



# Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation **Master Plan**

Draft December 2016





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# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

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### INTRODUCTION

The City of Morgan Hill is nestled in an agricultural valley between beautiful rolling hills and open spaces, just a few dozen miles from the heart of Silicon Valley. Morgan Hill is a family oriented, vibrant, and progressive community. The area offers a wide range of unique historic and natural resources including wineries, farms, lakes, golf courses, trails, scenic open spaces, public art, street fairs, summer music festivals, and holiday parades. The open spaces surrounding Morgan Hill provide easy access to over 79,000 acres for camping, backpacking, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The City is known for its regional, world-class recreational facilities that attract over 1.3 million visitors annually.

Residents and visitors enjoy the city's small-town charm, proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities, and state-of-the art recreation facilities. Convenient access to both open space and nearby urban amenities, such as thriving employment, cultural centers, and a variety of housing options, are major assets that continue to draw people to the city. The City's recreation facilities currently serve residents while also supporting sports tourism, which is central to Morgan Hill's economic development strategy. The further development of the City's recreation facilities recommended will bolster Morgan Hill as a regional sports tourism destination. The City is committed to providing an integrated recreation system composed of high-quality bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation facilities that respond to the needs and desires of the growing community. The Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan Update reflects the importance that community members place on recreational and cultural amenities.

The Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) puts into action the General Plan's policy direction for usable, complete, well-maintained, safe, and high-quality activities and amenities that are accessible to all ages, functional abilities, and socio-economic groups. This Master Plan also provides a roadmap for creating a useable and comprehensive bikeway system that safely connects neighborhoods with workplaces and community destinations and expanding pedestrian opportunities. Improved bicycle and pedestrian access and the development of lively public spaces will further establish Downtown as a community hub and destination for visitors. An expanded bicycle and pedestrian network and diversified recreational and cultural experiences throughout the city will further strengthen Morgan Hill's community fabric and strong sense of place as the community grows and evolve.

### PLAN PURPOSE

The Master Plan is a strategic guide for improving and expanding the City of Morgan Hill's recreation system over the next 20 years. The City's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation facilities are part of an interconnected system that is foundational to the high quality of life in Morgan Hill. This document integrates information about each of these core recreational facets, drawing on technical analyses, community engagement, and content from three

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existing plans: Bikeways Master Plan (2008); Trails and Natural Resources Study (2007); and Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2001). The resulting Master Plan provides a cohesive community-based vision for the future along with a comprehensive set of policies, priority projects, and programs. These tactical components will guide decision-making and investments related to capital projects and recreation programs. The document is designed for use by City staff, private developers, and other decision makers in shaping a vibrant recreation system tailored to the community's current and future needs.



## PLANNING CONTEXT

Several related planning initiatives and documents work in conjunction with this Master Plan to maintain and expand Morgan Hill's thriving bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system. Further, several recent projects stand out as precedents to emulate through Master Plan implementation.

### Related Plans

The Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan (2016) conveys the community's strong value of recreation programs and facilities, scenic hillsides, and the surrounding accessible open spaces. The General Plan articulates a vision for an interconnected network of safe, landscaped, and well-maintained streets, sidewalks, bikeways, trails, and transit and sets goals for a healthy community, reduced greenhouse gases (GHG's), and economic development. This Master Plan seeks to guide new development and investment in ways that advance the vision and goals outlined in the General Plan.

In addition, the Master Plan reaches beyond the General Plan's policy framework to propose more detailed recreation improvements and priority projects. The Master Plan is consistent with the City's other policies, standards, practices, and plans as they relate to Morgan Hill's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation development. The master planning process considered existing City policies and practices and makes recommendations for additions and revisions. The Master Plan also references previous planning efforts that provide guidance for the City's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system.

Relevant City planning initiatives include:

- Community and Recreation Center Strategic Plan (2015)



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- Agricultural Lands Preservation Program (2014)
- Downtown Placemaking Investment Strategy (2014)
- El Toro Trail Access Strategy (2014)
- Aquatics Strategic Plan (2010)
- The Downtown Specific Plan (2009)

Other local and regional documents that inform the Master Plan include:

- Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project (Updated 2016)
- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Greenprint (2014)
- Santa Clara County General Plan (1994)
- Santa Clara Countywide Trails Master Plan (1995)

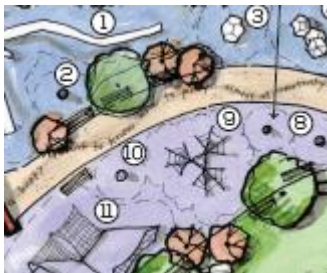
## Growth Management

In 1996, Morgan Hill and Santa Clara County jointly adopted a long-term Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and associated policies. The UGB is encompassed within the Sphere of Influence (SOI) and is intended to be the ultimate limit to urbanization within which all future urban development in Morgan Hill should occur. It is designed to encourage compact, efficient infill development and discourage more costly development at the edge of the City. The UGB also helps to ensure that urban services provided by the City to existing neighborhoods will not be reduced by the service demands of new urban development at the City's fringe.

Morgan Hill's long-standing voter approved Residential Development Control System (RDSCS) has provided Morgan Hill with the ability to manage residential growth and leverage housing developer resources for the benefit of the community. In addition to leveraging park impact fees for maintenance and improvements at existing City parks, this unique RDSCS system has resulted in 41 private parks as well as private open spaces in housing developments throughout the City.

## RELEVANT PROJECTS

The City of Morgan Hill is taking steps to enhance its parks, streetscapes, and elements that enhance its unique sense of place. Several exciting Downtown projects—underway or recently completed—illustrate the city's trajectory. These projects are imaginative, artistic, multi-generational, and functional. They reflect contemporary community input and values.



**Downtown Parks**—Three unique parks are planned to provide permanent space for multi-generational recreation, gathering, fitness, and relaxation in the heart of Morgan Hill. The popularity of temporary “pop-up” park installations provided the momentum to move forward with implementation of final concepts for Depot, Little Llagas Creek, and Hilltop parks. The parks will feature a variety of interactive elements that were included in the temporary installations such as movable chairs, games, an oversized chair,

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and foam blocks. Additionally, the parks will provide long term park amenities including play equipment and access to natural environments.



**Pop-Up and Pilot Projects**—Recent pop-up and parklet projects proved effective tools in offering opportunities for the community to experience possible changes as temporary exhibits and provided data for future implementation. Downtown pop-up park installations helped gauge community response to park location, use, and a variety of interactive elements. A pilot lane reduction project on Monterey Road allowed community members to assess roadway performance and character; ultimately, the project provided the impetus for an alternate preferred roadway configuration (described below). The City aims to encourage additional pop-up parks, parklets, and street activation to assist in future decision-making.



**Monterey Road Streetscape Improvements**—Bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, along with median beautification, were implemented along the Downtown segment of Monterey Road. Upgrades included bicycle sharrows, traffic calming elements, intersection improvements, and other visual enhancements. These improvements aligned with the community’s intent to strengthen community connections and provide a safer, more comfortable experience for walking and riding bikes. The City is committed to continuing to make multimodal improvements to Monterey.



**Public Art**—Morgan Hill boasts attractive public art ranging from traditional bronze sculptures to several contemporary pieces installed through the City’s Creative Placemaking Mini Grant Program. These comprise works such as a mural depicting Morgan Hill’s agricultural heritage and two parking garage sculptures: a large-scale illuminated tarantula (native to Morgan Hill) and a glass enclosure featuring the colors of Poppy Jasper, a local gemstone. The success of these and other local public art pieces provides inspiration for additional investment in a wide range of artwork that celebrates Morgan Hill’s heritage and distinct sense of place.

## PLANNING PROCESS

This Master Plan is the culmination of an in-depth technical planning analysis and a robust community-based process. The planning process actively engaged local stakeholders, property owners, youth, sports leagues, advocacy groups, the Morgan Hill Historic Society, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, and members of the public. The project team also collaborated with Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and Road and Airports Department as well as the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Valley Transportation Authority to identify potential partnership opportunities and shared priorities. The City hired multi-disciplinary consultants MIG, Inc. to support the planning process and perform necessary technical analyses for the Master Plan development effort.



Figure 1-1: Master Planning Process



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**1,100** community members participated in the online community survey

**400** community members participated in the online map-based survey

**150** community members participated in intercept surveys at six locations throughout Morgan Hill

**25** Stakeholder Advisory Group members provided input regularly throughout the planning process

**40** youth participated in a park design workshop

**30** community members participated in a planning workshop

The City of Morgan Hill launched the planning process in fall 2015. The public outreach and engagement portion of the process involved gathering extensive input from the local community about current use, needs, and preferences for the recreation system. This entailed a variety of methods and tools to engage and inform the community including workshops, stakeholder interviews, a stakeholder advisory group, intercept surveys (at parks, community centers, and popular public spaces), an online mapping questionnaire and survey, public meetings and hearings, as well as a project webpage and email updates.

Early in the process, the team assessed existing conditions covering: the current bikeways, trail, and park network, existing recreation facilities and program offerings, demographics, and regional and national recreational trends. This assessment drew from existing studies and data, as well as field observations and input from stakeholders and City staff. The team evaluated geographic, program, and revenue data to identify needs and opportunities in the system. After creating updated inventories and maps of the existing parks and recreation facilities, the team analyzed the distribution and accessibility of each. This work included identifying paths and barriers within a quarter-mile and half-mile walking distance of recreational destinations.

Findings from this existing conditions assessment were used as a basis for workshop discussions and preliminary Master Plan recommendations, which were confirmed or refined with stakeholder input. Final policies, projects, and priorities reflected in this Master Plan are built on this foundation of data analysis coupled with community values. Highlights of these findings and the community engagement activities are

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outlined in Chapter 2: Existing Conditions and Community Needs. More detailed studies are included in [Appendices X-X](#).

## DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

Chapters 1 through 3 of the Master Plan set the stage for the future by summarizing the existing conditions analysis and presenting the community-informed vision and goals for Morgan Hill's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system. Chapter 4 is the heart of the Master Plan, describing policies and projects proposed to address community needs and create a more robust system. Chapter 5 details implementation actions and near-term priority projects to most efficiently stimulate investment and development. Finally, the appendices contain supporting studies and reports that are referenced throughout the document.

The Master Plan is organized as follows:

### Chapter 2: Existing Conditions and Community Needs

The Existing Conditions and Community Needs chapter describes Morgan Hill's current bikeways, trail, and park network, in addition to existing recreation facilities and program offerings. The chapter also provides a baseline demographic analysis and highlights important findings and gaps to be addressed through Master Plan policies and projects.

### Chapter 3: Vision and Goals

The Vision and Goals chapter conveys the community's preferred future for the recreation system and sets forth goals to guide strategic decision-making and help achieve the vision.

### Chapter 4: Policies and Projects

The Policies and Projects chapter will guide City staff, decisions makers, and private developers in creating bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation improvements that align with the community's vision. This chapter includes specific recommendations, policies, and actions for bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation in Morgan Hill.

### Chapter 5: Implementation

The Implementation chapter outlines the specific action steps for implementing the proposed policies and projects. The chapter also identifies near-term priority projects with capital cost estimates and proposes potential partnerships and funding sources.



# CHAPTER 2

## Existing Conditions and Community Needs

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### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the context for the Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan), key findings about the existing system, and the community needs addressed by plan recommendations. The assessment of existing conditions in Morgan Hill was foundational to the master planning process. The project team collected and analyzed data to understand the current condition and use of the existing parks, recreation, bikeways, and trails network. To augment this analysis, extensive public and stakeholder engagement solicited input on community values, priorities, and specific needs. Because community participation was fundamental to this planning process, themes from public engagement activities are woven throughout the findings presented here.

### LOCATION AND SETTING

The City of Morgan Hill is located in Santa Clara County, south of San José at the edge of the quickly growing Silicon Valley region. The area was originally developed as farmsteads surrounded by orchards and ranches. Since that time, Morgan Hill has grown into a vibrant, family-friendly community of 43,645 (as of January 2016), composed of suburban neighborhoods, diverse businesses, with a vibrant Downtown. The city covers approximately 13 square miles and is surrounded by small farms and wineries. Residents value Morgan Hill's rural small-town character, range of recreational choices, and access to neighboring urban and recreational amenities. Highway 101 provides a major north-south transportation connection and Caltrain offers additional regional access via the Downtown Morgan Hill Station.

Vast open spaces surround the city, including working agricultural land and Santa Clara County Parks and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) preserves. Anderson Lake County Park skirts the outer north-east boundary of the city, Coyote Lake Park is located to the south-east, and the expansive Henry W. Coe State Park is farther afield. Additional parks and preserves are located west of the city. There are also rich recreational resources within the city itself including a variety of parks, community gardens, recreational facilities, trails, and historic and cultural resources.

Morgan Hill offers opportunities for healthy, active living for residents of all ages. The city enjoys a strong cycling presence, hiking/running clubs, and a range of community events such as a Downtown farmers market, music/art events, festivals, fun-runs, parades, and historic and cultural events. The City also regularly hosts a range of regional sporting events including soccer, lacrosse, running, cycling, and others.

Morgan Hill's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system includes community and neighborhood City parks, privately-developed and owned parks, recreation facilities, trails, and on-street bike routes. (See PAGE X for a map of the system and Appendix X for a complete inventory.) Many of Morgan Hill's parks and recreation facilities are relatively new and continue to expand and diversify with the growing community.

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH PROJECTIONS

### Key Findings

- **Morgan Hill's population is steadily growing.** The city can expect continued growth; however, it will likely occur more slowly. The current Residential Development Control System (RDCS) sets a 2020 population limit of 48,000 and the proposed RDCS update sets a 2035 growth ceiling of 58,200.
- **Morgan Hill is a relatively young community with a growing older population.**
- **Planned growth in the short- and medium-term will occur within the existing city boundaries** while longer-term expansions may include current county unincorporated lands.
- **The Morgan Hill community is growing more ethnically diverse with an increase in Hispanic and mixed-race residents.** In keeping with local and statewide trends, this pattern is likely to continue.

### Overview

Morgan Hill's residential population has been growing steadily since the 1990s and this growth is expected to continue. Morgan Hill's residential population as of 2016 is 43,645. The RDCS (update pending voter approval in November 2016) sets a 2035 growth ceiling for Morgan Hill of 58,200 to ensure well-paced, orderly development and to encourage infill development rather than additional development into surrounding agricultural and open space lands.

The growth occurring in and around Morgan Hill will impact its bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system as existing and future residents and visitors seek open space and outdoor recreation opportunities. The City will be challenged to maintain its current facilities and service levels, while planning for a larger population and adapting to changing demographic conditions.

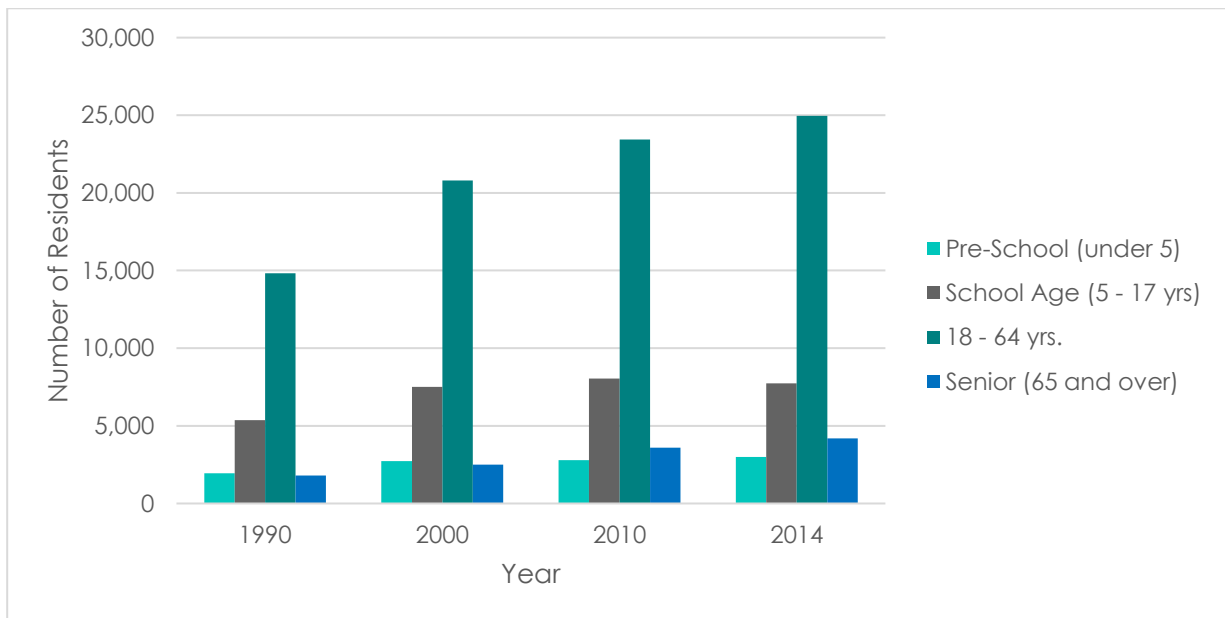


## Existing Conditions and Analysis



Relative to other cities in Santa Clara County and California as a whole, Morgan Hill has more children, more adults between 45 and 64, and a smaller share of young adults. There are more residents under the age of 18 (about 30 percent of the population) and fewer residents over the age of 65 in Morgan Hill than in surrounding Santa Clara County and the State of California. However, residents in the 55-to-64-year-old age range have been the fastest-growing segment of Morgan Hill residents over the past decade. If these residents age in place, the 65-to-84-year-old age group will be Morgan Hill's most rapidly growing age group in the next two decades.

**Figure 2-1: Population by Age in Morgan Hill, 1990-2014**

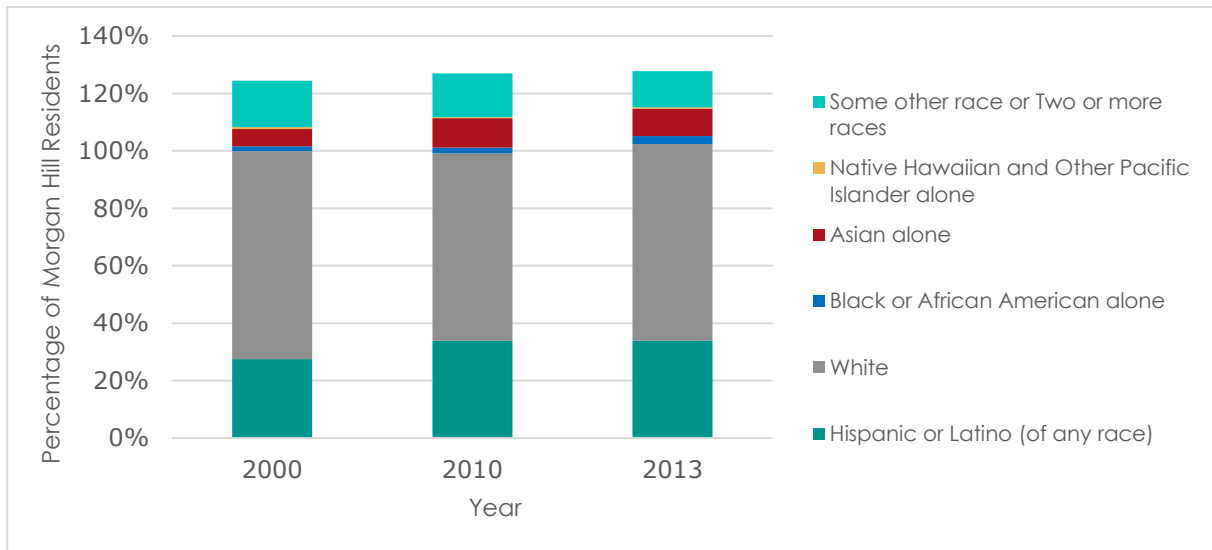


## Existing Conditions Analysis

Morgan Hill and Santa Clara County are more affluent than California overall. In 2013, median household incomes in Morgan Hill (\$95,531) were 55 percent higher than the State median income (\$58,724) and higher than the County median income (\$91,702).

In keeping with statewide trends, the city's Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations are growing while the White population is declining. A significant number of Morgan Hill residents are bilingual. About 10 percent of residents speak a language other than English (primarily Spanish and Asian Pacific Island languages) and are not fluent in English.

**Figure 2-2: Race/ethnicity in Morgan Hill; Change from 2000 - 2013**



*Note: The total population in the above graph is higher than 100 percent because residents can indicate that they are Hispanic or Latino and select another race. One resident may count as two if they selected Hispanic and Latino and White, for example.*

These demographic trends inform this Master Plan's recommendations. By evaluating and planning for changes in the Morgan Hill population, the City can continue to ensure the parks and programs serve families with children (who are a core market segment), engage newcomers and growing demographic groups, and consider the evolving needs of aging adult households who create a demand for new facilities and programs.

## CITY FINANCING & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Morgan Hill City Council is comprised of six elected officials, including the mayor, who make decisions related to General Fund discretionary spending as well as plans and policies. Throughout the planning process, the Council evaluated the Master Plan and will ultimately vote on its adoption. The Council appoints three advisory commissions that provide expertise in specific policy areas, including the Library, Culture and Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), and Planning Commission. The PRC was active in the development of this Master Plan. Commissioners reviewed planning documents throughout the process and participated in community outreach events.

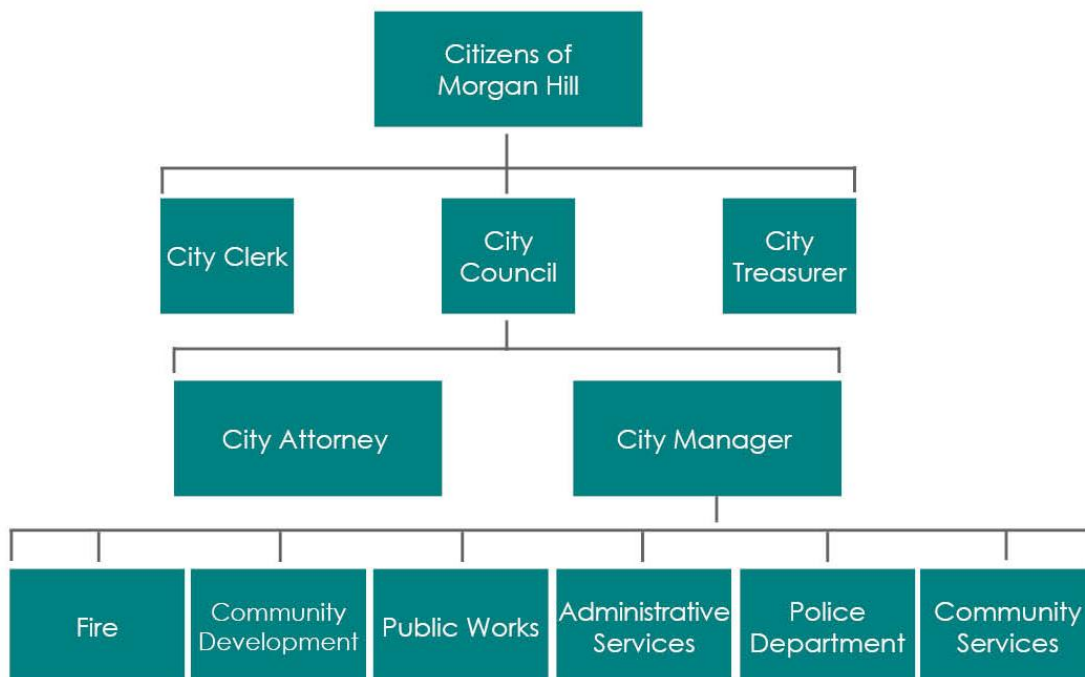


## Existing Conditions and Analysis

The City of Morgan Hill uses a biennial budgeting process that begins in January with City Council adopting its priorities, goals, and strategies for the City and the community. The City's General Fund supports many of the City's public services including police, fire, recreation, street maintenance, municipal governance, and administrative services. Most General Fund revenue is generated from property taxes, sales tax, recreation revenue, and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT).

The City's recreation revenue is generated from membership sales, program registration, and facility rentals and continues to be strong, with a noticeable increase expected to start in the second half of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 due to a scheduled fee increase. To ensure the City has the resources to operate and maintain its recreation facilities, the City's membership rate strategy is to increase rates once every three years (January 2018, 2021, etc.). The Adopted Operating and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 budget includes rate increases for Aquatics Center daily admission, room rental at the Cultural and Community Center (CCC) and at the Centennial Recreation Center (CRC). Furthermore, additional programs are planned for adult sports leagues, Older Adult Services, Villa Mira Monte, History Park and fee-based events at the CCC. The community's ongoing interest in recreation programs indicate that sports and other programs will continue to be a strong revenue stream for the City. The City is experiencing a historically high level of revenue from TOT due to a strong economy, the regional use of the City's Outdoor Sports Center and Aquatics Center, and a burgeoning tourism economy.

**Figure 2-3: City of Morgan Hill Organizational Chart**



## PARKS

### Parks: Key Findings

- **Parks are important spaces to Morgan Hill community members for healthy activities** including walking, running, sports, and fitness, as indicated by community engagement results.
- **Several of the City's parks were developed as mini parks** and thus are exceptionally small and offer limited activities.
- **Many residents use adjacent County Parks (Harvey Bear, Anderson Lake, Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (CVOSP), and Coyote Creek Trail) as neighborhood or community parks** for activities such as picnics, dog-walking, and passive recreation.
- **More shade and restrooms are needed** to improve comfort and enable longer stays in high-use parks. Community members also expressed the need for more water fountains and filling stations.
- **Some neighborhood parks are located adjacent to or near public schools**, but access to school facilities is limited or restricted.
- **More than half of Morgan Hill's City-owned parkland is concentrated in the City's two community parks** and most of that acreage is within Community Park.
- **Parks and park amenities can be better distributed across the system.** Morgan Hill's northeast neighborhoods are outside of walkable City park service areas. The most popular parks, as well as key features such as indoor recreation and dog parks, are concentrated in the southern part of the city. As such, they are difficult for many residents to access, particularly without a car.
- There is enthusiasm and demonstrated interest in **additional park facilities Downtown for gathering, events and play**, including the Downtown Parks currently in development and the Villa Mira Monte History Park.
- **Private parks in Morgan Hill provide tremendous benefit to the community.** The City's RDCS has helped to encourage the construction of private parks across the City.



### Parks: Existing System

Morgan Hill is served by neighborhood, community, and privately-owned parks. Together, these parks provide opportunities for a range of recreation experiences. Morgan Hill residents also frequently use the neighboring Anderson Lake County Park and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park for outdoor recreation. The table below describes the classifications of parks that comprise the Morgan Hill parks and open space system.

**Table 2-1: Existing Park Classifications**

Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Mini Parks</b>	Less than three acres. Most are 1.5 acres or smaller	Immediate Neighborhood	Mini Parks were historically constructed in Morgan Hill to serve their immediate neighborhood area. Due to the limited size and high maintenance costs for limited recreational value, mini parks are not recommended for residential neighborhood parks in the future.	100

Existing Conditions Analysis

Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Three to 10 acres	Walking distance (1/2-mile walkshed)	Neighborhood Parks are intended primarily for the enjoyment of nearby neighbors within a short walk or bike ride. These parks often include traditional recreation amenities such as playgrounds, sport courts, and open turf play areas. They serve as social gathering spaces and may also include natural areas.	100
<b>Community Park</b>	10 or more acres	Citywide	Community Parks focus on meeting the recreational needs of the community at-large. They allow for group activities and other recreational pursuits that are not recommended at neighborhood parks.	100
<b>Non-Recreational Open Space</b>	No minimum or maximum size; depends on resource to be preserved	Citywide	Non-Recreational Open Space is not publicly accessible. It protects ecological functions and scenic or heritage resources valued by residents. Non-recreational open space is managed by the City’s Parks & Recreation Department; however, it does not count toward the City’s parkland level of service.	0
<b>Private Recreational Open Space</b>	No minimum or maximum size; depends on resource	Neighborhood served by residential development	Recreational Open Spaces provide publicly accessible undeveloped recreation opportunities and opportunities to be in nature. They also protect ecological functions and scenic or heritage resources. At the	0



Existing Conditions and Analysis

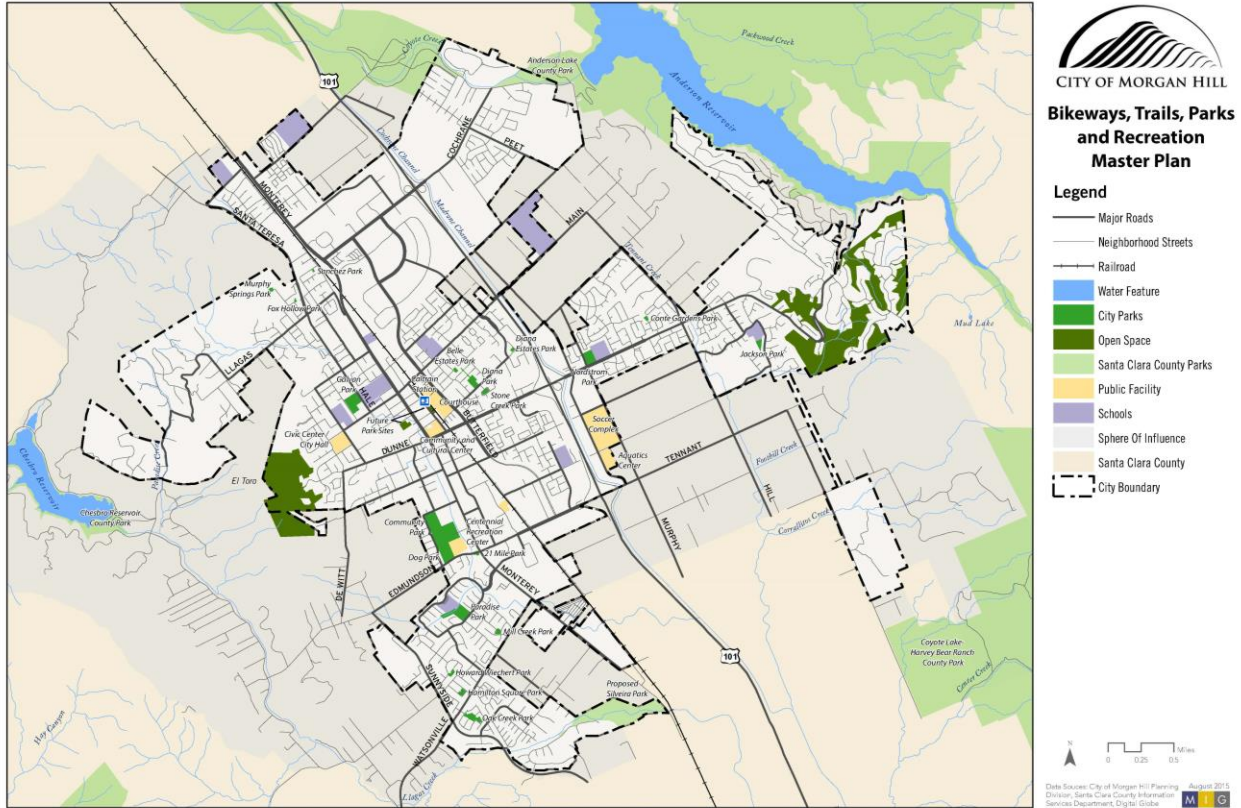
Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS
	to be preserved.		time of this Master Plan, the City does not own or manage any Recreational Open Spaces, however there are privately owned Recreational Open Spaces.	
<b>Privately-owned Parks</b>	Depends on facility	Neighborhood served by residential development	Privately-owned Parks are generally within a residential area for the exclusive use of residents and are privately developed and maintained by the homeowner or resident association or property managers.	50

City Parks

Several of the City’s neighborhood parks are very small “pocket” parks, classified as mini-parks, designed to serve the adjacent residential community. Historically, these mini parks were built by the City and developers. In recent years, the City has moved away from constructing these in residential neighborhoods because of their limited ability to provide neighborhood scale amenities. However, mini parks have proven to be successful in Downtown Morgan Hill where people are looking for less traditional park experiences. Other local parks—notably Nordstrom and Paradise Parks—are larger and attract residents from other parts of the city. These high-use neighborhood parks may include features and amenities such as playing fields, water fountains, or restrooms.

Larger community parks also meet the needs of neighborhoods, but are intended as "destination" parks with special facilities, such as lit sports fields, amphitheaters, or gymnasiums that serve the entire community. Restrooms, off-street parking, night lighting of facilities, and other active recreation facilities are typical community park elements that encourage higher levels and longer hours of public use and longer user-days compared to neighborhood parks. Morgan Hill currently has two designated community parks, Community and Galvan Parks, with multiple amenities. More than half of Morgan Hill’s parkland is concentrated in the City’s two community parks and most of that acreage is within Community Park.

Figure 2-4: Morgan Hill's Existing City Park System



In addition to these parks, the City owns large open spaces on its east and west ends— Jackson Oaks and El Toro. Both open spaces have limited public access. The City’s land on the east face of El Toro is adjacent to Santa Clara OSA land. The City is working with the OSA and neighboring property owners to acquire additional land needed to develop a trail on the back side of El Toro to the Peak. Jackson Oaks open space, above the Jackson Oaks neighborhood, is currently undeveloped without trails or access points. Past efforts to develop public trail access to Jackson Oaks have been met with strong resistance from the Jackson Oak residents,

The following table includes an inventory of all City parkland. A complete inventory, including homeowner association parks and park amenities, is included in [Appendix X](#).

Table 2-2: Morgan Hill Parks Inventory

Park	Park Classification	Acres
21 Mile	Mini	0.65
Belle Estates	Mini	0.46
Community Park	Community	24.38
Conte Gardens	Mini	0.50

## Existing Conditions and Analysis

Park	Park Classification	Acres
Diana	Mini	0.50
Diana Estates	Neighborhood	3.08
Depot Street Park ( <i>in development</i> )	Mini	.30*
Fox Hollow	Mini	0.20
Galvan	Community	7.50
Hamilton Square	Mini	0.57
Howard Wiechert	Mini	0.90
Jackson Park	Mini	1.30
Llagas Creek Park & Hilltop Park ( <i>in development</i> )	Neighborhood	4.30*
Mill Creek Park	Mini	0.93
Murphy Springs Park	Mini	0.49
Nordstrom Park	Neighborhood	4.57
Oak Creek Park	Neighborhood	2.93
Paradise Park	Neighborhood	5.47
Sanchez Park	Mini	0.16
Stone Creek Park	Mini	0.95
<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>57.54</b>

\* Not counted in the current 2016 level of service calculations

### Park Maintenance

The City maintains its existing park and trails system through a coordinated effort of the Community Services Department Maintenance Team. The Department is responsible for all City maintenance functions relating to streets, sidewalks, open space, parks, trails, recreation facilities, and buildings. Major capital project management is provided through the Engineering and Utilities Department. The City maintains all these facilities using a small team (15) of full time staff and a wide variety of contract services, with support from part-time seasonal staff. This model provides for flexibility in maintenance services and a high opportunity for innovative approaches to maintenance. Maintenance of recreation facilities

## Existing Conditions Analysis

and City buildings has been prioritized and these facilities are maintained at a high level. Maintenance of park facilities is considered average as compared to other cities, with many areas that can be improved. While it is anticipated that costs for maintaining additional facilities will increase, it is not anticipated that increased funding will be provided to improve the level of maintenance. The City strives to find innovative ways to improve maintenance through efficiency.

### Privately Owned Parks and Open Spaces

Privately-owned parks and open spaces provide close-to-home benefits and function as pocket or neighborhood parks. However, because they are privately funded and operated, access is often limited to members of the homeowner or resident association. Community members have expressed interest in expanding the accessibility of HOA parks. The 2035 General Plan recommends studying the feasibility of converting appropriate private HOA parks to public neighborhood parks, with HOAs that are interested in evaluating this opportunity.

**Table 2-3: Privately Owned Park and Open Space Acreage**

Park	Acres
Private Parks	46.1
Private Open Space	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.1</b>

### Regional Park Resources

Morgan Hill's proximity to regional park and open space facilities provides its residents with many benefits, including opportunities for: access to nature, boating, hiking, running, mountain biking, horse riding, and more. Henry Coe Park is the second largest park in the state and is within a 30-minute drive of the city. Additionally, Santa Clara County Parks and the Santa Clara Valley OSA operate thousands of acres of recreational open space within minutes of the city. Throughout the master planning process, residents indicated that County Parks are among their most frequently used parks, especially for exercise. This Master Plan focuses on enhancing connections and access to these exceptional regional assets.

**Table 2-4: County Parks Proximate to Morgan Hill**

Park	Park Ownership	Acres	Distance in miles from Morgan Hill City Hall
Anderson Lake	Santa Clara County Parks	3,144	4
Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch	Santa Clara County Parks	4,595	7



## Existing Conditions and Analysis

Coyote Creek Trail	Santa Clara County Parks	NA	4
Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve	Santa Clara Open Space Authority Preserve	348	6
Henry W. Coe State Park	Santa Clara County Park	87,000	14

### Morgan Hill Schools

Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) includes eight elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. Some of these schools include playground and field facilities that are desirable to Morgan Hill community members. However, many schools limit access to their facilities during evenings and weekends by locking gates. During this master planning process the City initiated conversations with MHUSD to establish joint-use agreements for school sites that enhance the City’s park offerings. For example, Nordstrom Elementary School’s amenities augment the adjacent Nordstrom Park, a popular neighborhood park.

**Table 2-5: Morgan Hill Unified School District Schools Proximate to City Parks**

School
Nordstrom Elementary School
(Lewis H.) Britton Middle School
Ann Sobrato High School
Barrett Elementary School
Central Continuation High School
El Toro Elementary School
Jackson Academy of Math and Music
P. A. Walsh Elementary School
Paradise Valley Elementary School

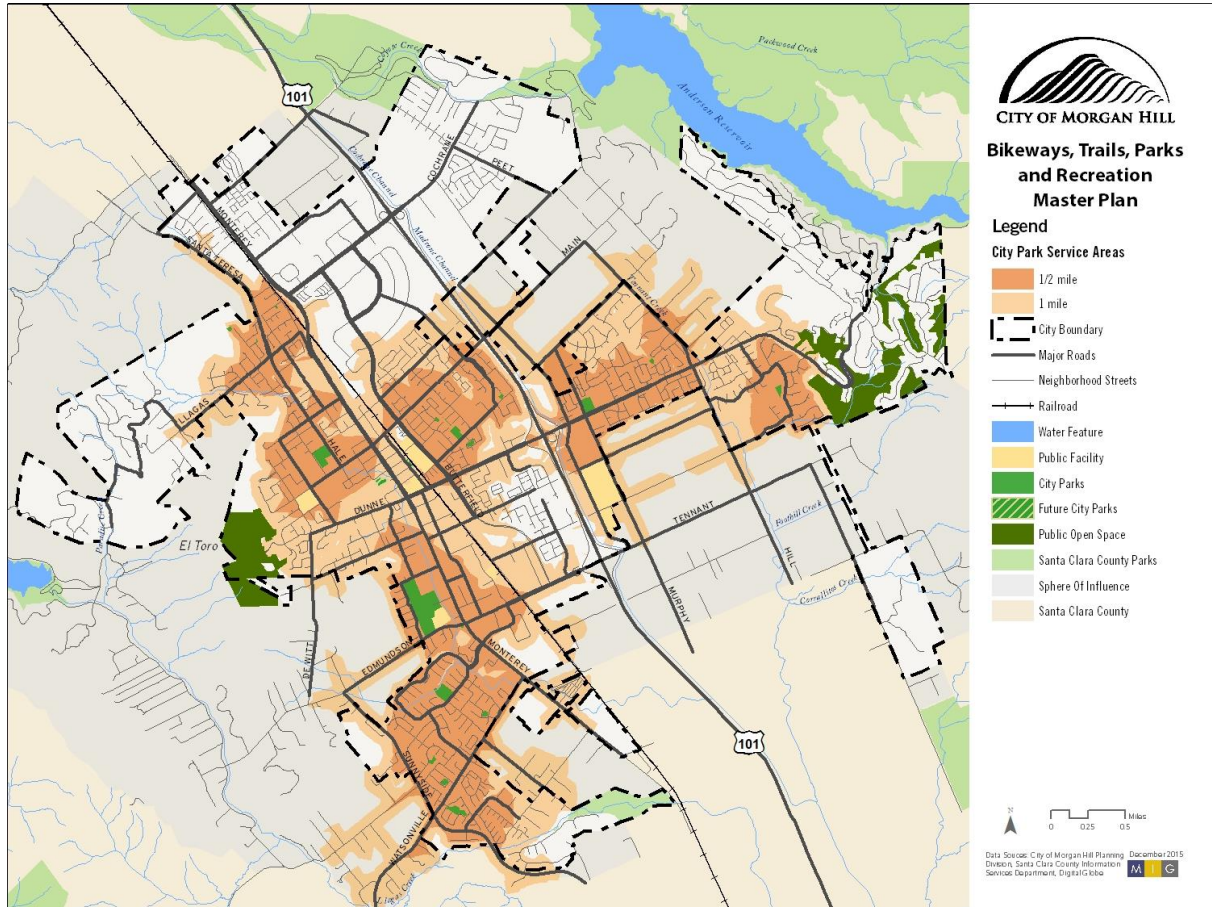
### Parks: Geographic Analysis

As the Existing Park Classifications table (2-1) shows, Morgan Hill has a service distance target for each type of park. The park system was evaluated from a walkability perspective using these distances. To conduct the walkability analysis, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model was used to identify “walksheds.” This approach reflects the way people move

## Existing Conditions Analysis

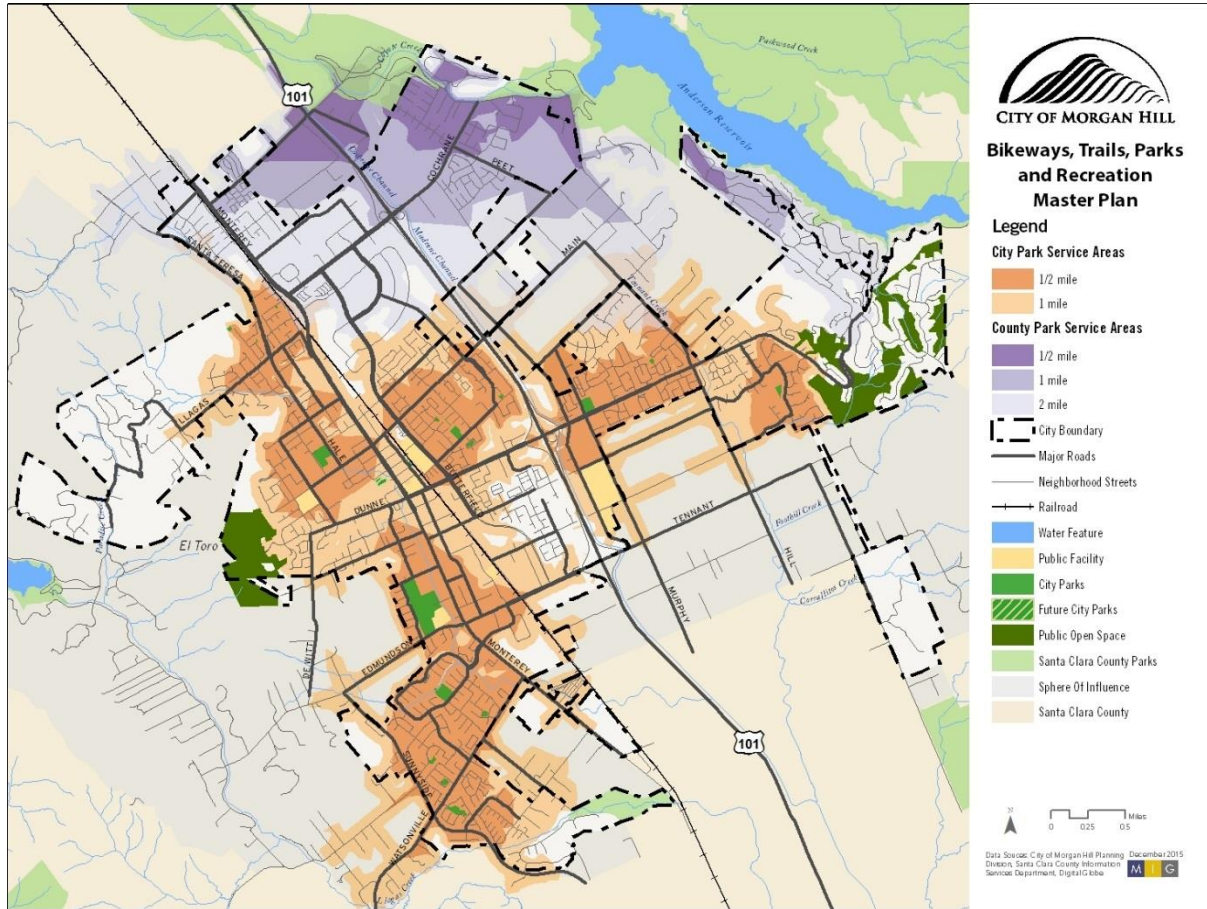
through the city. The desired travel distances used were ¼-mile and ½-mile, reflecting research on the distance a typical person can walk in five and 10 minutes. This model also accounts for physical barriers that impede access. (See Figures 2-5 and 2-6 for an illustration of park walksheds.) When evaluated together these methods of measurement provide a well-rounded picture of how well the park and recreation system is serving the community.

**Figure 2-5: City Park Service Areas**



The Morgan Hill park system is accessible to most residents. There are a few service area gaps in the northeast and central southern areas of the city. Some of the gap areas are in commercial and industrial areas or residential estate and low-density neighborhoods with large lot sizes. Other service area gaps are in denser residential neighborhoods, where there is a need for increased access to recreational opportunities. In some cases, these gaps may be addressed through improved bicycle and pedestrian and transit/shuttle connections to existing parks. In other areas, the gaps may be best addressed through the development of new parks.

Figure 2-6: Park Service Areas including adjacent County Parks



## Parks: Existing Usage and Needs Analysis

Data collected through an online mapping questionnaire, an online survey, intercept surveys, community workshops, and the stakeholder advisory group provided insights into community members’ park usage and preferences. The Project Team analyzed which parks are most heavily used. The community input revealed that Morgan Hill community members are using regional parks, Community Park, and Paradise and Diana Parks frequently and that regional parks are among community members preferred parks for exercise and physical activity (see Figure 2-8). Community members are taking their children to the playgrounds at neighborhood parks. However, survey results showed that Paradise, Diana, and Nordstrom are strongly favored even by residents who live outside of those neighborhoods. This imbalance in park use may be addressed by adding amenities similar to those in the most frequently used and liked parks to less popular neighborhood parks.



Figure 2-7: Community Member's Favorite Parks

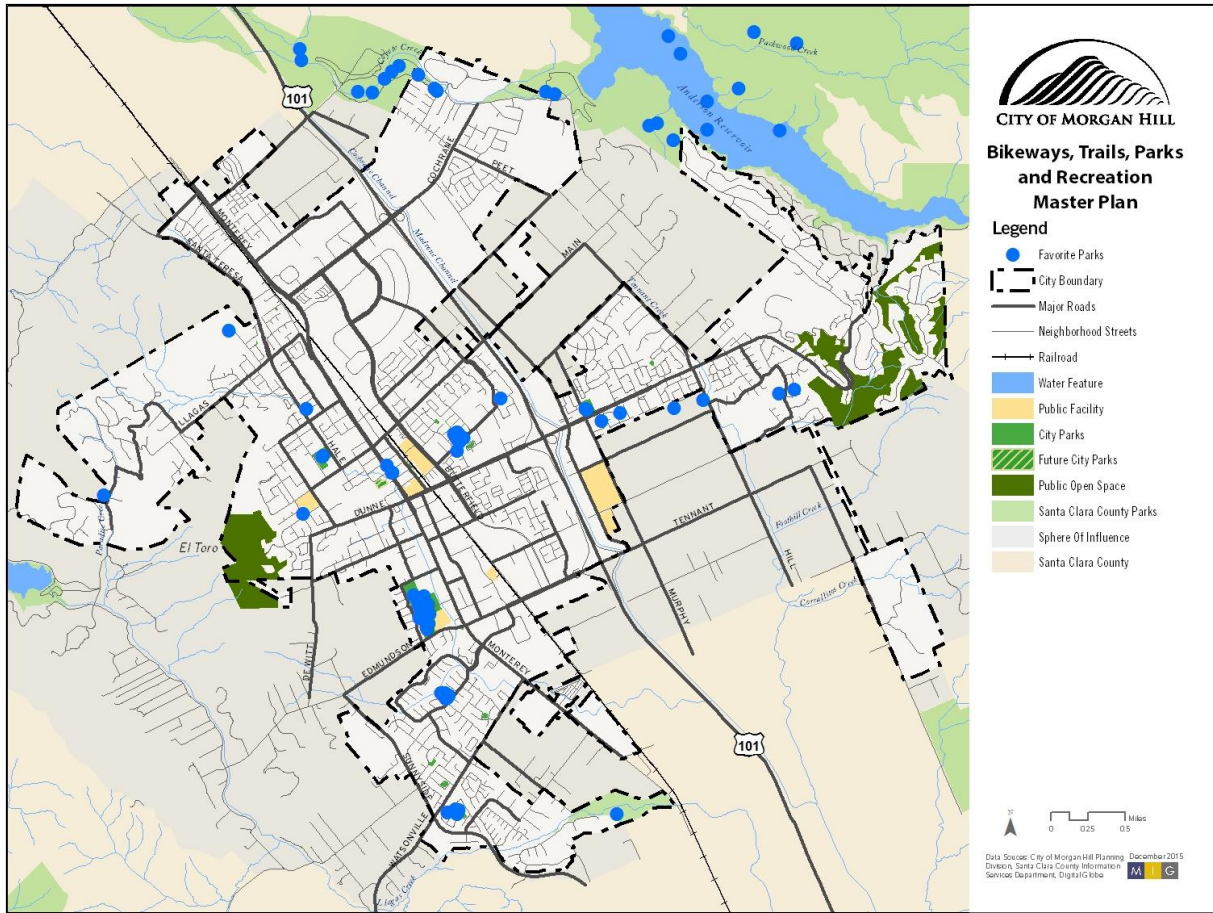
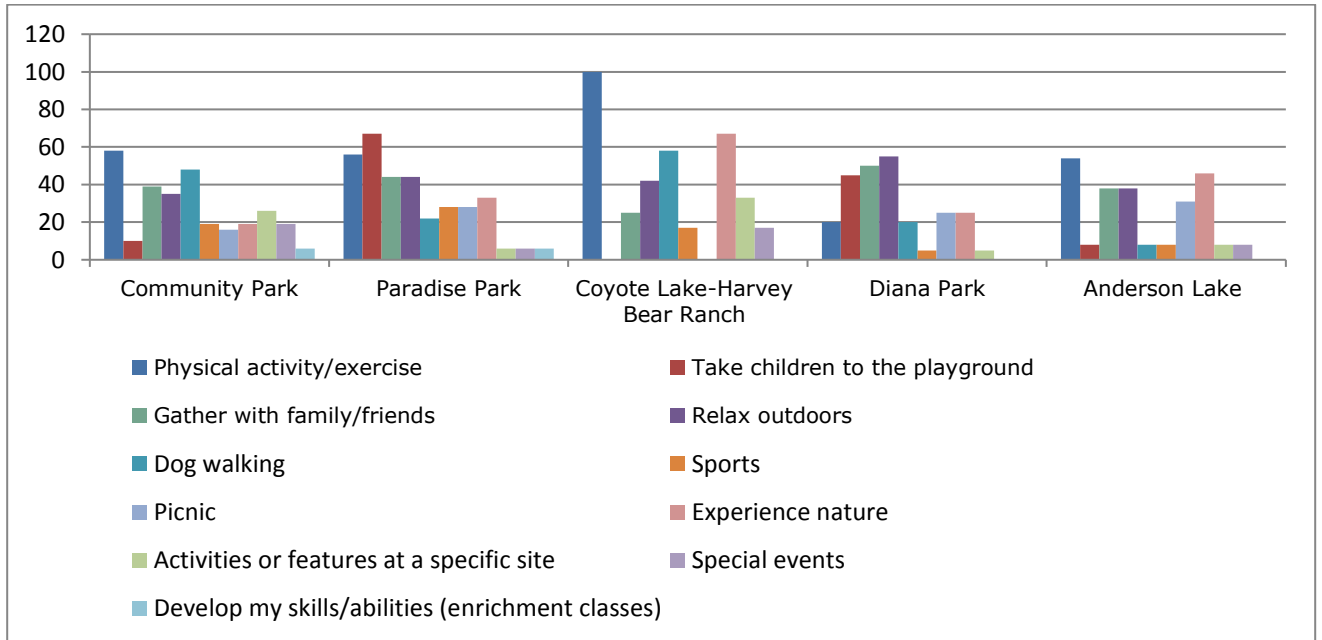


Figure 2-8: Activities in Residents' Top 5 Favorite Parks





## YOUTH WORKSHOP

On July 19, 2016, the Morgan Hill Youth Action Council hosted a workshop with the project team to receive input from teens in the community. There were about 40 participants. The teens were asked to identify their priority investments in three of Morgan Hill's frequently used neighborhood parks— Nordstrom, Paradise, and Diana. The results point to improvements that can help to make parks more engaging for teens, including:

- Add more drinking fountains, trash cans, and trees in Diana Park.
- Add restrooms to Nordstrom and Paradise Parks.
- Add interesting seating to Diana and Nordstrom park.
- Integrate dynamic play elements such as climbing walls, parkour features, and exercise equipment.



## RECREATION FACILITIES



### Recreation Facilities: Key Findings

- **There is strong demand for additional field capacity and gymnasium spaces.** Community members support joint use agreements with schools to help address these needs.
- **There is strong support for additional aquatic facilities,** although the City already enjoys high levels of service on a per capita basis. In particular, peak hours at Morgan Hill's two pools are often crowded for lap swimmers.
- **Morgan Hill is planning to expand its regional sports park facilities** with the addition of a baseball/softball complex, which will further establish the city as a sports tourism destination. Expansion of the CRC is also in planning stages.
- **There is support for further developing the City's historical and cultural resources,** including adapting and enhancing Villa Mira Monte History Park to preserve and educate the community.
- **There is emerging interest in adding sand volleyball courts** in the city, either in a special-use facility or in neighborhood and community parks.
- **Local access to regional facilities** is critically important to Morgan Hill. Access to existing facilities should be protected and enhanced, and local access should be guaranteed for any new developments.

## Existing Conditions and Analysis

- Balancing cost recovery and community access is **essential for operation of the City’s recreation facilities. Given the City’s limited discretionary general fund revenue, recovering a high percentage of costs is the only viable option to operate the recreation facilities.**
- Morgan Hill residents have demonstrated a **willingness to pay for services and the use of recreation facilities.** Residents pay for use of facilities via memberships, program registration, facility rentals, and day use passes.
- **Operational partnerships at recreation facilities have been very successful.** The largest partnerships include the integrated partnership model for operating the CRC with the YMCA and the concessionaire agreement with the Morgan Hill Youth Sports Alliance (MHYSA) at the Outdoor Sports Center (OSC).

*NOTE: Additional findings from the economic impact, market assessment and gap analysis will be included in future drafts of this Master Plan.*

## Recreation Facilities System



The City of Morgan Hill has a network of highly-valued recreation facilities that house many of the City’s classes, camps, and programs. The City’s assets include the OSC, Dennis Kennedy Aquatics Center (AC), CRC, CCC, and El Toro Youth Center. Some of these facilities are multi-purpose and others are special-use. Construction of recreation facilities was previously funded through Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds. Since the State Legislature dissolved RDA’s in 2011, these funds are no longer available to support facility construction. These facilities serve the Morgan Hill community and attract users from throughout the region and even the state.

The Morgan Hill community recognizes and values its extensive, high-quality system of recreation facilities and programs. City leaders want to enhance Morgan Hill’s identity as a sports tourism destination to benefit the local economy, while residents enjoy access to state-



## Existing Conditions Analysis

of-the-art facilities. Continuing to expand and diversify the City’s recreation tourism offerings is a key economic development policy in the adopted 2035 General Plan.

The OSC has played a significant role in establishing Morgan Hill as a sports tourism destination. Currently operated by the Morgan Hill Youth Sports Alliance, the OSC generally operates under the goal of 60 percent local use and 40 percent non-local use. Most local use occurs on weekdays while regional events typically occur on weekends. Actual use depends on team availability and maintenance. The AC also supports Morgan Hill’s sports tourism and its location adjacent to the OSC provides opportunities for coordinated efforts.

*NOTE: Given the important role that recreation facilities play in the City’s Economic Development Strategy, City Council supported further study of the impact of its largest facilities –the Aquatic Center and Outdoor Sports Center—as well as opportunities for baseball, softball, and sand volleyball. Recommendations from that process will be incorporated in a future draft of the Master Plan.*

The City offers a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities available for rent, including the CCC and Community Playhouse, Community Park (stage, gazebo area, picnic areas, tennis court), the recreation center, and senior center. Sport fields and picnic shelters are available for rental at Community Park, Galvan Park and Paradise Park. The AC, CRC Pool and Party Room, Downtown Amphitheater, Council Chambers, and a variety of rooms in the CCC are available for group and party rentals. The AC is available to host swim meets. These facilities meet a diversity of community needs while contributing to the City’s cost recovery.

Morgan Hill is home to various facilities that are not owned or managed by the City but contribute to Morgan Hill’s network of recreational and cultural attractions. The Villa Mira Monte property is one of these unique sites. It is owned and managed by the Morgan Hill Historic Society and is a 2.5-acre site that is listed on the National Registry of Historic Landmarks. The site includes the Hiram Morgan Hill House, built by the city’s namesake in 1884, as well as a museum. The Hiram Morgan Hill House offers a unique rental venue. The Historic Society is seeking a partnership with the City to further develop the site and maximize its potential as a historic and park resource. Chapter 4 of this Master Plan includes high-level recommendations for the City’s role in the future of the Villa Mira Monte property.

**Table 2-6: Morgan Hill Recreation Facility Classifications**

Classification	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Sports Park</b>	Citywide. All residents, community-based sports organizations, and school groups; may serve non-resident sport participants for	Sports Parks focus on active recreational facilities, especially for organized sports. Consolidation of multiple sports fields at one location allows for efficiencies of maintenance and scheduling. With a focus on active sports, sports parks do not have all the amenities of community parks. A sports park should maximize time available for local use while remaining	100



## Existing Conditions and Analysis

	tournament and regional play.	financially sustainable. A Sports Park helps to meet the local demand for sports fields.  These properties were purchased or designated for this specific purpose, or were acquired to take advantage of a unique feature.	
<b>Special Use Facility</b>	Citywide	Special Use Facilities provide space for specialized park and recreation functions, often with a single major use. These facilities may draw visitors from around the region.	100

Counting both existing and planned facilities, Morgan Hill has a total of seven recreational facilities citywide. Five are special use facilities and the other two are sports parks. Table 2-7 lists the recreation facilities and their acreages.

**Table 2-7: Morgan Hill Recreation Facility Inventory**

Facility	Facility Classification	Acre
Aquatics Center	Special Use Facility	8
Centennial Recreation Center	Special Use Facility	7.5
Community & Cultural Center	Special Use Facility	6
El Toro Youth Center	Special Use Facility	0.3
Friendly Inn Non-Profit Center	Special Use Facility	0
Outdoor Sports Center	Sports Park	38

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Recreation Programs: Key Findings

- **Residents highly value programming and events** that provide exercise and that are fun and entertaining.
- **Morgan Hill is regularly adding and changing recreation classes** to incorporate new fitness trends and interests. City staff has been successful in adapting to evolving demand with new programs and events.
- **Programs can be better distributed** throughout the city, including in neighborhood parks. The City’s program offerings are primarily held at the CRC, CCC, and AC, which may be a barrier to reaching many participants.

- **The City enjoys very high cost-recovery rates** for its programming, which provides ongoing support for program development and scholarship opportunities.
- **Morgan Hill's cultural and historic resources** can be a focal point of education and programming and better integrated with the City's existing system.
- **Community members would like to see more family-friendly events, movies, and concerts** at facilities and in parks throughout the city.
- **Community members identified the costs of classes** as the top reason that they do not participate in programming.
- **Promoting programs, membership and scholarship opportunities** are critical to reaching new audiences and markets and ensuring inclusive participation.
- **There is interest in expanding programs and classes into the City's parks.** Community members showed interest in adult recreation and fitness classes as well as youth programs.
- **The unique partnership with the YMCA of Santa Clara Valley** supports enhanced programming at City recreation facilities.
- **The City's youth programming and services are shaped by the "Developmental Assets" framework**, a widely-used approach to childhood and adolescent development focused on helping adults connect with youth in a positive way that helps young people thrive.

## Recreation Programs System and Needs

The City of Morgan Hill Recreation and Community Services Division provides a wide variety of recreation programs designed for a diverse age range and varied interests. The City offers classes in the following program areas: Education, Special Interest, Art, Dance, Fitness, Sports, Camps, Training, and Aquatics. The City's indoor and outdoor recreation facilities allow for year-round programming that varies seasonally, ranging from aquatic classes to preschool programs. Programs include classes, sport leagues, sport competitions, youth camps, drop-in activities, and events. The City plays an important role as a facilitator of community services, helping bring essential support for residents of all ages to the south county.

To evaluate the capacity of Morgan Hill's facilities and programs to meet demand, the project team reviewed and analyzed reservation data and considered the observations of staff and consultants. There are many program offerings for preschool-age children, youth, adults, teens, and seniors. The City and its partner, the YMCA, have adopted the Developmental Assets framework as an integral part of its programs and services. The framework identifies 41 assets, which include both external experiences which provide young people with support, empowerment, and boundaries and the internal values, strengths, and commitments that they need to thrive.

## Existing Conditions and Analysis

The City provides programs geared towards families and groups, including social events and special activities. There are limited programs targeted toward people with disabilities, although there are adaptive open swim times and an adaptive dance event. The City does not currently offer bilingual programs, although it promotes some programs with ads in Spanish. The planning process included an analysis of program registration, City data and strategic plans, and collaboration with City staff to identify gaps and opportunities in the City's offerings and to inform facility recommendations driven by programming needs.

### Membership

The City has unique recreation program capacities with the CRC, which also houses the Senior and Teen Centers. The CRC Memberships Strategic Plan developed in 2015 is updated annually and used to maintain focus on membership needs. The CRC, in partnership with the YMCA, conducts a member satisfaction survey and prime market areas analysis that help support the strategic plan. An analysis concluded that the CRC membership supports residents of all income levels; however, the memberships are not totally aligned with the community in terms of household income and there are opportunities to serve more low income households.

### Health and Wellness

CRC facility operations and classes, including health and wellness programs, are provided through a partnership between the City of Morgan Hill and the Mt. Madonna YMCA. The CRC is the hub for membership-based programs. However, several aquatic-based membership programs are offered at the AC and a small number of membership health and wellness classes are offered at the CCC. At the time of this Master Plan development, the City is planning to expand to CRC with additional space for fitness facilities.

### Aquatic Programs

The City's aquatic programs put into action its commitment to supporting healthy residents throughout their lives. As noted in the Aquatics Strategic Plan (2010), the City values aquatics as a lifetime activity that creates community through improved physical health and wellness, economic development, water safety, and youth development emphasizing respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty. The City's two primary aquatics programs are swim lessons, which is the City's largest program outside of CRC membership, and the Recreational Splash Aquatics Swim Team.

### Preschool

In addition to recreation programs, the City is a facilitator and partner of valued community services, including the Recreation Preschool Program. The City provides both staffing and facilities for the preschool programs. The City's preschool programs include Little Learners, an enrichment program for three-to-four-year-olds offered two days per week; Kinder Learners, a program for four-to-five-year-olds offered three days per week; and Afternoon Preschool for three-to-five-year-olds offered three days per week. The program is at capacity and has wait lists. At the time of this Master Plan, a proposed expansion to the CRC would provide another classroom for the preschool. The expanded capacity would provide for the growing community need and allow for greater long term cost recovery. The City will need to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the preschool program to meet a growing demand.

## Senior Programs

Currently, the City facilitates the Senior Center by providing facility space and funding, and working with the YMCA to provide staffing and services. The Senior Center also receives funding from the County of Santa Clara. In 2015, the City developed the Senior Programs and Support Strategy to provide program guidance for Senior Center programming and sustainability. The Senior Center’s collaborative funding model supports its broad service area. In 2016, the City adopted an “Age-Friendly” resolution, further supporting its commitment to fulfilling seniors’ expanding and diversifying needs. The City will need to evaluate its role in meeting the needs of a growing and diversifying senior population.



## BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS

### Bikeways and Trails: Key Findings

- **Public engagement results consistently showed that Morgan Hill residents support safe walkability and bikeability** on off-street trails as well as trails along major travel routes.
- **A connected and robust bikeway network is a top priority for the Morgan Hill Community.** There is a need to improve connections from residential neighborhoods to schools, Downtown, and regional destinations.
- **Community members identified improved bikeway connections to Downtown as a priority.**
- **Highway 101 is a major barrier** for people walking and people riding bicycles traveling east-west. The lack of safe and comfortable crossing options discourages many people from biking and walking between the city’s eastern and western neighborhoods.
- **Community members showed a strong desire for bicycle facilities that encourage bicycling among residents of all ages and abilities.** Some



## Existing Conditions and Analysis

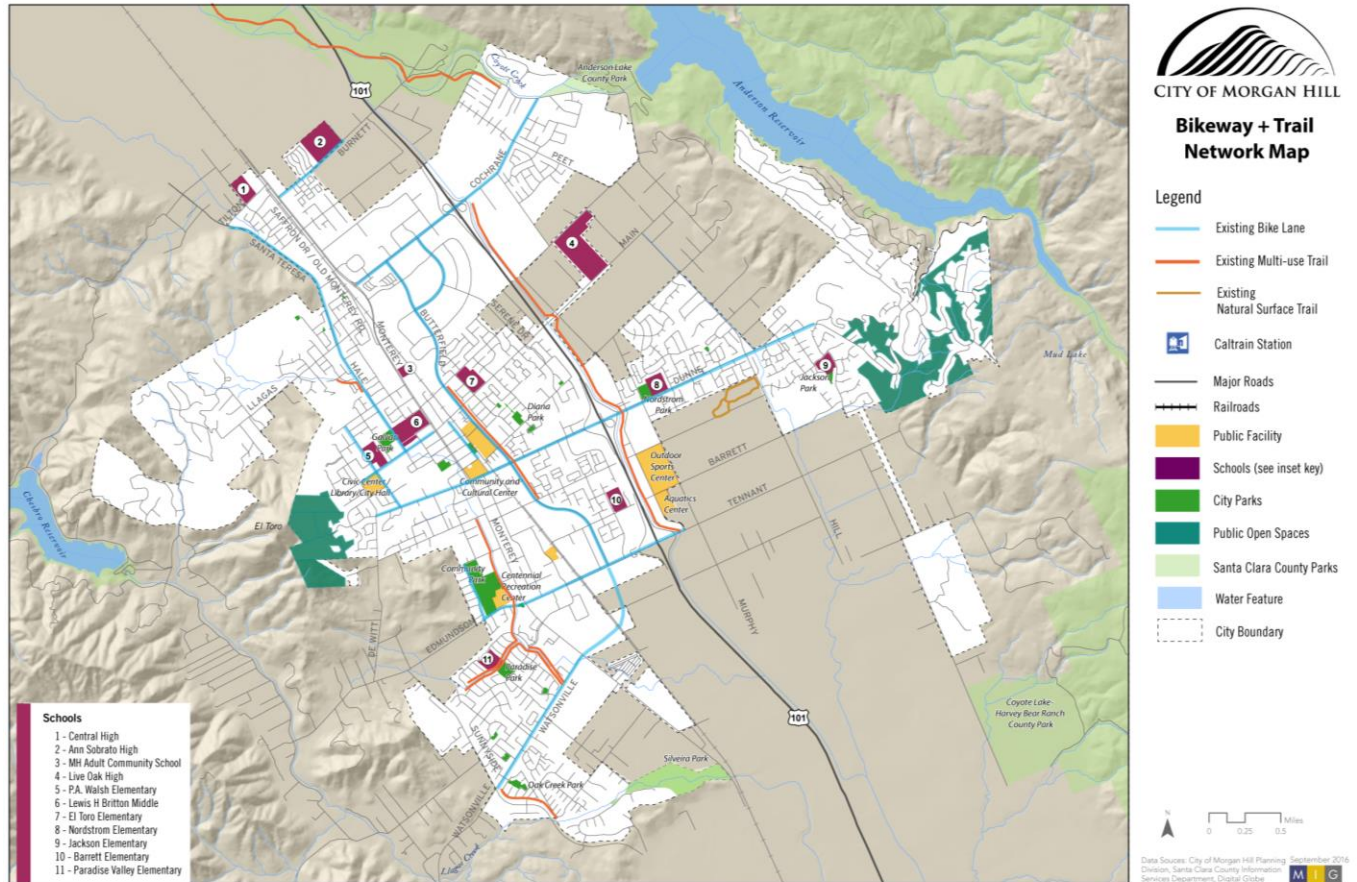
bikeways are separate from fast moving car traffic and include few barriers, such as complex intersections or crossing busy streets.

- **There is a gap between the heavily used Coyote Creek Trail and local bikeways.** Residents are interested in accessing regional parks and trails via safe bikeways and community stakeholders would like regional trail users to travel safely into the city.
- **El Toro is the most important trail development project for residents,** although public input also indicated support for loop trails and more natural surface trails in open spaces.
- **Trails and bikeways present many opportunities to partner with other agencies** to better connect residents to regional assets.

## Bikeways and Trails System and Needs

The Morgan Hill bikeways and trails network includes various types of bikeways and trails that provide transportation and recreation opportunities for people who walk, bike, and hike. The City's existing bikeways and trails network developed in segments over time, resulting in a network with limited connectivity. The majority of Morgan Hill's existing bikeways are on-street buffered bike lanes. In addition to its on-street bikeways, the City recently developed two multi-use trails—Butterfield Trail (also known as the Butterfield Linear Park) and West Little Llagas Creek Trail—and has plans to expand both. The City is also working to improve the loop trails at Silveira Lake.

Figure 2-10: Existing Bikeways and Trails Map



The project team evaluated and mapped the City’s existing bike and trail network, planned improvements, and findings and feedback from the recent Downtown road diet pilot program. In addition, the team collaborated with the County and other regional partners to identify shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration, and to ensure consistency across plans.

Throughout the process, public input clearly highlighted the need for improved connections to and between City parks, recreation facilities, and popular destinations like Downtown and the Coyote Creek Trailhead. In particular, residents want to see safe bike and pedestrian routes for all ages and abilities, not just experienced cyclists. People traveling through the city by bicycle and walking/rolling experience significant barriers. Community members identified wide streets, busy streets, and no bike lanes as the top barriers to getting to parks, open spaces, facilities, and trails in Morgan Hill. Because of the City’s irregular border, many paths of travel alternate between City and County land, creating challenges to coordinate future improvements and making it difficult for residents to know whom to contact for a specific problem or improvement. While the County is open to roadway enhancements, lack of funding limits the work the County can perform. Many intersections adjacent to bikeways lack bike and pedestrian amenities and improvements that support safe and easy connectivity. Throughout the planning process, community members identified intersections as a major barrier to active transportation.

## Existing Conditions and Analysis

A more complete bikeways and trails network will provide greater opportunity for physical activity, outdoor recreation, and safe active transportation, and create a truly integrated parks, recreation, bikeways, and trails system.

**Table 2-8: Bikeway and Trail Classifications**

Facility	Description
<b>Natural Surface Trail</b>	A path of travel for recreation and/or transportation within a park, natural environment, or designated corridor that is not classified as a highway, road, or street. 100 percent of trail acreage and adjacent recreational uses are included in LOS calculations.
<b>Multi-Use Trail (Class I)</b>	A multi-use trail allows for two-way, off-street pedestrian and bicycle use. Wheelchairs, joggers, skaters, and other non-motorized users are also welcome. These trails are frequently found in parks, along rivers, beaches, and in greenbelts or utility corridors where there are few conflicts with motorized vehicles. 100 percent of trail acreage and adjacent recreational uses are included in LOS calculations.
<b>Bike Lane (Class II)</b>	Bike lanes provide a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street. Bike lanes that are not buffered are not recommended for future development.
<b>Sidewalk Connections</b>	Sidewalks are used throughout Morgan Hill's trail system when a more robust trail option is not feasible.

The following table includes an inventory of City trails. Trail acreage, unlike bikeways, is included in the City's level of service calculations.

**Table 2-9: Morgan Hill Trails Inventory**

Trail	Trail Classification	Acres	Miles
Butterfield Trail	Multi-use	2.09	0.8
Madrone Channel Trail	Natural surface (joint-use agreement with Santa Clara County Valley Water District)	6	3
West Little Llagas Creek Trail	Multi-use (includes some land managed through a joint-use agreement with Santa Clara County Valley District)	1.1	1
Percolation Ponds Trail	Natural surface (joint-use agreement with Santa Clara County Valley Water District)	1.21	1

## PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City is committed to balancing its neighborhood and community parks with its sports and special use facilities. Since the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City has tracked its park acreage by the park types described above. The park classifications help to guide the City's park design and planning, while park acreage helps the City determine its level of service (LOS). To better reflect how community members use and would like to use their park and recreation facilities, this plan recommends revisions to the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan facility classifications and level of service calculations (see Chapter 4). The Level of Service described below reflects the revised classifications and calculations.

Morgan Hill has established an LOS standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard allows the City to determine a Quimby Act Fee and helps with planning for new parks needed to keep pace with development. **The City currently provides an LOS of 3.4 acres/1,000.** There is a need for the City to acquire and develop more land to meet the need of its current and future population.

The classifications and LOS standard provide parameters that guide the development and maintenance of parks in order create equitable recreation opportunities across the system. Community input points to more nuanced differences between the parks. The public engagement results revealed community members' park usage patterns and preferences. Residents' favorite parks are larger community and regional parks that are also the most-frequently visited parks. Residents value that these parks offer many activities for a range of ages and interests in one location. Community members frequently travel outside of their neighborhood, and sometimes even the city, to access their favorite parks and in search of diverse amenities (see Figure 2-7). There is demand for diversified play experiences. The Downtown pop-up parks were a great success and residents would like to see some of these elements in other City parks. Community members expressed support for multigenerational amenities, flexible play experiences, and nature play.



# CHAPTER 3

## Vision and Goals

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### INTRODUCTION

The City of Morgan Hill has made significant progress toward the goals and priority projects included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2001) and has many accomplishments on which to build future growth and success. The overarching vision and goals for the Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) were developed from public and stakeholder input, including the community goals articulated in the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan. They provide an aspirational description of the City’s future parks, recreation, bikeways, and trails system, and establish the framework on which the Master Plan policies and projects are based.

### VISION AND GOALS

The City of Morgan Hill shall strive to expand and improve its system of parks, recreation facilities, programs, bikeways, and trails to support **community health, economic development, and quality of life** in Morgan Hill.

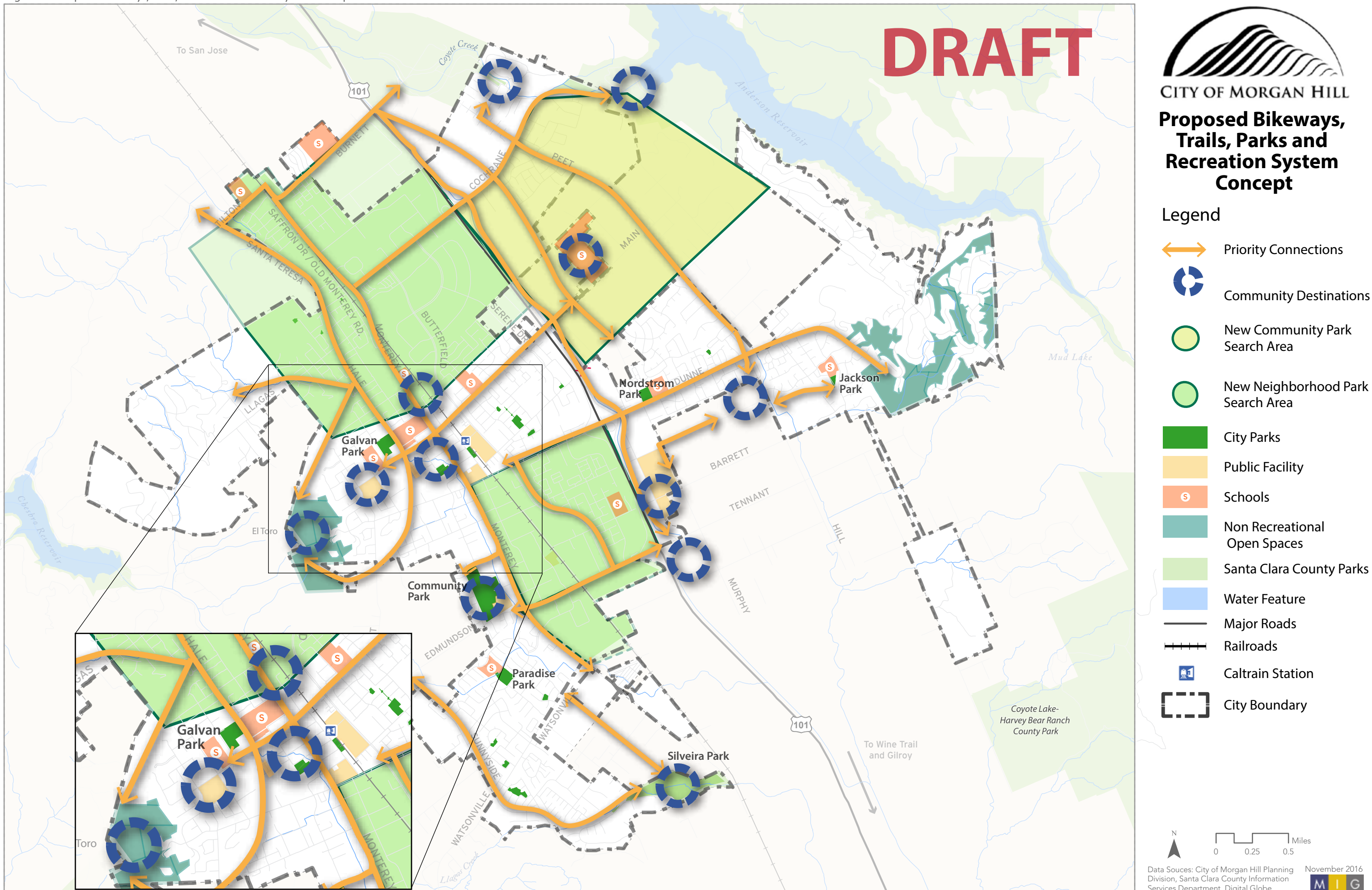
The following goals refine the direction of previous master plans and provide the policy framework to guide decisions and investments to achieve the system envisioned in this Master Plan. The policies and projects outlined in Chapter 4 and the actions in Chapter 5 are specific actions for realizing these goals. Over the next twenty years, the improvements and investments outlined in this plan will:

1. Improve connections between residences and the network of City parks and facilities;
2. Diversify the experiences in the City’s parks and along its trails;
3. Engage people of all ages and all abilities;
4. Support the health and wellness of all community members;
5. Inspire a sense of community and place through arts, culture, and historic resources;
6. Respond to changing conditions and evolving preferences;
7. Ensure equitable access to programs and places for recreation and activity;
8. Leverage partnerships to maximize community benefit and use resources efficiently;
9. Balance active recreation with unprogrammed open spaces;
10. Continue to provide regional recreation destinations for visitors that support economic growth;
11. Enhance safety and navigation to key recreation destinations and along popular routes;
12. Invest in and maintain existing assets while carefully planning for future growth; and
13. Promote financial stability for operation of City facilities.

## Vision and Goals

The policies, programs, and projects in this Master Plan will realize the vision and goals articulated above. Over the next 20 years, the City will create an integrated, connected set of park and recreation assets and transportation infrastructure, as illustrated in Figure 3-1.

Figure 3-1: Proposed Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation System Concept







# CHAPTER 4

## Policies, Actions & Projects

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This chapter includes the recommendations and initiatives to realize the vision for the future of Morgan Hill’s Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation system. These directives build on the community needs assessment and goals identified in preceding chapters. They are organized into policies and supporting actions that will guide the implementation of the policy or strategy. While the goals in Chapter 3 present an integrated vision of the system, the policies, actions, and programs here in Chapter 4 are organized by plan element – parks, recreation (including programs, community services, and facilities), bikeways, and trails. There are also policies and actions that apply systemwide, and for organizational development and management. Each element is assigned a letter and number, with supporting policies listed numerically below.

Following the policies and actions, beginning on page 4-27, are tables describing recommended projects that will implement the preceding policies.

### PARKS

The following Park Classifications describe the types of parks recommended for future development in Morgan Hill. This mix of park types supports the City’s commitment to providing an integrated and diverse park system. The balanced development of the following types of parks will meet the needs and preferences expressed by community members through the master planning process.

**Table 4-1: Recommended Park Classifications**

Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) of Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Mini Parks</b>	3 acres or smaller	Citywide	Mini parks are small parks with specific functions such as community gardens or social gathering spaces in Downtown or other dense mixed use areas. Mini Parks should not be constructed as neighborhood parks in residential areas.	100

Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) of Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	3-10 acres	Walking distance (half-mile walkshed)	<p>A Neighborhood Park is intended primarily for the enjoyment of nearby neighbors within a short walk or bike ride. These parks often include traditional recreation amenities—such as playgrounds, sport courts, and open turf play areas. They serve as social gathering spaces and may also include natural areas.</p> <p>School Parks are school spaces located adjacent to Neighborhood or Community Parks that are dedicated for community-wide use through a joint use agreement with the School District. School Parks enhance City parks with additional amenities and recreation opportunities.</p>	100
<b>Community Park</b>	10 or more acres	Citywide	Community Parks focus on meeting the recreational needs of the community at-large. They allow for group activities and other recreational pursuits that are not recommended at neighborhood parks.	100
<b>Recreational Open Space</b>	No minimum or maximum size; depends on resource to be preserved	Citywide	Recreational Open Spaces provide publicly accessible undeveloped recreation opportunities and opportunities to be in nature. They also protect ecological functions and scenic or heritage resources while providing green corridors for trails and greenways.	10

Park Classification	Typical Size	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) of Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Non-Recreational Open Space</b>	No minimum or maximum size; depends on resource to be preserved	Citywide	Non-Recreational Open space is not publicly accessible. The primary function of these spaces is to protect ecological functions and scenic resources valued by residents. Non-recreational open space is managed by the City’s Parks & Recreation Department; however, it does not count toward the City’s parkland level of service.	0
<b>Privately-owned, Privately Accessible Parks</b>	Depends on facility	Neighborhood served by residential development	Privately-owned Parks are generally within a residential area for the exclusive use of residents and are privately developed and maintained by the homeowner or resident association or property managers.	Privately-Owned and Privately Accessible Parks: 50
<b>Privately-owned, Publicly Accessible Parks</b>			Privately-owned, publicly accessible Parks are generally within a residential area. They are privately developed and maintained by the homeowner or resident association or property managers.	Privately Owned Parks Open to the Public via agreement with the City: 100

### Recommendations: Parks

- P1. Distribute City-owned neighborhood and community parks throughout the city to fill existing gaps and prevent future gaps, especially where densely populated areas are not well-served by parks.**

Actions

- P1-1.** Strategically identify and acquire land for a new community park east of Hwy 101 to be developed as Morgan Hill continues to expand. (See Map X)
  - P1-2.** Site new neighborhood parks in areas of new growth and development, consistent with the 2035 General Plan. (See Map X)
  - P1-3.** Focus City resources on improving and developing larger neighborhood parks, recognizing that privately-owned parks meet the need for small, close-to-home parks for many residents.
  - P1-4.** Continue encouraging the development of high quality neighborhood parks and privately-owned parks in new developments through the Residential Development Control System (RDSC) competition requirements. Ensure that parks constructed and maintained by developers meet the City's park standards described by General Plan Policy HC 3.31.
  - P1-5.** Continue to maintain the City's existing Mini Parks while not adding (acquiring or developing) more Mini Parks, unless developed to meet specific goals in this plan.
  - P1-6.** Construct the planned Downtown parks and trails, including Depot Park, Little Llagas Creek Park, and Hilltop Park and Trail.
  - P1-7.** Partner with the Morgan Hill Historic Society to expand and diversify the community uses of Villa Mira Monte and integrate into the Downtown park system.
- P2. Maximize park access to ensure community members can comfortably and easily travel to and use the parks closest to their homes.**

Actions

- P2-1.** Strive to meet the five acres/1,000 residents level of service park standard as defined in Chapter 2.
  - P2-2.** Expand the level of service definition to include a walkability standard with a goal that every resident lives within a half-mile walk of a park and residents in higher-density areas of the city live within a quarter-mile walk of a park.
  - P2-3.** Strive to reach the 60/40 use ratio for residents/non-residents at the City's current and future Special Use Sports Facilities to ensure that the facilities meet local demand.
  - P2-4.** Encourage public accessibility of new privately-owned and developed parks through the RDSC process.
- P3. Continue to create unique park features and programs in Downtown.**



Actions

- P3-1.** Develop the new permanent Downtown parks.
- P3-2.** Plan future pop-up and temporary programs and installations.
- P3-3.** Integrate public art into the Downtown parks.
- P3-4.** Program community events including performance art, concerts, and family events in Downtown parks.

**P4. Partner with Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) to increase access (i.e., keep gates unlocked) to school facilities during non-school hours.**

Actions

- P4-1.** Develop formal joint use agreements for the creation of School Park facilities to enhance access and amenities at existing and future school sites.

Relevant Sites

Nordstrom Park/School, Paradise Park/School, Jackson Park/School, El Toro School, Future Borello School Site, Other Future School Sites.

- P4-2.** Consider joint planning for School Park facilities at Paradise and Nordstrom Parks/Schools.
- P4-3.** Review opportunities to increase park land and amenities adjacent to Jackson Park/School.
- P4-4.** Partner with the school District to land bank for future park sites adjacent to future school sites.

**P5. Work in partnership with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority to enhance community use of regional parkland adjacent to and near the city and to bring regional visitors to the city, per General Plan Policy HC 3.15.**

Actions

- P5-1.** Promote nearby County and regional facilities with the citywide bikeways and trails map that encourages active transportation to park and open space destinations.
- P5-2.** Consider joint-use agreements to develop park activities and amenities in heavily-used nearby Anderson County Park.
- P5-3.** Partner with the County and OSA to support and fund regional recreational facilities located in City parks and facilities.

**P6. Enhance and diversify play environments throughout the city.**

Actions

- P6-1.** Prioritize park improvements and playground enhancements in underserved areas of the city, including northwest Morgan Hill.
  - P6-2.** Diversify the types of play equipment and experiences in neighborhood parks by adding nature play, adventure play, and creative play opportunities.
  - P6-3.** Replace outdated play structures with new types of play equipment and play environments.
  - P6-4.** Add more multigenerational play experiences to neighborhood and community parks.
  - P6-5.** Provide nature play experiences throughout the system.
  - P6-6.** Construct the Inclusive Playground at Community Park.
- P7. Support Morgan Hill as a sports tourism and recreation event destination by hosting events within the city.**

Actions

- P7-1.** Provide a streamlined and customer-friendly special events permit applications process.
- P7-2.** Continually evaluate management partnerships for the OSC and other Sports Facilities.
- P7-3.** Promote sports tourism by marketing and promoting Morgan Hill and its surrounding areas via social media, web, and traditional marketing means.

*NOTE: Other items to be added following the completion of the sports tourism study.*

**P8. Enhance park amenities to increase park user comfort and accessibility.**

Actions

- P8-1.** Add shade structures and trees that provide shade to parks, especially over play and seating areas. Every City park in Morgan Hill has opportunity for additional shade (see park concepts in [Appendix X](#)).
- P8-2.** Ensure that shade is included when designing and developing new parks.
- P8-3.** Add restrooms to high-use neighborhood parks.
  - Locate restrooms where they are highly visible from the street and nearby activity areas.
  - Consider restroom designs that minimize ongoing maintenance costs and enhance safety.

Relevant Sites

Nordstrom Park, Paradise Park, and Diana Park.

**P8-4.** Install drinking fountains that allow for easy water bottle refilling throughout the park and trail (as feasible) system.

**P8-5.** Add additional seating to parks, focusing on seating options designed for comfort and social interaction.

**P8-6.** Add wi-fi to high use parks, especially Downtown Parks.

**P9. Expand opportunities for fitness and health oriented activities for all ages in Morgan Hill parks.**

Actions

**P9-1.** Pilot fitness equipment in two (2) parks and monitor and evaluate usage. Identify opportunities for unique fitness stations and equipment, such as par course.

Relevant Sites

Nordstrom Park and Galvan Park.

**P9-2.** Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections to parks so that users can access parks via active transportation modes.

**P9-3.** Identify opportunities for loop trails within new parks and school parks.

**P10. Continue investing in destination community parks that offer a range of activities.**

Actions

**P10-1.** Implement planned lighting and handball court improvements to Galvan Park to enhance access and safety.

**P10-2.** Continue working with community members to identify priority improvements for Galvan Park.

**P10-3.** Continue to maintain and program Community Park at a high standard while adding and enhancing amenities.

**P10-4.** Design a new community park to provide the same high level of services as the existing Community Park while also offering unique experiences that establish the park as a destination. Consider including the following elements in the new community park:

- Fenced dog park;
- Bike skills/pump track;
- Traffic garden (bicycle and safety and skills course);
- Fitness equipment;
- Loop trail;
- Parking;

- Tennis/pickleball;
- Sand volleyball;
- Water filling station; and/or
- Community garden.

**P11. Protect and improve un-programmed, flexible spaces in neighborhood parks for informal games and other self-directed recreation uses.**

[Relevant Sites](#)

Galvan Park, Belle Estates Park, Stone Creek Park, Diana Park, Jackson Park, Paradise Park, Mill Creek Park, Howard Wiechert Park, Hamilton Square Park, and Oak Creek Park.

**P12. Design new parks and park improvement that are welcoming, distinct, and represent the qualities of the park and surrounding neighborhood.**

Actions

**P12-1.** Enhance park entry points by providing seating or other features to help activate entrances and make them highly visible from the street and from within the park. Where needed, install signage to clearly identify the accessible path of travel or direct users to primary points of entrance.

[Relevant Sites](#)

Belle Estates Park, Community Park, Diana Estates Park, Fox Hollow Park, Galvan Park, Jackson Park, Murphy Springs Park, Paradise Park, and Oak Creek Park.

**P12-2.** Locate certain site furnishings, including trash receptacles and pet care stations, outside of the park entry points in order to improve the aesthetic qualities of the entry.

**P12-3.** Design spaces that are simple and logical to facilitate wayfinding by people of all abilities.

**P12-4.** Incorporate public art into parks.

**P13. Provide urban agriculture opportunities throughout the city to provide access for residents.**

Actions

**P13-1.** Establish one or more permanent locations for the community garden and expand its capacity.

**P14. Integrate more natural elements and spaces and nature play opportunities into Morgan Hill's parks system.**



### Actions

- P14-1.** Reveal and enhance nature and natural processes using native plants and by using stormwater management as a functional and aesthetic park feature.
- P14-2.** Incorporate low-impact, drought-tolerant plantings in new parks to minimize irrigation requirements and enhance visual interest.
- P14-3.** Develop nature play areas in appropriate areas that allow children and users of all ages to interact with nature and natural materials.

### Relevant Sites

Jackson Park, Murphy Springs Park, and New Downtown Parks.

## RECREATION

### Recommendations: Programs / Membership / Facility Rentals

- PR1. Create programming that supports City goals to build community cohesion, support families, and encourage healthy lifestyles.**
- PR2. Develop and promote programs to serve the entire Morgan Hill community.**
  - PR2-1.** Continue providing the scholarship program for CRC memberships and recreation programs.
  - PR2-2.** Increase awareness of available programs and scholarships through increased bilingual outreach and strengthened outreach to a diversity of community-based organizations such as churches and non-profits groups.
  - PR2-3.** Expand program offerings for teens and preteens.
  - PR2-4.** Reach out to residents that are differently abled, have limited mobility, and seniors to better understand how existing programs may be made more adaptable and inclusive and if there is a need for new unique accessible programs.
- PR3. Continue to ensure flexibility in program offerings so that new programs can be tested and unpopular programs can be retired.**
  - PR3-1.** Use evaluation criteria tied to registration rates, community need, and cost recovery to inform programming decisions.
  - PR3-2.** Develop pilot recreation programs to test and evaluate the community's interest in new types of classes, events, and activities.
  - PR3-3.** Diversify offerings within a programming category (e.g., fitness) rather than adding identical programs to meet peak demand.
- PR4. Diversify the location of programs beyond the CRC, CCC, and AC.**

**PR4-1.** Offer programs in neighborhood and community parks throughout the city, including fitness classes and youth programs.

**PR4-2.** Focus outdoor programming in neighborhood parks in the northwest areas of the city to reduce barriers to participation and address under-served neighborhood needs.

**PR4-3.** Pilot mobile programming in neighborhood parks throughout the city.

**PR4-4.** Offer special events, such as movie nights, in neighborhood parks throughout the city.

**PR5. Continue to provide recreation-based preschool services and expand capacity as needed.**

**P5-1.** Expand the preschool program to support increased cost recovery of recreation programs.

**P5-2.** Consider increasing preschool programs through facility expansion.

## Recommendations: Community Services

**CS1. Continue to serve as a facilitator of community and social services to ensure there are family support services for all ages in Morgan Hill.**

### Actions

**CS1-1.** Maintain and enhance partnerships with non-profit organizations to facilitate the delivery of services to Morgan Hill and south County residents.

**CS1-2.** Continue to provide facility space for community services including day care and senior services, focusing on multi-use and multi-generational spaces.

**CS2. Proactively plan to adapt and/or expand senior services to meet projected growth in demand.**

### Actions

**CS2-1.** Support the City's Age-Friendly City resolution by meeting the needs of the growing senior community.

**CS2-2.** Update the Strategy for Older Adult Programs and Services, incorporating the World Health Organization "Age Friendly City" designation to guide future programmatic planning.

**CS2-3.** Conduct a feasibility analysis to determine which type of Adult Day Care Program is needed in Morgan Hill and the partnerships required to provide these services.

**CS2-4.** Evaluate options to support "transitions" that allow older adults to age in place in Morgan Hill.

**CS2-5.** Develop a sponsorship and donation program that will support growth of the Senior Support Endowment Fund.

**CS2-6.** Continue to partner with the YMCA to provide the Senior Nutrition Program.

**CS2-7.** Continue to use partnerships to enhance resources and deliver services for Older Adults at the Senior Center and throughout the community.

**CS3. Continue to support Community Service activities that support community health.**

Actions

**CS3-1.** Continue to actively recruit community based organizations that provide community services to locate at the Friendly Inn Non-profit Center.

**CS3-2.** Seek grant funding to support after-school programs and activities for residents in underserved and low-income areas.

**CS3-3.** Support partnerships and collaborations with government agencies and non-profit organizations that provide social services to youth in the community, such as South County Youth Task Force, South County United for Health and Community Asset Builders).

**CS3-4.** Continue to support the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clara County or other non-profit organizations to operate the El Toro Youth Center.

Facilities

Table 4-2: Morgan Hill Recreation Facility Classifications

Classification	Service Area	Description	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS
<b>Special Use Recreation Facilities</b>	<b>Citywide.</b> Users include all residents, community-based organizations and school groups and may serve non-resident sport participants.	These properties were purchased or designated for a specific purpose, or were acquired to take advantage of a unique feature. These facilities require staff to manage and operate. Special use facilities include Sports Parks, Aquatic Center, Villa Mira Monte property.	100
<b>Special Use Facility (non-sports)</b>	<b>Citywide.</b> Users include all residents, community-based organizations and school groups	Special Use Facilities provide space for specific uses. They are often rented for events or classes and are not always open to the public for general use. These facilities include Centennial Rec Center and the Community & Cultural Center.	50

*NOTE: Facility recommendations will be further developed in coordination with the sports tourism study.*

## Recommendations: Facilities

### **F1. Incorporate historic and cultural resources into the parks and recreation system when the resources provide opportunities for community education, events, and recreation, in support of General Plan Policy HC 8.**

#### Actions

**F1-1.** Develop a partnership with the Morgan Hill Historical Society to make Villa Mira Monte viable and sustainable as a community resource.

**F1-2.** Ensure future site development includes:

- Culturally, historically, and context appropriate design approaches to improvements and additions.
- Expanded recreation uses.
- Property improvements designed to integrate into the Downtown parks system and facilitate attracting more visitors to Downtown businesses.
- Design improvements to maximize revenue and limit ongoing maintenance costs.
- Improved technology at the site.
- Opportunities for urban agriculture and agriculture education with a demonstration garden/orchard or a community garden.

**F1-3.** Continue to collaborate with the Historical Society to support organization and site management and operations.

- The Morgan Hill Historical Society should continue to manage the Villa Mira Monte Site.
- Consider providing operational support to the Historical Society to hire limited-term staff for site management with the intent to identify and secure revenue for long-term fiscal sustainability.
- Ensure future programming includes establishing and expanding revenue generating uses such as event rentals as well as programming to attract new visitors to the site.
- The City shall utilize existing Community Services Department resources to coordinate marketing and promotion of the site to increase access and revenue generation.
- Consider formally assigning the Library, Culture, and Arts Commission to make recommendations relating to historic resources.



**F2. Support the development and maintenance of infrastructure that supports sports tourism, per General Plan policy ED 4.3.**

Actions

- F2-1.** Pursue the development of a new Baseball Field Complex on City-owned land in the SE Quadrant.
- F2-2.** Conduct a market study to evaluate the feasibility of a regional sand volleyball tournament complex adjacent to the OSC/AC.
- F2-3.** Develop a site plan for 10 acres of property adjacent to the Aquatics Center and Outdoor Sports Center, for which the City has a future option to purchase. Property shall be used for parking and additional regional sports uses (sand volleyball, additional soccer fields, etc.).

*NOTE: Additional actions will be developed in the sports tourism study.*

**F3. Ensure that regional use of Morgan Hill’s recreation facilities do not adversely impact established neighborhoods and that they support quality of life for residents.**

Actions

- F3-1.** Site regional recreation facilities outside of established residential neighborhoods to avoid traffic, parking, and noise impacts.
- F3-2.** Consider transportation programs such as shuttles and bike shares that will minimize impacts from vehicular traffic and encourage visitors to travel to Downtown Morgan Hill and other shopping and dining centers.
- F3-3.** Develop adequate parking at recreation and sports facilities.

**F4. Actively pursue joint-use agreements with MHUSD to help meet demand for sports fields and indoor facilities, per General Plan Policy HC 3.25.**

Actions

- F4-1.** Create joint use agreement(s) with the MHUSD for existing school gym and field facilities.
- F4-2.** Develop a new gym facility in partnership with the school district that meets the needs of both the City and MHUSD and is constructed, maintained, and programed through a joint-use agreement.

**F5. Maximize utilization of existing aquatic facilities, while ensuring high levels of maintenance and sustainable funding.**

Actions

- F5-1.** Adjust facility schedules to meet community demand for lap swim and programs with high demand.
- F5-2.** Establish a coordinated reservation system with the school district for access to high school pools.

*NOTE: Other actions will be identified through the ongoing utilization / programming study.*

**F6. Maintain and support public access to Morgan Hill’s destination parks and recreation facilities.**

Actions

**F7-1.** Continue to pursue 60 percent local use and 40 percent regional use for existing and new recreation facilities, based on hours of use.

**F7-2.** Continue to use the City’s community use policy to promote facility use for resident groups.

**F7-3.** Improve the lighting, accessibility, and irrigation at the OSC.

*NOTE: Other actions will be identified through the ongoing utilization/programming study.*

## BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS

The following Bikeway and Trail Classifications describe the types of facilities recommended for Morgan Hill’s future system. These facility types reflect national and statewide best practices. The integrated development of these facilities will create a connected bicycle and pedestrian network that is accessible to all ages and abilities.

**Table 4-3: Recommended Bikeway and Trail Classifications**

Facility	Description
<b>Natural Surface Trail</b>	A path of travel for recreation and/or transportation within a park, natural environment, or designated corridor that is not classified as a highway, road, or street. 100 percent of trail acreage and adjacent recreational uses are included in LOS calculations.
<b>Multi-Use Trail (Class I)</b>	A multi-use trail allows for two-way, off-street pedestrian and bicycle use. Wheelchairs, joggers, skaters, and other non-motorized users are also welcome. These trails are frequently found in parks, along rivers, beaches, and in greenbelts or utility corridors where there are few conflicts with motorized vehicles. 100 percent of trail acreage and adjacent recreational uses are included in LOS calculations.
<b>Buffered Bike Lane (Class II)</b>	A buffered bike lane is a Class II Bikeway that has a marked (painted) buffer without flexible posted or inflexible barriers as the separation between the bike lane and the vehicular traffic lane. If a marked buffer is provided with flexible posts or inflexible physical barriers, this is considered a separated bikeway or protected bike lane.
<b>Protected Bike Lane (Class IV)</b>	A Class IV Bikeway (separated bikeway) is a bikeway for the exclusive use of bicycles and includes a separation between the separated bikeway and the vehicular traffic. The separation may include, but is not limited to, grad separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or on-street parking.

Facility	Description
<p><b>Bicycle Boulevard (Class III)</b></p>	<p>Bicycle boulevards are streets with low motorized traffic volumes and speeds, designated and designed to give bicycle travel priority. Bicycle Boulevards use signs, pavement markings, and speed and volume management measures to discourage through trips by motor vehicles and create safe, convenient bicycle crossings of busy arterial streets.</p>

## Recommendations: Bikeways and Trails

**B1. Create a bikeways and trails network that serves the needs and abilities of cyclists of all ages and abilities, consistent with General Plan Policy TR 8.1.**

Actions

- B1-1.** Construct the priority bikeway and trail projects identified in the Master Plan based on improving safety and enhancing both commute and recreational cycling, consistent with General Plan Policy TR 8.8.
- B1-2.** Prioritize the creation of all ages and abilities bikeway types including bicycle boulevards on neighborhood streets (local roadways) and protected bike lanes on busy streets (arterial roadways).
- B1-3.** Support General Plan Policy TR 8.3 by providing options for people of different abilities riding bikes by establishing alternative routes, such as direct routes on busy streets for experienced bike riders, and less direct routes on quieter streets, bicycle boulevards, and trails for less experienced and recreational bike riders.

**B2. Develop an interconnected network of bikeways and multi-use trails that safely connect neighborhoods and residences with workplaces, schools, parks, and community destinations, consistent with General Plan Goal TR 8.**

Actions

- B2-1.** Strive to connect each new bikeway project to an existing bikeway, trail, or community destination. Provide complete connections in the network and avoid abruptly ending a bikeway before a connection is made.

## BICYCLE FACILITIES

### Bicycle Boulevard



### Protected Bike Lane



### Buffered Bike Lane



### Intersection Improvement



**B2-2.** Prioritize implementation of projects that address existing barriers, including Highway 101 and challenging intersections, to facilitate and encourage walking and riding a bike to destinations.

**B2-3.** Where feasible and safe, support General Plan Policy TR 8.13 by requiring pedestrian and bicycle public access from a cul-de-sac to an adjacent public amenity, such as a park or school, or from a cul-de-sac to an adjacent street, especially when developing bicycle boulevards.

**B2-4.** Support General Plan Policy TR 8.7 by designating private roads as part of the bikeway network if there is an agreement between the City and the appropriate owner for such a designation.

**B2-5.** Coordinate bikeway and trail network implementation with partner agencies, including but not limited to Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, and Valley Transportation Authority.

**B2-6.** Conduct public engagement during bikeway and trail design and implementation to provide convenient connections along desirable routes to destinations.

**B3. Improve safety for all roadway users by providing bikeways and trails with comfortable separation from motor vehicles and a focus on safety.**

#### Actions

**B3-1.** Continue to implement the City's adopted Vision Zero implementation strategy to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities.

**B3-2.** Upgrade existing bikeways to create dedicated space for people riding bicycles separated from motor vehicle travel and parking lanes where possible.

**B3-3.** Improve intersections to accommodate through and turning bicycle traffic with both time and space separation where possible.

**B3-4.** For all roadway improvements, implement vehicular, transit, and freight improvements that minimize conflict with people riding bicycles.

**B3-5.** Review opportunities to enhance technology for the Police Department to collect and upload bicycle-involved collision data to the County Crossroads database, to analyze for targeted enforcement and improvements to reduce the likelihood of future collisions.

**B3-6.** Improve bicycle safety across or along highway entrances, railroad and rail transit crossings and parallel facilities.

**B3-7.** Reevaluate configuring Downtown streets to one lane of vehicle traffic and one buffered bike lane upon the completion of the development of the Hale Avenue Extension Project.

**B4. Encourage active and safe transportation through education and outreach.**

Actions

**B4-1.** Develop multi-modal traveler safety education materials and programs to teach all roadway users about how to safely drive and ride bikes on or near streets with bikeways and trails.

**B4-2.** Develop a user-friendly, multi-modal network map that allows users to easily navigate the system according to their comfort and ability level.

**B4-3.** Provide bicycle education for primary school children. Work with schools to continue and expand the Safe Routes to School program to teach children to safely walk and ride a bicycle to school.

**B4-4.** Support General Plan Action TR 8.G by actively pursuing bicycle safety and promotion programs, encouraging partnership with the police department, MHUSD, bicycle clubs, and other interested agencies and organizations to provide information and resources such as helmet fittings at community events.

**B4-5.** Seek grant funding to support active transportation education and outreach.

**B5. Support economic and community development through active transportation and active recreation activities.**

Actions

**B5-1.** Support the Downtown district and business owners in accommodating customers arriving by bicycle.

**B5-2.** Enhance connections to regional bicycle routes and develop programs to encourage visitors or bicycle riders passing through Morgan Hill to visit Downtown.

**B5-3.** Promote and support people walking and bicycling to community events by providing legible wayfinding and convenient bicycle parking.

**B6. Provide safe, accessible and convenient bicycle parking and other support services to people travelling by bicycle.**

Actions

**B6-1.** Monitor bicycle parking facility usage to determine when new or expanded facilities are needed.

**B6-2.** Establish visible and accessible platforms for community members to request new or expanded bike parking. At destinations with high bicycle



parking demand, consider allocating more public right-of-way to provide bicycle racks and bicycle corrals, possibly in the place of a vehicular parking space.

**B6-3.** Work with Caltrain and major employers to ensure there is adequate short- and long-term secure bicycle parking for bicycle commuters.

**B6-4.** Focus the addition of new bicycle parking facilities at destinations, especially Downtown, including development of the bike hub site.

**B7. Coordinate development of the bikeways and trail network with regional partner agencies and organizations.**

Actions

**B7-1.** Support General Plan Policy TR 8.4 by coordinating development of the bikeways and trails network with the VTA Cross County Corridors, Santa Clara Countywide Trails Master Plan, the Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan, the South County Joint Area Plan, the Santa Clara County Bicycle Technical Guidelines, and the California Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual.

**B7-2.** Support General Plan Policy TR 8.11 for multi-jurisdictional alignments by developing partnerships with Santa Clara County to plan, finance, implement, and maintain the bikeways system.

**B7-3.** Evaluate opportunities to coordinate trail alignments along the future California High Speed Rail line.

**B7-4.** Partner with the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority on the development and maintenance of trails on the El Toro Mountain.

**B7-5.** Create an east-west connection to Coyote Creek Trail via a Burnett Ave bridge, per General Plan Policy TR-8.8.

**B8. Design all bikeways and trails to meet or exceed the latest federal, state, and local design guidelines.**

Actions

**B8-1.** Conduct engineering studies for new bikeways, using design standards that are consistent with regional guidelines and current nationally-recognized guides. Resources include:

- The Santa Clara County Bicycle Technical Guidelines;
- California Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual.
- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD);
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide;
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities;

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide;
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and Universal Design recommendations;
- US Access Board's Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way: Shared Use Paths;
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) publications; and
- Other nationally and internationally recognized guides.

**B8-2.** Provide ongoing education opportunities to City of Morgan Hill planning and engineering staff on the planning, design, implementation and maintenance on innovative bikeways and trails.

**B9. Evaluate the potential to expand pathways along creeks and drainage ways.**

Actions

**B9-1.** Support General Plan Policy HC 3.14 by working in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to establish easements and joint use agreements and to develop trails and linear parks along creeks and drainage channels.

Relevant Sites

- Llagas Creek west of Silveira to Santa Teresa;
- Madrone Channel trail;
- The trails at Silveira to incorporate desired community uses;
- The loop trail and usable open space at San Pedro Percolation Ponds as a loop trail and usable open space;
- The northern extension of the Little Llagas Creek Trail from Spring Ave to W Main Ave, per General Plan Policy TR 8.8;
- The Madrone Channel Trail northern extension to the Coyote Creek Trail and southern extension to Middle Ave; and
- The Tennant Creek Trail from E Dunne Ave to Middle Ave.

**B10. Support the comfortable use and appeal of the bikeways and trails network through regular maintenance and adequate facilities.**

Actions

**B10-1.** Improve bikeways and trails based on maintenance standards and an established schedule.

**B10-2.** Plan for and adequately fund maintenance activities and needs, including equipment and labor.

**B10-3.** Consider maintenance costs, procedures, and long-term funding mechanisms as a part of all new bikeway and trail projects.

- B10-4.** Create and publicize an online maintenance request form and a phone number for bikeway and trail users to identify and submit improvement requests. Respond to requests in a timely manner.
- B10-5.** Develop a process to assess the condition of City-owned bicycle racks and on-street bicycle corrals, and replace as needed.
- B10-6.** Include trash cans and dog bag stations along heavily used mixed-use trails.

## SYSTEM-WIDE GUIDELINES

### **S1. Integrate universally accessible recreation experiences across the system in support of General Plan Policy HC 3.1.**

#### Actions

- S1-1.** Improve access for all users to existing parks, facilities, and amenities. Consider various aspects such as accessible parking spaces, paving materials, and site furnishings.
- S1-2.** Continue to advance the Inclusive Playground at Community Park. Create a phased construction approach to leverage available funding and support.
- S1-3.** Provide signs at trailheads that indicate trail surfaces so that users know the trail's level of accessibility.
- S1-4.** Evaluate the need for adaptive programming.

### **S2. Develop a wayfinding system for the City's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation network that includes signage along bikeway routes and trails indicating key destination points, in support of General Plan Action TR 8.E.**

#### Actions

- S2-1.** Coordinate with any broader city-wide signage and wayfinding efforts.
- S2-2.** Signage across the system for parks, open space, and recreation opportunities should share iconic and recognizable design elements.
- S2-3.** Include signage and wayfinding to and in Downtown and commercial business districts to encourage pedestrian and bicycle access to in support of economic activity.

### **S3. Enhance sustainability features and support City greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals when planning or renovating parks and facilities, developing new site plans, and replacing equipment and facilities.**

#### Actions

- S3-1.** Expand the collection and use of solar power and other renewable energy sources at parks and facilities, including on roofs and in parking lots, including new sport facility parking lots.

Relevant Sites

- Community & Cultural Center;
- Outdoor Sports Center/Aquatics Center

- S3-2.** Design parks to be low impact developments that include pervious surfaces (permeable pavers, pervious concrete, porous or open-graded asphalt) when practical and feasible.
- S3-3.** Select Energy Star and equivalent energy-efficient products for equipment purchases.
- S3-4.** Provide convenient and well-marked recycling receptacles throughout the park system, in recreation facilities, and at special events.
- S3-5.** Enforce a “No Idle” program with vehicles and other gas-powered equipment.
- S3-6.** Install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at park and recreation facilities that serve the region.
- S3-7.** Train City maintenance staff and include specific standards and expectations in maintenance contracts for the care of low-water, naturalized landscapes, natural play environments, and other new types of features in the system.

**S4. Develop community education elements throughout the system, including the following elements:**

- Printed and online biking and trails map with parks and trails at trailheads and public places including community centers, recreation facilities, libraries, and tourist destinations.
- On-site signage, as appropriate, to educate the community about parks maintenance benefits, trail etiquette, environmental sustainability (e.g. native plants and water efficient features), etc.
- Online and mobile-accessible tools including social media platforms, websites and maps.

**S5. Transition to water efficient irrigation systems, landscapes, and planting practices throughout the system.**

Actions

- S5-1.** Implement an irrigation central control system to assist in applying the least amount of water necessary for the current climatic conditions and in the monitoring, operation, and maintenance of the irrigation systems.
- S5-2.** Transition existing high water-use trees to native and drought tolerant trees to maintain and provide natural shade throughout the park system.
- S5-3.** Design future parks for water conservation. Use native plants, apply xeriscaping, and reduce turf areas that are not needed as open play space

to reduce water needs, balanced with long-term funding for maintenance needs.

- S5-4.** Emphasize the use of well-designed, efficient irrigation systems that consider the mature size of plant material and the size of planting areas to be irrigated. Irrigation systems should also incorporate innovative technologies, such as low-volume drip irrigation and high efficiency overhead nozzles.
- S5-5.** Retrofit less efficient existing irrigation overhead irrigation system with more efficient drip or point source systems.
- S5-6.** Conduct regular maintenance and irrigation audits to regularly adjust and maintain operation of the irrigation system at its highest efficiency.
- S5-7.** Provide turf only where it contributes to recreation opportunities. Evaluate the need for mowed and irrigated turf when designing new parks or renovating existing ones to efficiently use maintenance resource. Additionally, transition non-recreation turf areas to drought tolerant and climate adapted species.
- S5-8.** Emphasize the use of water-conserving turf varieties after evaluating the need for providing turf surfaces. Additionally, considering transitioning existing turf into drought tolerant turf variety.
- S5-9.** Transition existing landscape to drought tolerant and climate adapted species.
- S5-10.** Minimize stormwater runoff through on-site retention facilities, bioswales, and rain gardens. Use best practices for sustainable landscape designs to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff.
- S5-11.** Create demonstration gardens throughout the system that include signage to educate park users about sustainable landscaping and water conservation.

[Relevant Sites](#)

Jackson Park, Stone Creek Park, and Nordstrom Park.

**S6. Plant native and California-friendly species that create healthy ecological systems and important habitats for wildlife and insects.**

Actions

- S6-1.** Emphasize the use of plant materials with habitat value. Consider plant species and landscape practices that provide habitat for local and migratory animals, conserve native plants, and improve water quality.
- S6-2.** Consult with the California Invasive Plant Council to avoid the use of invasive plant species or non-native plants with seeds that can be easily dispersed.



- S6-3.** Implement landscaping that will blend ecologically and visually with the existing native vegetation or the region. When appropriate, non-native trees and plants, fully adapted to the area's environmental conditions, may be provided when they add visual compatibility, beauty, and avert losses caused by overdependence on a single species.

**S7. Use plant materials or plant species that contribute to safe and healthy environments.**

Actions

- S7-1.** Plant materials in park sites and around areas with amenities for children must be tough, impervious to trampling, fast growing, and not poisonous.
- S7-2.** Locate appropriate plant materials along walkways and entrances to improve safety and avoid blocking sightlines.
- S7-3.** Emphasize the maintenance of healthy soils and soil quality to sustain plant productivity, and to maintain and enhance water and air quality in support of human health and habitation.
- S7-4.** Emphasize the design and maintenance of landscapes to reduce the risk of fire hazard by providing defensible space zones and any plant species that are known to have unfavorable fire performance ratings.

**S8. Install lighting strategically to enhance the safety and usability of the City's facilities.**

Actions

- S8-1.** Consider providing pedestrian level lighting (combined low ground-level and higher-level lighting) at park perimeters to enhance park entrances.
- S8-2.** Consider lighting in parks as means of increasing surveillance and park safety by locating lights in problem areas and areas of potential concealment.
- S8-3.** Consider providing lighting at courts, playgrounds, and gathering areas to encourage greater evening use, promote surveillance, and reduce the risk of vandalism.
- S8-4.** Design lighting systems and select fixtures to minimize light pollution.
- S8-5.** Design lighting systems to provide a consistent level of lighting with minimal glare and uneven lighting or shadow areas.

## ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- OM1. Continue developing strategic partnerships with other organizations and agencies to expand and diversify services and meet the needs of the growing community.**

Actions

- OM1-1.** Grow partnerships by targeting specific groups that can improve parks, trails, and programming within identified service area gaps.
  - OM1-2.** Formalize all partnerships through written agreements that specify roles, responsibilities, liability, financial, and other terms.
  - OM1-3.** Define usable time and access when joint-use agreements are used to formalize partnerships.
  - OM1-4.** Consider concessionaire agreements or leases where appropriate.
  - OM1-5.** Monitor the City's role and contributions (staff time and financial) toward contributing partners of the parks and recreation system. Investments and resources directed from the City should align with expected outcomes and benefits, linking to the goals, policies, and recommendations of this Plan.
- OM2. Continue to be a community-driven department that actively solicits and values input and ideas from residents, stakeholders, and partners. Develop and refine the City's approach to community outreach and communications.**

Actions

- OM2-1.** Replicate or continue successful engagement efforts from this master planning process, including use and promotion of online surveys and coordination with stakeholder advisory group members.
- OM2-2.** Assess community needs and update the Master Plan every five years to respond to changing trends and the needs of new residents. A more frequent review of plan progress by the PRC is advisable.
- OM2-3.** Identify segments of the community that are under-represented in community discussions and develop targeted approaches to increase their involvement.
- OM2-4.** Strive to incorporate new technologies and tools that enhance community access to information.
- OM2-5.** Continue involving Morgan Hill residents in the design and development or bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation facilities and programs from the earliest possible stage.
- OM2-6.** Continue and expand an annual survey system that solicits feedback from customers, including program participants, facility renters, and the general community.
- OM2-7.** Promote programs and facilities and receive community input through a variety of methods, including but not limited to open houses and workshops (with childcare provided), presentations to neighborhood groups and community based organizations, booths at community events, social media content and targeted advertising, and partnerships with schools.

**OM2-8.** Raise awareness about issues and initiatives pertinent to bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation in Morgan Hill through letters to the editor and guest articles.

**OM2-9.** Develop and maintain stakeholder lists and provide targeted outreach relating to key program and service areas, addressing uses such as:

- Active recreation;
- Bicycling;
- Walking/jogging/running/mountain biking paths and hiking trails;
- Natural resource interpretation and protection;
- Historic and cultural resources; and
- Accessibility for people with disabilities.

**OM2-10.** When developing large projects, convene a limited term ad-hoc advisory group as a strategy for gathering public input and disseminating information about the project. Examples of large projects would be the new Community Park, Villa Mira Monte, and the Baseball Complex.

**OM3. Monitor and track park and facility condition to inform capital improvement and maintenance plans. Develop capital improvement plans, criteria for prioritization, and schedules aimed at addressing deficiencies in existing parks including:**

- Replacing infrastructure and refreshing or renovating old parks.
- Replacing old, worn, or damaged facilities or equipment as per the capital replacement plan. Refresh or renovate old parks periodically, updating facilities and landscaping as per new recreation trends and needs.

**OM4. Develop a strategic plan for park and facility maintenance to protect and preserve public investment in existing assets.**

**OM5. Develop regular maintenance plans for all parks and facilities including reinvestment schedules for major elements (roof, HVAC, etc.)  
Maintenance plans should include the following:**

- Budget and schedule for system-wide renovation programs of critical recreation components, including bikes, trails, fields, courts, play areas, and amenities.
- A routine preventive maintenance program for all bikeways, trails, parks, facilities, equipment, vehicles, and other assets.
- Assessment of long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement needs for all parks, facilities, and equipment.

- Provisions for adding features that meet current needs and address ADA accessibility and sustainability issues when upgrading or renovating existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Opportunities for volunteer support for site maintenance and improvement.

**OM6. Continue to implement staff development and training programs on a wide range of topics such as customer service, cultural competency, health and fitness, senior and youth issues, and local history and culture.**

**OM7. Continue to engage all relevant City departments and divisions in planning, design, and programming, drawing on the unique and specialized skills and perspectives of:**

- City Manager’s Office;
- Community Services Department;
- City Attorney’s Office;
- Engineering and Utilities Department;
- Development Services Department;
- Administrative Services Department;
- City Commissions,
- Police Department; and
- Fire Department.

**OM8. Coordinate with and/or use other relevant City plans and policies to ensure consistency, including:**

- Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan;
- Residential Development Control System (RDSCS);
- Specific plans;
- Master plans; and
- Future urban development areas.

**OM9. Participate in and support implementation of regional plans related to parks, recreation, natural open space, and trails, such as:**

- Santa Clara County General Plan;
- South County Joint Area Plan;
- Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan; and
- Santa Clara Open Space Authority Greenprint.

## PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section includes a list of site-specific project recommendations for Morgan Hill’s bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system. These projects will help to achieve the policies described in this chapter. The planning level costs and construction timing for these projects are included in the following Chapter 5: Implementation and Action Plan.

### Proposed Bikeway Projects

The following table includes recommendations for the development of new and enhanced bikeways.

**Table 4-4: Recommended Bikeways Projects**

Project #	Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
<b>B-A</b>	<b>Protected Bike Lanes (Class IV)</b>	Construct protected bike lanes including multimodal intersection improvements at major arterial intersections. <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>B-A1.</b> Monterey Rd from Tilton Ave to Butterfield Blvd/Watsonville Rd</p> <p><b>B-A2.</b> Live Oak High School Access and Coyote Creek Connection: E Main Avenue from Butterfield Blvd to Hill Rd</p>
<b>B-B</b>	<b>Buffered Bike Lanes (Class II)</b>	Construct buffered bike lanes and upgrade the existing shoulder/ discontinuous bike lanes to continuous buffered lanes including multimodal intersection improvements at major arterial intersections.	<p><b>B-B1.</b> West Main Ave from Butterfield Blvd to Dewitt Ave</p> <p><b>B-B2.</b> Cochrane Rd and Malaguerra Ave from Monterey Rd to Coyote Creek Trailhead</p> <p><b>B-B3.</b> Santa Teresa Corridor: Hale Ave from Palm Avenue to W main Ave to reach Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (CVOSP). (County coordination is needed.)</p> <p><b>B-B4.</b> Sobrato School Access: Burnett Rd from Monterey Rd to Coyote Creek</p> <p><b>B-B5.</b> Tilton Rd from Monterey Rd to Hale Ave</p> <p><b>B-B6.</b> Peet Rd/Hill Rd from Eagle View Dr to Tennant Ave</p> <p><b>B-B7.</b> Dunne Ave from Dewitt Ave to Jackson Oaks Dr</p>

<sup>1</sup> Multimodal intersection improvements include enhanced crossings, signals, and other intersection improvements that should be installed when bikeways are upgraded.



Project #	Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
			<p><b>B-B8.</b> Butterfield Blvd/Watsonville Rd from Cochrane Rd to Santa Teresa Blvd (Phase 1: Watsonville Rd from Monterey to Santa Teresa)</p> <p><b>B-B9.</b> W Edmundson Ave/Tennant Ave from Olympic Dr to Hill Rd</p> <p><b>B-B10.</b> Santa Teresa Blvd from Wastsonville Rd to California Ave</p>
<b>B-C</b>	<b>Bicycle Boulevard</b>	<p>Improve low-traffic and low-speed streets by adding signs, pavement markings, and speed and volume management measures to discourage through trips by motor vehicles and create safe, convenient bicycle crossings of busy arterial streets.</p>	<p><b>B-C1.</b> Morning Star Dr/Peet Rd from Eagle View Dr to Cochrane Rd</p> <p><b>B-C2.</b> Thomas Grade parallel to E Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-C3.</b> Olympic Dr/Cosmo Ave from Monterey Rd to E Edmundson Ave</p> <p><b>B-C4.</b> Serene Dr/Walnut Grove Dr from Sutter Blvd to E Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-C5.</b> Dewitt Ave from W Main Ave to W Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-C6.</b> Depot St from E Main Ave to E Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-C7.</b> Peak Ave from W Main Ave to W Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-C8.</b> Diana Ave from UPRR right-of-way to Walnut Grove Dr</p>
<b>B-D</b>	<b>Multimodal Intersection improvements</b>	<p>Improve intersections to create separation between car traffic and people bicycling and walking/rolling. Multimodal intersection improvements can include both time- and space-separation that continues a protected or buffered bike lane's separation from vehicles through intersections.</p>	<p><b>B-D1.</b> Monterey Rd downtown intersection improvements between E Main Ave and E Dunne Ave for the Monterey protected bike lanes</p> <p><b>B-D2.</b> E Main Ave and Butterfield Blvd</p> <p><b>B-D3.</b> W Main Ave and Hale Ave</p> <p><b>B-D4.</b> Cochrane Rd and Highway 101 (North &amp; South ramps, Madrone Parkway and Depaul Dr)</p> <p><b>B-D5.</b> Monterey Rd and Cochrane Rd</p> <p><b>B-D6.</b> Butterfield Blvd and Cochrane Rd</p> <p><b>B-D7.</b> Monterey Rd and Tilton Ave/Burnett Ave</p>

Project #	Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
			<p><b>B-D8.</b> Butterfield Blvd and E Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-D9.</b> Dunne Ave and Highway 101 (North &amp; South ramps, Condit Rd and Murphy Ave)</p> <p><b>B-D10.</b> Butterfield Blvd and Tennant Ave</p> <p><b>B-D11.</b> Monterey Rd and Watsonville Rd</p> <p><b>B-D12.</b> Monterey Rd and Tennant Ave</p> <p><b>B-D13.</b> Tennant Ave and Highway 101 (North &amp; South ramps)</p> <p><b>B-D14.</b> Watsonville Rd and Sunnyside Ave</p> <p><b>B-D15.</b> Serene Dr/Walnut Grove Dr bicycle boulevard crossings at E Main Ave and E Dunne Ave</p> <p><b>B-D16.</b> Monterey Rd and Vineyard Blvd</p> <p><b>B-D17.</b> Monterey Rd and Old Monterey Rd</p> <p><b>B-D18.</b> Butterfield Blvd and E Central Ave</p> <p><b>B-D19.</b> Butterfield Blvd and Diana Ave</p> <p><b>B-D20.</b> Butterfield Blvd and San Pedro Ave</p> <p><b>B-D21.</b> Hale Ave and Llagas Rd</p>

### Proposed Trail Projects

The following table includes recommendations for the development of new and enhanced trails.

**Table 4-5: Recommended Trail Projects**

Project #	Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
T-A	Multi-Use Trails	Construct two-way, off-street paved trails for pedestrian and bicycle use. Trails should also accommodate wheelchairs, joggers, skaters, and other non-motorized users.	<p><b>T-A1</b> West Little Llagas Creek Trail from W Main Ave to Spring Ave</p> <p><b>T-A2.</b> Pave and enhance access the existing Madrone Channel Trail (Cochrane Rd to Tennant Ave) through signage and trail improvements</p> <p><b>T-A3.</b> Downtown Hilltop Trail connecting Del Monte Ave to the water tower and Hale Ave</p> <p><b>T-A4.</b> Madrone Channel Trail extension from Cochrane Rd to Burnett Ave connecting to Coyote Creek</p> <p><b>T-A5.</b> Trail from Live Oak High School to the Madrone Channel Trail</p> <p><b>T-A6.</b> Coyote Creek Trail – Malaguerra Staging Area to Burnett Staging Area</p> <p><b>T-A7.</b> Burnett Ave trail from Madrone Channel Trail to Coyote Creek Trail</p> <p><b>T-A8.</b> Silveira Park trail around Atherton Way Hidden Pond with associated pedestrian bridges</p> <p><b>T-A9.</b> Santa Teresa Blvd trail south of Watsonville Rd (Ph. 1: Pave existing trail between Watsonville and Llagas Creek)</p> <p><b>T-A10.</b> Murphy Ave/Mission View Dr multi-use trail from Burnett Ave to Tennant Ave</p> <p><b>T-A11.</b> Trail connecting the San Pedro Percolation Ponds to the Outdoor Sports and Aquatics Centers</p> <p><b>T-A12.</b> Butterfield Linear Park extension from San Pedro Ave to West Little Llagas Creek Trail at Watsonville Rd</p> <p><b>T-A13.</b> Trail from West Little Llagas Creek Trail at Watsonville Rd to Silveira Park</p>

Project #	Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
			<p><b>T-A14.</b> Edmundson Creek Trail from La Crosse Dr to W Edmundson Ave/Sunnyside Ave</p> <p><b>T-A15.</b> Hale Ave trail connection to El Toro</p> <p><b>T-A16.</b> Trail connecting Community Park/Sunset Ave to Dewitt Ave</p> <p><b>T-A17.</b> Butterfield Linear Park extension from E Central Ave to Cochrane Rd</p> <p><b>T-A18.</b> Trail from Diana Ave to Caltrain pedestrian crossing</p> <p><b>T-A19.</b> Llagas Creek Dr Trail from Hale Ave to Llagas Rd</p> <p><b>T-A20.</b> Trail along east side of railroad tracks south of Butterfield Blvd connecting to basin east of railroad tracks between Maple Ave and Pollard Ave</p> <p><b>T-A21.</b> Trail from Hill Rd to Jackson Park and Fountain Oaks Dr</p> <p><b>T-A22.</b> Madrone Channel Trail from Tennant Ave to E Middle Ave</p> <p><b>T-A23.</b> Tennant Creek Trail from Dunne Ave to E Middle Ave</p>
<p><b>T-B</b></p>	<p><b>Natural Surface Trails</b></p>	<p>Develop and improve natural surface multipurpose trails.</p>	<p><b>T-B1.</b> Downtown Hilltop Trail connecting Del Monte Ave to the water tower from the south</p> <p><b>T-B2.</b> El Toro Trails</p> <p><b>T-B3.</b> Silveria Park Trail from Santa Teresa Blvd to east of pond</p> <p><b>T-B4.</b> Trail north of Llagas Rd extending north toward Willow Springs Rd</p> <p><b>T-B5.</b> Trail around basin east of railroad tracks between Maple Ave and Pollard Ave</p>

## Proposed Park Projects

The following table includes recommendations for the development of new and enhanced parks. Appendix # includes park plan concepts that specify the locations of proposed enhancements within parks. The recommended location for new facilities are illustrated on Map #: Proposed Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation System Concept.

**Table 4-6: Recommended Park Projects**

Note: Projects P-F through P-P are recommended enhancements for existing parks.

Project #	Project /Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
<b>P-A</b>	Inclusive Playground	Construct the proposed inclusive playground. (Included in 2015-16 CIP). Create a phased approach to facilitate implementation as appropriate.	<b>P-A1.</b> Community Park
<b>P-B</b>	Develop new parks in Downtown	Implement master plans for Downtown parks. (Included in 2015-16 CIP)	<b>P-B1.</b> Depot Park, Little Llagas Creek Park, and Hilltop Park and Trail
<b>P-C</b>	New Community Park	Land-bank acreage (10+ acres).	<b>P-C1.</b> Northeast Morgan Hill in the Potential Open Space and Heritage Agricultural Land identified in the General Plan
<b>P-D</b>	New Neighborhood Parks	Develop new neighborhood parks.	<b>P-D1.</b> Within current City boundaries west of Hwy. 101, between Barrett Road and Dunne Road <b>P-D2.</b> Within the City growth boundary, west of Hwy. 101, and north of Cochrane, south of Burnet.
<b>P-E</b>	New Recreational Open Space	Acquire open space for future trail development.	<b>P-E1.</b> East Side of El Toro Mountain <b>P-E2.</b> Foothills east of Hill Road and north of E. Dunne Ave. <b>P-E3.</b> Northeast Morgan Hill in the



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Project #	Project /Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
			Potential Open Space and Heritage Agricultural Land identified in the General Plan
<b>P-F</b>	Targeted Park Improvements	Construct planned park improvements.	<b>P-F1.</b> Nordstrom <b>P-F2.</b> Galvan
<b>P-G</b>	Improve Parking	Construct recommended parking enhancements for existing facilities.	<b>P-G1.</b> Community Park: Inclusive Playground Parking. <b>P-G2.</b> Aquatic Center and Outdoor Sports Center <b>P-G3.</b> Anderson Lake County Park <b>P-G4.</b> Paradise Park
<b>P-H</b>	New Restrooms	Add restroom facilities to heavily use neighborhood parks.	<b>P-H1.</b> Nordstrom Park <b>P-H2.</b> Paradise Park
<b>P-I</b>	Community Garden	Relocate community garden to new location. (The current location has been identified for redevelopment.)	<b>P-I1.</b> Downtown near the Courthouse OR City property near Butterfield overpass
<b>P-J</b>	Off-Leash Dog Areas	Develop new designated off-leash dog areas.	<b>P-J1.</b> Oak Creek Park <b>P-J2.</b> Stone Creek Park
<b>P-K</b>	Enhance Play Environments	Develop new, diverse, multigenerational and accessible play environments to parks.	<b>P-K1.</b> All City Parks
<b>P-L</b>	Shade Structures	Add shade structures to parks, especially over seating and play areas.	<b>P-L1.</b> All City Parks
<b>P-M</b>	Seating	Add new and diverse seating options in parks.	<b>P-M1.</b> All City Parks
<b>P-N</b>	Picnic Areas	Add covered picnic areas.	<b>P-N1.</b> All City Parks

Project #	Project /Project Type	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
<b>P-O</b>	Low-water Landscaping	Transition landscaping to low-water, native plantings.	<b>P-O1.</b> Hamilton Square Park <b>P-O2.</b> Oak Creek Park <b>P-O3.</b> Mill Creek Park
<b>P-P</b>	Bioswales	Transition water retention basins to bioswales.	<b>P-P1.</b> All City Parks
<b>P-Q</b>	Tennis/pickleball Courts	Add courts striped for both tennis and pickleball at the Community Park corporation yard.	<b>P-Q1.</b> Community Park
<b>P-R</b>	Fitness/exercise Opportunities	Add fitness equipment and opportunities for all ages to exercise in parks.	<b>P-R1.</b> Galvan Park <b>P-R2.</b> Nordstrom Park

### Proposed Recreation Facility Projects

The following table includes recommendations for the development of new and enhanced recreation facilities. The recommended locations for new facilities are illustrated on **Map # : Proposed Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation System Concept**.

**Table 4-7: Recommended Recreation Facility Projects**

Project #	Project	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
<b>R-A</b>	Centennial Recreation Center expansion	Construct proposed addition including new fitness rooms and storage area.	<b>R-A1.</b> Centennial Recreation Center
<b>R-B</b>	Outdoor Sports Center	Improve the Sports Center by adding a sidewalk, lights, irrigation, and restroom.	<b>R-B1.</b> Outdoor Sports Center
<b>R-C</b>	Baseball Complex	Continue to pursue the development of a complex in the SE Quadrant; Engage the community.	<b>R-C1.</b> City property in the SE Quadrant
<b>R-D</b>	Volleyball Complex	Conduct Feasibility Analysis for a regional facility or add courts to neighborhood parks.	<b>R-D1.</b> Location undetermined
<b>R-E</b>	Villa Mira Monte	Establish PRC subcommittee and draft a partnership agreement and establish a	<b>R-E1.</b> Villa Mira Monte

Project #	Project	Recommended Enhancements	Relevant Sites
		working relationship with the Historical Society.	
<b>R-F</b>	Expand gymnasium capacity	Pursue joint-use agreement(s) to expand gymnasium facility capacity.	<b>R-F1.</b> Location undetermined
<b>R-G</b>	Expand aquatic facility capacity*	Expand capacity at existing facilities and pursue joint development of a new facility. Add solar panels at Aquatic Center.	<b>R-G1.</b> Splash pad at community park <b>R-G2.</b> Aquatic Center
<b>R-H</b>	Expand Senior Service Center	Conduct a feasibility analysis to determine programming and the need for additional facility space.	<b>R-H1.</b> Centennial Recreation Center
<b>R-I</b>	Expand preschool program	Add space and capacity for additional preschool enrollment	<b>R-I</b> Cultural & Community Center
<b>R-J</b>	New Community Center	Consider re-purposing the Friendly Inn as a Community Center.	<b>R-J1.</b> Friendly Inn, Galvan Park

\*Pending outcome of ongoing sports tourism studies.

## PROJECTED PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE

The projects recommended in this chapter expand and enhance the Morgan Hill Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation system to meet the needs of the city’s current and projected population. If the projects are constructed, by 2035, the City’s parkland level of service (LOS) will be **3.8 acres per 1,000 residents**.<sup>2</sup> This is an improvement over the 2016 LOS of 3.4 acres per 1,000 residents. The planned and proposed projects include the development of 73 acres of new parkland, special use recreation facilities, trails, and recreational open space, which will increase the City’s total parks and recreation acreage from the current 193 acres to 351 acres. The proposed parks and facilities will move the City closer to meeting its goal of five acres per 1,000, even with an increased population. For the Level of Service calculations see [Appendix X](#).

**Table 4-8: Morgan Hill 2035 Level of Service Calculations**

<sup>2</sup> The projected LOS is calculated with a 2035 population—58,200-- that is based on the 2035 population growth ceiling set by the proposed 2035 RDCS Update. The city’s population may not reach this level.

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Facility Type	Existing Acreage Counted Toward LOS (2016)	Future Acreage (Existing + Planned)	Percent (%) Acreage Counted Toward LOS	Future Acreage Counted Toward LOS
City-Owned Parks (Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Downtown Parks, Community Parks)	57.54	89.14	100%	95.54
Special Use Non-Recreation Facilities	13.5	13.5	50%	6.75
Special Use Recreation Facilities	46	48.4	100%	48.4
Trails (Natural Surface and Multi-Use)	10.4	33.8	100%	33.8
City-Owned Recreational Open Spaces**	0	104.1	25%	26.03
Privately-Owned Parks*	46.10	46.10	50%	23.05
Privately-Owned Recreational Open Spaces	19.10	19.10	0%	0
<b>Total Acreage Counted Toward LOS</b>	<b>142.99</b>			<b>223.79</b>

\* Planned privately owned parks are not included in this acreage total. New privately developed parks will contribute to a higher level of service.

\*\* Trail acreage is not included in the Recreation Open Spaces total acreage. It is counted separately at 100% in Trails.

# CHAPTER 5

## Implementation & Action Plan

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### INTRODUCTION

The Bikeways, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) is designed to provide guidance for the long-term development of Morgan Hill’s bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system. The plan framework and recommendations will serve the City for at least 20 years. This chapter describes how the Master Plan should be implemented, including a list of priority projects with planning level capital costs, a discussion of maintenance impacts, and funding strategies. A complete capital and operations costs model is included in [Appendix X](#). This implementation and action plan targets short (up to five years), medium (five to 10 years), and long-term investments (10 to 20 years), while positioning the City to take critical steps towards long-term projects.

The tools in this chapter and Master Plan will be used in ongoing decision-making and are designed to be flexible, adaptive, and easily updated by staff. Over time, conditions will change based on evolving interests, trends, issues, and opportunities. The City should reassess and update the implementation and action plan every five years to remain true to community needs and interests, while capitalizing on new opportunities.

This chapter includes the following sections:

- Prioritization Criteria
- Recommended Projects
- Costs and Phasing
- Operations and Maintenance
- Funding Sources and Strategies

### PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following criteria reflect the values and priorities expressed by the Morgan Hill community and mirror the goals presented in Chapter 3. These criteria helped to filter the project proposals and ideas that were ultimately included in this Master Plan. These 10 principles can be used to guide decision-making as changes occur and new ideas emerge. The City of Morgan Hill should plan, prioritize, and implement projects that:

- Improve connections between residences and the network of City parks and facilities;
- Diversify the experiences in the City’s parks and along its trails;
- Engage people of all ages and all abilities;
- Support the health and wellness of all community members;



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- Inspire a sense of community and place through arts, culture, and historic resources;
- Respond to changing conditions and evolving preferences;
- Ensure equitable access to programs and places for recreation and activity;
- Leverage partnerships to maximize community benefit and use resources efficiently;
- Balance active recreation with unprogrammed open spaces;
- Continue to provide regional recreation destinations for visitors that support economic growth;
- Enhance safety and navigation to key recreation destinations and along popular routes;
- Invest in and maintain existing assets while carefully planning for future growth; and
- Promote financial stability for operation of City facilities.

The provision of bikeways, trails, parks, and facilities will be an ongoing rebalancing based on conditions including funding options, land availability, and potential partnerships. Morgan Hill will pursue projects that support needs identified in the Chapter 2: Existing Conditions and Community Needs. Additionally, many future community needs may be met by other agencies, such as Morgan Hill Unified School District, Santa Clara County, or private developers. Recognizing constrained resources, the community will prioritize some efforts over others and make compromises about meeting other needs.

## RECOMMENDED PRIORITY PROJECTS

Since the adoption of the 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the subsequent Trails and Bikeways Master Plans, the City has continued to invest in and expand its system through enhancements as well as new facilities. Steady residential development has contributed to the stream of park and recreation facility impact fees and the development of several privately-owned parks. To maintain and build upon this progress, the City will need to reinvest in existing assets, as well as ensuring that the system keeps pace with population growth.

Tables 5-1 to 5-4 summarize the types of projects recommended for the system with planning level capital costs for each facility. Greater detail is provided in [Appendix X](#). Project types include:

- Bikeways
- Trails
- Parks
- Recreation Facilities

## Costs and Phasing

This Master Plan includes short (up to five years), medium (five to 10 years) and long-term (10+ years) projects for the next 20 years, through 2035. To begin implementing this Master Plan, a list of priority projects is provided below. Some of the recommended projects, such as land acquisition, will be implemented strategically as opportunities arise. A complete list of projects including operations and maintenance costs is included in [Appendix X](#).

**Table 5-1: Recommended Bikeway Priority Projects**

\*Multi-modal intersection improvements are intended to be aligned and implemented with the bikeways with which they're associated.

Project	Project Description	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
<b>B-A1.</b>	Protected Bike Lanes on Monterey Rd from Tilton Ave to Butterfield Blvd/Watsonville Rd	\$7,600,000	Downtown segment: 0-10 years Entire corridor: 5-10 years
<b>B-A2.</b>	Protected Bike Lanes on E Main Ave from Monterey Rd to Hill Rd (Live Oak High School Access and Coyote Creek Connection)	\$3,800,000	0-5 years
<b>B-B1.</b>	Buffered Bike Lanes on West Main Ave from Monterey Rd to Dewitt Ave	\$450,000	0-5 years
<b>B-B2.</b>	Buffered Bike Lanes on Cochrane Rd and Malaguerra Ave from Monterey Rd to Coyote Creek Trailhead	\$1,200,000	Improvements over Highway 101: 0-5 years Entire corridor: 5-10 years
<b>B-B3.</b>	Buffered Bike Lanes on Santa Teresa Corridor: Hale Ave from Palm Avenue to W main Ave to reach Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (CVOSP). (County coordination is needed.)	\$750,000	5-10 years Phase 1: Hale Avenue Extension project
<b>B-B4.</b>	Buffered Bike Lanes on Burnett Rd from Monterey Rd to Coyote Creek (Sobrato School Access)	\$750,000	0-5 years
<b>B-C1.</b>	Bicycle Boulevard on Morning Star Dr/Peet Rd	\$480,000	0-5 years

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Project	Project Description	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
	from Eagle View Dr to Cochrane Rd		
<b>B-C6</b>	Depot Street from E Main Ave to E Dunne Ave		
<b>B-D1.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements on Monterey Rd Downtown between E Main Ave and E Dunne Ave	\$900,000: (includes protected intersections at Monterey/Main and Monterey/Dunne)	0-5 years
<b>B-D2.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at E Main Ave and Butterfield Blvd	\$350,000 (protected intersection)	0-5 years
<b>B-D3.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at W Main Ave and Hale Ave	\$10,000	0-5 years
<b>B-D4.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at Cochrane Rd and Highway 101 (North & South ramps, Madrone Pkwy and Depaul Dr)	\$130,000	0-5 years
<b>B-D5.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at Monterey Rd and Cochrane Rd	\$350,000 (protected intersection)	0-5 years
<b>B-D6.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at Butterfield Blvd and Cochrane Rd	\$130,000	0-5 years
<b>B-D7.</b>	Multi-Modal Intersection Improvements at Monterey Rd and Tilton Ave/Burnett Ave	\$230,000	5-10 years

**Table 5-2: Recommended Trail Priority Projects**

Project	Project Description	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
<b>T-A1.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: West Little Llagas Creek Trail from Main Ave to Spring Ave	\$5,000,000	5-10 years
<b>T-A2.</b>	Multi-Use Trail (Improvements): Pave and enhance access to the existing Madrone Channel Trail (Cochrane Rd to Tennant Ave)	\$1,000,000	0-5 years
<b>T-A3.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Downtown Hilltop Trail connecting Del Monte Ave to the water tower and Hale Ave	\$1,000,000	5-10 years
<b>T-A4.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Madrone Channel Trail extension from Cochrane Rd to Burnett Ave connecting to Coyote Creek	\$1,580,000	5-10 years
<b>T-A5.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Trail from Live Oak High School to the Madrone Channel Trail	\$790,000	5-10 years
<b>T-A6.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Coyote Creek Trail – Malaguerra Staging Area to Burnett Staging Area (County Roads project)	\$790,000	0-5 years
<b>T-A7.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Burnett Ave trail from Madrone Channel Trail to Coyote Creek Trail	\$390,000	5-10 years
<b>T-A8.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Silveira Park Trail around Atherton Way Hidden Pond with associated pedestrian bridges	\$1,970,000	5-10 years
<b>T-B1.</b>	Multi-Use Trail: Downtown Hilltop Trail connecting Del Monte Ave to the water tower from the south	\$4,000	5-10 years
<b>T-B2.</b>	Natural Surface Trail: El Toro Trails	\$555,000 (included in 2016-2017 CIP)	1-10 years

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**Table 5-3: Recommended Park Priority Projects**

Note: Projects P-A through P-E are new projects and P-F through P-Q are recommended enhancements for existing parks.

Project	Project Description	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
<b>P-A1.</b>	Inclusive Playground: Develop Inclusive Playground at Community Park	\$5,000,000	0-5 years
<b>P-B1.</b>	Downtown Parks: Develop Depot Park, Little Llagas Creek Park, Hilltop Park and Trail	\$5,000,000	1-10 years
<b>P-C1.</b>	New Community Park: Land bank land for new Community Park (approximately 10 acres)	\$2,000,000 Construction: \$8,000,000	5-10 years  10+ years
<b>P-D1.</b>	New Neighborhood Parks: Acquire land and develop new parks (4-6 acres) -New neighborhood park in northwest sector -New neighborhood park within current City boundaries west of Hwy 101, between Barrett Rd and Dunne Rd	\$6,190,000  Costs forthcoming	0-5 years  10+ years
<b>P-E1.</b>	New Recreational Open Space: Acquire new recreational open space on the East Side of El Toro Mountain	\$500,00 per acre	1-10 years
<b>P-E2.</b>	New Recreational Open Space: Acquire new recreational open space in the foothills east of Hill Rd and north of E. Dunne Ave	\$500,000 per acre	1-10 years
<b>P-F1.</b>	Targeted Park Improvements: Nordstrom Park	\$1,260,000	1-10 years
<b>P-F2.</b>	Targeted Park Improvements: Galvan Park	To be determined at time of plan	1-10 years
<b>P-G2.</b>	Improve Parking at the Aquatic Center and Outdoor Sports Center	Ph. 1 \$4,000,000	Ph. 1 0-5 years
<b>P-H1.</b>	New Restrooms: Nordstrom Park	\$350,000	1-10 years

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Project	Project Description	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
<b>P-H2.</b>	New Restrooms: Paradise Park	\$350,000	1-10 years
<b>P-I1.</b>	Community Garden: Relocate Community Garden. (The land that currently houses the community garden has been identified for redevelopment.)	\$200,000	0-5 years
<b>P-J2.</b>	Off-Leash Dog Area: Stone Creek Park	\$75,000 per area	1-10 years
<b>P-K1.</b>	Enhance Play Environments	\$350,000 per small play area \$600,000 per large play area	1-10 years
<b>P-L1.</b>	Shade Structures	\$18,500 per structure	1-20 years
<b>P-Q1.</b>	Tennis/pickleball Courts: Add courts striped for both tennis and pickleball at the Community Park/Corporation yard	\$100,000 per 2 tennis courts/4 pickleball courts	5-10 years

Note: The cost column is rounded up to the nearest \$1,000.

Note: This table does not include partnership agreements

**Table 5-4: Recommended Recreation Facility Priority Projects**

Project	Project Descriptions	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
<b>R-A1.</b>	Centennial Recreation Center Expansion	\$2,000,000	0-5 years
<b>R-B1.</b>	Outdoor Sports Center Improvements: Phase 1: Sidewalk, lights, irrigation, restroom, and solar panels Phase 2: Add restaurant	\$3,000,000 (\$1,000,000 = solar)	Ph. 1 0-5 years Ph. 2 5-10 years
<b>R-C1.</b>	Baseball Complex: Develop a baseball and softball complex in the SE Quadrant	\$15,000,000	5-10 years
<b>R-D1.</b>	Volleyball Complex: Conduct Feasibility Analysis	No planning level costs determined at this time	No planning level costs



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Project	Project Descriptions	Planning-Level Capital Cost	Time Frame
			determined at this time
<b>R-E1.</b>	Villa Mira Monte	Ph. 1 \$2,000,000 Ph. 2 \$3,000,000	Ph. 1 0-5 years Ph. 2 10+ years
<b>R-F1.</b>	Expand Gymnasium Capacity: Construct gymnasium facility at school or City site.	\$2,500,000	1-10 years
<b>R-G1.</b>	Expand Aquatic Facility Capacity: Re-activate splash pad at Community and Cultural Center	No planning level costs	1-10 years
<b>R-G2.</b>	Expand Aquatic Facility Capacity: Expand capacity at existing Aquatic Center	No planning level costs determined at this time	10+ years
<b>R-G3.</b>	Add solar panels at Aquatic Center	\$1,000,000	1-10 years
<b>R-H1.</b>	Expand Senior Service Center: Conduct a feasibility analysis to determine potential new programming and facilities at the Senior Center Expansion	\$1,000,000	5-10 years
<b>R-I1.</b>	Expand preschool at Cultural & Community Center	\$500,000	0-5 years
<b>R-J1.</b>	New Community Center: Re-purpose the Friendly Inn as a Community Center Relocate Non-profit Center	\$2,000,000	10+ years

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The City demonstrates effective and efficient service with its park and recreation facility practices. A continued high level of maintenance and operations will be needed as Morgan Hill’s system continues to age and as new facilities are added.

The City of Morgan Hill relies on the following sources of funding for maintenance and operations:

- **User Fees:** membership and program services provide the largest percentage of revenue for the Recreation and Community Services Division.
- **Park Maintenance Fund:** receives revenue through voluntary contributions from developers competing in the City’s Residential Development Control System.
- **General Fund:** The Park Maintenance Fund receives approximately \$200,000 annually from the City’s General Fund to support Park Maintenance.
- **Special Assessments:** Landscaping and Lighting Assessment Districts (LLADs) in Morgan Hill cover a portion of estimated costs of park maintenance, operations, and servicing of improvements to the park(s) in the district. The amount paid by landowners is in proportion to the special benefit they receive from the park improvements.

Maintenance costs, as shown in the cost model, are for grounds maintenance and were approximated based on the current park system. Maintenance costs associated with recommended enhancements and additions are included in the complete cost model in [Appendix X](#). Many of the recommended park improvements, such as enhanced play environments, will not increase maintenance costs beyond the current expected costs. However, certain recommended improvements to existing parks will increase costs beyond the City’s standard park maintenance costs (see [Table 5-5](#)). Some recommended additions and enhancements to the system described in this Master Plan will increase the City’s total maintenance costs, including increased staffing. Other strategies will also help to lower maintenance costs, such as transitioning turf to low-water native landscaping and energy efficiency improvements.

**Table 5-5: Maintenance Impacts of Park Improvements**

	Unit	Annual Amount
<b>Park Maintenance</b> (includes standard park facilities such as turf, play structures, seating, and shade structures)	Per Acre	\$13,500
<b>Restroom</b>	Each	\$50,000
<b>Multi-Use Sports Field</b>	Each	\$35,000
<b>Group Picnic Area (Large)</b>	Each	\$5,000
<b>Dog Park</b>	Each	\$7,500
<b>Total annual maintenance costs of ALL recommended park improvements</b>		<b>\$674,500</b>

As new bike facilities are added to the system, additional maintenance costs will be borne by the City’s Public Works and Streets Divisions. New trails will increase annual Parks operations costs.

## Current Funding Sources

The City of Morgan Hill has relied on the following sources for capital investments in the bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system:

**Table 5-6: Allowable Uses by Funding Source**

Funding Sources	Uses	
	Capital Facilities	Maintenance
General Fund	Allowed	Allowed
Quimby Act Dedication and Fees	Allowed	Ineligible
Development Impact Fees <sup>1</sup>	Allowed	Ineligible
Voluntary Developer Contributions <sup>2</sup>	Allowed	Allowed
Sales and Special Taxes	Limited	Allowed
User Fees	Limited	Allowed
Finance (Districts or Special Assessments)	Allowed	Allowed
Partnerships	Allowed	Allowed
Grants	Allowed	Allowed

## Annual Funding Sources

- Park Impact Fees:** These are one-time fees charged to new developments and remodels that meet a specific set of criteria. They are restricted to funding improvements to Morgan Hill’s parks system in order to meet the needs of the growing population.
- Recreation (Community Center) Impact Fees:** Similar to the Park Impact Fee, the Community Center Impact Fee is a one-time fee that funds increased capacity of recreation facilities to meet the needs of new development in Morgan Hill.

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<sup>1</sup> Though similar to Quimby Act Fees, Development Impact Fees under the Mitigation Fee Act are separate and are subject to different regulations.

<sup>2</sup> Collected through the Residential Development Control System Process.

## Opportunistic Funding Sources

- **Santa Clara Urban Open Space Fund:** Grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$250,000 fund environmental stewardship and restoration, parks, trails, and public access, environmental education, and urban agriculture/food systems.
- **County of Santa Clara Community Development Block Grant:** Grants fund construction projects that enhance public safety, maintain fiscal responsibility, and support youth. This grant funded improvements to Galvan Park, ending in 2017.
- **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority 20% Funding Program:** Annually, funds are allocated to participating cities in the County of Santa Clara based on each jurisdiction's percentage of parcels within the OSA's benefit assessment district. Projects that qualify for funding include land acquisition, environmental restoration, and improvements that provide or enhance open space, including trails, overlooks, and interpretive signage and projects that convert surplus or abandoned lands.
- **School Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Fund:** School and Pedestrian Safety Fees are development fees dedicated to capital improvements that enhance pedestrian and traffic safety at or near schools. This fund is paid by voluntary contributions from residential developers to score points under the City's Residential Development Control System (RDCS).
- **Grant funds:** The City seeks grant funding, when available, to augment other funding sources. The City does not rely on grant funding and does not make any assumptions about future grant funding. Grant funding sources include: Bay Area Quality Management District's Transportation Funding for Clean Air (TFCA), Santa Clara Valley Water District, Caltrans Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds, State Grants, and County Park Funds and Public Health Funds.

## FUNDING STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

The City has a relatively diversified approach to funding its bikeways, trails, parks, and facilities. It will need to continue to diversify and seek new funding sources, especially as the city reaches the 2035 residential population limit set by the voter approved RDCS (if approved in November).

- **Continue with General Fund allocations, at approximately the same historic funding level.** Target these funds for reinvestment projects and planning and design projects that benefit the entire community. Increase the General Fund allocation for parks, if the City's financial position allows this.
- **Ensure that land dedicated in accordance with the Quimby Act is consistent with the Master Plan.** When fees are provided in lieu of land, ensure that in lieu fees are adequate to purchase the needed park land.

- **Ensure that park impact fees adequately cover the cost of new park development.** A review and update of the Nexus Study should be conducted on a regular basis through the City's buildout to ensure adequate funding from this source.
- **Actively pursue partnership and cost sharing agreements with other agencies.** The City has very effectively developed partnerships to provide recreation and community services and programs. There are additional opportunities to create partnerships and establish joint use agreements to develop, operate, and maintain facilities. New partnerships and cost sharing arrangements should be explored. Examples of potential new partnerships include encouraging the County of Santa Clara to develop bikeways on County roads with maintenance support from the City, and partnerships with the Open Space Authority and County to connect trails and develop new trailheads.
- **Continue to pursue grants.** The City has effectively used grants in the past for park and multimodal transportation projects. The City should continue to track grants available to public agencies, and apply for those that can fund enhancements recommended in this Master Plan.
- **Encourage volunteerism and community-built projects.** In addition to giving money, some advocacy groups and community organizations have the interest, capacity, and skills to build specialized recreation facilities. Examples of facilities built by volunteers and advocacy groups in other cities include community gardens, bike skills areas, disc golf courses, mountain bike trail networks, hiking trails, dog parks, and museums. The City should establish standards and agreements for community-built projects, and actively encourage organizations that meet City standards to make approved park enhancements.
- **Explore funding for parks and recreation facilities through the transient occupancy tax.** As the City continues to develop regional recreation facilities that support the General Plan sports tourism goals, explore the use of tourism to help maintain destination parks and recreation attractions.
- **Consider voter-supported funding measures when appropriate.** The City should explore the feasibility of voter-supported funding measure to determine whether the community is willing to pay for large recreation facility investments.
- **Continue to utilize voluntary contributions through the RDCS** to fund maintenance and/or improvements relating to park, recreation, bikeways, and trail facilities in a manner that supports the City Council's sustainable budget strategy. Over the short term, the City should continue to utilize the funds to support ongoing maintenance as is current practice, while developing a long-term strategy to utilize these funds for capital improvement and replacement projects.
- **Explore special assessment district opportunities.** In addition to the city's existing LLADs, explore new special assessment districts to fund capital improvements and maintenance, especially in areas where there is an economic development benefit to facilities, including a Community Facilities District (CFD) for new Downtown Parks.

## SUMMARY

Morgan Hill is a community that values its recreation amenities, historic, historic, cultural, and natural resources. Residents of Morgan Hill live where they play and visitors from across the region come to recreate. The Master Plan supports the continued development of Morgan Hill's bikeways, trails, parks, and recreation system so that it grows and changes with the community. The Master Plan provides a forward-thinking and strategic approach developed through dialogue with engaged citizens, City staff, regional partners, and decision-makers. The more than 1,000 residents who participated in this planning process voiced their support for investing in Morgan Hill's active transportation, parks, and recreation system by expanding the bicycle and trails network, providing more and diversified recreation opportunities, and filling geographic gaps. Over the lifespan of the Master Plan, recommendations and decisions will be tested by economic challenges and shifting attitudes towards parks and recreation services.

The essential function of the Master Plan is to offer a foundation for decision-making, inspiration, and support. Funding options presented in the Master Plan call for a range of tools, both new and existing, drawing on partners and the support of the public. While some projects can be achieved using current resources, the City must identify additional resources, and seize opportunities as they arise to achieve the fully developed system. Successful implementation of the Master Plan requires continuous active involvement from residents, businesses, land owners, and regional partners.