as crime prevention and gang intervention✓
- Recreation as health and wellness
- Open fields for play not just organized sports
- Outreach and inclusion of Spanish-speaking community or other disenfranchised groups
- Another regional park near County jail site
- Open space in Northwest area of city
- Cultural events that appeal to broad spectrum of population use events to break barriers✓
- Keep pace with growth and maintenance standards for parks and facilities✓✓
- More public relations and outreach to clubs, business, and Chamber and get them involved – corporate community action teams, volunteer even during work day✓
- Partnerships with business – City should give incentives to business to improve visual blight – they should not be a barrier
• New larger parks
• Youth sports continue
• New facilities and improve existing
• Long tenure staff is successful need to have staff transition plan for to keep staff connected
• Continue with variety of programs and services
• Think outside the box to lead community and bridge cultural gaps and conflicts
• Greater program diversity serving all age groups
• Parks and Recreation is well-funded and staffed to meet the needs of the future
• Build and unify the community – helping people make choices
• Department as leader in the importance and value of play and free time
• Full capacity at facilities and easier access to it online
• Extensive use of radio and social media in Spanish
• Outreach to farmers on work schedule for ag workers and plan recreation
• More assertive in marketing and promotion or services
• Have State of Department public meetings (El Cafecito) Education Program as example?
• Great future with public/private partnerships
City of Santa Maria  
Leisure Needs Assessment  
Community Leader Stakeholder Focus Group Memory  

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Minami Community Center  

Facilitated Group Discussion Notes  

A Community Leader Stakeholder Focus Group was held on March 20, 2012 with 12 Community representatives attending. Organizations represented included:  
- Santa Barbara County Arts Commission  
- Santa Maria–Bonita School District  
- Santa Barbara Foundation  
- Santa Maria Beautiful  
- Northwest Action Plan  
- Vocational Training Center  
- Community Partners in Caring  
- Santa Maria Joint Union High School District  
- C&D Aerospace  
- Chamber of Commerce  
- Youth Soccer Association  
- Santa Maria Arts Council  

The comments and ideas from the group members were recorded on flip charts that served as the Group Memory. These notes are below. If the responses were the same a ✓ mark is noted.  

1. What are the key issues in providing park and recreation services in the City?  
   What are people concerned about?
What is going on in the community that impacts parks and recreation services?

- Safe walkways and parks ✓
- Concern re. gang issues jeopardize safety
- Walking partners match up for Seniors
- Connect walkway and Class 1 Bike paths
- More promotion with other organizations to increase visibility and exposure on the many parks and programs available
- Expand promotion (brochure mailing) to Orcutt
- Need for more sports fields in more locations with lighting ✓
- Availability of gyms at schools
- Need online registration and facility reservation
- Some park locations not safe
- Beautify Santa Maria
- Increase Joint Use
- Expand Public Art (% for art requirement) ✓
- More performing arts ✓
- Improve and repair sidewalks for walking esp. for Disabled and Seniors ✓
- Art a la Carte bring art to the neighborhoods (Transportation) ✓
- Improve access to day camp programs for low-income with improved communication and guidelines for the grant/scholarship program
- Budget/Funding limitations
- More partnerships and Community Sponsors
- Use art to educate and unite for long term community benefit
- Dog park in center of Town
- Joint use of public, non-profit and private facilities
- Community gardens in neighborhoods for underserved ✓
- Arts for teens

2. How can park and recreation services for community residents improve?

- Covered benches/tables to brown bag/picnic
- Quicker response on facility use requests
- More fields and lighting
- More dog parks
- Safe places for sports and activities
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- Performing arts
- Fine arts
- Afternoon and evening programs
- More arts at Special Events (e.g. Grapes & Grains)
- Increase Urban Forest
- Native Garden
- Use latest e-technology with customers for online registration/reservation and promotion to the public (email list)
- Consistent and continuous effort for funds or in-kind partnerships, corporate sponsors
- Attract Regional Sports Tournaments/Events that promote tourism✓
- More sports facilities✓ (Model after other communities e.g. Camarillo)

3. What is your vision for parks, facilities and recreation services/programs in the future? (5 years out) – Group
   What will be different?
   What will be the same?
- Safety
  - Better sidewalks
  - Flashing crosswalks
  - Increase accessibility for seniors, disabled, strollers
- Public Art and Gardens
- Welcoming neighborhoods/ Westgate Example
- Accessible, inclusive and diverse programs for all income levels
- Communal environments not related to sports
- Nature in normal world
- Mobile art, activities and programs
- Get children’s ideas in surveys
- Drag race strip
- Open Space in both residential and commercial area
- Sustain free-thinking and spirited staff
- Strong promotion and advertising with other organizations, Community Calendar for all organizations: schools, non-profit, public and private
- Partnership and coordination for publications (Rec. Guide)
- City Events Clearing house
- Continue activities for disabled Aktion Club, Special Olympics
• More adult classes (dance etc.)
• Diverse and variety of activities to engage and entertain youth
  o Dunk tank, simulators, zip line
• Sustain staff with can-do attitude and accessibility
• Engagement of all
• Set goals and metrics and empower staff
• Family Movies in the Park
• Variety in Special Events for all cultures
• Accessibility to programs for lower income/minority – determine a fee structure

4. What is your top priority for parks and recreation programs services and facilities in the future? (5 years out) – Group

This exercise was done with colored dots. From the list of items under Question #3 Vision, group members pinned a GREEN dot for their top priority and a BLUE dot for 2nd priority.

Top Priorities were:

1. Mobile Art activities and programs
2. Accessibility to programs for lower income
3. Diverse and variety of activities for youth
4. Communal environments (non-sport related)
5. Partnership and coordination of Recreation Guide, Community Calendar Events Clearing House with all organizations
6. Activities for Disabled
7. Open Space in residential and commercial areas
   Others with one BLUE dot Public Art/Garden, Adult Classes, and Safety

5. What needs to be done to meet future challenges and opportunities? – Group

• Involve community like this process- continue doing it with community outreach and support
• Empower People in the organization
• More frequent community assessments like this process
• Set goals – Action Plan is a living/evolving document
• Follow through with implementation and expand
• Be realistic ✓
• Address communications and marketing needs
• Address biggest issues with assignments
• Do not assume machine is broken
Appendix

Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
RECREATION AND PARKS

FINAL COMMUNITY MEETING FOR LEISURE ASSESSMENT - MAY 15

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Santa Maria Needs Your Input at the
2013 Community Meeting Series for Leisure Assessment

The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department wants to hear from you regarding your recreational “wants,” “needs,” and “priorities.” Whether you want more parks or a specific youth program for your children, your input is important. Three community-meeting opportunities will occur in order for the Recreation and Parks to be responsive to the community and form an Action Plan that will serve as a guide for the next five to ten years. This Leisure Assessment Process has not occurred since 2001. Don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of our planning process.

THE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday, April 21
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Veteran’s Memorial
Community Center
(233 W Tunnel St.)

Thursday, April 25
6:30-8:00 p.m.
St. John Neumann Church
(966 W. Orchard St.)

Wednesday, May 15
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Battles Elementary School
(606 E. Battles Rd.)

For more information, please contact the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-6951 extension 290. Para ayuda en español, por favor llame (805) 925-6951 extensión 290.
# Engaging the Community

## Leisure Needs Assessment

### Join Us!

**Community Meeting**
**Veterans’ Memorial Community Center**
**Sunday, April 21, 2013**
**4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

### SAMPLE AGENDA

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<tr>
<th>Approximate Time</th>
<th>I. Welcome and Background – Alex Posada, Director of Recreation and Parks</th>
<th>5 min.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>II. Presentation – Overview of Department Services and Process</td>
<td>5 min.</td>
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<td>Barbara Harison, Harison &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>Pam Wooldridge, Research Network Ltd.</td>
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<td>III. Meeting Format (Break into Groups)</td>
<td>5 min.</td>
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<td>IV. Group Exercise - Park and Facilities</td>
<td>20 min.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• What do you like best about Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?</td>
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<td>• What could be improved today in Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?</td>
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<td>• What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation facilities in the future</td>
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<td>V. Group Exercise - Programs and Services</td>
<td>20 min.</td>
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<td>• What do you like best about Santa Maria recreation programs and events?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What recreation programs, events and services in Santa Maria could be improved today?</td>
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• What changes would you like to see in recreation and parks facilities in the future?

VI. Group Exercise - Vision 20 min.
• How can the Department *Engage the Community* through parks, facilities and programs?

VII. Summary of Comments from Groups and Wrap Up 15 min.

*Three (3) Community Meetings were held with the same agenda and discussion questions.*
GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GROUP PROCESS

Guidelines for a Successful Focus Group

- Participate in the process.
- Exhibit respect, tact, courtesy.
- Listen with an open mind.
- Ask for clarification.
- There are no wrong answers
- There is wisdom here

Facilitator

- Takes care of logistics.
- Neutral process guide.
- Develops agenda and process.
- Keeps the group focused.
- May challenge the group to think objectively.
- Pushes for consensus and closure.

Recorder

- Captures ideas of the group on flip charts.
- Records enough of the speaker's idea to be understood later (may abbreviate, but does not alter content.)
- Remains neutral and does not contribute his/her own ideas.
- Listens for key words to capture ideas.
- Asks for verification of recording - "Did I get your concept recorded correctly?"

Group Member

- See that your ideas are adequately recorded.
- Keep the facilitator and recorder neutral and out of the content discussion.
- Take responsibility for the success of the meeting - it's your group.
- Focus your energy on the content of the problem.
• Respect and listen to other individuals.
• Try to keep an open mind.

Group Memory

• The group memory is the recording of ideas in a visual format, i.e. flip chart, board.
• Helps the group focus on a task.
• Is an instant record of a meeting’s content and process.
• Guards against data overload, but holds on to all ideas.
• Frees participants from taking notes.
• Prevents repetition and wheel spinning.
• Enables participants to check and make sure their ideas are being recorded accurately.
• Increases group’s sense of accomplishment.
• Makes it easy for latecomers to catch up without interrupting the meeting.
Engaging the Community
Leisure Needs Assessment

Community Meeting Notes

Three Community Meetings were held as part of the Leisure Needs Assessment Process to engage the community in planning for the future of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. Meetings were in different locations throughout the City and open to the public. Meetings and group discussion were facilitated by consultants and city staff. At the meetings the attendees broke into small groups to respond and discuss key improvements and opportunities for the future. All groups were facilitated and notes recorded on flip charts and are transcribed here.

Meeting #1 Sunday, April 21, 2013 – Veterans’ Memorial Community Center
Approximately 20 people attending.

Group Exercise Parks and Facilities

What do you like best about Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Variety and number of facilities
- Maldonado Youth Center (multi-use)
- Los Flores Trails
- Good maintenance
- Children’s areas
- Sports Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Nelson Swim Center
- Summer use of High School pools
- Affordable
- Facilities are multi-use
- Children’s activities especially basketball
- Locations throughout the City
- Variety of classes
- Music in the park
- Senior Center upkeep and programs
What could be improved today in Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Better Restroom Maintenance
- Restrooms at all parks
- Paved areas for bike riding and skating
- Murals in the city and opportunities for local artists to create them
- Online facility requests and reservations
- More par course fitness stations
- More regional community gardens
- Adult gym facility
- Field space for soccer demand
- Improvement of parks in the North area of the city
- Lighting of parks/open space to extend hours of use in winter months
- Better regulation, enforcement and patrol of parks for misuse: alcohol use, sanitation
- Skateboard park for youth
- Better monitoring of youth using skateboards/bikes on park structure for tricks
- Bike trails
- Technology/computers at Senior Center
- Improvement of playground areas: replace chips with foam
- More patrol at night
- Pickle ball on tennis courts not in use or indoor area
- More equipment at Maldonado Center
- Dog park

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation facilities in the future?

- Walking and bicycle trails
- Heated indoor pool and classes year round
- Facility for games played by Oaxacans like pelota misteca
  - Depot/Enos is current play field
- Safer bikeways
- Walking area with music and markets, vendors
- More facilities on north side of town
- Expand open space
Group Exercise Programs and Services

What do you like best about Santa Maria recreation programs and events?

- Variety and frequency of programs
- Creativity of events
- Aquatics
- Maldonado Youth Center programs
- Children’s sports
- ASES (after school programs)
- Los Flores Ranch (transportation and educations)
- Arts and creative programs for youth
- Senior Center activities cards, bingo etc.
- Health and Wellness Fair 2013
- Partnerships with sports organizations
- Affordability
- Great staff quality

What recreation programs, events and services in Santa Maria could be improved today?

- Winter concerts in parks
- More music/drama events
- Dominoes at Senior Center
- Technology Senior Center assistance/education
- More concerts, fairs to attract tourists/visitors to the area
- Recreation Guide mailed to all residents
- Community Calendar to coordinate with other agencies and organizations on community events
- More outreach/marketing to bring youth to Maldonado Youth Center
- More child care daily and camps for young children and infants
- Expand ASES (after school) program
- Performing arts, street arts and other non-traditional arts
- Programs for adults 20-50 years
- More communication/marketing of programs available
- Recreation Guide in Spanish
• Expand concerts to Preisker Park and market to North SM
• Market Santa Maria as a destination

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation programs in the future?
• Dog programs-competitions, K-9 demos, Rescue dog demos, vaccinations clinics
• Art museum and performing arts center
• Soccer Sports Complex (similar to Hagerman)
• Bully prevention/education program
• Parenting classes
• More interactive web site
• Bilingual web site
• Focus on off-beat Olympic sports
• Communicate/market what is offered
  o Advertise on Spanish TV/radio
• Promotional discounts, coupons to some programs

Vision for the Department Engaging the Community through parks, facilities and programs

• More volunteer opportunities – clean-ups river bed, neighborhoods, buildings
• Owner/dog fun run
• Expanded media outreach all mediums
• City staff collaborate with stakeholders on a regular basis
• Quarterly monthly meetings with key sector organizations for planning and investment: sports arts, senior center etc.
• Regional facilities
• Equity in fee structure for discounts or scholarships
• Bilingual materials and web site
• Programs for adults 20-50 years
Meeting #2 Thursday, April 25, 2013 – St. John Neumann Church

Approximately 45 people attending.

**Group Exercise Parks and Facilities**

What do you like best about Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Los Flores – walking √√√
- Hagerman – sports/tournaments √
- Parks:
  - Maintenance √√√
  - Playgrounds √√√
  - Availability √√
  - Trees √
  - Landscaping
  - Open space
  - Affordability
  - Open space
- Facilities
  - Affordable
- Skate Park √
- Bike Trails √
- Summer Concerts
- Paul Nelson √√√
  - Pool kept clean √√√√
  - Friendly staff
  - Beautiful facility
- Weight room available to seniors
- Community garden
- Rotary Centennial Park activities (kite festival, concerts)

What could be improved today in Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Parks
  - More restrooms √
  - Trash cans √
  - Benches/tables √
  - Oakley Park √
  - Newer equipment
- More lights

- **Facilities**
  - More
  - Bigger
  - Indoor aquatic center

- **Sr. Softball**

- **Fields**
  - More
  - Girls softball fields or complex
  - Soccer
  - Softball
  - Seasonal use of Little League
  - Improve conditions

- **Weekend leagues in all areas**

- **More concerts**

- **More lighting throughout City**

- **Paul Nelson**
  - Expand locker room into fitness room
  - Path around complex
  - Cool down lanes
  - Underutilized
  - Competitions
  - Expand small pool
  - Adult lap swim (daytime hours)
  - More children’s swim hours (evening)
  - Warm up pool

- **Youth Center**
  - More teens

- **Dog waste bags**

- **More facilities on North side of town**
  - For seniors

- **Expand bike trails/link to park**

- **Sports at different parks/facilities**

- **Coed family oriented sports**

- **Performing arts/entertainers (for all ages) at parks**

- **Los Flores**
  - Fruit/nut trees
o Get schools involved in planting
  o Orchard √√ (Alex Posada Orchard as example)
  o Transportation to
  o More bike trails
- Clean up town
- More trails

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation facilities in the future?

- Facilities
  o More
  o Indoor for families
  o Expand use of
- Indoor aquatic center √√
- Fields
  o More
  o Improve conditions
  o Designate for specific groups/sports
  o Girls softball √√
  o More lights
- More trees
- Dog park √
- Ampitheater √√
- Convert Town Center West into recreation area √
- Add park by Liberty School √
- Paul Nelson
  o Old locker room converted to exercise room
  o Dryland training route/space √√
  o Increase pool capacity for additional lanes √
  o Diving facility
  o Expand small pool
  o Reconfigure/expand to handle water polo and swim meets
- Art/youth program center √
  o Youth choir
- More advertisement for programs
- Walking tracks around parks
-- Bathroom maintenance
-- Pedestrian flashing lights
  - McClelland corridor
  - McElhany and Railroad
-- Night time Farmer’s Market
-- More cultural events
-- Use river bed for off-roading
-- Street performers
-- Link bike trails to park
-- Revenue/promotions
-- More lights throughout City of Santa Maria

**Group Exercise Programs and Services**

What do you like best about Santa Maria recreation programs and events?

- Concerts in the Park
- Family oriented programs
  - Eggstravaganza/
  - Kite festival
  - Autumn Arts Grapes and Grains
- Outdoor festivals
- Communication
  - Recreation guide
  - Flyers
  - With organizations
- Concerts
- Car show (collaboration with outside agency)

What recreation programs, events and services in Santa Maria could be improved today?

- Winter concerts in parks
- Affordability
- Town Center West
  - Concerts
  - Food/entertainment
  - Use of parking lot for events
Appendix

Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

- Use for children’s programs
- **Location of activities**
- **Collaboration to create portable programs**
  - Schools
  - Churches
- **Shuttling services**
- **Programs**
  - Anti bullying
  - After school program
  - Big brother/big sister (type)
  - Umpire/coaching classes

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation programs in the future?

- **Website** – more updates √
- **Volunteers** √√
  - Honor volunteers
  - Incentives √
  - Better organization of
- **Programs**
  - Tech class for kids and older adults
  - Anti bullying
  - Big brother big sister type
  - Umpire coaching
  - Youth theater
  - Youth and adult choir √
  - Wider variety of youth programs √
  - Senior/active aging
  - Afterschool program in addition to ASES √√
  - Adult computer classes
  - Non-athletic classes for children
- **More food at concerts in the park**
- **Concerts atop town center parking**
- **Centralize activities**
- **Collaboration with outside agencies** √√
To add more affordable classes ✔
- Shuttle service for programs
- Community meetings
- Car shows
- Work with youth sports groups to reduce cost of their programs
- Work with swim club – seek input on pool use
- Work with sports groups – seek input on field use
- Work with schools to build civic responsibility/clean-up
- Follow through on requests (PA system)
- Dog park
- Fees should include all residents (Guadalupe, Tanglewood, Orcutt)
- Expand competitions at Paul Nelson
- More workshops ✔
  - Hobby shops – teaching trades to all ages
  - Woodshop, painting, etc.
- Marketing ✔
  - Newspaper, television, etc
  - More outreach
- Concerts in the Park
  - Food vendors
  - Food truck
- Seek more sponsorships for events
  - Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.
- Events
  - Cycling
  - Running
  - Swimming
  - Walking
  - Clean up

**Vision for the Department Engaging the Community through parks, facilities and programs**

- One fee for entire City
- Paul Nelson
  - Expand locker room
  - Dryline area for swimmers
Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

• Diving facilities
• Scoreboard
• Expand small pool

• Volunteers
  o Incentives
  o Value/honor
  o Work with schools to instill civic park volunteers

• Ask for volunteers
  o At meetings
  o Advertising
  o Outreach (how do people find out about volunteer opportunities
  o Word of mouth
  o School district

• Computer classes for adults at Youth Center
• More non-athletic classes for kids
• More skills workshops
• Walking tracks around parks
• Flashing crosswalk on McClelland
• Cultural Events √√
• Off-roading in Riverbed √
• Performers/street performers √
• Farmer’s Market expansion √√√√
  o Night time √
• Lighting in parks √
• Programs with outside interest groups
• Community input re: joint use agreements
• Quality BBQ Competition √
• Marketing/Media (news) √√
  o Market events ahead of time
• Competitions (bands as example) √√
• Bocce court √
• Sports complex towards North West area √
• Concerts in Park √
• Friday night lights (anti gang LA example) √
• Events
  o Running
Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

- Cycling
- Walking
- Swimming

- Holiday events
  - Halloween (kids during day; adults at night)
  - Cinco de mayo

- Programs
  - Senior programs and meals delivered
  - Junior park ranger
  - Children 7-9
  - CPR
  - Fire safety for families

- Community parks
- Partnerships
- Expand use of current facilities
- Facilities on North end of town
- ASES expansion
- Park rangers on bikes
- Increase City revenue via swim meet/water polo
- Youth sports complex
- Girls softball fields
- Center of town – beer/wine and good food
- Offer Community Garden classes
- Outreach to schools – young volunteers

- Active programs
- Aquatics
- Shuttle services for teens/adults
- Expand concert locations
- Community meetings
  - Within special neighborhoods
- Branding (logo recognition)
- 20-50 age range classes (archery as example)
- Variety of sports/activities
- Sports scholarships
- Gymnastics (affordable vs. private lessons)
- Large farmer’s market
• Ways to improve City’s reputation
• English classes
• Camps with English teaching sessions
• Kids day in the park
• Outdoor family activities
Meeting #3 Wednesday, May 15, 2013 – Battles Elementary School
Approximately 25 people attending.

Group Exercise Parks and Facilities

What do you like best about Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Parks
  o Los Flores Ranch Park √
  o Spacing out of parks
  o Well maintained √√
  o Jim May bird management
  o Replace wooden bleachers
  o Wide spread sprinklers
  o Trees
  o Playgrounds
  o Variety
  o Safe
- Facilities
  o Diversity of √
  o Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center √
  o Lawn Bowling (youth/senior friendly)
  o Senior center
  o Multi-use
- Trails
  o Bike
  o Walking
- Community gardens √
- Hagerman

What could be improved today in Santa Maria parks and recreation facilities?

- Parks
  o Walking tracks at parks (gravel-type)
  o Better planning/development of park locations
  o ADA
  o Dog parks (off leash) √
Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

- Revisit cattle grazing at Los Flores (goats can keep weeds down)
- Oakley Park
  - More restrooms
- Buena Vista Park
  - New/repair swings
  - Restroom maintenance
  - Good Samaritan Shelter visitors smoking
  - Police involvement
  - Vandalism
- Preisker Park
  - Bring back duck pond
- Atkinson Park
  - More swings
  - Improve tennis courts (Atkinson & Minami)

- Facilities
  - Sports
  - Gyms (and equipment) for seniors
- Fields
  - Multi-use
  - Maintenance
  - More (similar to Hagerman)
- Bike trails
  - Connect routes
- Community garden for North part of City
- Sprinklers
  - Wider spread
  - Cut grass around so water can reach less hydrated areas

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation facilities in the future?

- ADA
- Urban development
- Parks
  - Rotary Centennial type parks in other part of town
  - Dog park
  - Community gardens at parks
Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

- More fruit trees
- Additional parks (regional)
- More open space
- More security
- More parking
- Better planning/development
- Upgrade senior center
- Fields
  - T-ball with infield dirt
  - More facilities
  - Mixteca field
- Urban forestry
  - Program for education and care
- Trails
  - More
  - Extend from levee to Guadalupe

**Group Exercise Programs and Services**
What do you like best about Santa Maria recreation programs and events?

- Programs
  - Mommy and me soccer
  - Contract classes
  - Gardening
  - Walking program – Carriage District
  - Aquatics
  - AMCYC services V
  - PAL (boxing)
  - Zumba/cardio for kids

- Events
  - Kite festival V
  - Concerts V
  - VIP
  - Tri-the-Bull – good location
  - Bull Canyon – good location
  - Tastes of Mexico
What recreation programs, events and services in Santa Maria could be improved today?

- **Programs**
  - Hiking
  - Outdoor activities
  - Riverbed activities (bmx, off-roading, etc.)
  - Visual art
- **Events**
  - Senior Olympics
  - Autumn Arts Grapes & Grains festival overhaul – more participation
  - **Concerts**
    - More locations
    - Neighborhoods draw
    - Concert in basin behind youth center (bigger crowd)
- **Services**
  - Attract younger kids to Los Flores Ranch (with transportation)
- **More scholarship opportunities**

What changes would you like to see in parks and recreation programs in the future?

- **Programs**
  - Older senior friendly programs
  - Adult sports for individuals (vs.team sports i.e. pickup ball)
- **Events**
  - Senior Olympics
- **Bike friendly**
- **Better planning**

**Vision for the Department Engaging the Community through parks, facilities and programs**

- **Planning**
- **Inclusion**
- **Interactive**
- **Open streets program**
- **Additional community gardens**
• Sports complex/more facilities
• Weed control in parks and water control
• Extend levee trail to City parks (like Bob Jones in Avila)
• Recycle bins in parks
• Urban forestry – environmental awareness (beyond street trees)
## Appendix

### Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

### Exhibit 3

**Table of Information from Santa Maria User Organization Questionnaire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport/Team (Number of Participants from City)</th>
<th># Players</th>
<th>Ages Game Fields Used</th>
<th>Practice Fields Used</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Number of Practices</th>
<th>Fees Paid</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Side Little League (100)</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>April, May, June</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park (1 field)</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park School (1 field)</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park School (1 field)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Babe Ruth Baseball (100)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>February, March</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park (1 field)</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park School (1 field)</td>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>4-12 Tunnel Park School (1 field)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Little League (96)</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>March, April</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Simas Field (2 fields)</td>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>Elga Field</td>
<td>Robin Ventura Tee Ball Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Girls Softball (96)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>March, April</td>
<td>4-17 Hageman (2 fields, sand)</td>
<td>13-17 Maraventana (1 field)</td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>16-17 Hageman (1 field)</td>
<td>No Practices Scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Softball</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Hageman Sports Complex (4 fields)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Hageman Sports Complex (1 field)</td>
<td>No Practices Scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Sessions (80)</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Hageman Sports Complex (1 field)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Hageman Sports Complex (1 field)</td>
<td>No Practices Scheduled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix

**Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>League Name</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Practice Fields Used</th>
<th>Game Fields Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Soccer</td>
<td>Santa Maria Valley Soccer Association (95)</td>
<td>Sept.-Nov.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr.-June</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year Round</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9-17 Crusoe Park (2 fields)</td>
<td>5-17 Attention Park (1 field)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8-9 High School Fields</td>
<td>8-15 Santa Maria High School Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13-14 70% of games are outside Santa Maria</td>
<td>10-16 Santa Maria High School Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>15-10 N.A.</td>
<td>12-17 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>11-12 N.A.</td>
<td>13-14 N.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>12-13 N.A.</td>
<td>9-15 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>15-10 N.A.</td>
<td>14-15 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>8-9 N.A.</td>
<td>7-15 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10-16 N.A.</td>
<td>15-10 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12-17 N.A.</td>
<td>11-12 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13-14 N.A.</td>
<td>12-13 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14-15 N.A.</td>
<td>15-17 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-17 N.A.</td>
<td>8-9 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13-14 N.A.</td>
<td>10-16 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11-12 N.A.</td>
<td>12-13 N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12-13 N.A.</td>
<td>8-9 N.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Notes

- Santa Maria Valley Men's Soccer League (98)
- Central City Men's Soccer League (98)
- Youth Basketball
  - Division 1 Boys
  - Division 3 Boys
  - Division 1 Girls
  - Division 3 Girls
  - Division 4 Boys & Girls

---

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport/Team</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Field Use</th>
<th>Practice Field Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Basketball</td>
<td>June-Aug.</td>
<td>6-7, 8</td>
<td>Bicentennial Park</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Basketball</td>
<td>Sept.-Nov.</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Basketball</td>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Basketball</td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Adult Basketball</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>16 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Adult Basketball</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Basketball</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Basketball</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Dodgeball</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Dodgeball</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>El Camino Jr. High School</td>
<td>No Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Santa Maria User Organization Questionnaire, March-April 2013.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport Team</th>
<th>Comment Concerning Field Usage</th>
<th>Rating of Fees</th>
<th>Rating/Comments re Maintenence</th>
<th>Current Need and Improvements/Amenities Desired</th>
<th>Type of Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Baseball</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Charge</td>
<td>Good - Oakley Park</td>
<td>Currently need 3 fields, league uses park field, school field and maintenance field in grass.</td>
<td>Additional practice field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westside Little League</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Babe Ruth Baseball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Tee Ball League</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>These activities are all organized by the Santa Maria Rec &amp; Parks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These activities are all organized by the Santa Maria Rec & Parks.
### Summarized Comments from Santa Maria User Organization Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport/Team</th>
<th>Rating/Comments on Maintenance</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Comments Concerning Field Usage</th>
<th>Current Need and Improvement/Demand Needed in Next 5 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Girls Softball, Inc.</td>
<td>Good - Hagman Facilities, Maintenance Fair.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>We coordinate field usage through the softball league.</td>
<td>Current Need: We currently need the addition of a new field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Softball</td>
<td>Strong maintenance of the field is needed.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>We have had great experiences in this league.</td>
<td>Current Need: We currently need the addition of a new field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Softball</td>
<td>Maintenance is good.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>There is a need for more regulation.</td>
<td>Current Need: We currently need the addition of a new field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagman Sports</td>
<td>Maintenance is good.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>There is a need for more regulation.</td>
<td>Current Need: We currently need the addition of a new field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: All fields are in good condition and well-maintained.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport/Team</th>
<th>Cross Valley Soccer Club</th>
<th>Current Need and Comments Concerning Field Usage</th>
<th>Rating of Fees</th>
<th>Improvements/Amenities Desired Needed in 5 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Soccer</td>
<td>No questions were received</td>
<td>There is NOT enough field space in the community for soccer. Field space is a barrier that prevents our soccer club from accommodating the needs of the youth in our community.</td>
<td>3 Maintenance</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport/Team</th>
<th>Current Need and Improvements/Amenities Desired</th>
<th>Field Usage</th>
<th>Comments Concerning Field Usage</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments Concerning Field Maintenance</th>
<th>Rating/Comments re: Maintenance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Basketball</td>
<td>Some for facilities as stated here.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Don’t know at this time.</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Charge</td>
<td>No Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMYBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Maria Youth Basketball League (SMYBL)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Adult Basketball League</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High Volleyball League</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The activities are all organized by the Santa Maria Rec & Parks Department and facilities are located at the Department's Community Center Gym. Scheduling and billing procedures are satisfactory.

Edwards Community Center Gym. Scheduling and billing procedures are satisfactory.

Edwards Community Center Gym. Scheduling and billing procedures are satisfactory.

Edwards Community Center Gym. Scheduling and billing procedures are satisfactory.
### Exhibit 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Current Year Cost</th>
<th>Next Year Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Volleyball</td>
<td>No Charge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Field J. High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Gym</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote/Volunteer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These activities are all organized by the Santa Maria Rec & Parks Department and run through our facilities. Coordination, maintenance, and financial reports are handled by the City of Santa Maria. Appendix 4 contains further details.
1 COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY: PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT GOALS

The resident survey was part of the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan. The purpose of the survey was to obtain statistically valid, community-wide input on a variety of issues. Research Network Ltd. prepared a similar survey in the context of the 2001 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

The resident survey is one of several methods being undertaken to involve the community in the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment process. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreating patterns of Santa Maria residents.

Subjects explored in the context of the resident survey included:

- One Feature that Makes Santa Maria a Desirable Place to Live
- Issue Facing the City of Greatest Concern
- Frequency of Recreation Facility and Programs Usage
- Park or Recreation Facility Most Often Used in Last Year
- Frequency of Recreation Activities Participation
- One New Recreation Facility and Program Desired
- Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities and Programs
- Selected Demographic Characteristics

1.2 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

- Telephone Survey of 485 Santa Maria households selected at random.
- Overall margin of error of ± 4.5% at the 95% Confidence Level.
- Interviewing took place between April 18 and April 28 as well as May 6 to 8, 2013.
Just under half (47%) of the residents polled (47%) stated they were Frequent Users (at least 3 times per month) of parks and recreation facilities in the last year. Residents who reported no use in the past year comprised 13% of the total.

The seven recreation facilities most often identified as most used included Waller Park, Preisker Park, Paul Nelson Aquatic Center, Tunnell Park, Rotary Centennial Park, Hagerman Sports Complex, and Minami Community Center.

Of the eleven recreation activities tested among residents less than 18 years of age, the top five participation levels included “Picnicking in Picnic Table Sites,” “Playground/Tot Lots Use,” “Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation,” "Walking/ Jogging/Running/Hiking on Public Trails," and "Bicycling on Public Trails or Paths for Recreation." Similarly, the top five reported activities among adults included “Picnicking in Picnic Table Sites,” “Walking/ Jogging/Running/Hiking on Public Trails,” "Bicycling on Public Trails or Paths for Recreation," "Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation," and "Organized Adult Soccer.”

Nearly half (46%) of the residents identified “Climate” as the one feature that makes the City a desirable place to live. “Small Town Atmosphere” was volunteered by 7% of respondents while 5% identified “Family Here/Born Here” and “Quiet/Calm/Peaceful.”

More than one in four residents (27%) identified “Crime” as the one issue facing the City of greatest concern. A comparable share (26%) suggested “Gangs” as an issue of concern. The next largest response category (4%) included the responses “Immigration/Illegal Immigration/Illegal Immigrants.” “Personal Safety” and “Parks and Recreation/Sports Facilities” comments each garnered 3% of the responses. Nearly half (46%) of the residents identified “Climate” as the one feature that makes the City a desirable place to live. “Small Town Atmosphere” was volunteered by 7% of respondents while 5% identified “Family Here/Born Here” and “Quiet/Calm/Peaceful.”

More than one in four residents (27%) identified “Crime” as the one issue facing the City of greatest concern. A comparable share (26%) suggested “Gangs” as an issue of concern. The next largest response category (4%) included the responses “Immigration/Illegal Immigration/Illegal Immigrants.” “Personal Safety” and “Parks and Recreation/Sports Facilities” comments each garnered 3% of the responses.
Recreation Benefits and Behavior (Cont'd)

- Nearly one of five residents polled (19%) stated they were Frequent Users (at least 3 times per month) of recreation programs in the last year. In contrast, over half (55%) stated they had not used recreation programs in that time frame.

- Nearly half (49%) of households with one or more members 50 years or older reported members using Senior or mature Adult Services and Programs. A similar share (57%) of households with teen members (ages 13 to 17) reported member(s) who participated in classes, events and programs for teens.

Facilities and Programs Satisfaction

- More than 92% of the residents polled stated they are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City of Santa Maria.

- More than eight in ten residents polled (84%) stated the recreation facilities maintenance is “Excellent” or “Good” in the City of Santa Maria.

Improvements Desired

- More than eight of every ten (82%) Santa Maria households identified a desired recreation facility. Nearly one in five (18%) stated they desire no new recreation facilities. Most often desired facilities included various types of trails (14%), various types of swimming pools (12%), soccer fields (7%), and playgrounds (5%).

- Three of every four (75%) Santa Maria households identified a desired program, class or activity. One in four (25%) stated they desired no such additions. Most often desired programs or services included soccer (6%), swimming (6%), fitness (5%) and arts and crafts (5%).
3 COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

3.1 ONE FEATURE THAT MAKES SANTA MARIA DESIRABLE

Question Analyzed: Q.6
What is the one feature that makes the City of Santa Maria a desirable place to live?

Finding

Nearly half (46%) of the residents identified "Climate" as the one feature that makes the City a desirable place to live. "Small Town Atmosphere" was volunteered by 7% of respondents while 5% identified “Family Here/Born Here” and “Quiet/Calm/Peaceful.”

The five response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 1. Remaining categories received less than 4% of the responses.

Figure 1
One Feature that Makes Santa Maria Desirable
City of Santa Maria

- Climate: 46%
- Small Town: 7%
- Family/Born Here: 5%
- Quiet/Calm: 5%
- Parks and Trails: 4%
3.2 ONE ISSUE FACING THE CITY OF GREATEST CONCERN

Question Analyzed: Q.7
What issue facing the City is of greatest concern to you as a resident?

Finding

More than one in four residents (27%) identified “Crime” as the one issue facing the City of greatest concern. A comparable share (26%) suggested “Gangs” as an issue of concern. The next largest response category (4%) included the responses “Immigration/Illegal Immigration/Illegal Immigrants.” “Personal Safety” and “Parks and Recreation/Sports Facilities” comments each garnered 3% of the responses.

The five response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 2. Remaining categories received less than 3% of the responses.

Figure 2
One Issue Facing the City of Greatest Concern
City of Santa Maria

- Crime: 27%
- Gangs: 26%
- Immigration: 4%
- Safety: 3%
- Parks: 3%
4 RECREATION BEHAVIOR

4.1 FREQUENCY OF RECREATION FACILITY USAGE

Question Analyzed: Q.8
Thinking about the past year, what best describes how often you or other members of your household used indoor or outdoor parks and recreation facilities in or outside of the City of Santa Maria?

- More than Once a Week
- Once a Week or 3 to 4 Times Per Month
- Once or Twice a Month
- Several Times a Year
- Once a Year
- No Use

Finding
Just under half of the residents polled (47%) stated they were Frequent Users (at least 3 times per month) of parks and recreation facilities in the last year. Residents who reported no use in the past year comprised 13% of the total.

The facility use categories tested and the share of responses each received from the current Survey as well as the Survey conducted in 2001 is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3
Frequency of Recreation Facility Use
City of Santa Maria

- >Once/Week: 16% (2001), 22% (2013)
- 3 to 4/Month: 16% (2001), 25% (2013)
- 1 to 2/Month: 16% (2001), 16% (2013)
- Several/Year: 17% (2001), 25% (2013)
- Once/Year: 6% (2001), 4% (2013)
- No Use: 14% (2001), 13% (2013)
Appendix
Leisure Needs Assessment and Action Plan

Table 1 below compares the 2013 recreation facility usage responses from Santa Maria residents to statistics derived from forty other California municipalities as well as the 2001 Santa Maria Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Parks or Recreation Facility Usage</th>
<th>Santa Maria</th>
<th>Forty Selected California Municipalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2001 Lowest Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent Users</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Users</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows the share of residents polled in Santa Maria who were Frequent Users of parks (at least 3 times per month) was somewhat higher than the average from our historical experience (47% frequent users vs. 42%) and higher than the responses to the 2001 Survey. The share who reported no recreation facility use in the past year was comparable to the average (13% vs. 14%) and to the 2001 Survey.

Cities Compared

An examination of reported parks or recreation facility use among Santa Maria residents revealed the following respondent groups to be more likely to be Frequent Users than the overall 47% share:

- Households with children 5 to 14 years or age as well as those with any members less than 18 years (64% and 62%, respectively.)
- Respondents reporting a head of household less than 55 years (58%) and particularly those with a household head less than 35 years (67%).
- Households reporting an annual income of $50,000 or more (58% vs. 47% among those with lower incomes.)
- Respondents who rated facility maintenance as Excellent (55% vs. 43% among those rating maintenance as Good, Fair, or Poor.)
- Residents of the City for 15 years or less (54% vs. 34% among those with greater tenure in the City.)
- Those polled who described their ethnicity as Hispanic (54% vs. 38% among those described as White.)
- Residents of zip code 93458 (52% vs. 40% for those living in zip code 93454.)

Subgroup Responses
4.2 RECREATION FACILITY MOST OFTEN USED

Question Analyzed: Q.9
During the last year, what park or recreation facility did you and your household most often use? Please include all types of facilities whether located in Santa Maria or not.

Finding

The seven recreation facilities most often identified as most used included Waller Park, Preisker Park, Paul Nelson Aquatic Center, Tunnell Park, Rotary Centennial Park, Hagerman Sports Complex, and Minami Community Center. Responses for these seven answer categories comprise 68% of the total.

The seven response categories with the largest share of responses in the 2013 Survey are presented in Figure 4 along with comparison data from the 2001 Survey. Remaining categories received less than 3% of the responses.

An examination of reported parks or recreation facility use among Santa Maria residents revealed the following respondent groups to be more likely to be Non-Users than the overall 13% share:

✓ One-person households (30%).
✓ Households without children less than 18 years (20% vs. 6% among those with.)
✓ Respondents reporting a head of household 55 years or older (22%).
✓ Residents of the City for more than 15 years (22%).
4.3 RECREATION ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION

Question Analyzed: Q.10
In the past year, how often have you and each of the members of your household participated in:

- Organized Soccer League Games
- Organized Youth Baseball League Games
- Play Equipment/Tot Lots
- Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation
- Bicycling on Public Trails for Recreation
- Skateboarding at Skateboard Park
- Picnicking in Picnic Tables Sites
- Walk/Jog/Hike/Run on Public Trails
- Organized Basketball League Games
- Organized Softball League Games
- Organized Volleyball League Games

Each respondent was queried regarding whether any of the members of their household had conducted each activity during the past year. Further, they were asked to estimate how often in the past year each member engaged in the activity.
Of the eleven recreation activities tested among residents less than 18 years of age, the top five participation levels included “Picnicking in Picnic Table Sites,” “Playground/Tot Lots Use,” “Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation,” “Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking on Public Trails,” and “Bicycling on Public Trails or Paths for Recreation.” Similarly, the top five reported activities among adults included “Picnicking in Picnic Table Sites,” “Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking on Public Trails,” “Bicycling on Public Trails or Paths for Recreation,” “Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation,” and “Organized Adult Soccer.”

The eleven recreation activities tested and the share of the adult or youth population in surveyed Santa Maria households in 2013 who reported participation in the past year are presented in Figure 5.
It is also relevant to compare the activity participation rates outlined in Figure 5 to similar “benchmark” data collected periodically by the California State Department of Parks. Table 2 presents selected data from the most recent State Parks Survey, conducted in 2008 for the entire State as well as data from the current Santa Maria resident survey. Although not identical methods (or question phrasing), the California State Parks Survey provides contextual benchmark evidence of recreation participation trends that can be valuable in understanding Santa Maria resident recreating patterns and underscore the fact that local recreating patterns can be very disparate from State or national norms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Parks Activity Description</th>
<th>California State Parks 2008</th>
<th>Santa Maria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking for Fitness or Pleasure</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming in a Pool</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Hiking on Trails</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>See Walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging and Running for Exercise</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>See Walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling on Paved Surfaces</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized Team Sports (Adult or Youth)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2% to 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling on Unpaved Surfaces and Trails</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>See Bicycling Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 2008
4.4 FREQUENCY OF RECREATION PROGRAMS USAGE

Question Analyzed: Q.12
Thinking about the past year, what best describes how often you or other members of your household participated in indoor or outdoor recreation classes, programs or events in or outside of the City of Santa Maria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More than Once a Week</th>
<th>Several Times a Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a Week or 3 to 4 Times Per Month</td>
<td>Once a Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once or Twice a Month</td>
<td>No Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding

Nearly one of five residents polled (19%) stated they were Frequent Users (at least 3 times per month) of recreation programs in the last year. In contrast, over half (55%) stated they had not used recreation programs in that time frame.

The facility use categories tested and the share of responses each received for the 2001 and 2013 Surveys is presented in Figure 6.

Figure 6
Frequency of Recreation Programs Use
City of Santa Maria

No Use 36% 55%
Once/Year 11% 5%
Several/Year 20% 12%
1 to 2/Month 8% 10%
3 to 4/Month 8% 13%
>Once/Week 10% 13%

□ 2001 □ 2013
4.5 PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION PROGRAMS

Nearly half (49%) of households with one or more members 50 years or older reported members using Senior or mature Adult Services and Programs. A somewhat higher share (57%) of households with teen members (ages 13 to 17) reported member(s) who participated in classes, events and programs for teens.

Table 3 below compares these recreation programs usage responses from Santa Maria residents to statistics derived from twenty-three other California municipalities where similar work has been conducted as well as the results of the 2001 Survey in the City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Recreation Programs Usage</th>
<th>Santa Maria</th>
<th>Twenty-three Selected California Municipalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent Users</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Users</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the table illustrates, the share of 2013 residents polled in Santa Maria who were Frequent Users of programs (at least 3 times per month) was similar to the average (19% frequent users vs. 21%) but lower than the response rates received in 2001. The share of 2013 Santa Maria residents who reported no recreation programs use in the past year was also comparable to the average (55% vs. 51%) and was significantly above the figure derived in the 2001 Survey (55% vs. 36%).

Question Analyzed: Q.13
Thinking about the past year, what best describes how often you or other members of your household used the following types of programs in or outside of the City of Santa Maria?

- Senior or Mature Adult Services and Programs
- Classes, Events and Programs for Teens

Finding

Nearly half (49%) of households with one or more members 50 years or older reported members using Senior or mature Adult Services and Programs. A somewhat higher share (57%) of households with teen members (ages 13 to 17) reported member(s) who participated in classes, events and programs for teens.
The two program categories tested and the share of responses each received is presented in Figure 7 below. Households with teens who did not report participation in classes, events or programs for teens were probed for reasons for their lack of participation. Two-thirds of responses were "no time" or "not interested" and one-third included "not aware" or "too expensive."

![Figure 7]

An examination of reported program use among Santa Maria residents revealed the following statistically significant differences in the share of Classes, Events, or Programs for Teens Users among examined subgroups of the total sample:

- Respondents describing themselves as Hispanic were less likely to report use of programs for teens (57% vs. 85% among those who stated their race/ethnicity as White.)
5 FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS SATISFACTION

5.1 RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS SATISFACTION

Question Analyzed: Q.17
How would you describe your overall satisfaction with existing parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City of Santa Maria? Would you say you are...

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Not Very Satisfied
- Not At All Satisfied

Finding

More than 92% of the residents polled stated they are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City of Santa Maria.

The response categories and share of responses each received are charted in Figure 8.

Figure 8
Recreation Facilities and Programs Satisfaction
City of Santa Maria

- Very Satisfied: 48%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 44%
- Not Very Satisfied: 6%
- Not At All Satisfied: 2%
5.2 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MAINTENANCE RATING

Question Analyzed: Q.18
How would you describe the maintenance of parks and recreation areas and facilities located in the City of Santa Maria? Would you say the maintenance is...

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

**Finding**

*More than eight in ten residents polled (84%) stated the recreation facilities maintenance is “Excellent” or “Good” in the City of Santa Maria.*

The response categories and share of responses each received in 2001 and 2013 are charted in Figure 9.

**Figure 9**
Rating Recreation Facilities Maintenance
City of Santa Maria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 below compares these facility maintenance ratings from Santa Maria residents to statistics derived from twenty-five other California municipalities where similar work has been conducted as well as the 2001 Santa Maria Survey responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Santa Maria</th>
<th>Twenty-five Selected California Municipalities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Lowest Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the table illustrates, the share of 2013 residents polled in Santa Maria who rated parks maintenance as Excellent was similar to the average (39% vs. 43%.) The share of Santa Maria residents who ranked parks maintenance as poor was also comparable to the average (2% vs. 4%.) The table also reveals that parks maintenance ratings were more often rated as Excellent in the 2013 Survey (at 39%) than in the 2001 Survey (at 24%).
6 IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED

6.1 ONE RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENT DESIRED

Question Analyzed: Q.11

Now that we have discussed many recreation possibilities, what is the one recreation facility you would most like to see added in the City of Santa Maria to meet the needs of your household?

Finding

More than eight of every ten (82%) Santa Maria households identified a desired recreation facility. Nearly one in five (18%) stated they desire no new recreation facilities.

The recreation facility response categories garnering at least 3% of the responses and the share of responses each received are charted in Figure 10.

Figure 10 Note

- Aggregating Trails responses nets a total of 14% including Equestrian Trails at 1%.
- Aggregating Pools responses nets a total of 12% including Competitive Pools at 1%.
- The Programs category includes responses that were described as programs, not facilities.
6.2 ONE PROGRAM, CLASS OR ACTIVITY IMPROVEMENT DESIRED

Question Analyzed: Q.16

What is the one recreation program, class or activity your household would most like to see added in the City of Santa Maria to meet the needs of your household?

Finding

Three of every four (75%) Santa Maria households identified a desired program, class, or activity. One in four (25%) stated they desired no such additions.

The program/community service response categories garnering at least 3% of the responses and the share of responses each received are charted in Figure 11.

Figure 11 Note

- The Facilities category includes responses that were described as facilities, not programs.
7  RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHY

7.1  Demographic Profile of Respondents

Questions Analyzed: Q.1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21

A collection of demographic questions was included in the survey questionnaire to enable validation of the reliability of the survey sample of respondents as well as for use in response analysis.

- Age of Household Members
- Number of Household Members
- Tenure at Current Residence
- Race/Ethnicity of Respondent
- Annual Household Income

Finding

A comparison of the demographic profile of respondents to the benchmark 2010 Census profile for the City of Santa Maria confirmed the reliability of the survey sample.

Table 5 on the following page presents the detailed comparison of selected demographic characteristics from the Survey and the 2000 and 2010 Census.
### Table 5
Community-Wide Telephone Survey
Demographic Characteristics
City of Santa Maria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Population by Age:</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 14 years</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 years</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 years</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Description:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 adult w-o children</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more adults w-o children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Households w-o children</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 adult w/children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults w/children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more adults w/children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Households w/children</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Ethnicity (Census data is for population; survey data is for respondents): |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Hispanic/Latino               | 60%         | 70%         | 69%    |
| Non-Hispanic White            | 32%         | 22%         | 21%    |
| Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander | 4%       | 5%          | 7%     |
| Non-Hispanic Black/African American | 2%       | 1%          | 1%     |
| Non-Hispanic Other            | 2%          | 2%          | 2%     |

| Mean Household Size (people per household): | 3.40 | 3.67 | 3.40 |

Source: 2010 and 2000 Census, Research Network Ltd.
Assessment of Current Maintenance Conditions
And Recommendations for
Development of Sustainable Practices
Existing Park and Recreation Facilities
City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department

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March 2013

Executive Summary

Park and Recreation facilities within the City of Santa Maria were found to be maintained in a variety of conditions due to budget constraints. North Preisker Ranch Park is an example of a Park found to be visually attractive and in excellent condition. Others, such as Rosalind Perlman Park and Oakley Park showed signs of deferred maintenance within park grounds and landscaping as well as needs for capital upgrades.

The NRPA standards are thru CAPRA—Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

| MODE I | · State of the art maintenance applied to a high quality diverse landscape. |
| MODE II | · High level maintenance associated with well-developed park areas with reasonably high visitation. |
| MODE III | · Moderate level maintenance-associated with agencies that, because of budget restrictions, are unable to maintain at a high level. |
| MODE IV | · Moderately low level of maintenance. |

Based on observations and discussions with staff, it appears that the level of maintenance at City of Santa Maria parks is currently in the upper range of Mode 3 maintenance mode established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Mode 3 is considered a weak but acceptable operating standard for municipal parks and recreation systems that are experiencing budget restrictions. Complicating the budget constraints, Santa Maria is also faced with projected population increase, and anticipated demand for new and upgraded park facilities accruing from new development.

The Recreation and Parks Department maintains a significant number of parks with general fund dollars. For seven newer parks, maintenance is funded from Landscape Maintenance Districts established within new subdivisions. These “Landscape District Parks” are maintained at a higher level than those maintained with general fund dollars, although some examples of well-maintained general fund parks were evident. An example of this is the Hagerman Sports Complex.

Overall, the current level of resources available for park maintenance is strained and/or inadequate to fully fund both operation/maintenance and long-term capital upgrades and development. The Recreation and Parks Department, working in conjunction with the Public Works Department which provides support in building maintenance and the trades, is currently backlogged in their ability to deliver on all elements of park maintenance, deferred maintenance, and public safety.

Since the recession that began in late 2007, the City of Santa Maria has not been able to add any new park and recreation facilities. This year, the City has installed a new restroom at Rice Neighborhood Park, replacing portable toilets.
Since Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the “parks budget”, unlike many other California communities, has stabilized. The result is a slight net increase in available dollars when factoring in the minimal inflation rate during the same period.

The City will be faced with continued population growth requiring development of new parks and open space areas, and increased demand for additional sports fields to meet emerging recreational activities. Despite these and other issues, the City has the opportunity to improve on the level of park maintenance and recreation services by modernizing and improving current practices and procedures. As an example, development of sustainable practices will help to maximize available resources and create a more sustainable City for the future while demonstrating to the public the practices, duties, and tasks associated with environmentally-sound park maintenance.

The City of Santa Maria currently has some park maintenance standards and practices in place. These standards can, with modifications and improvements, form the foundation for the development of enhanced operations and maintenance practices. The City of Santa Maria should consider implementing and developing the following:

- The City should consider development of a lifecycle maintenance plan for buildings and park amenities. This should be built into daily operations, yearly capital improvement plans, and budgetary requests to maximize the value and useful life of these assets.
- The City should consider development of a soil management plan which includes regular soil testing in order to avoid issues with plant die-back and sparse or soggy turf conditions. The plan could include at a minimum:
  - Soil type and texture
  - Infiltration rate
  - pH
  - Soluble salts and sodium
  - Identification of limiting soil characteristics
  - Planned soil management actions to remediate limiting soil characteristics
- Establish a park classification system to include:
  - Regional Park
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Community Park
  - Natural Open Space Park
- Expansion of the Volunteer Park Adoption/maintenance program such that it includes training for the volunteers as Park Stewards. The program could include regular fix up/clean-up days and enlist the help of community organizations such as scouts, park users, sports clubs, etc. to maintain and enhance various elements of the park system. Currently, the City operates an Adopt-a-Park program and hosts three volunteer events each year which attracts over 400 volunteers.
- Evaluate additional opportunities to “naturalize” many existing facilities, especially those built near and around creeks and other drainages. This could include the elimination of turf in areas of little public use and expansion of riparian and natural areas.
- If the City moves in the direction of synthetic fields, it is recommended to first establish policies appropriate for the installation and management of synthetic playing fields including:
  - Synthetic fields should be installed only at facilities which also have lights for night-time play.
  - Synthetic fields should be budgeted as a fixed asset and fully depreciated over the life of the “carpet.”
  - A policy that states synthetic fields will be open for play except under extreme weather conditions.
• Institution of a “Yellow Swing Program” within neighborhood and community parks, expanding services provided to those with disabilities. The Yellow Swing is a swing seat designed to help meet the American Disabilities Act guidelines for playground equipment in public applications.

• Installation and operation of a centrally-controlled irrigation system with soil sensors and an automated evapo-transportation (ET) based irrigation control and scheduling system that allows control of multiple sites to exact specifications and daily changes.

• Development of a Maintenance Manual detailing park maintenance and operation tasks on a daily, weekly, monthly, etc. basis. The Maintenance Manual should include existing specifications as well as:
  o Clear written maintenance objectives and frequency of care for each amenity is needed based on the desired outcomes for a quality visitor experience in maintaining the parks for aesthetics, safety, recreation and sustainability including:
    ▪ Landscape bed design, planting and maintenance standards
    ▪ Landscape turf and right of way mowing and maintenance standards
    ▪ Tree and shrub planting and maintenance standard
    ▪ Equipment maintenance and replacement standard
    ▪ Chemical application standard
  o Formalized and scheduled park facility inspections including playgrounds, specialized facilities such as skate parks, high use visitor areas and buildings
  o Design standards for the development of park features such as sports fields, trails and buildings
  o Preventative maintenance plan developed for all park locations

• Development of a process to measure park maintenance success through established performance standards. Examples of what this could include are:
  o Established park maintenance standards and frequency rates
  o Establish and track the cost per acre for each park
  o Establish a minimum of training hours per year per employee
  o Equipment replacement schedules are met and funded to the replacement outcomes desired
  o Establish cost per trail mile maintained for future budgetary use. Best practices for maintenance costs range in the $1,200 +/- per mile. This figure will be impacted by trail length, distance, use and proximity to urban areas.

• Establish an Estimated Annual Water Use (EAWU) for various hydrozones such as turf, sports fields and shrub beds

• Develop a process of evaluation and refinement to measure park maintenance success through established performance standards. Examples of what this should include are:
  o Established park maintenance standards and frequency rates and tracking over several years
• Establish and track the cost per acre for each park and park type and tracking over several years
• Establish a minimum of training hours per year per employee with reevaluation of success of training and new requirements due to legislative changes
• Equipment replacement schedules are met and funded to the replacement outcomes desired

• Development of a Sustainable Performance System with responsibility for the program handled by a dedicated Conservation Coordinator. The performance system could include at a minimum:
  o Native Plant Policy—ecoregion
  o Track Utilities—Partnership with utilities
  o Recycling Program
  o Green Waste Composting
  o Demonstration Gardens
  o Use of Alternative Energy Sources
  o Integrated Pest Management Program reflective of consistently changing needs of an urban park system
  o Habitat Development beyond mitigation sites
  o Community Gardens
  o Public Education and Outreach
  o Stormwater retention
  o Human health, well-being and community values
Introduction

The following report is an assessment of current maintenance conditions at existing park and recreation facilities within the City of Santa Maria. The report also details possible changes in maintenance and operations standards, practices, procedures, and the recommended development of a Sustainability Performance System. Each type of facility and area will be addressed separately in the report with supporting photos, as appropriate, and comments. This assessment and accompanying recommendations are based on the following:

- February, 2013 tours of park and recreation facilities within the City of Santa Maria guided by Recreation and Parks Department personnel and followed up with multiple tours by the author.
- Interviews and communications with Recreation and Parks personnel.
- Review of standards, policies and procedures as provided by personnel from the Recreation and Parks Department.

The objective and outcome of the park site assessment and maintenance assessment were to evaluate, assess, and make recommendations on the maintenance operations of the City of Santa Maria as part of the Leisure Needs Assessment process. Further, recommendations were to be prepared for specific sustainability practices for both new and rehabilitation projects, including ongoing sustainable operation and maintenance practices for incorporation into future bid documents, as well as design and construction guidelines for proposed new projects or project improvements that address environmental and economic sustainability goals. Several of the following areas of maintenance operations were assessed:

- Maintenance standards
- Asset management of City parks and recreation facilities
- Budget availability to meet desired outcomes
- Staffing levels to achieve desired outcomes
- Contract management of park elements
- Facility management
- Cost of services
- Data management
- Performance measures
Current Conditions and Recommendations

Facility Inventory Summary

The City currently operates and maintains 26 parks with a total of 254.23 acres.

Recommendations

The City does not currently have park classifications or categories. They City should consider developing a park classification system that includes Regional Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park and Natural Open Space Park. These classifications could include:

- **Regional Parks** (Over 40 acres of park land)
  Regional Parks serve larger community populations and provide recreation facilities or open space in significant numbers or sizes. The nearest Regional Park to Santa Maria is Waller Park, a Santa Barbara County regional park.

- **Community Parks** (15 to 40 acres of park land)
  Community Parks can provide a broad range of both passive and active recreational opportunities, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreation opportunities for use by a larger segment of the population than neighborhood parks. Community Parks are generally considered to serve several neighborhoods within an area that exceeds a one-half mile radius. If a Community Park is located within a residential area, it can also serve a neighborhood park function and, therefore, is included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks.

- **Neighborhood Parks** (Less than 15 acres of park land)
  Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve City residents who live nearby. However, they also contribute to the overall park system available to the entire community. Ideally, everyone in the City would live within a convenience walking distance (typically one-half mile) of a Neighborhood Park. This is defined as the "service radius" or "service area" of a neighborhood park. Neighborhood Parks should address daily recreation needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Features of Neighborhood Parks may include playgrounds, multi-purpose open turf areas, sports fields, sports courts, picnic tables and/or picnic shelters, walking paths, small parking areas and recreation features such as basketball or volleyball courts.

- **Natural Open Space Parks**
  Natural Open Space Parks are those in which most of the park is undeveloped, and the undeveloped portions contain vegetation, topography, or features that are important to retain in their natural state. Physical public access to natural areas via trails should be encouraged where feasible and appropriate. For purpose of defining this park type, "natural" refers to vegetation and land forms indigenous to the area. Turf, irrigated manufactured slopes, detention basins, weedy disturbed areas and areas landscaped with ornamental vegetation would be considered part of the developed portion of a Natural Open Space Park. Los Flores Ranch Park is the only Natural Open Space Park locally available to City residents.

Park Grounds

Existing Conditions

The park tour was completed in February, 2013, during a time of the year with cooler temperatures and late winter precipitation. Turf areas were still in an inactive growth period with areas of Bermuda grass still showing signs of winter dormancy. The following are significant findings
regarding the condition of park grounds and turf areas with recommendations for improving conditions where appropriate.

- Most sports fields and open turf areas were in fair to good condition with thin growth mass and extensive broadleaf invasion. Several areas, of high intensity use exhibited conditions with significant bare spots and adjacent thinning areas.
- Conditions in need of maintenance were observed at some locations including Armstrong and Buena Vista Parks.
- Gopher issues were present at almost all parks with significant long-term rutting of the park turf as was clearly visible at Oakley Park.
- A limited number of turf areas appeared to be overwatered with very spongy soil and standing water. An example of this was found at Rosalind Perlman Park. Soil compaction, although impacted by heavy sports league play, appears to be a contributing factor although regular turf aeration occurs throughout the park system.
- Shrub beds for the most part appeared to be well maintained and weeded although some areas, especially in the older facilities, were found in need of renovation and upgrade.
- As a whole, park grounds were free of litter with obvious signs of park staff paying immediate attention to grounds clean-up.

**Recommendations**

- Monitor soil moisture conditions and irrigate turf areas to provide adequate moisture for healthy growth while maintaining a playable surface that is not muddy, spongy or over saturated. This will help to prevent tearing and uprooting of the turf and topsoil under normal playing conditions.
- Annually (October/November) test soil to assess nutrient deficiencies, following with an application of appropriate fertilizer and/or soil additives to promote healthy root growth. Soil fertility fluctuates throughout the growing season with the quantity and availability of mineral nutrients altered by the addition of fertilizers, sulfur, lime, etc. and the removal from soils as a result of plant growth and development. Soil tests should be taken at various locations dependent on the plant material and its ability to grow in various soil conditions.
- Develop a Maintenance Manual detailing park maintenance and operation tasks on a daily, weekly, monthly, etc. basis.
- Increase efforts at gopher eradication and/or control.

**Sports Fields**

**Existing Conditions**

At a majority of park locations, sports turf was maintained in a good playable condition. Generally, sports fields and multi-use turf play areas tended to be dryer rather than soggy and wet. Gophers were universally a problem resulting in bare spots, uneven turf, and ruts which have developed over time. Additionally, soil compaction and broadleaf weeds were problems also found throughout the park system.
The park tours were conducted during daylight hours. Therefore, lighting systems on sports fields could not be checked for proper illumination including 1) alignment of luminaries to avoid dark spots on the playing fields, and 2) proper functioning of light fixtures such as burnt out bulbs.

In general, fences, backstops, bleachers and benches were in good repair showing evidence of regular and on-going maintenance. Some benches were in need of replacement as was evident at Simas Park Little League field.

Recommendations

- If the City moves in the direction of all-weather/synthetic fields, these should be handled in the budgetary process as a fixed asset with the “carpet” fully depreciated over the anticipated life of the product. With high levels of scheduled play and difficulty in managing unscheduled play, synthetic fields would eliminate field closures and extend play opportunities. All-weather fields typically cost more than regular grass fields but they achieve payback against the costs as a result of increased field usage and reduced maintenance costs, thus showing a good return on investment. A typical well-maintained synthetic field will have a life of 10-12 years.

- If the City determines a move in this direction, the budget should fully depreciate the cost of replacement over a 10 year period. The dollars saved on maintenance could be used to partially offset the cost of depreciation of the fields.

- All weather synthetic turf fields can support substantially more play than grass fields. Further, synthetic fields can easily be lined for several different sports, thus helping to meet the needs of new emerging sports. When a system considers the cost of land and the cost of sports fields, they should consider all weather synthetic fields as an alternative and do a cost benefit analysis on the options in order to determine the best alternative for them to follow.

- The City should consider sports field design standards. Development and use of these design standards and guidelines needs to be put in place for future development to limit maintenance costs especially when sports fields double as a drainage basin as is common in Santa Maria. Standards to consider are traffic and pedestrian circulation, parking, athletic use areas, restroom/concession location and design.

- Annually test soil to assess nutrient deficiencies, following with an application of appropriate fertilizer and/or soil additives to promote healthy root growth.

- Monitor soil moisture conditions and irrigate turf areas to provide adequate moisture for healthy growth while maintaining a playable surface that is not muddy, spongy or over saturated. This will help to prevent tearing and uprooting of the turf and topsoil under normal playing conditions.

- Establish policies appropriate for the installation and management of synthetic playing fields including:
  - Synthetic fields should be installed only at facilities which also have lights for night-time play.
  - A policy that states synthetic fields will be open for play except under extreme weather conditions.
• Lighting systems should be inspected on a regular basis for proper alignment and functioning to avoid dark spots at night that could be hazardous to players and light spill to surrounding neighborhood.

**Park Roads and Parking Areas**

**Existing Conditions**

Overall, park roads and parking areas were found to be in good condition. Examples of recent resurfacing were evident at several locations including the parking lot at Elwin Mussell Senior Center. Some deterioration was found partially from overspray of adjacent turf and shrub beds and the subsequent ponding in the parking lot. This was most obvious at Preisker Park where the loop road and entry to the park were in serious stages of deterioration. If the City had a lifecycle maintenance plan in place, park lot resurfacing could be addressed in a timely fashion rather than when the pavement is in serious levels of deterioration.

**Recommendations**

• Regularly inspect for overspray and soil moisture, adjusting watering levels as necessary at all landscaped areas adjacent to paved parking areas, park roads and paved trails.
• All paved parking areas, park roads, and paved trails should be inspected on a regular basis to detect cracks in their surfaces. Cracks should be sealed as early as practical to minimize moisture damage and halt surface deterioration, thus minimizing damage as well as maintenance, repair, and replacement costs. In addition, the life expectancy of each paved surface should be estimated and each paved area should be included in the capital improvement reserve budget for (1) periodic sealing and (2) repaving when the end of the usable life of the surface has been reached. Deferred maintenance on paved surfaces should be minimized by following these recommended practices to reduce maintenance costs and prolong their usable life.

**Park Sidewalks and Walkways**

**Existing Conditions**

Park sidewalks, generally concrete, were in fair to good condition with several areas of major cracking and uplifting from tree roots. Examples of problem areas include Buena Vista Park and sidewalks in front of the Maramonte Community Center. Despite the fact that the City regularly inspects sidewalks and repairs raised surfaces by either ramping or “smoothing” raised concrete, this sidewalks and walkways were found to be a significant issue.

**Recommendations**

• Continue to conduct regular inspections of park sidewalks to identify settlement and or uplifting, exposed edge, and cracks that may pose a safety hazard to park users.
• Develop a planting list of tree species that are acceptable for planting close to sidewalks, as well as identifying species such as liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), which has roots that grow near the surface, commonly causing uplift to sidewalks.
• Specific repairs to the Maramonte Community Center should evaluate removal of the lifted panels and developing a handicap ramp with an adjacent parking space.

**Trails**

**Existing Conditions**

The City of Santa Maria has developed an extensive trail network within the City and additional trails are available to residents at Los Flores Ranch Park located just outside the City limits. Developed trails include:

- City Class I Multi-Purpose Trails—19.13 miles
- City Class II Bicycle Trails – 31.75 miles
- Los Flores Park—8 miles

The 2009 *Santa Maria Bikeway Master Plan* calls for an additional 55 miles of Class I Bicycle Trails within the City limits. The City has an excellent opportunity to design trails to double as transportation routes for bicycles. Additionally, the additional development of a shared use pathway could include both paved and decomposed granite surfaces, providing opportunity for both the casual walker and utilization of the trail as a transportation route.

**Recommendations**

- Work with County of Santa Barbara and other public agencies to explore further opportunities for opening of waterways/drainage areas for trail use. In many cases, these routes would best be served as a paved surface.
- Implement the *Santa Maria Bikeway Plan* which identifies 55 miles of additional Class I Bicycle Trails.
- The City should consider the development of design standards and incorporate these into existing City standards and specifications similar to those developed by the National Park Service or American Trails. Staff should ensure that these standards are required of all contractors and include at a minimum:
  - Trail tread widths designed for 36 inches minimum and are widened only to mitigate conditions affecting accessibility.
  - Linear trail grades are kept moderate between 5% and 8%.
  - Layout of trail minimizes side hill construction to provide a fuller native trail bench for better durability, drainage and sustainability.
  - Trail structures such as retaining walls and bridges are kept to a minimum and are used to protect resources and maintain good linear grades.
  - Edge protection is provided only when conditions warrant it. Native vegetation and natural features such as rocks and logs can serve as edge protection. Further, edge protection is installed in a manor to facilitate sheet flow.
  - Trail surfaces need to be firm, stable and have a good coefficient of friction.
Ball Courts

Existing Conditions

Numerous ball courts were visited during the maintenance tour including tennis and basketball. Tennis courts and basketball courts were found to be in good to excellent condition with fencing, surface, nets, and lining all in a well maintained condition.

Through joint-use agreements, City residents have use of School District courts at many locations including North Preisker Ranch Park where tennis courts and basketball courts located at Tommy Kunst Junior High School are available for public use after normal school hours. The sand volleyball courts at Adams Park were well maintained with the exception of a line of irrigation heads inside the sand boundary.

Recommendations

- Coated playing surfaces should be regularly inspected for cracks or other surface damage and promptly repaired when these are detected. When cracks begin to appear in the surface of the courts, moisture can seep below the surface resulting in accelerated deterioration.

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Park Structures and Buildings

Existing Conditions

Many of the City parks structures and buildings were found to be in a variety of conditions, some in need of major renovation, and a general backlog of required maintenance. Atkinson Community Center should be scheduled for renovation suffering from age, facility deterioration, and unusable space. Several other park buildings also showed significant signs of age, including Grogan Community Center, Elwin Mussel Senior Center, Maramonte Community Center, and Minami Community Center. Some park restrooms which had suffered from bouts of graffiti, while clean and well maintained, could have used upgraded facilities and a fresh coat of paint to improve their appearance.

Recommendations

- Park buildings should be regularly inspected for vandalism, safety issues and proper operation of equipment.
- Facilities in need of immediate renovation include the Atkinson Community Center and Minami Community Center.
- Graffiti should be immediately painted over or removed and tracked for potential use by local law enforcement agencies.

**Playgrounds**

**Existing Conditions**

Overall, the playground equipment at each park area was very creative, appeared to be well maintained, and in a good state of repair, with attractive and well-maintained safety surfaces. Landing areas in some pour-in-place surfacing, such as the playground at Atkinson Park, are deteriorated and in need of immediate attention. The use of tire mulch at Preisker Park should be discontinued as it appears to easily spill over sides into the walkway.

The City utilizes a variety of surfaces including pour-in-place, tiles, and bark. To counter compaction in bark surfacing commonly found under swings, the Department has begun to utilize tile surfacing under the swings in combination with bark. This seems to be a positive move correcting the on-going maintenance problems associated with surfacing under swings.

The bark and mulch material utilized throughout the City was also in good condition, with little to no evidence of overspray from irrigation systems.

**Recommendations**

- Regularly inspect for overspray and overflow from adjacent sprinklers, adjusting watering levels and or spray patterns as necessary.
- While park staff reports they regularly inspect safety surface for compaction, additional attention should be given to areas under swings and play equipment landing areas.

**Park Trees and Landscaping**

**Existing Conditions**

Park landscaping which includes trees, shrub beds, turf, and landscaped drainage areas were found to be in fair to good condition. While most evergreen and deciduous trees appeared to be healthy, many were in need of thinning and structural pruning. Young trees were staked in a variety of fashions, some caged and some with extensive weed growth underneath. Management of compaction around tree wells was showed no evidence of bark/mulch around the drip line.

Shrub beds were also in fair to good condition with evidence of dead or declining vegetation due to soil conditions, age of the planting, and/or watering issues. The native garden located at Rosalind Perlman Park has only a few plantings remaining. Mulch was not evident at any shrub beds.

Overall, the City maintains over 33,000 street and park trees within the City limits.
Recommendations

- The City should consider development of a park tree inventory to collect species, age, location and maintenance history. This will assist with workload and help to develop a tree replacement program as older trees reach the end of their lifecycles.
- Pruning should occur on park trees for structural health and thinning.
- Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation.
- Soils around the roots of trees should be aerated to reduce soil compaction that can smother the roots of some trees. Metal grates around the bases of tree trunks must be periodically checked and broken outward to prevent the tree trunk growing into the metal.
- Regularly inspect for overflow and soil moisture, adjusting watering levels as necessary at all landscaped areas adjacent to paved parking areas, park roads and paved trails.
- Annually (October/November) test soil to assess nutrient deficiencies, following with an application of appropriate fertilizer and/or soil additives to promote healthy root growth. Soil fertility fluctuates throughout the growing season with the quantity and availability of mineral nutrients altered by the addition of fertilizers, sulfur, lime, etc. and the removal from soils as a result of plant growth and development. Soil tests should be taken at various locations dependent on the plant material and its ability to grow in various soil conditions.

Specialized Facilities/Skate Parks/Community Garden/Dog Parks

Existing Conditions

Specialized facilities such as the above ground skate park at Fletcher Park and the community garden at Alice Trefts Park were found to be in good condition. Cracking within the surface concrete was limited with little debris collection evident at the corner locations of the skate park.

The community garden at Alice Trefts Park is a popular program and an excellent example of cooperation with Allan Hancock College. Due to the popularity of community gardens, the City is encouraged to evaluate the park system for underutilized areas of parks which could be potential community garden locations.

The City currently does not operate a dog park. Much like community gardens, dog parks continue to grow in popularity and the City is encouraged to evaluate the park system for underutilized areas of parks which could serve as potential dog parks.
Recommendations

- The skate park should be regularly inspected and maintained to limit debris collection within the facility which can present a hazard to park users.
- Cracking in the concrete at the skate park should be immediately identified through a regular inspection program and immediately sealed to prevent further damage from moisture within and under the concrete.
- Expand the Community Garden program to provide opportunities for additional City residents to participate in the program. Many underutilized areas of parks could be potential sites for a community garden such as Westgate Ranch Park and Oakley Park.
- Explore opportunities for the development of at least one Dog Park utilizing existing parkland that is underutilized and would not result in the displacement of a current recreational use.

Park Signage

Existing Conditions

The City has recently moved toward a new and more colorful park entry sign. Entry signs were found to be well maintained and generally standardized throughout the system, although a number of older signs still need replacement. A few signs showed some previous evidence of damage from graffiti.

Recommendations

- Park signage should be regularly inspected for theft, damage, and graffiti.
- Park name signs could be enhanced with limited landscaping of native species selected to display seasonal colors.
- The City should consider maintenance of a formalized signage system that is uniform in terms of sign types, a positive approach toward rules, colors, and materials. Effort should be made to ensure that park signs exhibit rules and regulations in a positive context. This will help residents better identify parks and make maintenance replacement and repairs less complicated.

Fencing

Existing Conditions

Park and decorative metal fencing was found at various locations throughout the system utilized both as decoration and pedestrian control. Overall this fencing appeared to be well maintained and in good condition with limited damage and little rust.

Recommendations

- Metal fencing should be regularly inspected for damage and broken or damaged components (posts, top rails, bottom rails and vertical members) should be promptly repaired or replaced.
- City should consider the use of a timeline for the regular repainting of metal fencing to prevent rust and improve overall appearance.
Irrigation Systems

Existing Conditions

Limited examples of over or under watering were found throughout the system, including sport fields, open turf areas and shrub beds. The irrigation system appeared to be well-maintained with a limited number of water leaks due to broken or damaged sprinkler heads and lines. As seen in the park tour, City staff periodically operates the irrigation system to check for coverage and overspray issues.

Some examples of problematic irrigation systems were identified including ponding at Rosalind Perlman Park, overspray at various locations including Armstrong Park, and sprinklers located within sand volleyball courts at Adams Park.

Recommendations

- City staff should continue with a regular inspection program of the irrigation system including operation to determine coverage and to identify overspray issues.
- Monitor soil moisture conditions and irrigate turf areas to provide adequate moisture for healthy growth while maintaining a playable surface that is not muddy, spongy or over saturated. This will help to prevent tearing and uprooting of the turf and topsoil under normal playing conditions.
- City should explore opportunities to utilize available treated water for irrigation of shrub beds, landscaping, and other park amenities as permitted under State law. The treatment plant is on Black road about two miles west of town. The City has worked with local utility companies to use well water instead of State Water on downtown medians, City Hall, Simas Park, Elks Field, pools and at the Hagerman Sports Complex.

Public Art

Existing Conditions

The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department currently has little public art within the park and recreation system. An example of public art is the murals located inside the courtyard at Atkinson Community Center.

Recommendations

- The City should consider developing a 1% to 2% budget for an art program as part of future capital development. This percentage of funds could be "pooled" to fund the design and development of public art components of future park development. Currently many public agencies Statewide and Nationally successfully operate such a program.
Sustainable Practices

Existing Conditions

The City of Santa Maria has currently taken limited initial steps in the development of sustainable practices within the park system. The City is encouraged to develop a strategy that fully engages stakeholders in the process of identifying and implementing sustainability improvements within existing parks and in the development of new park facilities. An initial phase for the City would include conducting assessments, identifying opportunities and establishing objectives, benchmarks, or targets for specific activities.

Efforts to develop and implement sustainable principles in the planning, design, construction and operation of park facilities within the City will have immediate results in best practices, costs savings, public perception, and leadership within the community.

Sustainability has become an overarching concept through which we understand the rational and reasonable consumption of resources. Sustainability is generally regarded through three lenses: economy, society and environment. Advocates of sustainability emphasize the importance of establishing linkages among these three dimensions to fully implement sustainable practices.

Sustainability within the operations of parks and recreation is frankly the nature of the business. Parks and recreation departments Nationwidell fortify the social, economic and environmental landscapes within the local communities. Sustainability could provide the vehicle for addressing many of the City’s most pressing challenges, such as better aligning the design and construction of parks with their long-term maintenance, stormwater retention, water quality, and the economic values of sustainability that provide operational savings, thus providing additional funding for long-term capital.

The following is a potential list of sustainable practices which the City of Santa Maria could include within the Sustainable Management System for parks and recreation. These include:

Use of Native Plants—The City currently has no formalized policy in place, although staff clearly makes efforts at the utilization of native species. A formalized policy should be developed identifying acceptable species based on the ecoregion and requiring plantings of a minimum of 80% of these identified natives in any new or renovated project. The approach of the policy could be based on plants endemic to the Mediterranean climate of California, identifying benefits to other native species, and mandate that 80% of new planting must be classified as Native. Another and perhaps additional approach would be to develop a drought tolerant plant policy that adopts an appropriate plant material list by drought tolerant level (low, medium, high) and require that 100% meet medium level and 90% high levels.

Naturalize Parks—The City should consider an effort to inventory and establish areas where parks could be naturalized by the removal of unused turf and other non-native plantings and replaced with natives.

Community Gardens—The City has a limited program in place at Alice Park, although there are many locations within the park system for the development of “unused spaces” as community gardens.

Recycling of Park Waste—There was no evidence of standard recycling containers within the parks for public use. One recycling container was found at Simas Park.
Green Waste/Composting—The City should consider expanding the program for the composting of green waste resulting from park maintenance.

Demonstration Gardens—The City should consider development of additional demonstration gardens with identified native plantings which would be appropriate for homeowner landscaping. The native plant garden at Rosalind Perlman Park should be replanted as the majority of the plantings have died.

Storm Water Retention/Bioswales—The Veteran Hall parking lot has a small bioswale that has been landscaped with non-native species. This type of development should be expanded throughout the park system especially adjacent to hardscapes such as road and parking lots but utilizing native plantings.

Use of Impervious Surfaces—The City has started moving toward the use of decomposed granite in trail development as is evident at Fletcher Park. Despite this, there is heavy use of concrete and asphalt for heavy traffic areas.

Use of Alternative Energy Sources—No program in place and no alternative energy use within the park system.

Utility Reduction Program—Staff should expand the tracking of utility consumption to each park unit by month.

Habitat Development—Currently there is no program in place within the City and there are a number of park sites that could be excellent candidates for habitat enhancement projects. Foremost on that list are Jim May Park and Pioneer Park.

Public Education of Sustainable Practices—Currently there is a limited program in place within the City. The City should evaluate the opportunity to work with students from Allan Hancock College to support and deliver public education of sustainable practices at City parks.

Recommendations

The City of Santa Maria should consider development of a Sustainable Management Performance System. This system will outline and assist with prioritization of sustainable practices in construction, operations and/or maintenance activities. The system should outline tracking procedures that will report both successes and shortcomings in reaching established goals. The development of a sustainable performance system by the Department will help to present a strategy to engage stakeholders in the process of identifying and implementing sustainability improvements in operations. Further, development and use of a sustainable performance system will provide the Department with important data necessary to communicate the success of their sustainability efforts.

The City of Santa Maria is encouraged to conduct assessments, identify opportunities and establish objectives or targets for specific activities. The Department has already initiated some sustainability practices to improve operations and the Department is encouraged to monitor performance of a sustainability initiative and communicate progress to staff and elected officials. Over time these measures will help the City to institute cultural changes and continual improvement relative to sustainability objectives and goals.
In the development of the Sustainability Management System, it is important to look beyond the traditional environmental components and to consider and integrate concepts of economics and social responsibility.

**Short-term Recommendations**

- Recognize and document sustainability efforts already in use and/or recently developed.
- While a “Park Green Team” already exists in Operations, this should be expanded to include other park and recreation functions to fully promote sustainability throughout the City.
- Move to install BigBelly solar compactors to include recycling program for pilot parks.
- Analyze feasibility and implement solar energy sources in park designs for exterior lighting, parking lots, restrooms, etc.
- Implement small-scale renewable energy demonstration projects and/or solar lighting projects.
- Reduce resource consumption. Set benchmark reduction levels and monitor progress.
- Develop a native plant policy that requires 80% native (ecoregion) in all new and remodeled landscaping.
- Develop a master plan for a pilot ornamental “demonstration landscape” project as a tool to educate the public on how to landscape using native and low water-use plants.
- Develop a program to shred fallen leaves using mulching blades on mowers with the material moved to shrub beds as compost material.
- Continue to expand use of other “green” techniques in on-going maintenance, operations, and capital improvement projects and practices, including stormwater management, plant materials, recycled materials, and energy efficient materials.
- Identify locally available materials and sustainable products.
- Seek grant funding to enhance or restore natural habitat in existing parks. Develop a plan for a habitat restoration pilot project within the park system. Many grant programs are available through the State of California Department of Natural Resources.
- Continue to research and incorporate sustainable green techniques and materials into capital improvement projects and/or operations and maintenance practices. Use research and experience to develop additional sustainable standard details and specifications.
- Adopt and utilize a checklist outlining optimal sustainable design strategies for sustainable parks as found in Appendix A.

**Long-term Recommendations**

- Work with other municipal and regional jurisdictions including the County of Santa Barbara to improve shared ecological systems, using watershed protection principles and regional projects such as trails and greenways as a basis for cooperation.
- Manage and maintain City-owned urban natural areas, such as Los Flores Park, to facilitate public access and promote ecological values.
- While the City currently tracks all park and street trees, it should move forward with the development and implementation of an urban tree and forest management and development plan on a City-wide basis. When completed, the urban forestry management plan should lay out for the City its urban forestry-related operations, policies, programs, and financial implications. The plan will serve as a management tool for the City to efficiently and cost-effectively maintain and enhance its urban forest resource and establish priorities towards a sustainable urban forestry program.
- Develop a green waste/composting benchmark and evaluate the potential of contracting out this work.
- Consider implementation of larger renewable energy demonstration projects. Plan and budget for one medium to large scale renewable energy installation at an existing City facility. Evaluate
best available technology and conditions for the specific park chosen. Track potential funding opportunities.

- Develop a vehicle right sizing program expanding the use of hybrid and/or electric vehicles and equipment.
- Reduce emissions from landscape maintenance equipment either by the purchase of equipment with the highest standards and/or modified and reduced maintenance practices.
- Develop a master plan for a pilot food production “community garden” project as a tool to educate the public on how to garden and grow their own food. Identify areas of unused park land available for use as community gardens.
- Develop sustainable park design guidelines for new construction projects. Guidelines should be comprehensive, sustainable and maintainable. Consideration should be given to ground water recharge, alternative energy sources, composting or low-flow restrooms, low water-use landscaping, and use of recycled materials. Guidelines should include a “checklist” as a part of the design plan review process for new construction projects.
- The City should consider development of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to focus on opportunities to reduce use of pesticides, identify alternatives to pesticide use, and continually investigate new products or solutions.
- Evaluate opportunities to utilize recycled water for landscape irrigation.
Proposed
Sustainable Management Performance Plan
City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1—Ensure sustainable development that uses natural resources both efficiently and responsibly providing long-term benefits.

A. Reduce Energy Demand

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement to track and reduce the net consumption of electric energy and non-renewable heating fuels (e.g., oil, natural gas, and propane).

- Replace and use equipment and fixtures with the latest efficiency technology.

- Adopt new modern standards for structures to assure they are as energy efficient as possible. This could include LEED standards of Silver or higher for renovations and Gold or higher for new construction.

- Increase education and training of public employees to improve the understanding and acceptance of actions necessary to reduce energy use.

- Replace and/or renovate obsolete energy or resource-inefficient infrastructure.

B. Increase Conversion to Renewable Energy Sources

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of purchase and/or production of an increased percentage of energy use from renewable sources.

- Evaluate conversion to renewable energy sources within existing park sites and use of renewable materials for new park developments. Examples of renewable energy sources include biofuels, wind energy, tidal energy, and solar energy.

- Coordinate with local utilities to explore partnerships in the development of renewable energy sources within park sites consistent with adopted resource management policies.

C. Improve Vehicle Efficiencies and Reduce Vehicle Use

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement to increase fuel economy, reduce trip mileage, and increase percentage of hybrids, plug-in and alternative fuel vehicles.

- Conduct an evaluation of energy consumption of fleet vehicles. This evaluation should review and establish baselines and objectives for the following:
o Increasing fuel efficiency;
o Increasing the number of hybrids, plug-in or alternative fuel vehicles;
o Right-sizing of vehicles;
o Reducing maintenance routes and the potential staging of vehicles, and;
o Increasing overall use of public transportation.

D. Reduce Water Use and Increase Plantings of Native Species

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of water consumption to increase conservation, recycling and use of treated water.

- Conduct an evaluation of water use and track historical and ongoing consumption of water at parks and facilities. This evaluation should include landscaping, restrooms, aquatic facilities and other water uses.

- Develop and adopt a native plant policy. The policy should set a minimum percent of native species (80% or greater) that will be used in new and renovations of existing landscaping.

- Evaluate and seek opportunities for the increased use of rain gardens, collection of on-site water for irrigation purposes, and increased use of bioswales for the collection of run-off and stormwater.

- Coordinate with local water treatment facilities to evaluate the use of recycled waste water for irrigation of park landscaping.

E. Improve Waste Management and Increase Utilization of On-site Composting

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of historical and current tonnage solid waste sent to landfills, and amount of materials recycled.

- Develop a recycling program that includes recycling containers at all park and recreation locations as well as a public education program to encourage public recycling.

- Evaluate opportunities to increase use of compostable materials within landscaped areas (e.g., increased use of leaf mulch, chips, and other waste materials).

F. Improve the Natural Environment and Habitat

- Conduct an evaluation of open space areas, natural areas and parklands to ensure that park and recreation uses are compatible with biosystems and sensitive habitat.

- Develop a forest management program to ensure the sustainability of native forest and associated landscapes. The program should include a plan for the reduction/removal of non-native plants and an ongoing maintenance plan for locations treated.

- Add trees and develop a system to track tree maintenance, tree loss or gain.

- Consider the adoption of new technologies and design principles to reduce the developed footprint and dependence on irrigation, fertilization, chemical weed control, and energy consumptive maintenance activities (e.g., mowing, trimming, and blowing).
• Develop and adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy on the use of toxic substances in parks and agency facilities, provide appropriate training to all staff that handle toxic substances, and, where appropriate, use an IPM-approach to managing noxious/invasive weeds in all parklands and facilities.

• Establish baseline standards of historical application of chemicals and set objectives to reduce application of chemicals in parklands and facilities.

G. Reduction of Material Resources and Purchasing of Environmentally Preferred Products

• Evaluate and consider the purchase of cleaning and other maintenance-related products that are non-toxic and biodegradable.

• Move towards the purchase of one hundred percent recycled copy and printing paper.

• Evaluate and consider use of paints with low amounts of volatile organic compounds.

H. Sustainable Building Practices and Materials

• Mandate that buildings over 5,000 square feet should be designed and/or retrofitted to meet green building standards. New construction should be designed and constructed to LEED Gold level or higher and renovations to LEED Silver or higher.

• Increase the use of pervious surfaces to improve water recharge and reduce stormwater flows, for walkways, parking areas and other traditional hardscapes.

• Adopt Low Impact Design (LID) guidelines to minimize a site’s develop footprint and encourage re-use, and where appropriate, removal of existing structures and other impervious surfaces. Also adapt these LID guidelines for development of recreational landscapes in parks.

• Research and incorporate sustainable green techniques and materials into capital projects and/or operations and maintenance practices.

I. Measuring and Monitoring

• Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of current practices including but not limited to:
  o Energy usage
  o Conversion to renewable resources
  o Water consumption
  o Waste to landfill
  o Recycling
  o Fuel usage including miles driven

• Continue tracking of recycling levels, waste disposal tonnage, and consumption of electricity, water, and vehicle fuel in all parklands and facilities.
• Develop a “Green Parks” program to incentivize and recognize sustainability-related performance of parks and recreation staff and volunteers to promote awareness of sustainability practices.

J. Communication, Education, Interpretation

• Develop interpretive methodology, programs, funding strategies, and partnerships to instill a sustainability ethic in park visitors and Santa Maria residents. This could include interpretive signage to educate, promote awareness, and create opportunities for volunteerism within parks for the public to be directly involved in the protection and enhancement of the park system.

• Provide sustainability-related interpretation to the public at all staffed facilities, on agency’s websites, and through other public information campaigns. Also include sustainability training at ranger in-service trainings and in the Stewardship Certification Program.

Goal 2--Sustainable Communities – Improve Neighborhood and Community Livability; Develop a Vibrant and Equitable Society, and a Healthy Environment.

A. Improve Neighborhood and Community Livability

• Evaluate the current service level of parks, recreational facilities and open space areas and increase, if necessary, the ratio of park land to City population, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.

• Develop, maintain, and improve access to public spaces that encourage and develop social interaction.

• Urban Park and Recreation agencies should establish a “Nature in the City” program to increase “wildness” within the parks system and expand human access to intimacy with nature.

• Promote gardening within public spaces through the development of a community garden program and encourage the purchase of locally produced foods.

• Evaluate, design and, if necessary, retrofit parks and recreational facilities to provide bicycle and pedestrian linkages with other public spaces including schools.

B. Improve Health and Wellness

• Evaluate the current level of educational/recreational opportunities and programs on health, nutrition and gardening and increase level to meet the needs of Santa Maria residents.

• Work towards the improvement of the health of Santa Maria residents through access to a diverse mix of wellness activities, education, and healthy foods.
• To encourage health and fitness and to reduce obesity levels among Santa Maria residents, agencies should expand opportunities, programs, and activities which provide opportunities for outdoor physical fitness.

• Develop demonstration gardens at selected parks to encourage and demonstrate the concept of edible landscapes.

C. Improve and Expand Public Involvement

• Develop volunteer opportunities so that the public can be involved in the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the natural and open space areas of Santa Maria parks.

• To expand public involvement and support, recreation providers are encouraged to seek opportunities for direct and open communication among the Santa Maria residents and colleagues.

• Public officials should develop research on sustainability practices and communicate these findings in a manner easily understood by the public.

• Develop programs such as Forest Stewards to educate, train and involve the public to become directly involved in the protection of parkland and open space areas.

Goal 3—Develop Financially Sustainable Parks, Open Space Areas and Recreational Facilities

A. Ensure Long-Term Maintenance of Parks

• Develop administrative, fiscal, programmatic resources, and financial forecasting to ensure on-going, long-term maintenance and management of publically owned parklands and facilities.

• Plan for sustainable site maintenance prior to the development of new or renovated sites.

• Recognize and document sustainability efforts already in use and share accomplishments, cost savings, and the degree of public involvement with public officials and Santa Maria residents.

• Support existing private programs dedicated to the care of park systems and encourage creation where appropriate of other private park foundations or open space enhancement programs.
Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center
Paul Nelson Aquatic Center & Simas Park
600 South McClelland Street

Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center

Park Type: Community Center
Acreage: 14.06 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Events Center with synthetic flooring
• (2) Basketball backboards in events center—no organized league play
• (1) Small stage
• (1) Computer lab with 14 stations
• (1) Fitness Center—$2.50 per visit or $30 for 30 days
• (1) Theater Café concession facility—currently closed—would serve both Center and Aquatic Center
• (1) Freedom Monument Plaza
• (1) Kitchen—Small catering kitchen
• Several smaller meeting rooms
• Large barbeque serving the Events Center

Active Recreation
• 60,000 square foot facility opened in 2001
• Community Center serves youth grades 7 through 12
• Daily activities include indoor sports, arcade games, movies, computer lab, tutors and fitness center
• Door leading outside to “Outdoor Activity Center”

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom facility and shower room to support Paul Nelson Aquatic Center

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking spaces are available at facility lot, street and nearby City parking lots.

2013 Observations
• Standing water in locker room—signs of rot from long-term problem
- Well staffed facility—central to greet users
- Landscaping and hardscape at Center well cared for and in excellent condition

**Recommendations**
- Explore possible corrections to bathroom drainage problem including installation of floor drain system
- Release Request For Proposal for concession operations at Theater Café
Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center
Paul Nelson Aquatic Center & Simas Park
600 South McClelland Street
Paul Nelson Aquatic Center

**Park Type:** Aquatic Center
**Acreage:** 14.06 Acres for the entire facility

**Passive Recreation Elements**
- (1) Shaded picnic area with 13 tables
- (4) Tables on deck
- (4) Three-row grandstands
- Pool covers and rollers
- Numerous chairs on deck
- Tables and chairs adjacent to Theater Café
- Passive lawn area inside aquatic facility

**Active Recreation**
- (1) Olympic sized pool—3’ entry to 9’ maximum depth—9 lanes—opened 1997
- (1) Large waterslide
- (1) Zero entry to 3’ splash pool with frog-shaped waterslide and water umbrella

**Other/Support Elements**
- (1) Outside restrooms and family restroom in addition to Community Center restrooms

**Overall Park Condition**
- Excellent

**Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation**
- Parking spaces are available at facility lot, street and nearby City parking lots

**2013 Observations**
- Active facility with early morning lap swimmers
- Well cared for Aquatic Facility
- Interior landscaping in excellent condition
Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center
Paul Nelson Aquatic Center & Simas Park
600 South McClelland Street

Simas Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 14.06 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• (12) Trash cans
• (2) Storage facilities—Adjacent to baseball fields
• (2) Concession facilities—Adjacent to baseball fields
• (1) Cell Tower

Active Recreation
• (1) Elks Field—Former home of the Santa Maria Indians baseball team—Lighted
• (1) Youth baseball—Lighted—Built in drainage basin
• (1) Softball—Lighted—Built in drainage basin
• (1) Lawn bowling
• (2) Horseshoe pits
• (1) Outdoor basketball court—Lighted
• (1) Batting cages at Elks Field

Other/Support Elements
• (2) Portable restrooms adjacent to basin fields

Overall Park Condition
• Fair to Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking spaces are available at facility lot, street and nearby City parking lots

2013 Observations
• City is in negotiations to potentially return semi-pro baseball to Elks Field
• Potential conflict with parking lot and western field due to close proximity
• Turf in fair condition with evidence of gophers—uneven surface

Recommendations
• Grandstands in western basin field need replacing due to splintering wood
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
• Develop restroom facility to support park activities
• Upgrade lighting at youth baseball and softball fields
Armstrong Park
1000 East Chapel Street

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 2.84 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (12) Tables
• (3) Barbeques
• (4) Trash cans
• (2) Benches
• (1) Serving table
• Decomposed granite walkways

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground
• (1) Small gazebo
• (1) Multi-use turf area

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Fair

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 15 parking spaces are available

2013 Observations
• Adjacent to Fesler Junior High Gym a joint use facility
• Tree plantings throughout park limit opportunities for open sports play
• Weeds around playground/standing water with run-off visible/some trees single staked/litter throughout park
• Turf in showed evidence of gophers—uneven surface

Recommendations
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
• Pre-emergent spraying to prevent weed growth
Atkinson Park & Community Center
1000 North Railroad Avenue

Atkinson Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 6.22 Acres for entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• (3) Three row bleachers
• (4) Benches
• (8) Tables
• (8) Trash cans
• (2) Drinking fountains
• (2) Barbeque Pit

Active Recreation
• (4) Tennis courts—lighted
• (1) Basketball court
• (1) Softball field
• (2) Picnic areas
• (2) Playground with pour in place surface
• (1) Soccer field—lighted

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 21 parking spaces are available in front and an additional 17 behind Community Center

2013 Observations
• Pour in place playground safety surface in need of repair
• Turf in soccer field recently repaired
• Well utilized park, especially basketball and tennis courts

Recommendations
• Repair playground pour in place safety surface. Perhaps by cutting out and replacing with tiles
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
Park Type: Community Center
Acreage: 6.22 Acres for entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• 9,647 square foot Community Center designed by Frank Gehry and opened in 1964
• (1) Small kitchen
• (1) Multi-purpose room
• (1) Small meeting room
• (1) Entry lobby
• (1) Adjacent building utilized by Allan Hancock College
• (1) Outdoor patio between Center and building utilized by Allan Hancock College

Active Recreation
• (1) Small fitness and weight room

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom facilities inside Community Center

Overall Park Condition
• Fair—Older facility in need of renovation

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 21 parking spaces are available in front and an additional 17 behind Community Center

2013 Observations
• Lunch program for seniors serving 10-12 daily
• Community Action Committee evaluating move of lunch program from Elwin Mussell Senior Center to this facility
• Partnership with Allan Hancock College
• Landscaping around building in fair condition—plants have exceeded useful life and in need of replacement

Recommendations
• Improve landscaping around the facility utilizing California natives
Buena Vista Park
800 South Pine Street

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 4.02 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (7) Trash cans
• (4) Barbeque pits
• (11) Picnic tables
• (2) Drinking fountains
• Lighted walkway throughout park
• Small grandstand

Active Recreation
• (2) ½ Court outdoor basketball court
• (6) Horseshoe pits
• (3) Picnic areas
• (1) Campfire cabin with sand play area
• (1) Playground
• (1) Multi-use turf area

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Poor

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 28 parking spaces are available

2013 Observations
• Original and oldest City park—almost 100 years old
• Several large eucalyptus trees
• Homeless camp in park adjacent to Campfire Cabin
• Turf in poor condition with evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface
• Some young trees double-staked with guy wires at top only—several caged with excessive weed growth inside cages
• Graffiti present in park

Recommendations
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
• Improved grounds maintenance
Edwards Community Center & Sierra Vista Park
809 Panther Drive

Edwards Community Center

Park Type: Community Center
Acreage: 6.47 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• 11,713 square foot facility
• (1) Small meeting room
• (1) Entry lobby
• (1) Small catering kitchen

Active Recreation
• (1) Full sized gymnasium with bleacher seating and synthetic floor

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom which also serves Sierra Vista Park

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 45 parking spaces are available serving both park and Community Center

2013 Observations
• Outside landscaping in excellent condition
• Synthetic floor in good condition although patch due to water collection under floor/additional bubbling seen
• Adjacent to Pioneer High School

Recommendations
• Correct current bubbling by patching and installation of moisture barrier
Edwards Community Center & Sierra Vista Park
809 Panther Drive

Sierra Vista Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 6.47 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• Paved walkways leading into nearby subdivisions

Active Recreation
• (1) Youth baseball field—no lights—Kon Field used primarily by Babe Ruth
• (1) Multi-use turf area

Other/Support Elements
• Restroom facilities
  located in Community Center

Overall Park Condition
• Excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 45 parking spaces are available serving both park and Community Center

2013 Observations
• Walking path into historic area with interpretative information
• Park is developed in drainage basin and adjacent to Pioneer High School
• Landscaping and turf in excellent condition
• Maintained with landscaping district funds

Recommendations
• Ensure that tree plantings do not interfere with baseball field
Elwin Mussell Senior Center & Alice Trefts Park
510 East Park Avenue

Elwin Mussell Senior Center

Park Type: Community Senior Center
Acreage: 5.18 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• 12,850 square foot facility
• (1) Multi-purpose room with collapsible wall
• (1) Small kitchen
• (1) Lobby
• (1) Travel office
• (1) Kitchen and adjoining room

Active Recreation
• (4) Pool tables

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good to fair

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Extensive parking is available at Elwin Mussel Senior Center.
• Approximately 10 parking spaces adjacent to community garden

2013 Observations
• Lunch program for seniors serving 10-12 daily
• Community Action Committee evaluating move of lunch program from Elwin Mussell Senior Center to Atkinson Community Center
• Carpet badly worn and bubbling into rolls
• Parking lot recently resurfaced

Recommendations
• Explore possibility of utilizing “Comcast” building for a senior fitness center when lease expires
• Expand programming related to health and fitness and partnership with Marion Hospital
• Evaluate opportunities for a coffee bar at this facility
Elwin Mussell Senior Center & Alice Trefts Park
510 East Park Avenue

Alice Trefts Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 5.18 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Community garden
• (1) Picnic area
• (1) Group picnic

Active Recreation
None

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restrooms located inside Elwin Mussel Senior Center
• (1) Portable restroom located at community garden

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Extensive parking is available at Elwin Mussel Senior Center.
• Approximately 10 parking spaces adjacent to community garden

2013 Observations
• Joint agricultural educational site with Allan Hancock College
• Comcast currently leases building behind Center for Community TV
• Landscaping around Center and in park is beyond useful life and in need of renovation

Recommendations
• Consider renovation of landscaping utilizing California natives
Fletcher Park
2200 South College Drive

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 2.82 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (7) Picnic tables
• (1) Picnic shelter
• (2) Barbeque pits
• (1) Bench
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (4) Trash cans
• (1) Pave bike trail along drainage feature—approximately one mile
• (1) Decomposed granite pathway

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground
• (3) Rock climbing play features
• (1) Skate park—above surface—lighted
• (1) ½ Basketball court--lighted

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 45 parking spaces are available

2013 Observations
• Landscaping district maintained facility
• Skate park heavily utilized
• Across street from Public Drainage Basin—Crossroads that feature two soccer fields and parking

Recommendations
• Check irrigation system as overspray on non-landscaped areas was evident
Grogan Park & Neighborhood Community Center
1155 West Rancho Verde

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 5.82 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• 3,234 square foot facility
• (4) Picnic tables
• (3) Benches
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (1) Barbeque pit
• (4) Trash cans
• (1) Picnic area

Active Recreation
• (1) Multi-use turf area
• (1) Playground
• (1) Circular decomposed granite walkway
• (1) Lighted walks near parking area
• (1) Public building utilized as pottery studio

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom
• (1) Community Center building utilized primarily as pottery studio

Overall Park Condition
• Good to fair

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 40 parking spaces are available

2013 Observations
• Pottery studio seldom open—includes small assembly room
• Turf in showed evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface

Recommendations
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
Hagerman Sports Complex
3300 Skyway Drive

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 20.59 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Concession facility
• (1) Maintenance facility located behind softball fields
• (1) Landscaped open space area

Active Recreation
• (4) Softball fields with one designated as the Championship field
• (1) Multi-use turf area
• (1) Paved trail
• (1) Playground facility

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom adjacent to concession facility

Overall Park Condition
• Excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Extensive parking is available in paved lot with overflow dirt lot at entrance to facility

2013 Observations
• Immediate adjacent to Waller County Park and YMCA facility
• Parking lot utilized as Park and Ride Lot during day
• City has portable mounds so that they can accommodate baseball
• Vocational Training Center operates concession facility
Jim May Park/Lake  
809 Stanford Drive

**Park Type:** Community Park  
**Acreage:** 20.38 Acres

**Passive Recreation Elements**
- (4) Picnic tables  
- (4) Benches  
- (1) Barbeque pits  
- (2) Drinking fountains  
- (4) Trash cans  
- (1) Perimeter walking path  
- (1) Lake managed as flood control basin  
- (1) Overlooking pier and platform

**Active Recreation**
- (1) Playground  
- (1) Covered picnic area

**Other/Support Elements**
- (1) Restroom

**Overall Park Condition**
- Good to excellent

**Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation**
- Parking is available in small lot and on street adjacent to lake

**2013 Observations**
- Landscape District maintain park  
- County manages water level of lake  
- Fishing is permitted at the lake

**Recommendations**
- Opportunity exist for sustainable planting demonstration gardens  
- Development of wetlands and water quality interpretative displays  
- Potential partnership with Ira Redmond Taylor School in development of natural history programming
Joe White Park  
500 South Palisade Drive

**Park Type: Neighborhood Park**  
**Acreage: 2.3 Acres**

**Passive Recreation Elements**  
- (4) Picnic tables  
- (3) Benches  
- (2) Barbeque pits  
- (1) Drinking fountain  
- (4) Trash cans  
- (1) Gazebo  
- Paved walkways with some lighting

**Active Recreation**
- (1) Multi-use turf area  
- (2) ½ Basketball courts  
- (2) Picnic areas  
- (1) Playground

**Other/Support Elements**
- No restroom at park

**Overall Park Condition**
- Good to excellent

**Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation**
- Street parking only

**2013 Observations**
- Located within subdivision  
- Mature trees with some root issues  
- Evidence of gophers throughout park

**Recommendations**
- Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
Joslyn Bowling Green
420 South McClelland Street

Park Type: Special Use Facility
Acreage: 1.0 Acres (Part of Simas Park Acreage)

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Seating areas around bowling green

Active Recreation
• (1) Bowling green with 9 lanes

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Clubhouse with restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Extensive parking is available at adjacent and nearby City lots

2013 Observations
• Bowling green is a carpet surface
• Club supports operations while City is responsible for major repairs to building and facility
Los Flores Ranch Park
6271 Dominion Road

Park Type: Regional Park
Acreage: 1,778 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Visitor Center

Active Recreation
• (8) Miles of hiking/equestrian/biking trails

Other/Support Elements
• Portable restrooms on site

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Small dirt parking lot

2013 Observations
• Closed 4 days a week during winter/3 days a week during summer
• Volunteer naturalist program
• Educational programs and field trips offered by City by appointment

Recommendations
• Develop Park Steward program for volunteer opportunities
• Improve interpretative information and displays
Maramonte Community Center & Park
620 East Sunrise Drive

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 8.95 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• 2,026 square foot facility
• (17) Picnic tables
• (1) Bench
• (3) Barbeque pits
• (15) Trash cans
• (3) Picnic areas

Active Recreation
• (2) Tennis courts
• (3) Horseshoe pits
• (1) ½ Basketball court
• (1) Playground
• (1) Soccer field—drainage basin
• (1) Multi-use turf area—drainage basin

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom closed for renovation and ADA upgrade/Portable toilets on site
• (1) Small community center building with large assembly room and adjacent covered picnic area

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 24 parking spaces are available adjacent to Maramonte Center
• 31 parking spaces are available north of East Sunrise Dr. adjacent to soccer field/multi-use turf

2013 Observations
• Walking path into historic area with interpretative information
• Views overlooking City
• Small areas of park landscaping planted with low water required natives

Recommendations
• Continue to work with St. Joseph High School on potential expansion of four tennis courts/School to pay for construction and secure use of courts for school activities
Marilyn Stanley Park
2600 La Costa Drive

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 1.8 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (2) Picnic tables
• (2) Benches
• (2) Trash cans

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground
• (1) Multi-use turf play area—drainage basin

Other/Support Elements
• No restroom at park

Overall Park Condition
• Excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Limited street parking available

2013 Observations
• Pleasant small neighborhood park within subdivision
Minami Community Center & Adam Park
600 West Enos Drive

Minami Community Center

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 26.66 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• 18,262 square foot community center
• (1) Multi-purpose room available for non-profit organizations only
• Several smaller meeting rooms

Active Recreation
• (1) Gymnasium
• (1) Boxing ring with support facilities

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom inside Center and restroom facility access via outside of Minami Community Center

Overall Park Condition
• Cleanliness of facility excellent despite age and lack of renovation

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking is available at Minami Community Center and limited street parking

2013 Observations
• Walking path into historic area with interpretative information
• Gym no longer utilized for basketball/volleyball but dedicated to PAL boxing program
• City currently preparing to renovation roof of facility
• Severe lifting of sidewalk panel creating tripping hazard

Recommendations
• Older facility constructed in 1984 needing major renovation
• Remove iron fencing along front of center separating landscaping
• Consider removal of lifted sidewalk panel, installation of handicap ramp and restriping parking lot to create adjacent handicap parking stall
Minami Community Center & Adam Park
600 West Enos Drive

Adam Park

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 26.66 Acres for the entire facility

Passive Recreation Elements
• (40) Picnic tables
• (6) Barbeque pits
• (8) Benches
• (4) Drinking fountains
• (2) Serving tables
• (25) Trash cans
• (6) Picnic areas
• (1) Rentable group picnic area

Active Recreation
• (6) Tennis courts—lighted
• (1) Tennis backboard
• (1) Softball field—lighted—drainage basin
• (5) Soccer fields—majority in drainage basin
• (2) Sand volleyball courts
• (1) Outdoor basketball court
• (1) Bocce/lawn bowling area
• (1) Horseshoe pit
• (1) Playground with stand-alone swing set

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom available only at Minami Community Center

Overall Park Condition
• Good Fair

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking is available at Minami Community Center and limited street parking

2013 Observations
• Drainage basin on south end of park featured muddy smelly pond at outflow
• Turf in fair condition with evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface
• Some young trees double-staked with guy wires at top only
• Graffiti present in park
Recommendations

- Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
- Improved grounds maintenance
- City to install two dry wells at outflow to correct ponding issue
North Preisker Ranch Park
801 West Boxcar Place

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 3.02 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
- (6) Picnic tables
- (2) Barbeque pits
- (2) Serving tables
- (1) Drinking fountain
- (2) Benches
- (3) Trash cans
- (2) Reservable picnic areas
- Small turf area

Active Recreation
- (1) Playground
- (2) Tennis courts available during non-school hours
- (7) Outdoor basketball courts available during non-school hours
- (1) Indoor gymnasium at Tommy Kunst Junior High School available during non-school hours

Other/Support Elements
- (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
- Excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
- 12 parking spaces are available

2013 Observations
- Landscape District maintained park
- Utilized heavily by skateboarders despite no formal facility

Recommendations
- Consider adding picnic tables into large decomposed granite area in center of park adjacent to rentable areas
Oakley Park
1300 North Western Avenue

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 4.07 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (4) Picnic tables
• (2) Barbeque pits
• (4) Trash cans
• (2) Picnic areas

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground—small swing set only
• (1) Little league baseball field
• (1) Multi-use turf play area

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Portable restroom on site/Removed when Little League season is over

Overall Park Condition
• Poor

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Street parking is available

2013 Observations
• Older park opened in 1967 in need of extensive renovation
• Turf showed evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface
• Weeds present in playground safety surface. Some effort to remove evident
• Fence installed to separate Oakley Park and Oakley School
• City to consider approval of Verizon Cell Tower at Oakley Park/$23,000 per year revenue

Recommendations
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
• City has developed plans for a Phase One renovation with approximate costs of $600,000/Applied for Community Development Block Grant Funding
Pioneer Park & Picnic Ground
1150 West Foster Drive

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 43.19 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Picnic pavilion
• (1) Group picnic area
• (8) Picnic areas
• (1) Stage with electricity
• (1) Amphitheater with fire pit

Active Recreation
• (1) Softball field
• (1) Multi-purpose Turf play area
• (1) Playground
• (3) Horseshoe pits
• Camping permitted for Scout organizations under reservation by City

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Large paved parking lot—not lined
• Three handicapped parking spaces available behind locked gate adjacent to restroom

2013 Observations
• New Boy Scout building under construction
• Natives coastal dune/Oak habitat
• Park is leased from Airport and lease expires in the upcoming year.

Recommendations
• Remove non-native plantings including rosemary planted over dunes
• Develop Park Steward program to assist with removal of non-natives and revegetation with natives
• Develop interpretative displays to educate public about native habitats found at park
• Renegotiate lease and consider adding additional airport property to the south of existing site
Preisker Park
330 Hidden Pines Way

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 39.31 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
- (2) Picnic pavilions
- (7) Group picnic areas
- (6) Picnic areas
- (1) Perimeter road heavily utilized as walking path
- (1) Pond with creek/waterfall feature
- (1) Pirate ship overlooking pond

Active Recreation
- (1) Softball field
- (1) Multi-use turf area
- (2) Playgrounds
- (1) 18-hole disc golf course

Other/Support Elements
- (2) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
- Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
- Perimeter road with angle parking available along roadway

2013 Observations
- Perimeter road in need of repair with cracking, roots, and potholes
- Piles of mulch placed under trees on outside region of park—attempt to control weeds
- Pine pitch canker evident in Monterey Pines
- Former landfill site—requires protocols for digging/irrigation repair
- Pond empty and under repair/liner appeared ripped in places
- Turf in showed evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface

Recommendations
- Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
- Improved grounds maintenance
- Distribute piles of mulch into level surface
- Drainage issue from Old Highway 101 into park in addition to root issues—consider developing bioswale with native plantings to accommodate runoff and reduce unused turf areas
Rice Park
700 East Sunset Avenue

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 2.07 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (3) Picnic tables
• (2) Benches
• (1) Barbeque pit
• (2) Trash cans
• (1) Amphitheater

Active Recreation
• (1) Softball field
• (1) Multi-use turf play area
• (1) Playground

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom—newly installed

Overall Park Condition
• Fair

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Limited parking is available on street

2013 Observations
• Fence to be installed to separate park and school
• Park under minor renovation—new picnic shelter/removal of ballfield/new landscaping/new playground
• Turf in fair condition with evidence of gophers and compaction—uneven surface

Recommendations
• Consider removal of amphitheater
• Additional gopher control and turf maintenance
Rodenberger Park
2725 Santa Barbara Drive

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 5.08 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (20) Picnic tables
• (2) Benches
• (2) Barbeque pits
• (1) Serving table
• (2) Drinking fountain
• (6) Trash cans
• (1) Picnic shelter

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground—poured in place surface
• (1) Ballfield—no lights—in drainage basin
• (1) Fitness course

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Portable restroom on site

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Street parking is available

2013 Observations
• Adjacent to Maramonte Community Park
• Maintained by Landscaping District
Rosalind Perlman Park
100 North Broadway

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 2.84 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (8) Benches
• (5) Trash cans
• (1) Gazebo
• (1) Pond and waterfall
• (1) Paved walkway to adjacent housing with lighting
• (1) Rose garden
• (1) Native plant garden—limited plantings

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Poor

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Very limited parking is available

2013 Observations
• Significant issues with sidewalk including cracking, lifting, and ramping needed to eliminate tripping hazards
• Extensive standing water indicating water leaks and sprinkler overspray throughout park
• Shrub beds in need of renovation/cap on retaining wall partially gone and in need of repair
• Park drains plugged
• Native plant garden in need of renovation
• Housing Authority maintenance staff reports walkway lights are non-functional

Recommendations
• Park is in need of renovation
• Improved grounds maintenance
• Replant shrub beds and add mulch
Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 12.67 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (1) Covered picnic shelter with 30 tables and barbeque pit
• (2) Picnic tables
• (20) Benches
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (5) Trash cans
• (1) Clocktower
• (1) Gazebo

Active Recreation
• (1) Robin Ventura Tee Ball Field
• (1) Outdoor basketball court
• (1) Soccer field
• (1) Multi-use turf play area
• (2) Playgrounds—1 poured in place/chips
• (1) 10-station exercise course

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 110 parking spaces are available
• Street parking is available

2013 Observations
• Maintained by Landscape District
• City currently out with Request for Proposal for design of gym
• Shrub beds in good condition and well maintain
• Turf shows signs of extensive use with wear spots thru middle of field

Recommendations
• Improved turf maintenance practices
Russell Park
1000 West Church Street.

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 1.41 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (5) Picnic tables
• (3) Barbeque pits
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (5) Trash cans

Active Recreation
• (1) Multi-use turf play area
• (1) Playground

Other/Support Elements
• (2) Portable restrooms are available

Overall Park Condition
• Fair to Poor

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Street parking is available

2013 Observations
• Large trees in park
• Turf compacted, with severe gopher problem
• Extensive Park Ranger patrol due to vagrant issue

Recommendations
• Improved turf maintenance and gopher control
Tunnell Park
1100 North Palisade Drive

Park Type: Neighborhood Park
Acreage: 5.75 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (8) Picnic tables
• (2) Barbeque pits
• (1) Picnic shelter
• (3) Picnic areas
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (6) Trash cans

Active Recreation
• (2) Youth baseball fields
• (1) Multi-use turf play area
• (1) Horseshoe pit
• (1) Playground

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom

Overall Park Condition
• Fair to good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking is available on street

2013 Observations
• Turf is compacted and suffered from gophers
• Several standing dead redwood trees

Recommendations
• Improved ground maintenance and gopher control
Veterans’ Memorial Community Center & Park
313 West Tunnell Street

Park Type: Community Park & Community Building
Acreage: 4.40 Acres
(2.25 Memorial Park)

Passive Recreation
Elements
• 26,513 square foot facility
• (1) Picnic table
• (1) Barbeque pit
• (1) Drinking fountain
• (3) Trash cans

Active Recreation
• (1) Playground
• (1) Multi-use turf play area

Veterans Building
• (1) American Legion facility
• (1) Bar at American Legion
• (1) Auditorium—available for non-profits only
• (1) Studio—available for non-profits only
• (1) Kitchen
• (1) Interior plaza space

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom at Veteran’s Hall/no restroom at park

Overall Park Condition
• Good

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• 35 parking spaces are available in lot behind Veterans Hall
• Street parking available for park

2013 Observations
• Veterans Hall historic and dramatic building/upgrades have occurred/additional renovation needed
• Very large grove of oaks and pines
• Turf is suffering from lack of sun due to shading of trees

Recommendations
• Continue with project to expand and renovate kitchen area of Veterans Hall
• Add additional picnic tables and barbeque pits at park
Westgate Ranch Park & Neighborhood Community Center
1800 Westgate Road

Park Type: Community Park
Acreage: 2.31 Acres

Passive Recreation Elements
• (6) Picnic tables
• (2) Barbeque pits
• (2) Drinking fountains
• (2) Benches
• (4) Trash cans
• (1) Lighted walkways throughout park

Active Recreation
• (2) Soccer fields—drainage basin
• (1) Multi-use turf play area
• (1) Playground
• (1) Small community building

Other/Support Elements
• (1) Restroom—not centrally located

Overall Park Condition
• Good to excellent

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation
• Parking is available in joint City/school lot and on street

2013 Observations
• Walking path into historic area with interpretative information
• Park grounds maintained at higher standard
• Run-off evident on walkways from sprinkler overspray
• Currently no fence separating park and Westgate Elementary School—park heavily used by school
This is a checklist outlining optimal sustainable design strategies for Sustainable Parks. This checklist was adapted from recommendations provided by The Sustainable Sites Initiative, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and the Green Building Pages. The checklist is organized into five sections: Design, Site Issues, Materials/Landscaping, Equipment, and Jobsite and Operational Practices. Use of this checklist will assist communities with incorporating sustainable practices in design, construction, and maintenance of park projects. Not every item will be suitable to a specific project or community. Instead, it is intended to provide an overall range of opportunities which may be incorporated and utilized.

**DESIGN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATION/GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If possible, select brownfields or greyfields for development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect endangered species, restore habitat, and maximize open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design for alternative transportation including bicycle storage, changing rooms and plug-in facilities for electric vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain water features, including shorelines and riparian areas to conserve water and other resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider all issues regarding the lifecycle of materials in order to ensure most appropriate and least damaging selection and design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design using high levels of insulation, high-performance windows, and tight construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design buildings and park features to incorporate and use renewable energy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate passive solar heating, day lighting, and natural cooling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consider solar water heating and photovoltaics, or design buildings for future panel installation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure the detail design of appliances and energy sources results in a reduction in the building’s operational energy impact across all seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design water efficient, low maintenance landscaping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design landscaping first utilizing native plants and then considering other appropriate drought resistant species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate the feasibility of gray water collection and use for landscape irrigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider rooftop water catchment for outdoor watering should be considered in many regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design to encourage and permit the collection of recyclables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make provisions for storage and processing of recyclables: recycling bins near the kitchen, under sink door mounted bucket with lid for compostable food waste, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce light pollution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make the structure adaptable to other uses, and choose materials and components that can be reused or recycled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design insect-resistant detailing that will require minimal use of pesticides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage working from home to reduce commuting. Consider home office needs with layout and wiring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SITE ISSUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATION/GUIDELINES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early in the siting process carry out a careful site evaluation: solar access, soils, vegetation, important natural areas, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit development on soils designated as prime farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide for erosion and sedimentation control during all phases of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage stormwater on site and provide responsible on-site water management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect floodplain functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control and manage known invasive plants found on site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a soil management plan that incorporates the conservation or restoration of appropriate plant biomass on the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building reuse—Consider renovation of older buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select sites that encourage non-motorized transportation and use of public transit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider the impact on the local community. Selection of park and recreation facilities within existing communities should be a high priority to encourage community cohesive and equitability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave the most pristine areas untouched, and look for areas that have been previously damaged to build on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek to restore damaged ecosystems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize automobile dependence and locate park and recreation facilities to provide access to public transportation, bicycle paths, and walking access to basic services. Provide for site accessibility, safety, and way finding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate park buildings to minimize environmental impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster buildings or build attached units to preserve open space and wildlife habitats, avoid especially sensitive areas including wetlands, and keep roads and service lines short.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide responsible on-site water management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situate buildings to benefit existing vegetation to maximize views of vegetation and quiet outdoor spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide outdoor spaces for social interaction and opportunities for outdoor physical activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### MATERIALS AND LANDSCAPING

**DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATION/GUIDELINES**

- Avoid ozone depleting chemicals in mechanical equipment and insulation.
- Utilize water-efficient landscaping.
- Use vegetation to minimize building heat and cooling requirements.
- Use durable products and building materials which have a record of longer life and reduced maintenance costs.
- Where possible, select building materials that will require little maintenance (painting, retreatment, waterproofing, etc.), or whose maintenance will have minimal environmental impact.
- Where possible purchase locally produced building materials.
- To reduce transportation costs and energy use and pollution generation first look to purchase locally or state-wide rather than materials and products imported to your area.
- Use building products made from recycled materials.
- Where appropriate, to reduce landfill pressure and save natural resources, use salvaged materials: lumber, millwork, certain plumbing fixtures, and hardware. Make sure these materials are safe, and don't sacrifice energy efficiency or water efficiency.
- Avoid materials that will off gas pollutants such as solvent based finishes, adhesives, carpeting, particle board, and many other building products that release formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds into the air.
- Use lumber from independently certified well-managed forests. Avoid lumber products produced from old growth timber when acceptable alternative exist. Such as engineered wood which can be substituted for old growth Douglas fir.
- Minimize use of pressure treated lumber.
- Use detailing that will prevent soil contact and rot and where possible, use alternatives such as recycled plastic lumber.
- Minimize packaging waste and avoid excessive packaging, such as plastic-wrapped plumbing fixtures or fasteners not available in bulk.

### EQUIPMENT

**DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATION/GUIDELINES**

- Install high efficiency heating and cooling equipment.
- Install equipment with minimal risk of combustion gas spillage, such as sealed combustion appliances.
- Install high efficiency lights and appliances.
- Install water efficient equipment including low-flow toilets and water free urinals.
- Water conserving toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators not only reduce water use, they also reduce demand on septic systems or sewage treatment plants.
- Reducing hot water use also saves energy.
- Install mechanical ventilation equipment.
- Mechanical ventilation is usually required to ensure safe, healthy indoor air.
- Heat recovery ventilators are preferred in cold climates because of energy savings, but simpler, less expensive exhaust only ventilation systems are also adequate.
JOBSITE AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATION/GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect trees and topsoil during site work by fencing of the drip line around them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid use of pesticides and other chemicals that may leach into the groundwater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize job site waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce waste and simplify sorting. Set up clearly marked bins or trash cans for different types of usable waste (wood scraps for kindling, sawdust for compost, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find out where different materials can be taken for recycling, and educate workers about recycling procedures. Donate salvaged materials to low-income housing projects, theater groups, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make your office as energy efficient as possible, purchase energy efficient vehicles; arrange carpools to job site, and schedule site visits and errands to minimize unnecessary driving. In your office, purchase recycled office paper and supplies and recycle office paper waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make education of sustainability practices part of your daily practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the design and construction process to educate clients, employees, subcontractors, and the general public about environmental impacts of buildings and how these impacts can be minimized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce emissions and promote the use of fuel-efficient vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycle organic matter generated during site operations and maintenance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>