

4.12 RECREATION

This section describes existing recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Project site and the potential impacts of the Project related to recreation.

4.12.1 Setting

a. Existing Park and Recreation Facilities. The City of Goleta currently operates 16 City Parks and 8 open spaces, totaling approximately 482 acres throughout the City (City of Goleta, 2015). This equates to approximately 15.7 acres per 1,000 residents (based on 2015 total population of 30,765 [Department of Finance, 2015]). According to the Goleta General Plan, three City-owned regional open space preserves – Sperling Preserve, Santa Barbara Shores Park, and Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve – collectively account for 363 acres of the City’s total open space acreage. In addition to park and open space areas, approximately 40 percent of Goleta’s two miles of Pacific shoreline is in City ownership. Furthermore, hiking trails and recreational areas in the Los Padres National Forest are located within a few miles of the City.

The City’s parks, open space areas, and shoreline provide opportunities for passive recreational activities and enjoyment of natural areas. However, these passive recreational areas do not provide facilities that address the City’s active recreational needs. The term “passive recreation” refers to activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions, while “active recreation” consists of structured individual or team activities that require the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. According to the City of Goleta General Plan, neighborhood open space areas and natural preserves provide many opportunities for passive recreation activities and enjoyment of natural areas. However, the City determined there was a lack of abundance of areas specifically developed for active recreational uses, with about 3 acres of land per 1,000 residents. As identified in the General Plan, additional active parks were an important community need. The General Plan also determined that the City’s single recreation center, the Goleta Valley Community Center, does not provide sufficient active recreation space to fulfill all of the combined needs of community groups and residents. Although the privately owned and managed Girsh Park provides facilities for active recreation, there remains a shortage of public facilities for active recreation such as sports fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and dedicated trails (Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan, 2006).

Parks in the vicinity of the Project site include Willow Springs Open Space and Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve. The park closest to the Project site is Willow Springs Open Space. The 2.37-acre park is located just southeast of the Project site boundary, across Camino Vista. The approximately 140-acre Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve provides predominantly passive open space, as well as the historic Stow House Museum and is located approximately 500 feet north of the Project site boundary, across U.S. 101 and Calle Real.

The locations of existing parks and open space within the City are shown in Figure 4.12-1. Planned parks in the City are listed in Table 4.12-1. All of the planned parks listed in Table 4.12-1 would include active recreation components, with a potential total acreage of approximately 9 to 12 acres.



**Table 4.12-1
 Planned Active Parks**

Park Name	Park Type	Acres	Description
Hollister/Kellogg Park	Neighborhood Park	4.0	Active recreation park located between Kellogg Avenue and San Jose Creek to the north of Hollister Avenue
Willow Springs Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0 -3.0	Active recreation park located on Camino Vista adjacent to the Phase II of the Willow Springs Apartments (part of the proposed Project)
Village at Los Carneros Park	Neighborhood Park	3.0 - 5.0	Active recreation park located on Castillian Drive near Village at Los Carneros Project
Total		9.0 - 12.0	

Source: City of Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan Open Space Element Figure 3-2.

b. Regulatory Setting.

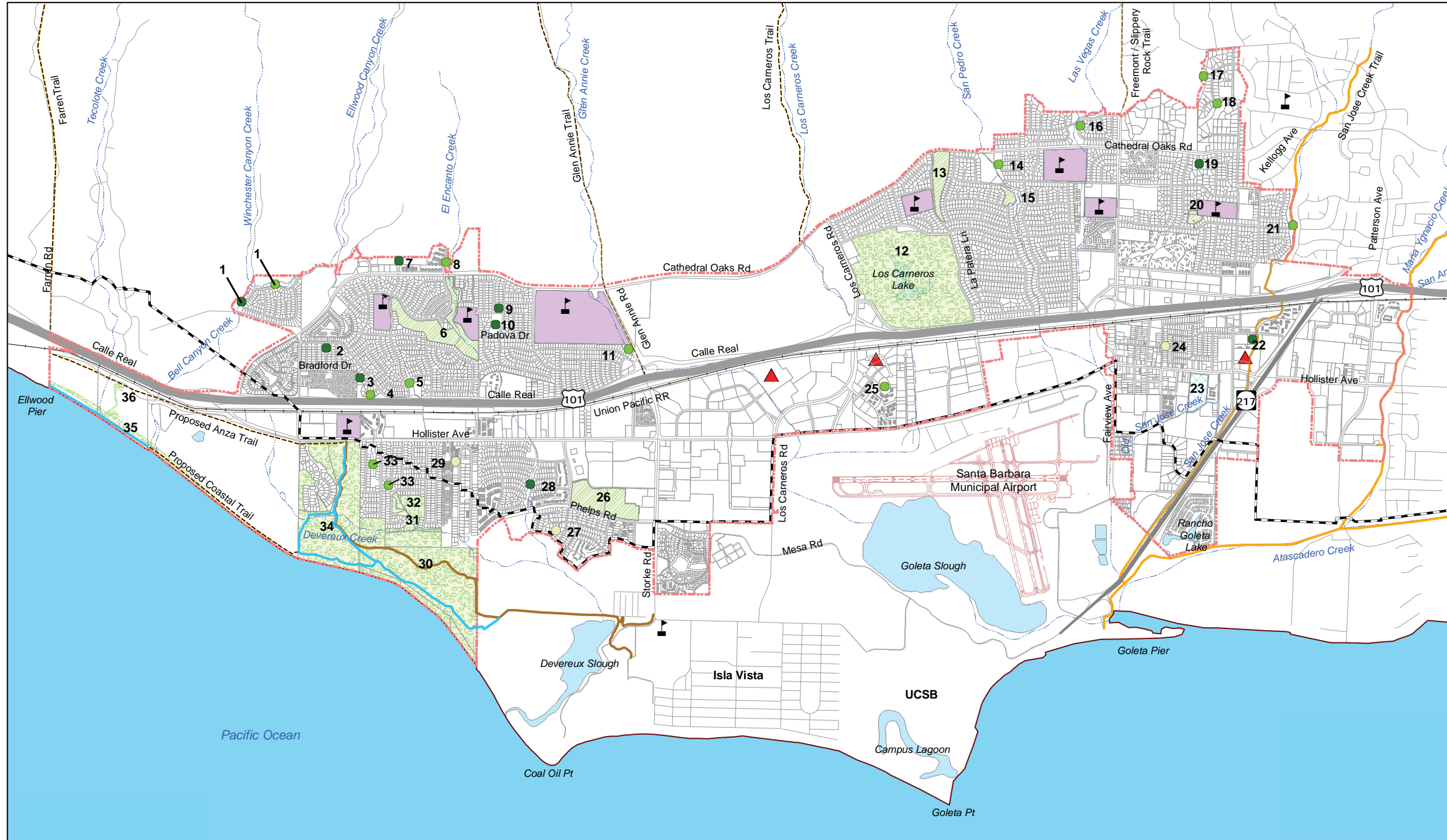
Quimby Act (1975). The Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) is intended to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of growth on park facilities. It gives the legislative body of a City or County the authority, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval of a tract map or parcel map.

Goleta Municipal Code Chapter 16.14 – Park and Recreation Dedication and Fees. Based on the authority vested in the City by the Quimby Act, Chapter 16.14 of the Goleta Municipal Code requires new development and subdivisions within the City to mitigate their park and recreation facility impacts by constructing, or financing the construction of, the park and recreation facilities needed to serve their projects. Section 16.14.010 of the Goleta Municipal Code requires dedication of 0.0128 acres of property per dwelling unit to neighborhood and community park and recreational purposes, exclusive of and in addition to school lands used cooperatively for recreational purposes. This requirement is intended to meet the City’s existing Quimby Act park-to-population ratio of 4.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. In lieu of dedicating parkland, a developer may pay a fee for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing park or recreation facilities. The City’s Park and Recreation fee is based on the number of multi-family dwelling units proposed and is updated periodically.

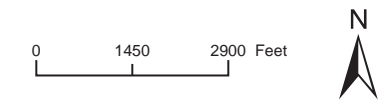
City of Goleta General Plan, Open Space Element. The Open Space Element includes goals, policies, and actions intended to achieve the City’s vision for open space, parks, and recreation facilities that are accessible to all members of the community. This includes a commitment to seek to increase the amount of active parks, emphasizing those areas of the community that were relatively underserved as of 2005 and areas designated for future new residential development. Open Space Element Figure 3-2 indicates the location of existing and planned public parks. Policy OS 6 ensures that new parks and recreational services for the public are provided concurrent with new development. Its stated objective is to ensure the development of a well-maintained, interconnected system of multi-functional parks, recreation facilities, and public open spaces that will meet the needs of existing and future residents and employees and that are attractive, safe, and accessible to all segments of the City’s population, and supportive of established neighborhoods. Policies that would apply to the Project include:

- *Policy OS 9-2: Mitigation of Impacts of New Development on Parks and Recreation Facilities.*
- *Policy OS 9.3: Alternatives to Impact Fees.*





- Existing and Planned Parks**
- Goleta Valley Community Center
 - 1 Mini Park
 - 1 Neighborhood Open Space
 - 1 Neighborhood Park
 - Community Park
 - Regional Open Space
 - Planned Future Park Site
- Existing and Proposed Trails**
- Existing Trail
 - Proposed Trail
 - Juan Baustista de Anza Trail
 - Coastal Trail
- Other Features**
- Goleta City Boundary
 - Coastal Zone
 - Creeks
 - Schools in Goleta



Park and Recreation Plan Map

Source: City of Goleta, November 2009

Figure 4.12-1
 City of Goleta

4.12.2 Impact Analysis

a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds. The City has not adopted specific thresholds regarding impacts involving recreational facilities, but strives to maintain a ratio of 4.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Therefore, impacts may be significant if a project causes the City to contain less than 4.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, such that new facilities would need to be developed. Furthermore, in accordance with Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, impacts would be significant if:

1. *The Project would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.*
2. *The Project would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?*

b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

Impact REC-1 **The Project would accommodate an estimated 776 residents, resulting in an increase in parkland demand of 4.6 acres. The Project would provide two private recreational facilities (clubhouse and pool for each development area) and a two-acre public park, which would partially address the increase in demand for park and recreation facilities. As part of Project approval, City-required mitigation fees would be paid to offset the increased demand for parkland. Impacts related to recreation would be Class III, less than significant [Threshold 1 and Threshold 2].**

Based on an average household size of 2.76 persons for workforce housing (228 units proposed) and 1.11 persons for senior housing (132 units proposed), the Project would add an estimated 776 new residents (Department of Finance, 2015). This would represent a 2.5 percent increase in the City's population, which would result in a corresponding increase in demand for recreational facilities and open space. Absent development of new active park space, the anticipated 776 new residents would reduce the per person park space level in the City to 2.9 acres per resident.

As discussed in the *Setting*, for new developments and subdivisions that increase recreational demand, Chapter 16.14 of the Goleta Municipal Code requires a dedication of 0.0128 acres per dwelling unit to neighborhood and community park and recreation purposes. Based on this ratio, the Project must devote 4.61 acres to park and recreation purposes. Alternatively, when filing a tentative map application for approvals, the applicant may choose to pay the City an in-lieu fee.

The Project includes a two-acre public park that would be developed onsite and would include an activity trail, benches, barbecue area, picnic tables bicycle parking, level turf play area, and native landscaping. This park would not create any significant environmental impacts and would partially offset impacts of the population increase generated from the Project. In addition to the proposed park, private recreational facilities would be provided as part of the Project for residents of the development and would consist of a clubhouse and pool for each development area. As these private recreational facilities would not be available for public use, they do not count toward the required dedication of park and recreational facilities for neighborhood or community use. However, pursuant to Chapter 16.14 of the



Goleta Municipal Code, the provision of private developed parkland within common open space can be credited towards offsetting public parkland impacts in the form of reduced in-lieu fees. The credit toward in-lieu fees may not exceed 50 percent.

The City has an abundance of passive open space opportunities. The Project would increase demands on the capacity of existing regional and neighborhood open space areas with passive recreational opportunities, such as the Ellwood/Sperling Preserve and Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve which collectively account for 363 acres of the City's total open space acreage. With the Project's additional 776 new residents in the City, there would be approximately 11.5 acres of these open space areas per 1,000 residents. Therefore, the City's supply of such areas is sufficient to meet the demand generated by the Project. Therefore, the Project's impacts on passive open space recreation would be less than significant.

The increase in demand for active recreational facilities from future residents on the Project site would exacerbate the City's existing deficiency in parkland with active recreational amenities (described in detail in Section 4.12.1[a], above). Thus, the Project could further contribute to deterioration, or accelerate deterioration, of the City's existing inventory of active recreational facilities. Nevertheless, Chapter 16.14 of the Goleta Municipal Code would require the applicant to pay in-lieu parks and recreation fees upon the approval of the final subdivision map and development project and prior to the issuance of land use permits, which would be used to fund public park and recreational facilities. The amount of fee required in lieu of land dedication is based on the fee schedule in effect when the applicant applies for land use clearance for the subdivision. With payment of these fees, the Project would comply with City requirements related to provision of park facilities. The Project would not cause the physical deterioration of existing parks or create the need for new parks or recreational facilities beyond those proposed onsite and currently planned by the City. Therefore, the Project's impact on recreational facilities would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures. The Project's impact on recreational facilities would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

Residual Impact. Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.

c. Cumulative Impacts. Residential growth throughout the City would result in increased demand for recreational facilities. According to the City's February 2015 list of cumulative projects (current as of the release of the Notice of Preparation), a total increase of 1,344 residential units are pending review, have been approved, or are under construction in Goleta. As required by Chapter 16.14 of the Goleta Municipal Code, new residential developments within the City must dedicate 0.0128 acres per dwelling unit to parks and recreation, or else pay in-lieu fees toward the future development of such facilities. Thus, cumulative development in the City would generate demand for approximately 17 acres of recreational facilities.

The Goleta General Plan identifies approximately 90 acres of existing active recreation, which translates to approximately 3 acres per 1,000 residents. Several of the planned park facilities, as shown in Table 4.12-1, would provide space for active recreation. If fully developed, these parks would provide an additional 12 acres, bringing the total active recreation area to 101.7 acres. With the addition of approximately 3,709 City of Goleta residents upon development of cumulative projects (1,344 residences x 2.76 persons per residence), the available active recreation ratio would be approximately 3 acres per 1,000 residents. This would be equivalent to the current 3 acres per 1,000 residents and falls



short of the City's adopted goal of providing 4.7 acres of parkland per thousand residents. The Project's population would contribute to this existing cumulative impact. However, the proposed onsite facilities and required payment of park and recreation fees required by Goleta Municipal Code Chapter 16.14 would be used to fund public park facilities that would meet the incremental demand for recreational facilities created by the Project. With the required payment of in-lieu parks and recreation fees, the Project's incremental contribution to this cumulative impact would be less than significant.



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