5.8 Recommendations that Help to Achieve the City's Sustainability Goals

The City of Goleta has set climate change and sustainability goals to include 100% renewable energy by 2030. All plans and projects administered by the City of Goleta, should contribute to this goal either by lowering Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, lowering Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), producing renewable energy, or helping to mitigate sea level rise by adapting infrastructure or other coastal conditions.

5.8.1 Recommendation Goal 17: Smart energy use

Objective 17.1 Enhance Energy and Water Efficiency

Increase the use of energy efficient lighting, bathroom mechanical venting/passive venting and other elements that will help in saving energy should be utilized. Assess the potential reduction in the use of potable water by replacing it with reclaimed water for use in irrigation systems or other suitable operations. Wherever appropriate, consider the use of reclaimed water for plant material watering. Reclaimed water use in the flushing of toilets should also be considered.

Objective 17.2 Promote Renewable Energy

Increase the use of renewable energy consumption or the generation of power from geothermal, wind or solar sources. All shade structures, parking lots and restroom buildings should consider the installation of solar PV panels in order to produce renewable energy. Either reverse metering or battery storage and local use should be considered. The generated power that is battery stored, could be used to light parks. Where electrical utilities are not available, consider the use of solar powered walkway lights as well as irrigation valves and controllers.

5.8.2 Recommendation Goal 18: Low impact park system

Objective 18.1 Sequester Greenhouse Gasses (GHG)

The preservation of open space, natural parklands or planted parklands will help in carbon dioxide sequestration. In order to reduce GHG production, park project development and maintenance actions should minimize tree and vegetation removal and strive to add trees and vegetation in order to help sequester carbon dioxide and produce oxygen as well as to reduce urban heat island affects and heat gain through various dark surfaces. Maintenance should also consider the removal of dead wood and high fuel materials in order to reduce wildland fires, that are large sources of carbon dioxide releases. This would not apply to locations where dead tree snags are encouraged as raptor perches.

Solar-powered LED lighting for Playground (Source: Google Image)

LED lighting for Seating (Source: Google Image)

Objective 18.2 Mitigate Heat Island Effect

Concrete or natural surfaces should be used as much as possible in park surfaces especially for walkways and paths since asphalt surfaces produce heat and petrochemical off-gassing. New plantings should be used to help in the reduction of urban heat island gain, based on the shading of pavements or the avoidance of constructing pavements that increase heat gain.

Objective 18.3 Tree Maintenance

In terms of long-term maintenance, tree removals should be minimized and if removal is essential, replacement ratios should consider the need to replace removed trees to be at least 50% of the biomass of the trees removed, satisfied by either replanting size or quantity of multiple tree plantings. This can be accomplished through the combination of quantity and size as well.

5.8.3 Recommendation Goal 19: Promote healthy lifestyle, active transportation and cultivate awareness

Objective 19.1 Promote Active Transportation and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Improving active transportation environment through providing improved trails, walkways, bike lanes, and signage to walk to or bike to City parks will reduce VMT, thereby reduce GHG production.

Developments around existing parks should consider the addition of bike and pedestrian facilities that lead to the park. New park development should consider various entry points into the park that are the most convenient for pedestrian and bikes in order to assure access by walking or cycling. Private developments should consider the development of walking and bike facilities out to the far reaches of the development and if possible, further into the community to capture walking and biking all around the new park. In order to accommodate more access by bikes, bike racks should be included at all parks.

Objective 19.2 Cultivate Awareness and Consensus

Consider the inclusion of educational programs and signage that will help to educate the public on climate change and other sustainability goals. Natural resource based parks, especially those located along the shoreline, should consider the use of educational interpretive signs discussing climate change, sustainable environmental practices, urban greening or renewable energy production as appropriate for that particular park and if logical or available locations where views or gathering areas may occur exist.

Solar Panel Shade Structure for Parking Lot (Source: Google Image)

Solar Panel Shade Structure for Parking Lot (Source: Google Image)

Table 5-2: Recommendation Prioritization

	Recommendation Prioritization	High Public Priority	Easy to Initiate	Short-term (< 2 yrs)	Mid-term (2-5 yrs)	Long-term (5-10 yrs)
5.2	**Recommendations for Meeting Population Based Standards for Park, Amenities and Programs**					
	1. Maximize active park acreage on public land without disturbing passive natural area.	x		x	x	
	2. Consider publicly funded park-lands to meet deficiencies.				x	x
	3. Develop and implement JUA/MOU with schools districts for use of amenities on school sites.	x		x		
	4. Continue to work with developers on providing infill parks for future populations.	x	x	x	x	x
	5. Consider other parks and alternative recreation facilities when determining park deficiencies in certain areas.		x	x		
	6. Consider non-Goleta parks and programs in determining population-based demand and requirements.		x	x		
5.3	**Recommendations that Help Provide Better Access to Parks**					
	7. Implement the Active Transportation Plan, with an emphasis on park connections.	x			x	4
	8. Improve direct access to and around parks for those that have mobility challenges.	x			x	4
5.4	**Recommendations that Help to Reduce Deficiencies in Specific Needed Park Facilities and Amenities**					
	9. Create a dog-friendly park system.	x		x		
	10. Provide new or upgraded baseball fields (youth), softball fields (youth), and soccer fields (youth).	x			x	
	11. Provide new or upgraded aquatic centers and recreation centers.	x			x	
5.5	**Recommendations to Increase Access to Nature and Open Space.**					
	12. Preserve and make open space more accessible for the general public.	x	x		x	
	13. Restore open space and enhance its use by the public.	x	x			x
5.6	**Recommendations that Help to Increase Funding of Parklands, Amenities and Programs**					
	14. Expand financial opportunities for park expansion, amenity infills or improved and accessible facilities.	x		x	x	x
5.7	**Recommendations that Help to Increase Programmed Recreational Services**					
	15. Either increase partnerships for program delivery or look at shifting recreational programming back to the City.			x	x	
	16. Enhance division efficiencies.				x	x
5.8	**Recommendations that Help to Achieve the City's Sustainability Goals**					
	17. Smart energy use.		x		x	
	18. Low impact park system.	x	x		x	
	19. Promote healthy lifestyle and cultivate awareness.	x	x	x	x	