

01



Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Goleta Parks, Facilities, and Playgrounds Master Plan (Master Plan) provides an assessment of Goleta’s parks and playgrounds’ system, taking into account future growth in the community. The Master Plan provides a realistic view of the City’s parks and playgrounds and develops a vision for the future.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Master Plan includes:

- ✦ A level of service analysis
- ✦ Program recommendations
- ✦ Park and facility improvement recommendations
- ✦ A prioritized plan and schedule for implementation
- ✦ Recommendations for funding

The Master Plan allows the City to implement the General Plan’s goals and policies as related to parks, recreation facilities, and recreation service programs. To do so, this plan provides an in-depth analysis of existing park levels of service and trends, while at the same time identifying future park needs. As a result, the Master Plan can assist in the development of initiatives to enhance the existing parks and recreation system while fulfilling the needs of the community today and in the future.

1.2 Key Issues and Recurring Themes

Issues regarding parks, recreation facilities, and programs were identified using various tools, including a review of existing plans and documents, intercept surveys, pop-up events, stakeholder meetings, inventory of existing facilities, level of services analysis, and a community workshop and presentation. A summary of the information gathered from these sources can be found in Chapter 4 and Appendix C. This information was analyzed and recommendations were developed to address the following key issues:

- ✦ Some parks are not kept open or well-maintained
- ✦ The Goleta Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan lack integration
- ✦ Connectivity for all modes by including trails and pathways
- ✦ Security, safety, and lighting
- ✦ The lack of transportation that some residents have (especially low-income families and those under 17) for accessing parks and lack of equitable distribution of the park system
- ✦ The need for additional facilities such as a public swimming pool and a dog park
- ✦ The need for Joint Use Agreements with schools
- ✦ Lack of preservation of natural habitat as and within open space
- ✦ Some open space areas of natural habitat have park amenities and should be integrated with neighborhood or community parks
- ✦ Other open space areas could handle park amenities, but the adjacent neighborhoods are concerned about increased use of these open spaces
- ✦ Some existing park amenities need improvements and/or renovations



1.3 Recommendations

After analyzing the findings, community and stakeholder input, inventory of existing facilities, level of service analysis, and analysis of future recreation trends, a series of recommendations were developed to provide guidance for the improvement of Goleta's parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The following summary provides an overview of the recommendations with more detail in Chapter 5.

Recommendations Summary

- ★ General Recommendations
 - ★ Establish partnerships with schools to share recreation facilities
 - ★ Create a multi-use trail system either on or leading to parks including a linear park along Phelps Road, west of Pacific Oaks Road
 - ★ Provide sports and recreation facilities where possible at new parks
 - ★ Reclassify some non-natural open space areas as neighborhood parks
 - ★ Where appropriate, suggest adding amenities to non-natural portions of open space but do not utilize sensitive areas for anything other than trails
 - ★ Construct new parks and provide infill amenities at existing parks where room allows and where the amenities are missing for the area, such as a public swimming pool and a dog park
 - ★ Adjust the neighborhood park acres per 1,000 population from 2 to 1.5 acres, the community park from 3 to 2.5 acres, and the open space from 5 to 6 acres. This more accurately reflects the current inventory while maintaining the current 10 acres per 1,000 for all parks and matches the community priorities for open space.
 - ★ Continue to work with developers on helping to infill gaps of parks that are not within a 15-minute walk or 5-minute drive
 - ★ Integrate efforts with Goleta Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
 - ★ Improve security, safety, and lighting
 - ★ Improve the transportation for accessing parks and consider how to improve the equal distribution of the park system
 - ★ Preserve and protect natural habitats within open space and parks
 - ★ Preserve and protect natural habitats as open space
- ★ Maintenance Standards
 - ★ Improve park openness and perception of park maintenance levels
 - ★ Perform quality assurance reviews of each park periodically
 - ★ Evaluate and incorporate the use of technology and software systems to improve communications, scheduling, reservations, rentals, registration, etc.
 - ★ Use "After-Action Reports" to provide relevant details about incidents that occur at each park
 - ★ Develop protocols to protect sensitive areas with the help of environmental resources staff

- ★ Amenities
 - ★ Reclassify parks with amenities as neighborhood or community parks
 - ★ Improve and/or renovate park amenities
- ★ Signage Policy
 - ★ Refine park facilities signage and interpretative signage guidelines as suggested in Chapter 5
- ★ Reclaimed Water Utilization for Parks
 - ★ Perform three-phase screening process, based mostly on availability of reclaimed water.

1.4 Glossary of Terms

The Master Plan uses the following terms with the associated definition. These definitions are consistent with the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (GP/CLUP) where applicable. See the GP/CLUP for the standards that apply to the type of parks.

Active Recreation: Structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.

Amenity: Aesthetic or other characteristics of a development that increase its desirability to a community or its marketability to the public. This may include recreational facilities, security systems, landscaping, and attractive street design.

Facility: The built features within parks that create opportunities to engage in specific games and activities. These can range from single courts or small play areas up to the recreation centers which supports a wide variety of self-directed and programmed recreation.

Natural habitat: Native or naturalized plant communities and natural features such as woodlands, riparian corridors, and varied undeveloped landscape, including but not limited to all areas designated as ESHA in the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan.

Open space: Any area of land that is essentially unimproved and designated for one or more of the following open space uses: (1) land for the preservation of natural resources; (2) land for the managed production of resources; (3) open space for outdoor recreation; (4) open space for public health and safety; and (5) protection of Native American cultural sites, including burial, historic or archaeological, sacred, or other cultural sites.



Park: Public land for passive or active recreation.

Passive natural area: Areas designated for passive recreation where minimal stress has been done to the site's resources.

Passive Recreation: Recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions.

Playground: A space designed for children to play and explore. It may include playsets, interactive panels, and protective surfacing.

The types of parks are defined in detail in Section 3.2 Goleta Park Types of this Master Plan.

1.5 Scope of the Document

The scope of the Master Plan encompasses parks, facilities and playgrounds within the City of Goleta. The Master Plan has purview over the parks, playgrounds and portions of parks and open space with improved facilities in the City of Goleta parks system. Some open space areas within the City are dominated by natural habitat, and in these areas the goals of this Master Plan should be secondary to habitat preservation objectives in the General Plan/ Coastal Land Use Plan or specific open space management documents for those areas.



1.6 Overview of the Document

The Master Plan is organized by the following chapters:

1. **Executive Summary** – Describes the purpose and goals of the Master Plan, identifies the key issues and recurring themes, and provides a summary of the recommendations.
2. **Planning Context** – Explains the context of the City of Goleta to California and the U.S., describes the functions of the Parks and Open Space Division, and provides an overview of the planning process methodology, as well as a review of past and existing planning documents relevant to the Master Plan.
3. **Existing Conditions** – Provides an analysis and inventory of Goleta's existing park and recreation facilities, a description of each park classification, and a park distribution analysis that includes a Level of Service (LOS) analysis of existing facilities.
4. **Trends Analysis** – Analyzes recreation trends and summarizes the information gathered through community workshops, stakeholder meetings, intercept surveys, and invitation surveys. This chapter also examines projected demographics, vacant land, potential growth areas, and future equitable distribution of parks is identified.
5. **Recommendations and Action Plans** – Provides recommendations, goals, and standards to enhance the level of service and quality of existing facilities and programs, improve programming and service delivery, and increase financial opportunities.
6. **Appendices** – Includes the City Park Accessibility Compliance Assessment, interviews with stakeholders and survey results discussed throughout this Master Plan, a comprehensive list of all policies, plans, and ordinances applicable to parks.