

Mini Parks

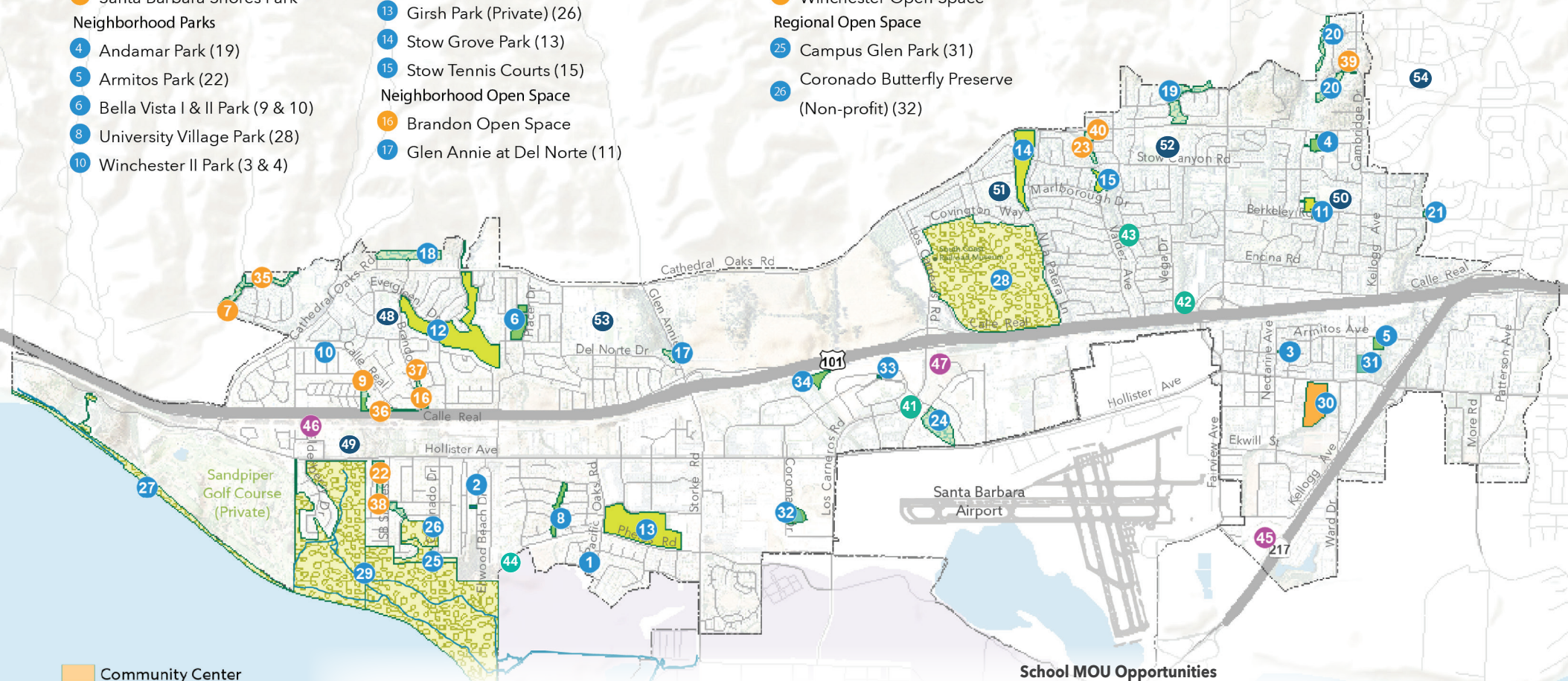
- 1 Armstrong Park (27)
 - 2 Mathilda Park (29)
 - 3 Nectarine Park (24)
 - 7 San Miguel Park
 - 9 Winchester Park
 - 33 Village at Los Carneros (Private) (12)
 - 37 Brandon Park
 - 38 Santa Barbara Shores Park
- Neighborhood Parks**
- 4 Andamar Park (19)
 - 5 Armitos Park (22)
 - 6 Bella Vista I & II Park (9 & 10)
 - 8 University Village Park (28)
 - 10 Winchester II Park (3 & 4)

- 31 Jonny D. Wallis Park
 - 32 Deckers Park (Private)
 - 34 Village at Los Carneros Creekside Park (Private) (12)
 - 39 Oro Verde Park
 - 40 Stonebridge 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 Open Space
 - 17 Glen Annie at Del Norte (11)

- 18 Koarts Apartments Park (7 & 8)
 - 19 La Goleta Park (16)
 - 20 Oro Verde Open Space (17 & 18)
 - 21 San Jose Creek Park (21)
 - 22 Santa Barbara Shores Open Space
 - 23 Stonebridge Open Space
 - 24 Willow Springs Open Space (Private) (25)
 - 25 San Miguel Open Space
 - 26 Winchester Open Space
- 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 Spering Preserve/Ellwood Mesa Open Space Community Center (30)
- 30 Goleta Valley Community Center & Goleta Boys and Girls Club (Non-profit) (23)

Notes:
 (#) References Map # from Open Space Element (OSE) of the General Plan, 2006. (# & #) are designated as two separate parks from OSE.



- Community Center
- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Open Space
- Regional Open Space
- UCSB
- Coastal Trails
- City of Goleta

Public Land Opportunities

Opportunity #	Description	Acres
41	Potential Neighborhood Park	1.1
42	Potential Neighborhood Park	1.1
43	Potential Creek Trail	1.7
44	Potential Trail/Linear Park	2.0

Private Land Opportunities

Opportunity #	Description	Acres
45	Potential Neighborhood Park	2.5
46	Potential Mini Park	1.0
47	Potential Mini/Neighborhood Park	2.5

School MOU Opportunities

Opportunity #	School	Acres
48	Brandon Elementary	1.0
49	Ellwood Elementary	0.6
50	Kellogg Elementary	1.2
51	La Patera Elementary	1.2
52	Goleta Valley Jr. High/S.B. Charter	1.6
53	Dos Pueblos High	6.5
54	Mountain View Elementary	1.6

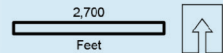


Figure 5-7: Recommended Park Master Plan

Table 5-4: Future 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. Goleta Valley Comm. Center/ Boys & Girls Club	1. Armstrong	2. Mahilda	3. Nectaine	7. San Miguel Park	9. Winchester Park	33. Arrive Los Cameros Park (Private)*	37. Brandon Park	38. Santa Barbara Shores Park	4. Andamar	5. Armitos Park	6. Bella Vista I & II Park	8. University Village	10. Winchester II Park	31. Jonny D. Wallis Park*	32. Deckers Park (Private)	34. Arrive Los Cameros Creekside Park (Private)*	39. Oro Verde Park	40. Stonebridge Park	11. Berkeley Park	12. Evergreen Acres	13. Gish Park (Private)	14. Stow Grove Park	15. Stow Tennis Courts	16. Brandon Open Space	17. Glen Annie at Del Norte	18. Koarts Apartments	19. La Goleta	20. Oro Verde Open Space	21. San Jose Creek	22. Santa Barbara Shores Open Space	23. Stonebridge Open Space	24. Willow Springs (Private)	35. San Miguel Open Space	36. Winchester Open Space	25. Campus Glen	26. Coronado Preserve (Private)*	27. Haskell's Beach	28. Los Cameros Natural & Historic Preserve	29. Sperling Preserve/ Ellwood Mesa Open Space		
Park Acreages	556.1	9.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.8	2.4	15	4.3	3.1	1.2	4.0	3.1	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.4	28.8	25.0	11.8	2.6	1.6	1.0	6.9	6.0	4.9	0.2	5.4	1.0	7.7	5.1	3.0	6.2	9.5	21.0	139.8	227.5			
Park Amenities																																											
Park Facility	Bench	89	8	2	1	5	2	2	2	1											4	6		16	3																12		
	Drinking Fountain	13	2				1								2						1	1		6																			
	Picnic Area	10											1	4		1							4																				
	Picnic Tables	133	7	1	2		2		2	1	1	9	2	20	6	4					2	3	7	62	1																		1
	Barbecue	22													6									16																			
	Play Equipment	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1						2	1	1	4																		1	
	Trash Can	75		1	2		1	1	1	1		4	5	1	10	4	3				3	6		26	3																		3
	Restrooms	7	1												1							3		1																		1	
	Parking Lot	7													1							3	1																		1	1	
ADA Parking	12													2								6	2																		2		
Sports Facilities	Multi-Purpose Field	14				1				1	1	2	1	1	1	1				1	1	2		1																			
	Disc Golf Course	1																				1																					
	Baseball	7											1									4	1																				
	Basketball	4	1												1	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	23											2		1		1						1				2														1	10	2	
Volleyball	2																						2																				
		Mini Parks								Neighborhood Parks								Community Center				Neighborhood Open Space						Regional Open Space															
		3.3								25.6								9.8				42.9						404.0															
		Neighborhood Park Total								28.9								Community Park Total				80.3						Open Space Total				446.9											
		Total only Counting 25% of Private but Publicly Accessible Neighborhood Parks								24.7								Total only Counting 25% of Private				61.6						Adjusted Park with only 25% Private Acres						434.0									
		Grand Total All Parks																																						556.1			
		Grand Total Parks only Counting 25% of Private but Publicly Accessible Parks																																						520.3			

* Note: Newly constructed park completed during the final stages of this master plan

5.9.1 Future Recreation Facilities

For future recreation facilities, Deckers Park and the Village at Los Carneros Park have been included in the LOS analysis since they have not been included in previous park inventory efforts. Deckers Park is a privately owned but publicly accessible neighborhood park located in the Cabrillo Business Park. It functions as a public park and should therefore be counted as a public park. Although the park is not close to any residential land uses, daytime park uses from the nearby commercial and employment centers have easy access to this asset. As mixed use development is being completed in this area and populations come in to the area between Hollister Avenue and U.S. Route 101, the park will help to provide daytime park and recreation needs for users working in this area or from new nearby neighborhoods. Thus, Deckers Park should be counted towards analysis standards in future conditions. Village at Los Carneros Park is a mini park recently finished within the new residential development. It is also privately owned but publicly accessible.

Table 5-3 provides a summary of all existing and future parks and adds the proposed joint use facilities as well. Anticipated amenities in these new park areas have also been analyzed and some suggested amenities based on geographic distribution and prioritized deficient amenities have also been suggested. Table 5-4 provides a summary of the amenities and determine future deficiencies or surpluses.

Table 5-5: Future Recreation Facilities Level of Service

Level of Service for 2035 Population		City Facilities	Private Facilities	School Facilities under Memo of Understanding	Max Facility Total	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)	10			10	5,000		6.7	3.3
	Picnic Tables	114	19		133				
	Barbecue	22			22				
	Playgrounds (age2-5, 6-12)	19	2	13	34	3,500	2,650	9.6	24.4
Sports Facilities	Multi-Purpose Field	11	3	9	23	5,000		6.7	16.3
	Disc Golf	1			1				
	Baseball (Youth)	0	2	13	15	5,572	6,250	6.0	9.0
	Baseball (Adult)	2	2	6	10	7,000	30,600	4.8	5.2
	Soccer (Youth)	0	22		22		1,025		
	Soccer (Adult)	0			0		7,700		
	Softball (Youth)	0			0	8,300	7,750	4.1	(4.1)
	Softball (Adult)	0	1		1	10,493	16,900	3.2	(2.2)
	Tennis	11	0	6	17	5,000		6.7	10.3
	Basketball	2	2	24	28	7,000		4.8	23.2
	Volleyball	2			2	5,000		6.7	(4.7)
	Pickleball	1			1	5,000		6.7	(5.7)
	Bocceball	1			1				
	Handball	1		23	24				
	Football Field			1	1				
	Running Track	1			1				
	Outdoor Swimming Pools			1	1	26,000		1.3	(1.3)
	Skate Areas	1			1	50,000		0.7	0.3
	Ice Rink	0	1		1	21,000		1.6	(0.6)
	Multi-use Trails - mi	19.5	0.3		19.8	4,000	2,300	8.4	11.4

Table 5-6: Future LOS Summary after Recommendations have been Implemented

Park Level of Service Summary Using Future Conditions & All Recommendations	Actual Park Acreage	Adjusted Park Acreage*	Max. with Recommended New Park Acreage Added***	Goleta Standard per 1,000 Population (Suggested Adjustments)	Existing Acres per 1,000 Population (2017) based on Adj. Acres	Future Acres per 1,000 Population (2035) based on Adj. Acres	Future Acres per 1,000 Population (2035) based on Max. Acres	Acres Needed to Meet Standard for Future Population	Acres Surplus (or Deficit) Using Actual Acres	Total Acres Surplus (or Deficit) Using Adj. Acres	Total Acres Surplus (or Deficit) Using Max. Acres
Active Parks- Neighborhood											
Mini and Neighborhood Parks	28.90	24.73	42.84	1.50	0.80	0.73	1.27	50.55	(21.65)	(25.82)	(7.71)
Acreage of Potential Shared Use Areas			48.68								
Amount to Count for Credit of Assets= 25%			12.17								
Adjusted Deficiency with Joint Use of Schools**			55.01								4.46
Active Parks- Community											
Community Parks and Center	80.33	61.60	80.33	2.50	2.00	1.83	2.38	84.25	(3.92)	(22.65)	(3.92)
Active Parks- Community + Neighborhood											
Total Active Parks	109.23	86.33	135.34	4.00	2.80	2.56	4.02	134.80	(25.57)	(48.47)	0.54
Open Space											
Neighborhood & Regional Open Space	446.90	433.95	448.63	6.00	14.07	12.88	13.31	202.20	244.70	231.75	246.43
All Parks	556.12	606.60	618.77	10.00	20.06	18.00	18.36	337.00	219.12	269.60	281.77

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

** Only 25% of School Recreational Areas are Counted. Would require MOU's and shared costs.

*** Max Recommendations include School Joint Use, New Parks on Public Lands and New Parks on Private Lands

Table 5-7: Future Park Geographic Distribution

Park Service Area	# Population Served 2017	% Population Served 2017	# Population Served 2035	% Population Served 2035
15-Minute Walking Distance (Neighborhood Parks)	22,858	74.1%	27,683	82.1%
15-Minute Walking Distance (All Active Parks)	23,455	76.0%	28,063	83.3%
15-Minute Walking Distance (All Parks)	25,654	83.2%	28,686	85.1%
5-Minute Driving Distance (Community Parks)	27,086	87.8%	30,046	89.2%
5-Minute Driving Distance (All Parks)	28,481	92.3%	32,381	96.1%

Population Base	
2017	30,847
2035	33,700

Table 5-5 calculates the future population based standards, with the intent of reducing deficiencies as much as possible. Note slight adjustments in the park standard per 1,000 population has been made per park category, but the overall standard remains at 10 acres per 1,000 population.

Table 5-6 shows how access to the future parks has been increased for 2035 Goleta populations, given the goals of a 15-minute walk and a 5-minute drive. Where access has been improved based on the recommendations in this Chapter and based on the implementation of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, the access analysis has calculated the increase in populations that will benefit from these improvements.

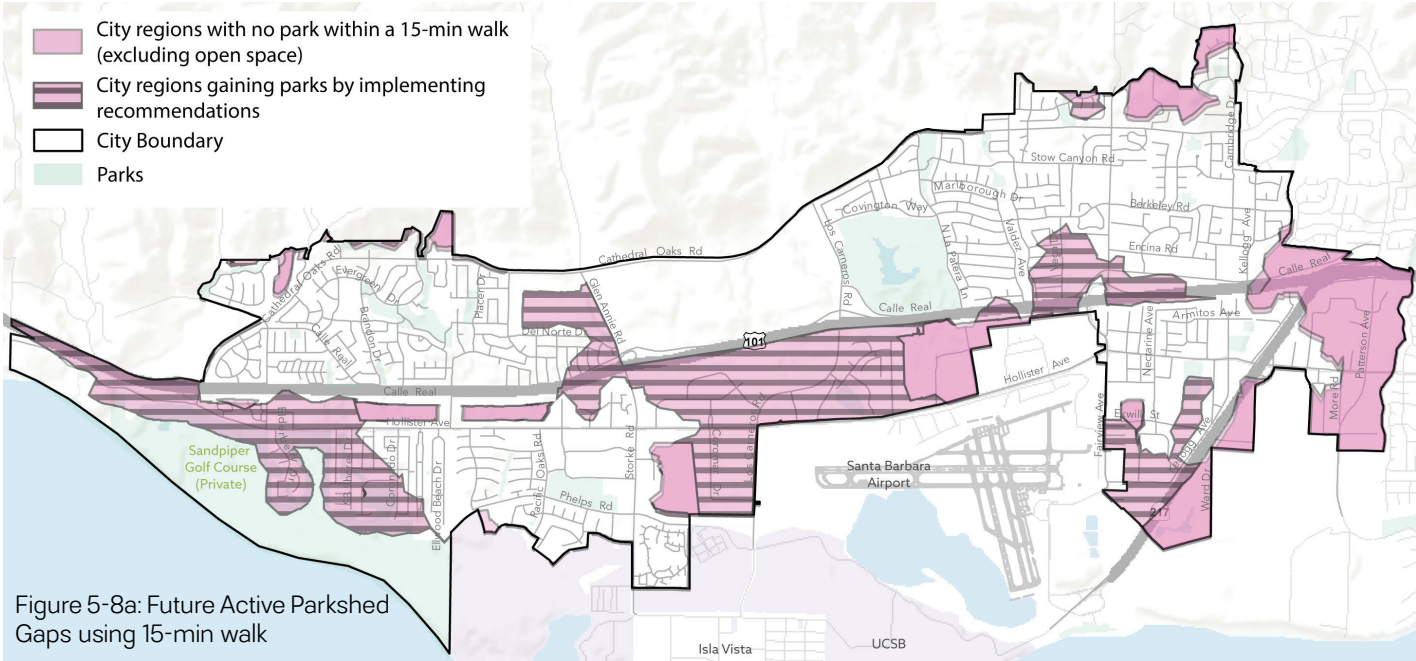


Figure 5-8a: Future Active Parkshed Gaps using 15-min walk

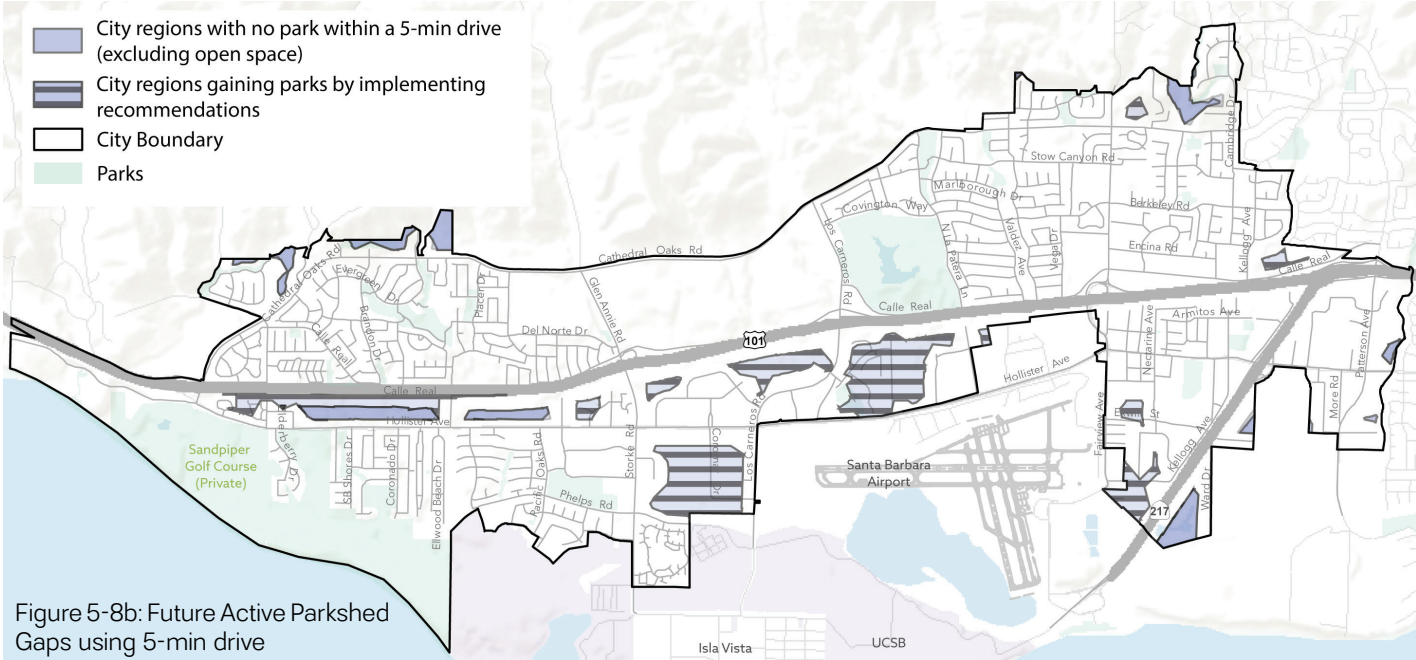


Figure 5-8b: Future Active Parkshed Gaps using 5-min drive

Figure 5-8: Future Active Parkshed Gaps

Although the population forecast shows a 9% increase in population from 2017 to 2035, Goleta’s park service coverage can achieve great improvements if all of the recommendations are implemented. The most prominent increases are percentage of population served within a 15-minute walkshed of neighborhood parks and active parks.

As is shown in Figure 5-8, the majority of parkshed gaps where there is no active park within a 15-minute walk or 5-minute drive, are eliminated by implementing recommendations proposed in this chapter.

The remaining parkshed gaps are mostly commercial land use areas. Our study does not show any feasible opportunities or solutions under current circumstances in several areas that remain as gaps. In the future, if any developable land occurs in these area, especially those with residential uses, the city should consider requiring park fees or constructed parks as a condition of approval for these developments.

5.10 Maintenance Guidelines

A park system benefits from park maintenance standards and practices that provides clear guidance for the maintenance of park sites. Properly developed standards can form the foundation for enhanced operations and quality maintenance practices. Park and recreation facilities within the City of Goleta are found to be maintained in a variety of conditions from poor to very good, with an overall rating of “weak but acceptable operating standard” by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Generally speaking, deferred maintenance needs are commonly found within park structures, facilities, and buildings. Specific needs include graffiti removal that is found regularly on structures in several parks, the need for better maintenance of bathroom structures, and trip-hazards resulting from large cracks and lifts in concrete pavement.

The Open Space Element of the General Plan, under Section OS 6.10 states: “Design and Management of Public Parks and Open Space. The City should ensure that park, recreation, and open space facilities are designed and managed in a manner that is consistent with protection of the ecology of the natural systems at each park site and that will serve the needs of the intended user groups. The following criteria shall apply to the design and management of public parks and open space areas:

- a. Wherever feasible and appropriate, landscaping should emphasize native and drought-tolerant, noninvasive species that will reduce maintenance costs and water use and be supportive of wildlife habitats.
- b. To the extent feasible, the City shall maintain parks and open space areas without the use of herbicides, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and other toxic substances. Herbicide use is restricted within 100 feet of the top-of-bank of any watercourse in parks and open space to those herbicides approved by the U.S. EPA.
- c. The types of improvements and facilities at each site should be based on the recreation and leisure needs of the targeted user groups and the physical opportunities and constraints of the site.
- d. Improvements should provide for convenient access by pedestrians from the adjacent neighborhood areas.
- e. The design of improvements shall provide for maximum visibility of the park from public streets and incorporate measures to assure adequate security and safety for users.

- f. Provision of lighting shall be limited to the minimum needed for the types of uses planned in order to reduce light pollution and glare. Lights shall not be directed upward or into adjacent habitat.
- g. Adequate off-street parking to serve the intended uses shall be provided in order to minimize the burden placed on on-street parking in the neighborhood.”

High priority landscape maintenance procedures need to include:

- ✦ Turf areas that are in non-usable conditions;
- ✦ The need to address improper mowing of turf areas and maintenance strips along trails;
- ✦ Brush clearing in and around shrubs; and
- ✦ The controlling of weeds in open spaces that do not have an existing site specific habitat management plan.

Based on interviews with park maintenance staff, overgrown areas do seem to contribute to homeless issues. This issue is particularly relevant to several parks that contain trees and shrubs along the outer fences, and where tree growth is found throughout Environmentally-Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA).

It is essential that maintenance techniques and monitoring requirements be different in all open space areas that contain sensitive species, natural vegetation or surface water resources. One way to avoid environmental damage from maintenance activities is to designate open space areas as open space preserves, natural open space areas and general open space. Guidelines for each type should be customized but should always consider the following typical items for maintenance personnel and rangers. These would include:

- ✦ Damage resulting from off-leash dog use or equestrian uses
- ✦ Use of drones near areas of sensitive species
- ✦ Motorized vehicles other than emergency or maintenance vehicles in parks
- ✦ Open fires or signs of open fires that have occurred in the past
- ✦ Trail deterioration as well as volunteer trails created in areas where they are not desired
- ✦ Presence of invasive species found in natural areas
- ✦ Damage of native species from improper maintenance techniques.

The Los Carneros Lake Natural and Historical Preserve and the Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space have their own site specific habitat management plans. These plans take precedence over this Master Plan for the details pertaining to the management of natural resources. Other neighborhood and

regional open spaces may have the need for site specific habitat management plans, and those plans should be considered to be of primary importance if/when developed.

5.10.1 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 1: Maintenance Level of Service

In an effort to increase the public’s use of the park system, it is worthwhile to consider how to improve the perception and reality of park maintenance levels. There are many potential reasons for the public’s weak impression of the park system. There are some valid reasons why the level of maintenance may be below expectations. These reasons include lack of funding, unrealistic expectations on behalf of the public, City-wide priorities that compete for funding, maintenance operations suffering because staff is utilized for events/programs, contracted maintenance firms under-performing, or perhaps a combination of many of the above. Below are some suggestions for potential methods of improving maintenance.

Efficiencies in maintenance can be improved if the existing parks are grouped into tiers for parks with similar levels of maintenance requirements. A tiered approach that classifies parks into groups based upon maintenance needs could improve consistency in the level of maintenance service throughout the park system because it would help maintenance companies understand which types of parks require more (or less) maintenance. Providing specific, tier-based level of maintenance service requirements which include frequencies of trash pickup, and bathroom cleanings to contracted companies could also help highlight that level of service expectations differ from park to park.

For the purposes of the Goleta parks system, these maintenance tiers could correspond to the Goleta Park Types as outlined in the Goleta Parks and Playgrounds Master Plan (Section 3.2, Figure 3-5) based on park size, function, and

character. In this scheme, community parks require a higher level of maintenance effort, maintenance frequency, or maintenance expertise, and therefore could be placed in the highest “tier” of parks, whereas mini and neighborhood parks that require less maintenance would comprise the lowest tier.

However, maintenance needs may be different than those categories based on park size, function, and character. It may be helpful to include middle tiers that encompasses special needs, such as Nectarine or Armitos Parks, which are small neighborhood parks, yet have specific issues related to graffiti, used needles and bottles, and the homeless populations that occupy those spaces. Also, more passive use parks such as the neighborhood and regional open spaces may require more maintenance such as intensive brush clearing depending upon the type of land management desired. Whichever tier system chosen, the tier systems should ultimately be decided by the parks’ maintenance leadership based on similar levels of maintenance.

Because written maintenance standards appear to only exist within maintenance contracts, taking verbiage from these contracts to craft a written set of maintenance guidelines available for the parks system to reference may be beneficial. Maintenance standards that may exist in contracts may unintentionally lead to a select few fully understanding the maintenance goals and expectations for each park. Creating a set of written maintenance standards that Parks and Open Space staff have access to could allow for a greater percentage of City staff that may review and understand the maintenance expectations of each park (or tier of parks), thus creating a shared vision for the level of maintenance the parks should have while simultaneously enlisting a larger number of staff to help identify any potential maintenance deficiencies.

When maintenance operations are contracted to outside companies, often the level of quality control is lost as compared to in-house staff that reports directly



to City staff. As such, it is recommended that as specific areas are targeted for improved maintenance operations, it may be advisable to bring these operations in-house under the direct supervision of Public Works Department. Additionally, for special events and programs, many municipalities utilize in-house staff to supplement the level of cleaning/trash removal that contracted maintenance companies provide. While this improves the experience of the special event/program at one park site, pulling staff away from their typical duties may lead to maintenance neglect at other park sites.

It is recommended that staff continue investing in their professional development through CPRS Maintenance Management School or other similar courses, or by prioritizing networking with park maintenance staff from nearby municipalities. Opportunities to share the successes maintenance staff are experiencing while simultaneously learning new ideas about how other municipalities are addressing similar challenges may refine the maintenance processes of park maintenance.

5.10.2 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 2: Quality Assurance

It is understood that park supervisors review the maintenance of the parks they oversee. "Secret shopper" tools, which are strategies to measure quality of service in a variety of industries, can be used to evaluate the Public Works Department internally. Additionally, it would be prudent for the public to have access to a customer care platform where park issues can be reported to park maintenance staff.

One additional measure that is recommended is to provide dedicated staff to perform quality assurance reviews of each park site periodically. Higher maintenance-tier parks that experience frequent use may need to be reviewed six times a year, whereas parks that experience less use may only need to be reviewed three times a year. The frequency of park quality assurance reviews should align with the tiered category, for example, six reviews for top tier parks, four reviews for middle tier parks, and three reviews for the lowest tier of parks.

The review checklist should be thorough and should include categories such as, but not limited to, landscape and irrigation, sports field wear-and-tear, building interior and exterior cleanliness, playground/site furnishings conditions, trash removal status, park staff/maintenance, staff friendliness, and general park aesthetics. Having dedicated staff responsible for quality assurance helps protect against the potential for subjectivity during the review process and developing objective, quantifiable review sheets will increase quality. Having

the same staff member review all park sites, helps standardize the results. Reviewing sites using multiple different staff members that use subjective evaluation methods should be avoided as it leads to distorted findings.

Increased quality assurance measures help objectively identify what is working well and also identify areas for improvement. The end goal should be the further refinement of maintenance operations that ensure that the public's experience of a park consistently meets or exceeds their expectations.

5.10.3 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 3: Technology

Technology continues to change how we communicate as a culture, so it is important to regularly evaluate how well the current methods of communicating to, and receiving feedback from, the public are working.

Online public input systems that integrate numerous different aspects of parks and recreation work including, but not limited to, league scheduling, reservations, rentals, passes, and registrations are becoming more robust each year.

As new sports lighting projects are designed, it is important to specify a lighting control system that can be controlled remotely as well as be used to connect and control existing lighting systems. This form of master controls can save operational money and improve on energy use as well. Similar technologies exist for master irrigation control systems that can be controlled remotely and can be made to monitor leaks, efficiencies of application and overall water usage. With this information available, field repairs can be made that are beneficial in saving water and identifying problems early on, prior to water losses or erosion related damage. As Goleta moves toward reservation program software, any future lighting system should be integrated.

5.10.4 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 4: Safety

A formal written process is recommended to be developed for how to evaluate and make important decisions which directly relate to the public's health, safety, and welfare regarding when park infrastructure is damaged. If a portion of a park site does need to be shut down due to safety concerns, dated photographic documentation showing installed warning flagging, barricades, or signage should be obtained.

It is important to review the processes and After-Action Reports with management staff to consider if opportunities for improvement exists. Such

reports provide a glimpse into how well staff is trained to respond to situations using sound judgment.

From a public relations standpoint, when a portion of a park site needs to be shut down for maintenance, it is beneficial to provide signage that includes Goleta Parks and Open Space branding and a number that can be called and a website address, if the public has questions regarding the closure. The number called will connect to a voice message that provides information regarding the start date of the closure, the reason for the closure and the work being performed, the anticipated opening of the site, and a “thank you” from the Parks and Open Space department for the public’s patience. This “Frequently Asked Questions” voice message provides transparency for the public and frees up staff to perform their typical job responsibilities and spend less time answering the common questions.

5.10.5 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 5: Accessibility

Park maintenance staff that oversees construction should receive training in U.S. Access Board/State of California accessibility standards. Some municipalities undertake small park infrastructure renovation projects, and these projects typically don’t go through a formal permitting process where accessibility review takes place. As such, the maintenance staff that oversees these projects needs to be able to identify if a proposed solution adheres to accessibility codes. Alternatively, the Public Works Department can have one staff member trained in accessibility review and then set up a process so that these renovation projects are reviewed by the trained staff member prior to ordering materials or commencing with construction activities. A third option is to simply hire a third-party accessibility consultant to review proposed projects prior to construction. While this additional step in the process may require time and money, developing park infrastructure that does not meet current accessibility codes and subsequently being required to replace this infrastructure or dealing with litigation that arises because of non-compliant construction is more costly.

Some accessibility standards that maintenance staff can have a direct hand in replacing include benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, grills, camping facilities, picnic facilities, and viewing areas, as described in the U.S. Access Board Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas. Additionally, training key staff in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles will also benefit Goleta Parks.

5.10.6 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 6: Sustainability

After protocols have been established to protect the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas in several of the Goleta parks, maintenance staff should be trained on how to protect the resources and provided maps highlighting these locations. This information will need to be repeated at a regular frequency (i.e. annually) due to staff turnover, and newly hired staff should also be provided with a map/list of the natural resource locations and the appropriate training.

Since Goleta Parks and Open Space maintains landscape areas using contracted maintenance companies, this same natural resources protection information will need to be provided to maintenance contractors at reoccurring intervals. Protecting sensitive natural resources with third party maintenance contractors will require diligence considering new maintenance staff that is unfamiliar with the nuances of site specific natural resource protection will frequently be used to maintain the park. Inconspicuous signage that informs maintenance staff while minimally impacting the natural experience of the park may be useful. Once natural resource protection protocols are in place, it is advisable to include them in maintenance contracts so that contractors can be commended for their good performance, or alternatively, held accountable for their negligence.

In general, park projects should utilize landscape plant species adapted to Goleta’s climate; those that require minimal supplemental irrigation, fertilization, or pruning once established. Existing parks which contain irrigated turf areas that experience infrequent use could be converted into native grass areas or low water use planting beds to conserve water. If potable water is currently being used to irrigate landscapes, an analysis of reclaimed water utility infrastructure may reveal opportunities to retrofit existing park irrigation systems and connect to adjacent reclaimed water utilities.

To protect Goleta’s water bodies, staff should be trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles which effectively control pests while also minimizing the application of toxic chemicals. Staff that oversees construction projects where soil is disturbed should take National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) training courses to gain an understanding of stormwater best management practices and ensure soils from construction related activities are not transported away from the construction site. Where irrigated turf currently exists directly adjacent to water bodies, consider providing a vegetated buffer with plants/grasses that do not require fertilization between the turf and the water body to help protect the water body from eutrophication.

For the older parks within the Goleta Parks and Open Space system, long range budgeting for complete replacement of aging facilities may be warranted. While it can be difficult to secure funding to completely rebuild an existing facility, good record keeping regarding the costs to address outdated facilities in need of replacement using a “band aid” maintenance strategy can be helpful. Simultaneously casting a new, energy efficient, exciting vision for new facilities may prove successful, especially if the vision for the park replacement is master planned utilizing a phased approach. Lastly, an Energy Audit of existing facilities will help identify areas where energy efficiency can be improved and may also provide useful information that helps prioritize the replacement of the least energy efficient parks.

5.10.7 Maintenance and Operational Guideline 7: Develop a Maintenance Manual

Below are specific recommendations for creating a maintenance manual for the City of Goleta, as paraphrased from the 2015 Needs Assessment Study.

- * Develop a Maintenance Manual that details park maintenance and operation tasks on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. The Maintenance Manual should include existing specifications as well as:
- * Outline clearly written maintenance objectives and frequency of care for each amenity based on the desired outcomes for a quality visitor experience in maintaining the parks for safety, aesthetics, 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
- » Integrated Pest Management Plan
- * Formalize and schedule park facility inspections including playgrounds, specialized facilities such as skate parks, high-use visitor areas and buildings.
- * Design standards for the development of park features such as sports fields, trails and buildings.
- * Prepare a preventative maintenance plan developed for all park locations.
- * Develop a life-cycle 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.
- * Develop 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 should 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 remediation limiting soil characteristic

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- * 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.
- * Install a centrally-controlled irrigation system with soil sensors and an automated evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation control and scheduling system that allows control of multiple sites to exact specifications and daily changes.
- * Establish an Estimated Annual Water Use (EAWU) for various hydro-zones such as turf, sports fields and shrub beds
- * Develop a process of evaluation and refinement to measure park maintenance success through established performance standards that should include:
 - * Establish 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 to be met and funded to the replacement outcomes desired
- * Develop a Sustainable Performance System with responsibility for the program handled by a dedicated Conservation Coordinator. The performance system should include at a minimum:
 - * Native plant policy—eco-region
 - * Track utilities—partnership with utilities
 - * Recycling program
 - * Green waste composting
 - * Demonstration gardens
 - * Use of alternative energy sources
 - * Integrated Pest Management Program reflective of consistently changing needs of an urban park system
 - * Habitat development beyond mitigation sites
 - * Community gardens
 - * Stormwater retention
 - * Human health, well-being and community values
- * Consider and 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 “surface”
 - * A policy that states synthetic fields will be open for play except under extreme weather conditions

