



03



Existing Level of Service

3.1 Existing City Parks, Open Spaces, and Recreation Facilities

The City of Goleta prides itself on providing ample and high quality parks and recreational experiences for its citizens. The parks and recreation facility inventory provides a broad range of passive and active opportunities, that are well dispersed throughout the city. The City of Goleta currently has approximately 550 acres of park land. This includes 97 acres of developed parks of various sizes, 444 acres of neighborhood or regional open space, and a large community center that is nearly 10 acres in size. A gem of the community is the coastline. More than half of the city’s neighborhood or regional open space (248 acres) is along the coastline, including 20 acres of usable beaches, connected with five miles of coastal trails. Please see Figure 3-1 for a map of the existing parks and Table 3-1 for a listing of the park categories, acres and amenities. Overall, the City of Goleta exceeds its goals for population based parks. However, this is overstated from the large amount of open space that exceeds the population based standard for open space. Chapter 5 will discuss future deficits related to developed parklands that should focus on gaps where the proximity goals (15-minute walk, 5-minute drive) are not currently being met.

Table 3-1: Existing Park Type and Acreage

Goleta Park Type	Total Acres
Mini Parks	0.76
Neighborhood Park	25.67
Community Parks	70.57
Neighborhood Open Space	39.67
Regional Open Space	404.04
Community Center	9.76
Total	550.47
Park Acreage per 1,000 Residents (2017)	17.5
National Average	10.1
Ave. for cities with similar size (20k-50k)	9.6
Goleta Park Goal per 1,000 Residents	10



Mini Parks

- 1 Armstrong Park (27)
- 2 Mathilda Park (29)
- 3 Nectarine Park (24)

Neighborhood Parks

- 4 Andamar Park (19)
- 5 Armitos Park (22)
- 6 Bella Vista I & II Park (9 & 10)
- 7 San Miguel Park & Open Space (1)
- 8 University Village Park (28)
- 9 Winchester Park (2)
- 10 Winchester II Park (3 & 4)
- 31 Jonny D. Wallis Park

Community Parks

- 11 Berkeley Park (20)
- 12 Evergreen Acres Park (6)
- 13 Girsh Park (Private) (26)
- 14 Stow Grove Park (13)
- 15 Stow Tennis Courts (15)

Neighborhood Open Space

- 16 Brandon Park (5)
- 17 Glen Annie at Del Norte (11)
- 18 Koarts Apartments Park (7 & 8)
- 19 La Goleta Park (16)
- 20 Oro Verde Park (17 & 18)
- 21 San Jose Creek Park (21)

- 22 Santa Barbara Shores Park (North) (34)
- 22 Santa Barbara Shores Open Space (South) (33)
- 23 Stonebridge Open Space (14)
- 24 Willow Springs Open Space (Private) (25)

Regional Open Space

- 25 Campus Glen Park (31)
- 26 Coronado Butterfly Preserve (Non-profit) (32)
- 27 Haskell's Beach (35 & 36)
- 28 Los Carneros Park (12)
- 29 Sperling Preserve/
Ellwood Mesa Open Space (30)

Community Center

- 30 Goleta Valley Community Center & Goleta Boys and Girls Club (Non-profit) (23)

Notes:

- See #31 newly constructed park listed under Neighborhood Parks column
- (#) References Map # from Open Space Element (OSE) of the General Plan, 2006. (# & #) are designated as two separate parks from OSE.

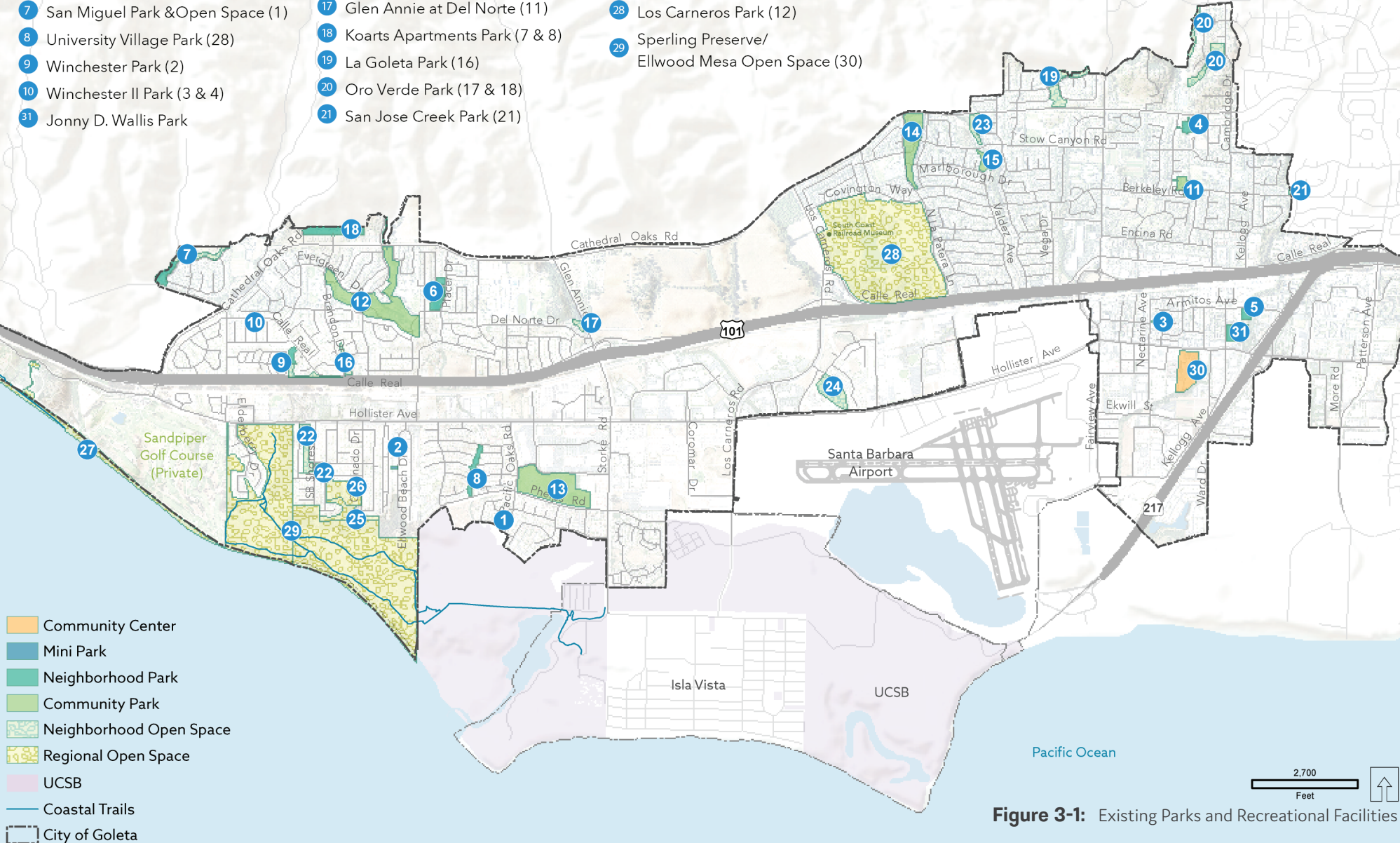


Figure 3-1: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

3.1.1 Existing Recreation Facilities

The Master Plan inventoried the City’s existing recreation facilities using both the Goleta Recreation Needs Assessment and through conducting on-site field work. Table 3-2 summarizes these facilities and compares them with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guideline service level and the Goleta Needs Assessment standards (one facility per number of population). The calculations are based on the current population level in the City of Goleta of 30,847 according to the 2017 Census ACS 5-Year Estimates. Table 3-3 shows the existing park and sports facilities available at each park. Because private parks may not be available to the public at all times, their analysis acreage is calculated as 25% of the actual acreage. The new Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park now offers many new categories of amenities: handball court, concrete Ping-Pong table, bocce ball court, pickleball court, and fitness nodes with exercise equipment. Since these new amenities are unique to this one park and the park has just been completed, they are not listed in Table 3-2 and 3-3. Please refer to Tables 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4 for where these facilities are documented.

According to the available standards, the City currently has sufficient playgrounds and multi-purpose fields, but is deficient in most of the sports facilities, and pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Table 3-2: Existing Recreation Facilities Level of Service

Level of Service for Current Population		City Facilities	Private Facilities	Total Current Inventory	School Facilities under Memo of Understanding	National Guideline Service Level (1/# pop)	Recommended City of Goleta Standard (1/# pop)	Total Facilities Needed	Total Surplus/Deficit
Park Facility	Picnic Areas (12+people)	9		9		5,000		6.2	2.8
	Picnic Tables	114	7	121					
	Barbecue	22		22					
	Playgrounds (age2-5, 6-12)	19	1	20		3,500	2,650	11.6	8.4
Sports Facilities	Multi-Purpose Field	10	2	12		5,000		6.2	5.8
	Disc Golf	1		1					
	Baseball (Youth)	0	2	2		5,572	6,250	4.9	(2.9)
	Baseball (Adult)	2	2	4		7,000	30,600	1.0	3.0
	Soccer (Youth)	0	22	22			1,025	30.1	(8.1)
	Soccer (Adult)	0		0			7,700	4.0	(4.0)
	Softball (Youth)	0		0		8,300	7,750	4.0	(4.0)
	Softball (Adult)	0	1	1		10,493	16,900	1.8	(0.8)
	Tennis	11	0	11		5,000		6.2	4.8
	Basketball	2	1	3		7,000		4.4	(1.4)
	Volleyball	2		2		5,000		6.2	(4.2)
	Pickleball	1		1		5,000		6.2	(5.2)
	Bocceball	1		1					
	Skate Areas	1		1		50,000		0.6	0.4
	Ice Rink	0	1	1		21,000		1.60	(0.6)
	Pedestrian Trails - mi	6		6		4,000	2,300	13.4	(7.4)
Bicycle Trails - mi	5.8		5.8		4,000	2,450	12.6	(6.8)	

Population Base	
2017	30,847

Table 3-3: Existing Recreation Facilities per Park

Citywide Inventory of Parks and Recreation Assets			Comm. Center	Mini-Park			Neighborhood Parks							Community Parks					Neighborhood Open Space						Regional Open Space											
			30. Goleata Valley Comm. Center/ Boys & Girls Club	1. Armstrong	2. Mathilda	3. Nectarine	4. Andamar	5. Armitos Park	6. Balla Vista I & II Park	7. San Miguel Park	8. University Village	9. Winchester Park	10. Winchester II Park	31. Jonny D. Wallis Park	11. Berkeley Park	12. Evergreen Acres	13. Gish Park (Private)*	14. Stow Grove Park	15. Stow Tennis Courts	16. Brandon	17. Glen Annie at Del Norte	18. Koats Apartments	19. La Goleata	20. Oro Verde	21. San Jose Creek	22. Santa Barbara Shores Open Space	23. Stonebridge	24. Willow Springs (Private)*	25. Campus Glen	26. Coronado Preserve (Private)*	27. Haskell's Beach	28. Los Cameros Natural & Historic Preserve	29. Sperring Preserve/ Ellwood Mesa Open Space			
Park Acreages	550.5	9.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.4	1.5	4.3	5.8	3.1	3.3	1.2	4.0	2.4	28.8	25.0	11.8	2.6	2.0	1.0	6.9	6.0	7.0	0.2	6.1	2.6	7.7	6.2	9.5	21.0	139.8	227.5				
Park Amenities																																				
Park Facility	Bench	74	8	2	1	5		3	3	2		2	2	4	4	6		16	3	1													12			
	Drinking Fountain	13	2											2	1	1		6																		
	Picnic Area	9												1	4			4																		
	Picnic Tables	120	7	1	2		1		9	2			2	20	2	3	7	62	1					1												
	Barbecue	22												6				16																		
	Play Equipment	19	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4					1													
	Trash Can	70		1	2			4	5	1		1	1	10	3	6		26	3					1								3	3			
	Restrooms	8	1											1		3		1														1	1			
	Parking Lot	7												1			3	1													1	1				
ADA Parking	12												2			6	2													2						
Sports Facilities	Multi-Purpose Field	12					1	1	2	1		1	1	1	1	1	2		1																	
	Disc Golf Course	1														1																				
	Baseball	7											1			1	4	1																		
	Basketball	3	1															1																		
	Softball	1																1																		
	Pickleball	1												1																						
	Bocce ball	1												1																						
	Skate Areas	1												1																						
	Recreation Center	1																1																		
	Tennis	11	1												2	2				2											4					
	Soccer	22															22																			
	Trail	26								2	4		1					1		2						1			1		10		2			
	Volleyball	2																2																		

Mini Parks	0.8	Community Center	9.8	Neighborhood Open Space	39.7
Neighborhood Parks	25.7	Community Parks	70.6	Regional Open Space	404.0
Neighborhood Park Total	26.4	Community Park Total	80.3	Open Space Total	443.7
Total only Counting 25% of Private but Publicly Accessible Community Parks			61.6	Adjusted Park with only 25% Private Acres	430.8
				Grand Total All Parks	550.5
				Grand Total Parks only Counting 25% of Private but Publicly Accessible Parks	518.8

3.2 Goleta Park Types

This Master Plan generally follows the park type classification defined by the Goleta Recreation Needs Assessment. Parks are classified into six categories based on park size, function and character: Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Open Space, Community Parks, Regional Open Space, and Special Use Parks.

3.2.1 Mini Parks

A mini park is characterized by its relatively small size and specialized facilities that serve a small local area and/or specific segment of the population, such as children or senior citizens. The following standards apply to mini or pocket parks:

- a. Mini parks typically serve nearby residents within a 15-minute walkshed.
- b. The typical size is one acre or less.
- c. Mini parks should be located in close proximity to housing and/or other activity centers in the immediate neighborhood to provide accessibility and visibility.
- d. Typical facilities provided in mini parks may include children’s play areas and equipment, exercise and fitness areas, outdoor seating and picnic areas, and plazas.

3.2.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide the nearby residential neighborhood with active recreational facilities for a variety of age groups. The following standards apply to neighborhood parks:

- a. Neighborhood parks typically serve nearby residents within a 15-minute walkshed or 10-minute driveshed.

- b. The typical size is less than 10 acres.
- c. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood population through safe pedestrian and bicycle access.

Neighborhood parks do not generally require on-site parking, although a limited amount of parking may be provided.

- d. Typical facilities provided in neighborhood parks include playgrounds and associated equipment, picnic tables, open undeveloped areas, lawns or grassy areas for field games, and benches.
- e. Neighborhood parks may be developed as a school park or community center park.

3.2.3 Neighborhood Open Space

Neighborhood open space areas integrate natural features such as trees, riparian corridors, and varied undeveloped landscape with the adjacent neighborhoods. The following standards apply to neighborhood open space areas:

- a. The primary emphasis is placed on protection of the natural resource, with limited passive recreation activities such as trails. Accordingly, the locations of these facilities are based upon the presence of natural resources rather than accessibility to a service area, which is also considered to be a 15-minute walkshed or a 10-minute driveshed.
- b. The typical size is variable and based upon the physical extent of the natural resource area.
- c. Neighborhood open space areas should be made accessible to the surrounding neighborhood population through safe pedestrian and bicycle



Mini Park - Mathilda Park



Neighborhood Park - Jonny D. Wallis Park



Santa Barbara Shores Open Space



Stow Grove Park

access, where feasible and appropriate. On-site parking facilities are not appropriate in neighborhood open space areas.

- d. Typical facilities provided in neighborhood open space areas are limited to space for quiet or passive recreational activities. Structural or land improvements, other than dirt trails and resting areas, should be avoided in these areas. Some neighborhood open space areas may integrate with a small neighborhood park (as described above), usually consisting of a small playground or similar active area. Restrooms and facilities for more intensive, active forms of recreation are not appropriate improvements in neighborhood open space areas.

3.2.4 Community Parks

Community parks include developed areas suited for intense active recreational activities, large natural areas suited for passive outdoor recreation, or a combination of both. These parks may contain special amenities, facilities, or features that attract people from throughout the surrounding community. The following standards apply to community parks:

- a. Community parks typically serve an area within a 5- to 10-minute driveshed.
- b. The typical size is 10 or more acres.
- c. Community parks should be easily accessible from the surrounding neighborhoods and by automobile from more distant neighborhoods. Since these facilities are intended to serve areas beyond their immediate neighborhoods, on-site parking and restroom facilities may be provided.

- d. Multiple facilities for various types of users are typically provided in community parks, including both active and passive recreational facilities. Active facilities may include a range of formal and informal athletic fields (i.e., the play areas are less developed and generally not designed to support competitive play), tennis courts, play areas, developed picnic areas, and meeting and gathering spaces. Passive facilities may include areas for rest and relaxation with a mix of both improved areas (lawns and informal play areas) and unimproved natural areas.

3.2.5 Regional Open Space

Regional open space areas are contiguous to or encompass significant natural resources and may include areas of historical, environmental, or ecological value. These areas may contain special amenities or features that attract people from throughout the city and the surrounding region. The following standards apply to regional open space areas:

- a. Regional open spaces should serve at least a 5- to 10-minute driveshed.
- b. The typical size should be appropriate for the protection of associated natural or open space resources.
- c. Regional open spaces should be easily accessible from the surrounding neighborhoods and for visitors from more distant locations. Since these areas may attract people from distant locations, they may provide on-site parking and restroom facilities. Such services should be located on the periphery of the open space area.

and designed in a way to minimize any adverse impact on natural and visual resources. The capacity of such parking and restroom facilities should be consistent with the character and carrying capacity of the open space area.

- d. Typical facilities provided in regional open space areas are designed to be primarily passive in character, although historical and special purpose attractions may be included. The primary purpose of these areas is to protect their open space and natural values and passive recreation should be managed in a way that does not conflict with these values, while still providing appropriate public access.

3.2.6 School Facilities

Schools provide playgrounds, sports and game areas, restrooms, and children’s play areas. The Needs Assessment identified two school districts within City boundaries, Goleta Union School District and Santa Barbara Unified School District. Combined, these two school districts include five elementary schools, a junior high school, and a high school. Currently, the City does not have an established joint use agreement with either district. The benefit of a well detailed joint use agreement would allow the school districts and the City to cooperate with each other for the purpose of improving facilities and organizing, promoting, and conducting recreation and education programs for children and adults.

If any joint use school agreement is reached, future plans may count the schools’ recreation areas at 40 percent due to the limited amount of time the general public can access them.

3.2.7 Adjacent Parks and Recreation Facilities

Most of the adjacent parks, open spaces, and facilities are located south or east of the city. Authorities managing adjacent parks include: Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, County of Santa Barbara, and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Goleta residents may use these spaces and facilities based on proximity and convenience. The Master Plan includes adjacent park and open spaces for geospatial analysis. Figure 3-3 through Figure 3-7 show parksheds serviced both by Goleta parks and some adjacent parks, so that spatial service gaps can be identified. However, these adjacent parks and facilities are not included in the level of service analyses and calculation.

3.2.8 Private Recreation Facilities

Among the thirty-two parks mapped and listed as existing facilities, two non-public parks – Girsh Park and the Goleta Boys and Girls Club – are included because of their heavy usage and accessibility to residential neighborhoods. Some other private parks that have the potential to play bigger roles in the Goleta recreation systems are Deckers Park, Ice In Paradise indoor ice rink, and Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club. Deckers Park is located within the Cabrillo Business Park with benches, picnic tables, two half basketball courts, and a volleyball court. While Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club requires membership to use its many facilities, the ice rink has public sessions with an admission fee.



Lake Los Carneros



Sperling Preserve/Ellwood Mesa Open Space

3.3 Park Distribution Analysis

3.3.1 Parksheds Defined by Travel Time

For each park type, a Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis generated a polygon representing a 15-minute walkshed (given a walking speed of 2.5 mph) and a 5-minute driveshed (includes total travel time with approximate delay due to traffic signals and finding parking). Resulting service catchment areas were overlaid on the city base map to see which regions were well covered by park access and to estimate the number of residents served by park type. Table 3-4 is a summary of the parkshed assumptions, and Table 3-5 shows which parksheds are applied to which park types.

3.3.2 Level of Service Analysis

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Level of Service (LOS) is a standard evaluation of park type and acreage across all park agencies based on what they offer their residents that is based on the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. The LOS is defined as a ratio representing the minimum amount of open space and parkland needed to meet the recreation demands of the community, typically per 1,000 population, as shown in Table 3-6.

Table 3-4: Parkshed Assumptions

Parkshed Types	Speed Assumption	Other Assumptions	Equivalent Distance (Mile)
15-minute walkshed	2.5 mph		0.625
8-minute bikeshed (not mapped)	10 mph	1-minute delay due to traffic signals and finding parking	1.17
5-minute driveshed	30 mph	2-minute delay due to traffic signals and finding parking	1.5
10-minute driveshed	30 mph	5-minute delay due to traffic signals and parking	2.5

Table 3-5: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

Park Types	Park Proximity Goal
Mini Parks	Populations within a 15-minute walkshed, or Populations within a 5-minute driveshed
Neighborhood Park	
Neighborhood Open Space	
Community Parks	Populations within a 10-minute driveshed
Regional Open Space	
Community Center	

Table 3-6: Existing Park Level of Service

Park Service Area	Actual Park Acreage	Adjusted Park Acreage*	Goleta Standard per 1,000 Population	Existing Acres per 1,000 Population (2017) based on Adj. Acres	Acres Needed to Meet Standard	Acres Surplus (or Deficit) Using Actual Acres	Total Acres Surplus (or Deficit) Using Adj. Acres
Active Parks							
Mini and Neighborhood Parks	26.43	26.43	2.00	0.86	61.69	(25.57)	(35.26)
Community Parks and Center	80.33	61.60	3.00	2.00	92.54	(12.21)	(30.94)
Open Space							
Neighborhood & Regional Open Space	443.71	430.77	5.00	13.96	154.24	289.48	141.29
All Parks	550.47	518.79	10.00	16.82	308.47	242.00	210.32

* Only 25% of Private Parks that are Publicly Accessible are Counted Toward the Park Standard

3.3.3 Equitable Distribution of Parks

A geographic distribution analysis correlates the distribution of parks and population. This analysis discusses different accessibility ranges for different park types. The set of analyses was performed on all existing parks, open space, and recreation facilities in the city, and by their categories. A GIS based parkshed analysis examined the walktime and drivetime to these facilities. Instead of using radius circles from parks that only consider a direct distance instead of actual walking, driving, or biking distances, this study utilizes actual network routes that lead to park and recreation facilities. This method is more accurate and is more appropriate to use, and it puts attention on the need to improve the local network to improve access to these park facilities. This analysis is important, since a general goal of access has been identified that neighborhood park users should live within walking or biking distance of neighborhood parks. Table 3-7 is a summary of the existing geographic distribution for parks based on 2017 population level of the City of Goleta. Most residents can access a park with a short drive, but only 76% of Goleta residents can access an active park with amenities (excluding open space) within walking distance. Parkshed types are further illustrated in Figure 3-6 through 3-8.

To understand the demand, the analysis models current population where people reside. Figure 3-2 depicts the population density shown in residential land uses. The highest residential density occurs in the neighborhood east of Fairview and south of U.S. Route 101. The area south of Hollister between Ellwood Beach Drive and Storke Road also has population density higher than other parts of the city. Figure 3-3 shows combined parkshed of all park types and neighboring parks outside but close to Goleta city limit.

3.3.4 Bishop Ranch

Bishop Ranch is a 240-acre property of agriculturally designated land located in North Goleta just north of U.S. Route 101, between Glen Annie Road and Los Carneros Road. This property is the single largest privately-owned parcel in Goleta, and it has historically been used for a cattle ranch and farm. In 2008, a residential and commercial development was proposed on the property. However, the Goleta City Council denied the project due to overwhelming public opposition in 2011. As of today, Bishop Ranch remains undeveloped and any changes to zoning to allow potential development will require a 2/3 vote of the people. Although an open space, the ranch is not counted towards the regional open space park category.

Table 3-7: Existing Park Geographic Distribution

Park Service Area	# Population Served 2017	% Population Served 2017
15-Minute Walking Distance (Neighborhood Parkshed)	22,414	72.7%
15-Minute Walking Distance (Active Parkshed)	23,085	74.8%
15-Minute Walking Distance (Combined Parkshed)	25,055	81.2%
5-Minute Driving Distance (Community Parkshed)	27,086	87.8%
5-Minute Driving Distance (Combined Parkshed)	28,481	92.3%

3.4 ADA Accessibility

The City of Goleta Park Accessibility Compliance Assessment was derived from site inspections performed at each of the twenty-two City parks. Inspections were performed to verify compliance with both state code requirements as well as federal ADA standards. Site verification included accessible parking, amenities such as picnic tables, playground and tot lots, drinking fountains, bench seating, tennis courts, and sport fields. It was also noted in the reports if accessible circulation paths were provided to each of these areas in addition to access from the public right-of-way. For bench seating, it is not necessary to provide accessible benches, however it was noted if level wheelchair spaces were provided adjacent to the bench seating.

A visual inspection of the restrooms was conducted to evaluate their accessibility. Detailed notes were not provided since the budget or scope did not allow for this level of detail.

Additionally, a visual inspection of trails, day use areas, and lake access at locations that provide ‘Outdoor Recreation Areas’ was also provided. Although there are no specific technical requirements included in the California Building Code, and the federal standards have not yet been adopted on the state level, it is important to note that the City of Goleta does fall under Title II in which public entities have an ongoing obligation to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs and services because facilities are unusable or inaccessible to them. There is no “grandfather clause” in the ADA that exempts older facilities. However, the law strikes a careful balance between increasing access for people with disabilities and recognizing the constraints many public entities face. It allows entities confronted with limited financial resources to improve accessibility without excessive expense. See Appendix A for a detailed analysis of ADA issues per park site.

Figure 3-2: Residential Population Density

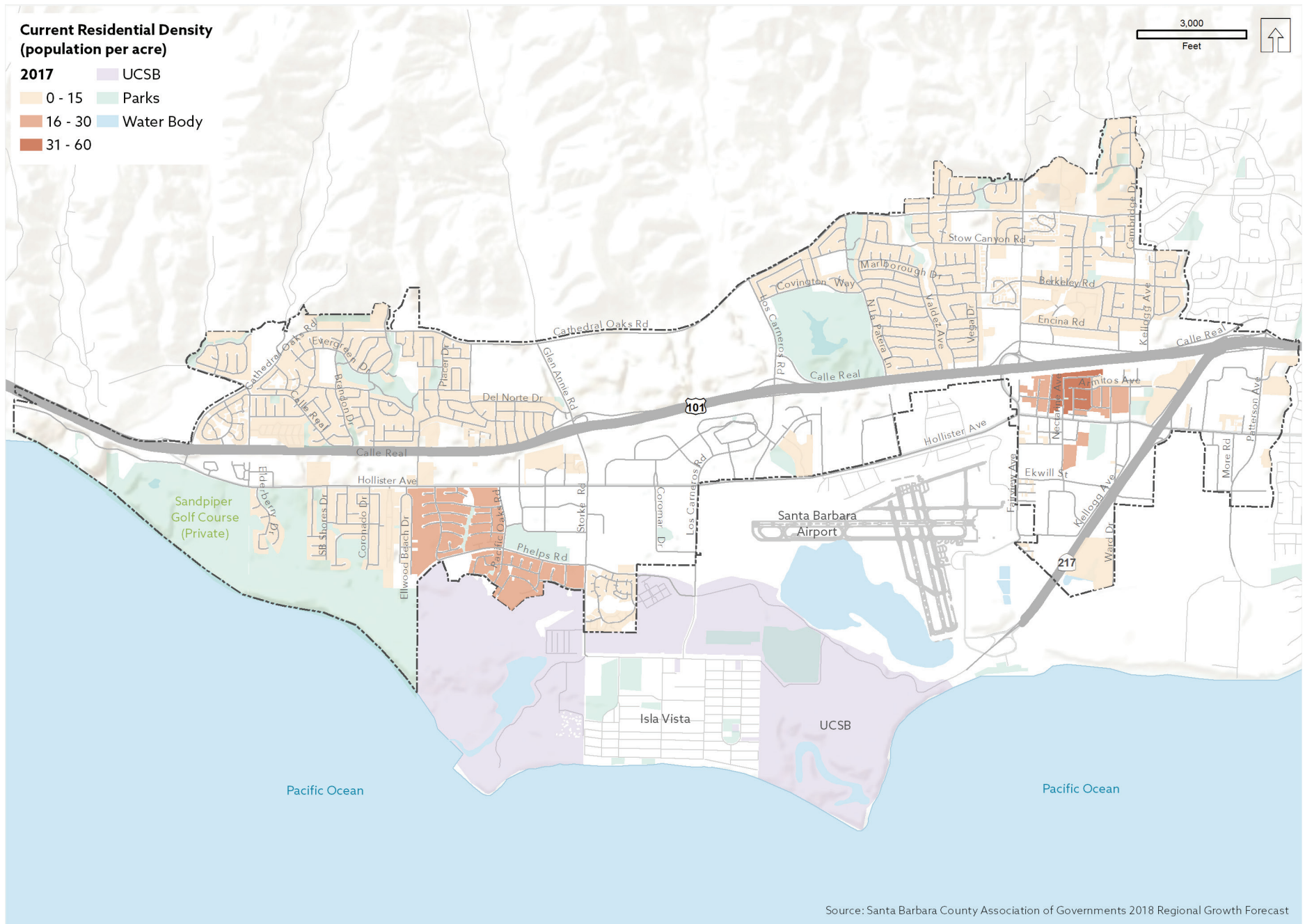
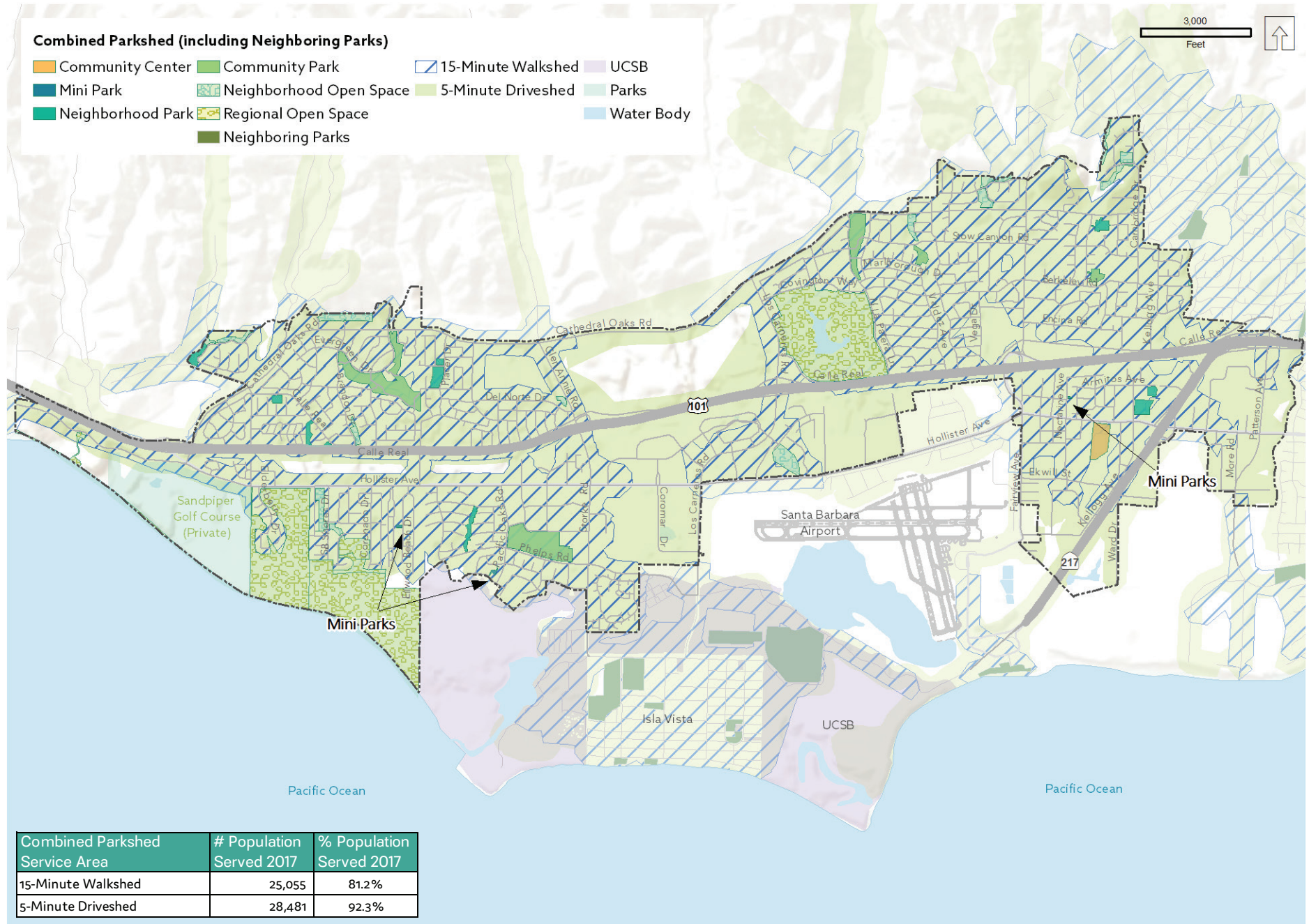


Figure 3-3: Combined Parkshed and Level of Service as of 2017 Census



Number of Parks Accessible within 15-minute Walk

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5-7
- All Parks

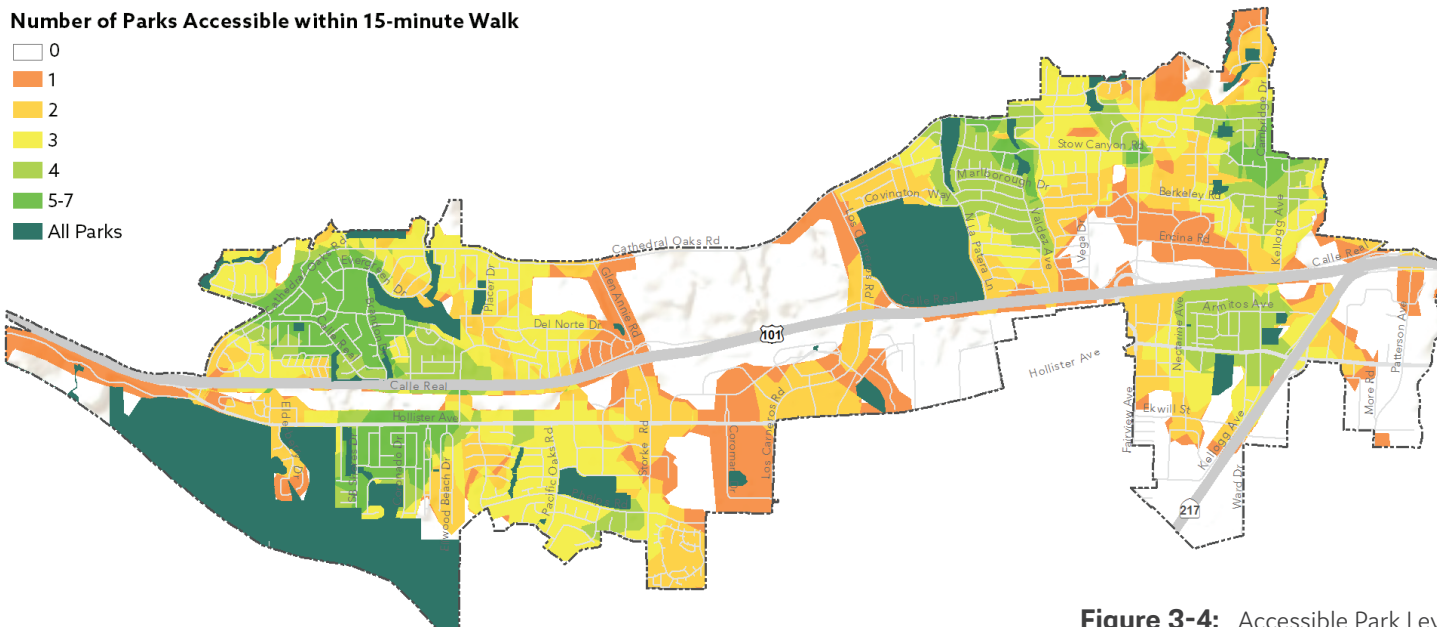


Figure 3-4: Accessible Park Level

Park Acreage Accessible within 15-minute Walk

- 0 - 1
- 2 - 10
- 11 - 30
- 31 - 50
- > 50
- All Parks

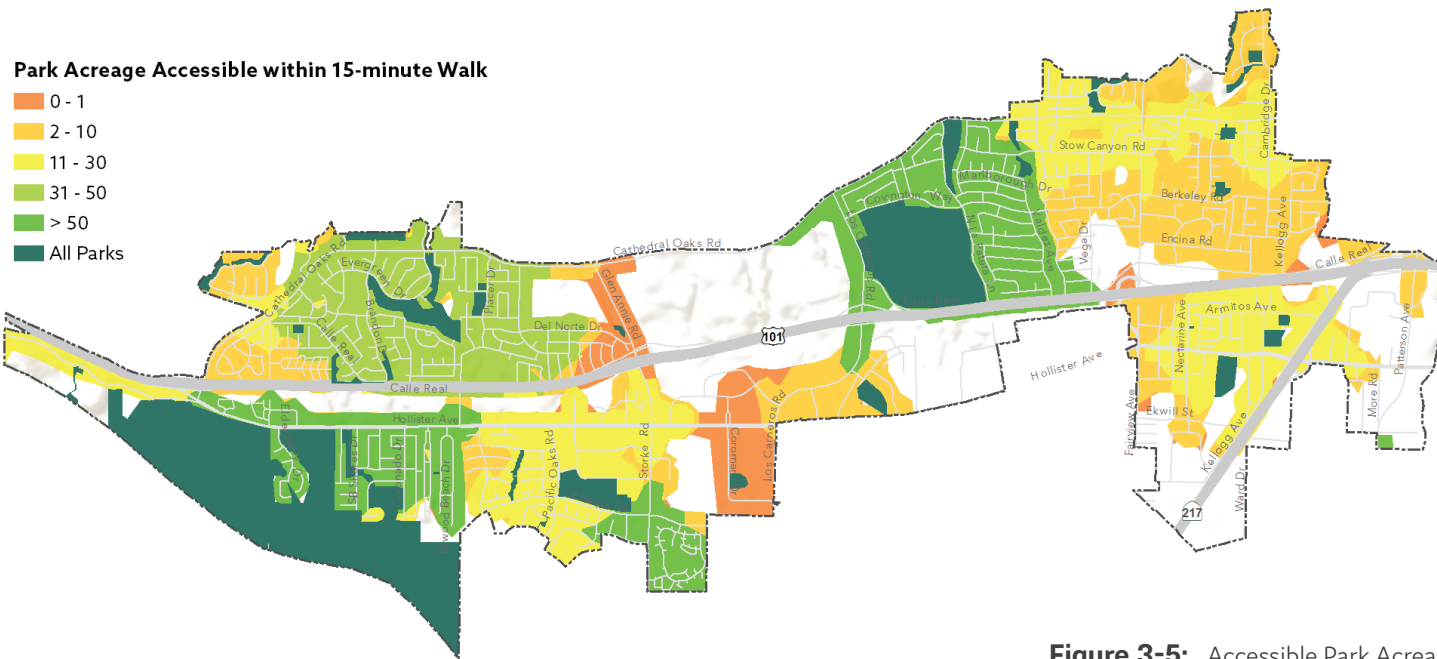


Figure 3-5: Accessible Park Acreage

Based on the combined parkshed that looks at all park types and neighboring parks, the number and acreage of parks that are accessible to the residents within 15-minute walk were calculated and shown in Figure 3-4 and 3-5. White areas in both maps have no access to a park within 15-minute walking distance.

Most of the city regions have more accessible park acreage than number of parks due the fact that most of Goleta’s park acreage are regional open spaces that are huge in size. But in both maps, the central city region south and west of Highway 101 are underserved. And residents in the east city region have less parks to go to within walking distance.

Figure 3-6: Mini and Neighborhood Parkshed

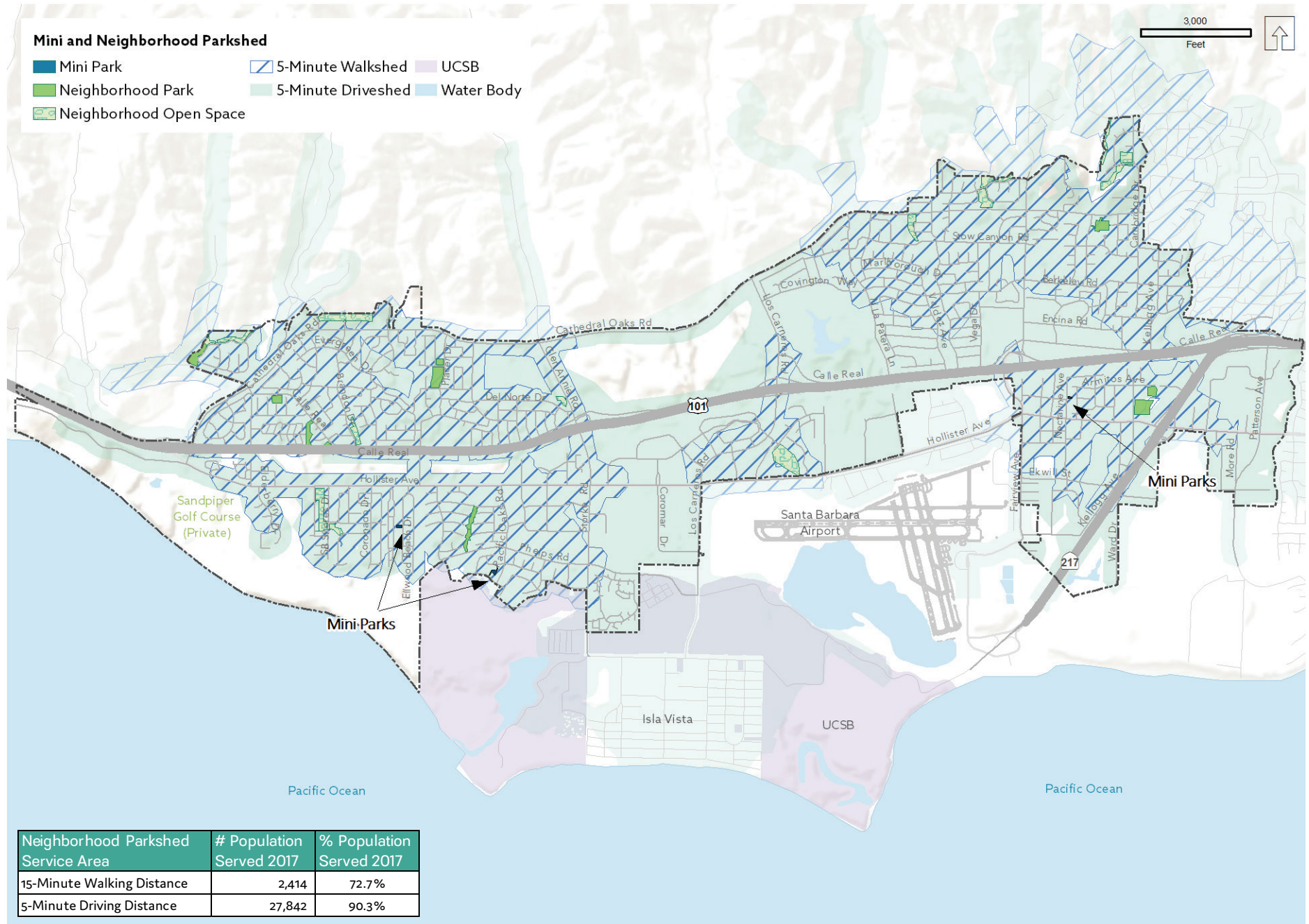


Figure 3-7: Community and Regional Parkshed

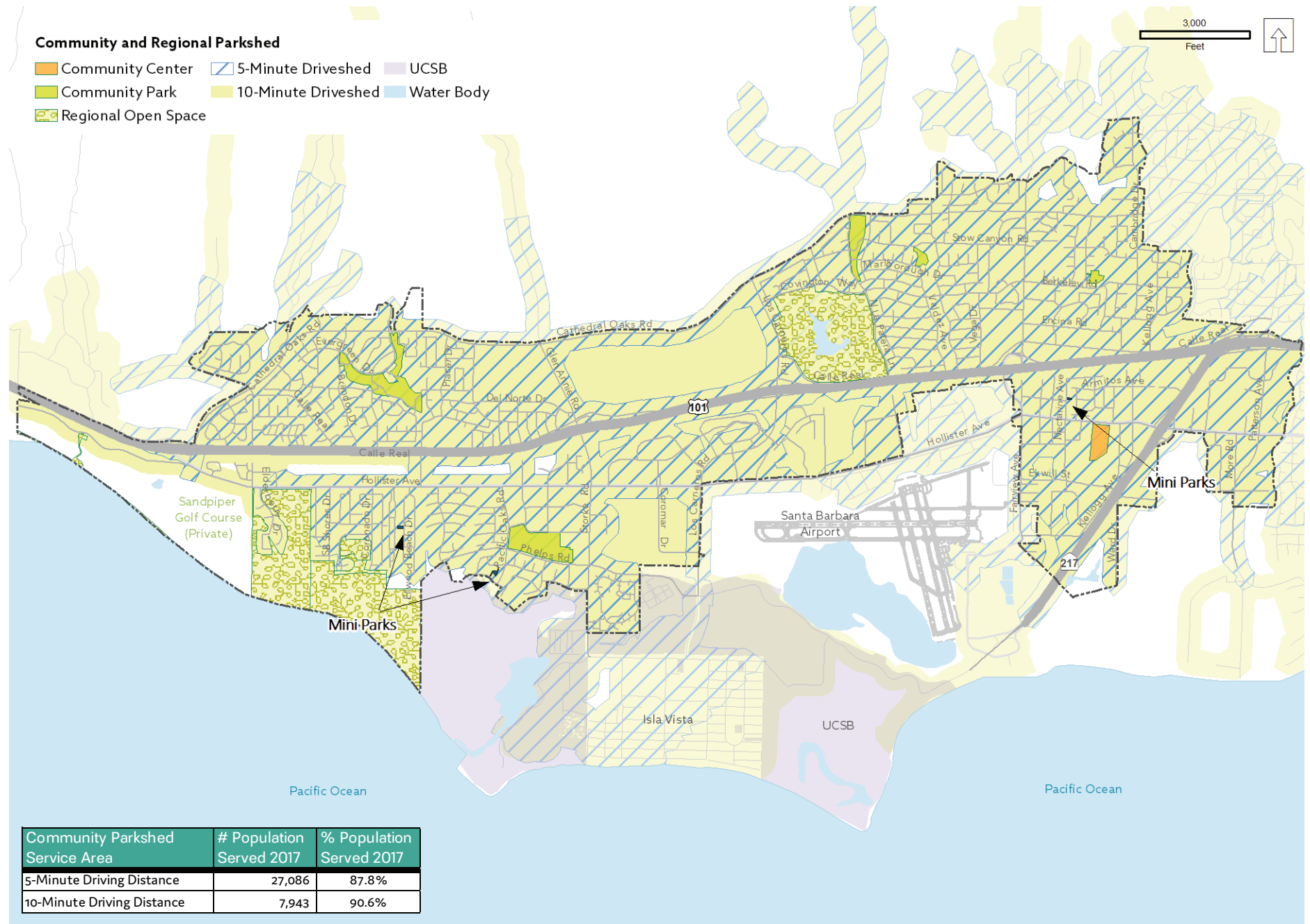
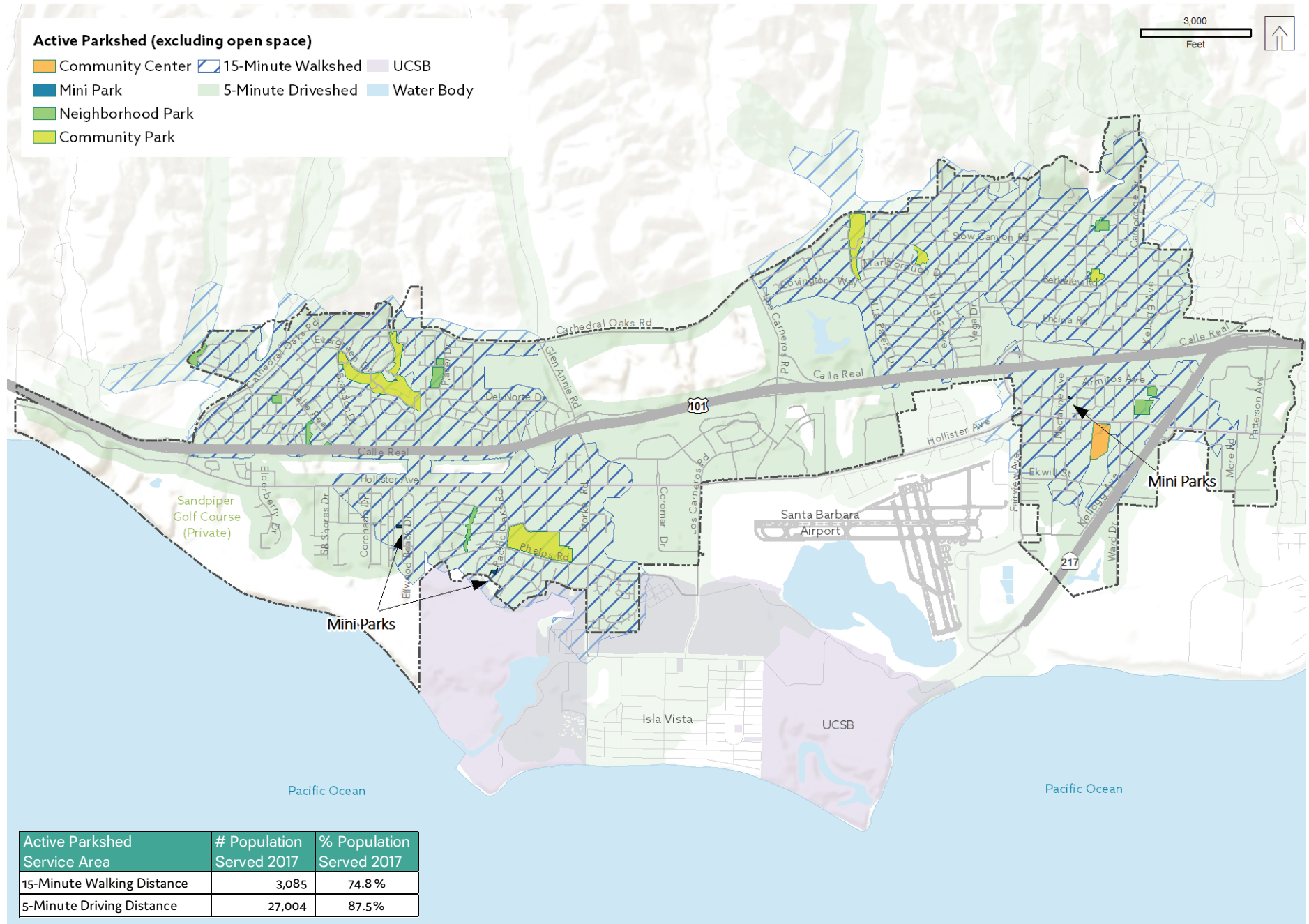


Figure 3-8: Active Parkshed



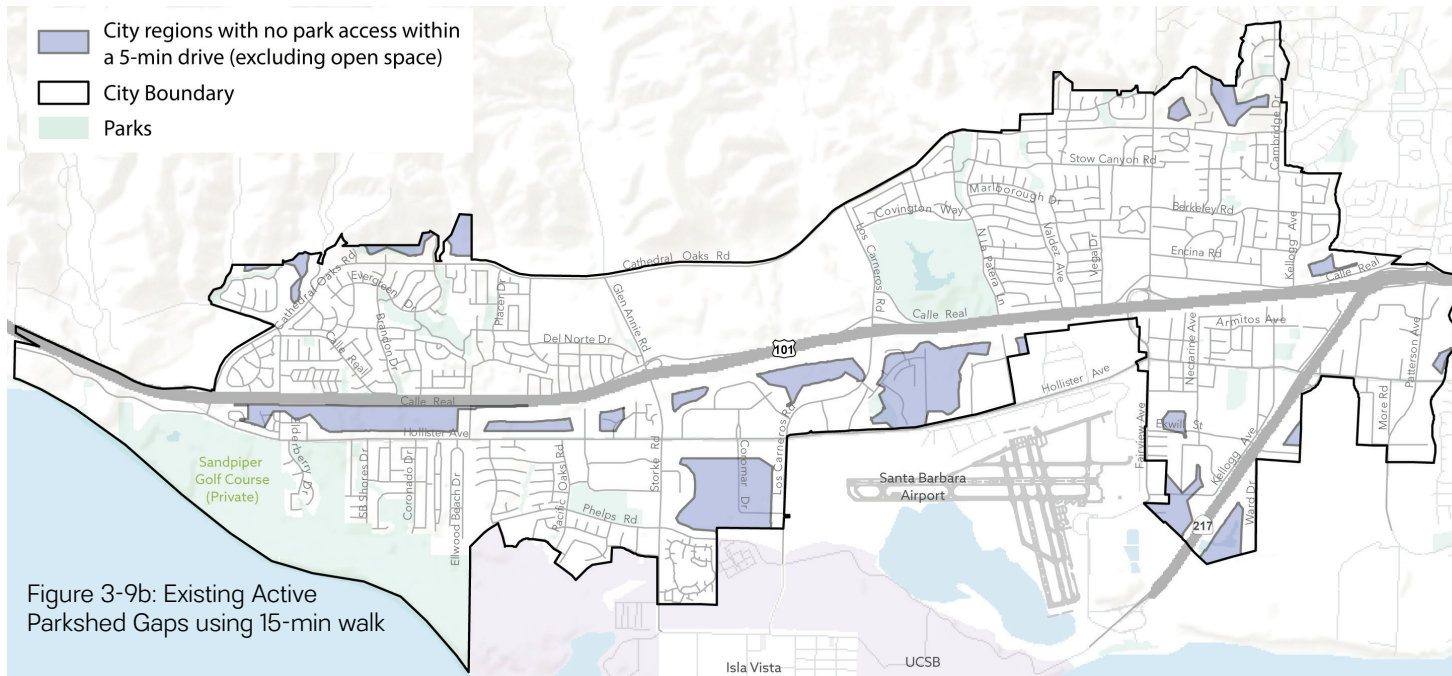
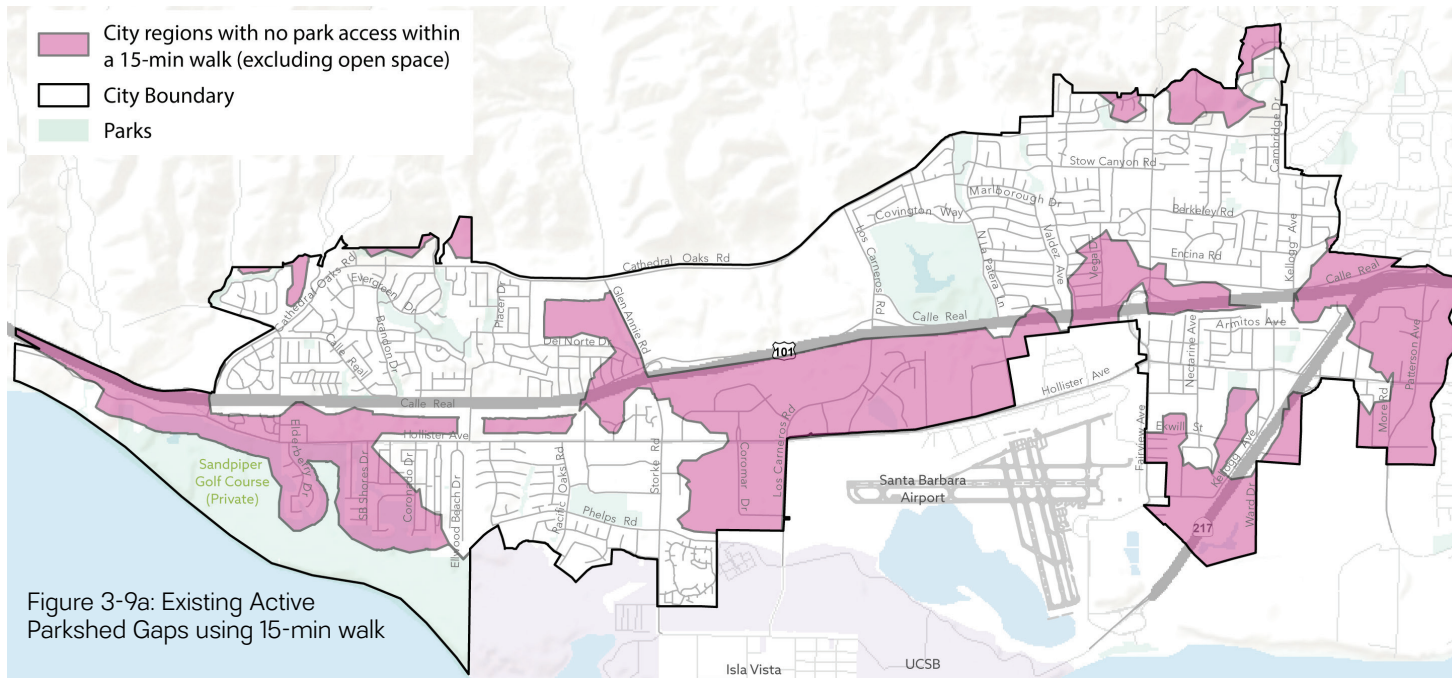


Figure 3-9: Active Parkshed Gaps

Overall, counting all parks of all types, the city is well covered by the 15-minute walkshed and 5-minute driveshed, except for several deficient pockets south of Hollister Avenue as well as at the northeast corner. Yet when excluding open spaces, more parkshed gaps appear. Figure 3-9 shows the city regions where no active parks exist that are within walking or short driving distance. The master plan will address measures to fill these parkshed gaps in the recommendation chapter.