

OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT



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OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT



INTRODUCTION

Some of Los Altos' most valuable assets include the City's parks, open space, creeks, and public services. The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element focuses on the protection and enhancement of such resources and public facilities/services to ensure a high quality living environment for years to come.

PURPOSE OF THE OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Los Altos Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element meets the state requirements for Conservation & Open Space Elements as defined in Sections 65302(d) and 65301(e) of the Government Code. According to these requirements, the Conservation Element must contain goals and policies to protect and maintain natural resources such as water, soils, wildlife and minerals, and prevent wasteful resource exploitation, degradation and destruction. The Open Space Element must contain goals and policies to manage open space areas, including undeveloped lands and outdoor recreation areas. Specifically, the Open Space Element must address several open space categories such as those used for the preservation of natural resources and managed production of resources, as well as open space maintained for public health and safety reasons.

The Community Facilities Element is an optional, rather than a mandatory element of the General Plan, which addresses community need for public services. Specifically, the purpose of the Community Facilities Element is to ensure sufficient levels of service in terms of law enforcement, police protection, public education, and a variety of public services. The subjects addressed

under the Conservation Element, Open Space Element, and Community Facilities Element have direct relationships and overlap one another substantially; therefore these elements have been combined for Los Altos.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element convey community goals to protect and maintain natural resources and public services. Resources addressed in this element include open space, natural resources and features, parks and recreation, law enforcement and fire protection, public education, and community, social, civic, and cultural services.

The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element is comprised of four sections: 1) Introduction; 2) the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Plan; 3) Issues, Goals and Policies; and 4) Implementation Programs Appendix. The Plan provides background information and explains how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented. In the Issues, Goals and Policies section, major issues related to the provision of natural resources and public services are identified and related goals and policies are established to address these issues. The goals, which are overall statements of the community's desires, are comprised of broad statements of purpose and direction. The policies serve as guides for working with local and regional agencies protecting and maintaining natural resources and planning public facilities and services at sufficient levels. The Implementation Programs Appendix identifies specific implementation programs for the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element.



RELATED LAWS, PLANS AND PROGRAMS

A number of existing plans and programs exist which directly relate to the goals of the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element. Enacted through state and local action, these plans and programs are administered by agencies with responsibility for their enforcement.

Quimby Act

Section 66477 of the Government Code provides local jurisdictions with the authority to acquire park land in association with new land divisions. Commonly referred to as the Quimby Act, this provision of state law allows a city, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land, payment of an in-lieu fee, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition on approving a subdivision map. Los Altos has adopted such an ordinance to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities.

Watercourse Protection Regulations

Los Altos adopted regulations to protect the City's watercourses by requiring the maintenance of waterways to keep them free of debris, excessive vegetation and other obstacles that have the potential to pollute, contaminate, or significantly retard water flow. Property owners along the City's watercourses are required to obtain a permit for discharges/deposits into the waterway or to modify the land or structures abutting the waterway. The regulations also establish special setbacks and development provisions along Adobe Creek from Shoup Park to O'Keefe Lane.

Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission

The purpose of the City's Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission is to advise the City Council in all matters pertaining to parks,

arts, and public recreation. The Commission also advises the City Council on cultural programs sponsored by the City and takes an active role in defining and executing such programs.

Library Commission

The purpose of the Library Commission is to advise the City Council on all matters pertaining to the City libraries and promote adequate and efficient service to the citizens of the community.

Youth Commission

The purpose of the Youth Commission is to advise the City Council on matters relating to youth interests, youth concerns, and the need for outreach services.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

Through its ordinances, the SCVWD seeks to protect water quality and prevent harmful alteration of watercourses.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

According to state planning law, the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element must be consistent with the other General Plan elements. While all of the elements are interdependent, they are also interrelated to a degree. Certain goals and policies of one element may also address issues that are primary subjects of other elements. This integration of issues throughout the General Plan creates a strong basis for the implementation of plans and programs and achievement of community goals. The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element is most directly related to Land Use, Circulation, and Community Design & Historic Resources Elements.



OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION, & COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

This section of the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element is divided into two parts: Open Space and Conservation Plan and Community Facilities and Services Plan.

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION PLAN

A distinct combination of physical setting, natural and improved open space land, creek corridors, and low density residential neighborhoods with mature vegetation provides a unique identity for Los Altos. The Open Space and Conservation Plan establishes an approach to protect and preserve these assets. The Plan addresses the Open Space and Conservation issues identified in the previous section. The related goals and policies serve as the basis of the Plan and are supported by approaches to protect and enhance natural resources. The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Implementation Programs Appendix is an extension of this plan and contains specific programs to achieve environmental goals related to open space and natural resources.

Open Space Resources

Open space is an important community amenity. Los Altos open space resources include public parks, publicly-owned open space, conservation easements along portions of creeks, off-road bicycle paths/trails, and privately-owned open space and recreation facilities. Other open space land, which is not publicly owned or officially designated open space includes school yards,

vacant land, and the front and street side yard areas within the City's low density residential neighborhoods. In addition to providing opportunities for recreation and leisure, open space and parkland enhance aesthetics and community character. This section of the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element describes the strategy to preserve and enhance open space resources within the City.

Designated Open Space: Land for preservation of open space and provision of recreational opportunities is included in the Other Open Space designation in the Land Use Element. This land use designation accounts for approximately 127 acres of land, or three percent of the City's total planning area acreage. The location of designated open space land is depicted on Figure OCC-1.

The Other Open Space designation provides open space for the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, and protection of health and public safety. Areas designated for Other Open Space include: waterways, open space easements, private and public open space, as well as golf courses and other private recreational uses. Most of the existing open space resources are protected under the current General Plan designations.

In order to preserve and enhance community open space resources, the City will implement a program that supports the joint-venture use of open space areas to reduce City maintenance costs and increase City revenues for maintaining open space resources. Joint ventures could involve other local government agencies, non-profits, and private development of commercial recreation facilities. The City will also coordinate with public and private organizations to provide revenue generating open space uses to protect important open space resources.



Surrounding/Regional Open Space

Amenities: Significant regional open space includes Rancho San Antonio Open Space and the Duveneck Windmill Pasture Area. Located southeast of Los Altos in the foothills, Rancho San Antonio includes a 967-acre preserve (meadows, creeks, wildlife, hiking trails) and a 130-acre park. The Duveneck Windmill Pasture is a 761-acre preserve located in Los Altos Hills. The City should continue to encourage cooperative planning of joint facilities and access to regional amenities

Designated Parkland/Commercial Recreation

The Land Use Element provides a Parks land use designation to protect and utilize open space resources in the City's planning area. This land use designation covers approximately 32 acres of land, or one percent of the total acreage within the planning area. The location of lands designated as Parks is depicted on Figure OCC-1.

The Parks designation provides for publicly owned and dedicated parkland. Activities that may be developed include areas for active sports play, large multipurpose fields for community events and informal recreation, tot lots, picnic areas, multipurpose sports fields and courts, concessions, community event space, outdoor amphitheaters, maintenance/support facilities and caretaker facilities.

Existing park land in Los Altos is minimal, with a ratio of approximately 1.3 acres of dedicated park land per 1,000 residents. The City has adopted a higher standard park dedication requirement for new subdivisions of 5.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. In an effort to expand park and recreational facilities and programs, the City will implement options to lease and or purchase additional park sites. The City will also implement programs to encourage public and private development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and services.

Natural Resources

Natural resources within Los Altos include surface water within creeks, vegetation, wildlife and remaining orchards.

Creek Channels and Water Quality:

The City's creeks (Adobe Creek, Hale Creek, Permanent Creek and Stevens Creek) are an important natural resource and open space amenity within the community. The creeks and associated floodplain areas provide recreational opportunities as well as valuable open space for preservation of biological resources and riparian habitat. See Figure OCC-1 for location of the creek corridors within the Los Altos Planning Area. Preservation and enhancement of the City's creeks and floodplains is also addressed in the Natural Environment Element of this General Plan.

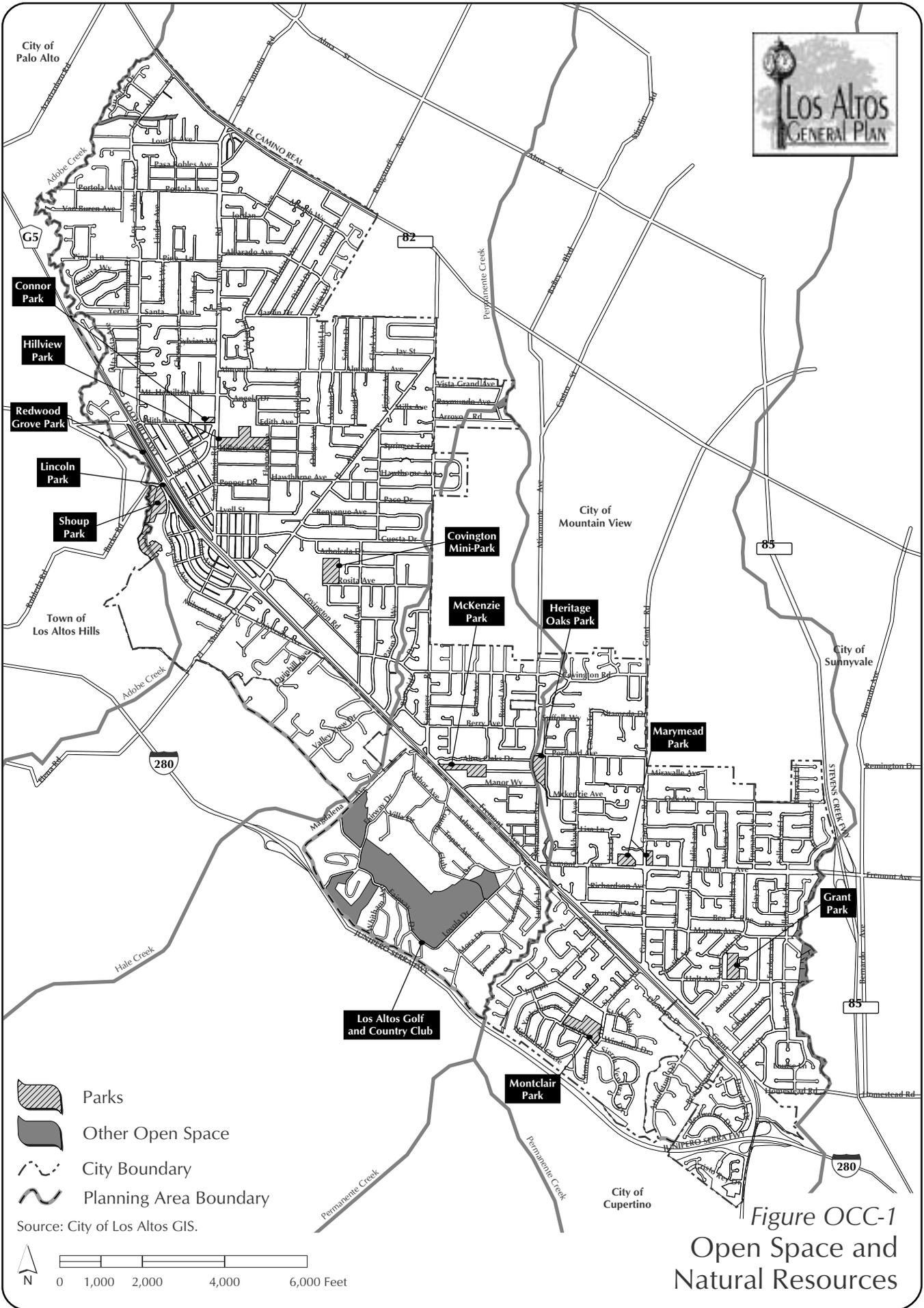
Vegetation and Wildlife:

Because Los Altos and its immediate surroundings are mostly urbanized, significant vegetation communities and biological resources have not been identified and are not likely to exist within the Planning Area. However, riparian corridors and tree groves exist along creek corridors and within the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve. These areas provide habitat for a variety of animal species. Mature trees are also scattered throughout the City's low-density residential neighborhoods, parks and school sites.

Orchards:

Los Altos was historically an agricultural community. While not naturally occurring, the few small remaining orchards provide open space resources and a historical connection for the community. The Los Altos civic center landscape incorporates a small orchard representative of the community's past.

In order to preserve and enhance its natural resources, the City will implement a program that supports the preservation and enjoyment of the habitats and corridors around creeks and open space areas.



Source: City of Los Altos GIS.



Figure OCC-1
Open Space and
Natural Resources



Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs

To meet the recreational and open space needs of the community, the City must ensure that a variety of park and recreational facilities exist. The City currently provides a wide-range of park and recreational facilities and programs through its Recreation Department. Existing park facilities are listed in the table below. Most of the park sites are smaller neighborhood parks, some of which are shared facilities with school sites (see Table OCC-1).

Recreational activities and programs offered through the Recreation Department include art and dance classes, cooking classes, fitness programs, music classes, outdoor activities/camps, special interest classes, and youth and adult sports leagues and programs. Special programs are also provided

with a focus on teens, seniors, and theater. As the community continues to grow and change, new recreational activities and facilities will be needed. Therefore, the City should continue to pursue the purchase or lease of both existing and alternative park sites.

Bicycle Facilities: Bicycle facilities in Los Altos include bike paths, bike lanes, and bike routes. Bike paths are paved facilities designated for bicycle use that are physically separated from roadways by space or a physical barrier. Bike lanes are lanes on the outside edge of roadways reserved for the exclusive use of bicycles, designated with special signing and pavement markings. Bike routes are roadways recommended for bicycle use and often connect to bike lanes and bike paths. Designated with signs only, bike routes may not include additional pavement width.

**Table OCC-1
City Park Sites**

| Park Site | Description |
|---------------------|--|
| Connor Park | 0.75-acre passive park |
| Covington Mini-Park | 2.0-acre park with sports courts, play area, and picnic facilities |
| Grant Park | 3.5-acre park with multi-purpose room, outdoor recreation and picnic area |
| Heritage Oaks Park | 5.0-acre park with outdoor play and picnic areas |
| Hillview Park | 6.0-acre community center and recreation facilities |
| Lincoln Park | Passive park – 0.7 acres of City land/1.8 acres of County land |
| Marymeade Park | 2.5-acre park with tennis courts and outdoor recreation and picnic facilities |
| McKenzie Park | 1.3-acre park with courts and outdoor recreation and picnic facilities |
| Monteclair Park | 0.75-acre park with tennis courts, picnic facilities, and preschool play area |
| Redwood Grove | 6.0-acre nature preserve with trails/picnic areas |
| Rosita Park | 5.0-acre park with baseball and soccer facilities |
| Shoup Park | 2.84-acre park with outdoor recreation and picnic facilities with Garden House |



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN

Los Altos residents have a strong sense of community, safety, and pride in their educational system and community services. The Community Facilities and Services Plan establishes an approach to protect and preserve this quality of life. The Plan addresses the Community Facilities and Services issues identified in the previous section. The related goals and policies serve as the basis of the Plan and are supported by approaches to protect and enhance such facilities and services. The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Implementation Program, located in Appendix A, is an extension of this plan and contains specific programs to achieve these service goals.

Law Enforcement and Fire Protection

Sufficient law enforcement and fire protection are necessary to ensure the public health and safety. Law enforcement services are provided by the Los Altos Police Department. The Police Department participates on the City's Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Traffic Advisory Task Force.

The City contracts with the Santa Clara County Fire Department for fire protection services within the City boundaries. The Los Altos Fire Stations are located at 10 Almond Avenue and 765 Fremont Avenue. Services provided by the Fire Department include fire prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, and fire investigations.

As identified in the City's 1997 Community Compass report, safety in the downtown, in neighborhoods, and for families are the top three highest ranked community characteristics in Los Altos. Ensuring public safety in terms of law enforcement and fire protection requires maintaining adequate staffing,

equipment, and facilities. The City will regularly evaluate its law enforcement services and will work with Santa Clara County Fire Department to ensure that the level of service provided by each corresponds to the number of residents and businesses within the City, as well as current crime statistics and fire hazards.

Public Education

Los Altos is served by the five individual school districts listed below.

- ❖ Los Altos Elementary School District
- ❖ Cupertino Union Elementary School District
- ❖ Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District
- ❖ Fremont Union High School District
- ❖ Foothill-DeAnza Community College District

There is also a Los Altos Campus of Golden Gate University and several private schools serving Los Altos residents. Figure OCC-2 shows the location of school districts and schools within the Los Altos planning area. The school districts serving Los Altos are recognized for their excellence in education and student test performance throughout the state and nation. Unlike many schools throughout California, school capacity at these facilities has not been identified as a problem. The City will continue to work with school districts and local schools to ensure a high quality education for Los Altos children. The City will also review development proposals to ensure that the proposals are consistent and that school facility impact fees are paid.

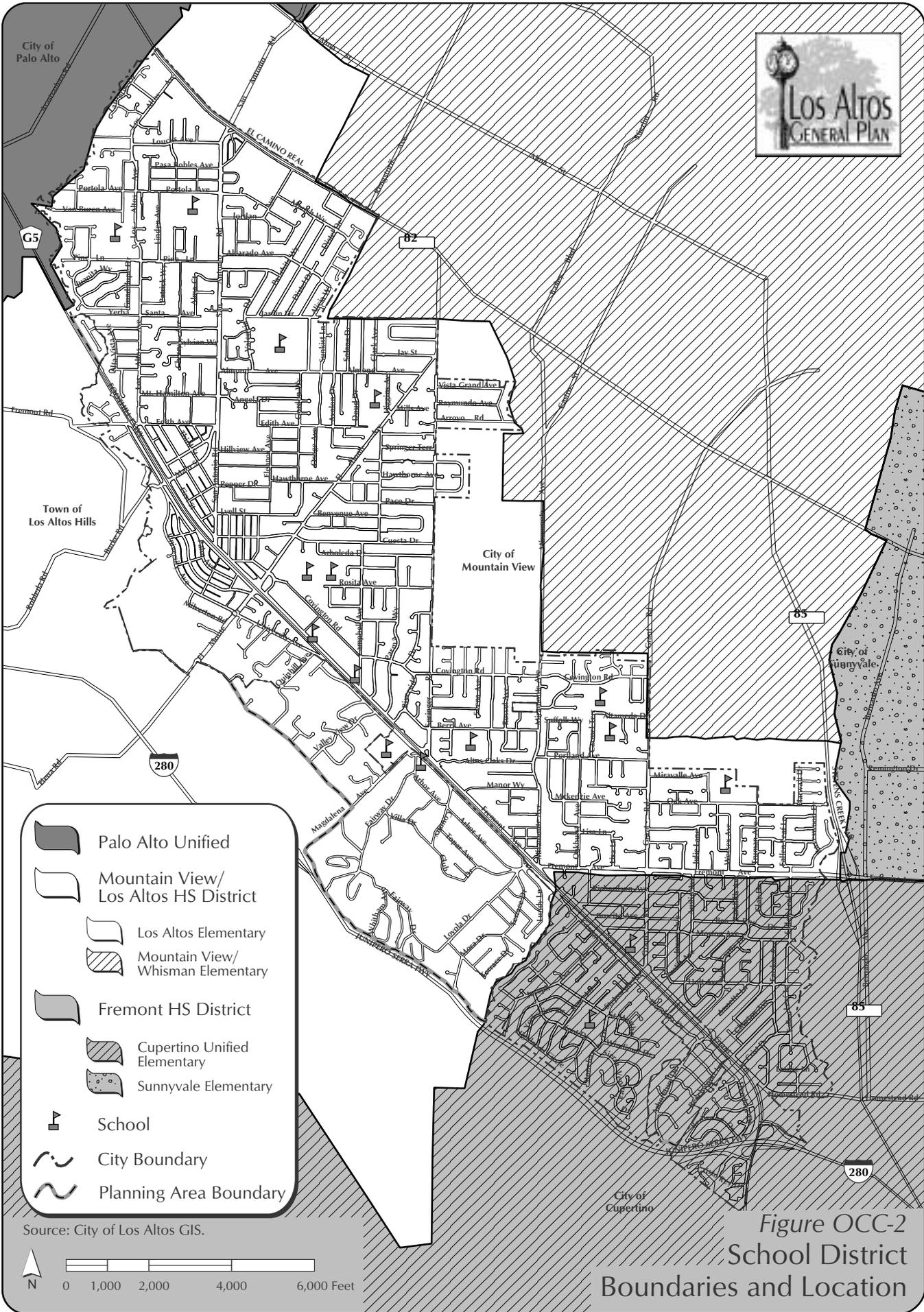


Figure OCC-2
School District
Boundaries and Location



District Boundaries

Community Facilities and Services

Los Altos contains a variety of community facilities and services to serve its population. In addition to City park facilities, community services are provided at the Hillview Community Center, Los Altos and Woodland Libraries, Los Altos History Museum, Bus Barn Theater, Redwood Grove Nature Preserve, Los Altos Youth Center, Garden House, and several school sites throughout the City. See Figure LU-1 in the Land Use Element for locations of community facilities.

Activities and programs offered through the Recreation Department include art and dance classes, cooking classes, fitness programs, music classes, theater, outdoor activities and camps, and youth and adult sport leagues and programs. Special programs and services are also provided with a focus on teens, seniors, and day care for preschool and school age children.

As the community grows and evolves, new recreational activities and facilities will be needed. The City will continue to work with its advisory commissions (Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission, Library Commission, and Youth Commission) to ensure a sufficient level of community services for all Los Altans.

Cooperative Services

Los Altos contracts and coordinates with several jurisdictions and service providers for efficiency in the delivery of urban services as follows:

- ❖ Sanitary sewer and treatment service is provided at the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant
- ❖ Solid waste disposal is provided at Newby Island landfill in San Jose
- ❖ Fire protection services are provided by the Santa Clara County Fire Department

- ❖ Los Altos leases land from the school districts for park use, surrounding pool, and maintenance yard
- ❖ Los Altos also contracts with the school districts to use classrooms after school for recreational programs
- ❖ California Water Service Company provides domestic and commercial water to Los Altos

The City will continue to pursue opportunities to cooperate with other jurisdictions and service providers to reduce overall cost and improve the level and range of services available.





ISSUES, GOALS AND POLICIES

The physical assets of Los Altos and quality of life for Los Altans are largely defined by its natural resources and public services. Preservation and enhancement of these assets and services can be accomplished by addressing issues affecting the City.

Six major issues are addressed by the goals, policies, and plan in the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element. These major issues are:

- 1) Preserving and enhancing open space resources;
- 2) Protecting and preserving important natural resources;
- 3) Expanding recreational programs and facilities;
- 4) Ensuring adequate fire and police protection services;
- 5) Ensuring a high quality public education system;
- 6) Providing facilities and services to meet the community, civic, social, and cultural needs.

Each issue and the related goals and policies are included in this section of the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element.

OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

State Government Code Section 65560 defines open space land as "any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space

use for the purposes of 1) the preservation of natural resources, 2) the managed production of resources, 3) outdoor recreation, or 4) public health and safety.

Open space resources in Los Altos consists of designated park land, conservation easements along portions of creeks, and off-road bicycle paths. Other open space land which is not publicly owned or officially designated open space includes school yards, vacant land, and the front and street side yard areas within the City's low density residential neighborhoods. Existing open space resources need to be preserved, enhanced, and expanded when possible, to maintain the natural physical and visual quality of Los Altos.

Goal 1: Preserve and expand the amount of open space in and around Los Altos.

Policy 1.1: Preserve existing parks and establish new neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood identity within Los Altos.

Policy 1.2: Continue to identify and acquire additional land for parks and recreational uses.

Policy 1.3: Maintain dedicated parkland in public ownership.

Policy 1.4: Require park dedication, public open space, or require fees in lieu thereof, for all new subdivisions and multi-family residential development in Los Altos.

Policy 1.5: Retain and update appropriate building regulations to preserve community identity.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Despite being mostly urbanized, the Los Altos planning area includes natural resources that should be conserved. Natural resources in Los Altos include creek channels, mature groves of trees, and remaining orchards. Creeks provide water resources, visual open space corridors, and riparian habitat for a variety of species. Mature groves of trees are scattered throughout the City's residential neighborhoods, along creek corridors, and within the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve. While not naturally occurring, the remaining orchards provide open space resources and a historical connection for the community. These important resources need to be protected to preserve the quality of life in the community. Conservation efforts in Los Altos should focus on preserving the habitats and corridors around creeks and open space areas.

Goal 2: Preserve and protect and provide for public enjoyment of natural areas (natural creek channels, topography, and vegetation), which are valuable natural resources.

- Policy 2.1:** Encourage development of a regional open space policy.
- Policy 2.2:** Identify and encourage preservation of existing orchard remnants as a reminder of its agricultural heritage.
- Policy 2.3:** Protect creeks, creekside areas and riparian habitat in their natural state while ensuring public safety and preserving a valuable natural resource.
- Policy 2.4:** Take an active role in promoting the adoption of a regional stream management plan.

- Policy 2.5:** Enforce local, state, and federal regulations addressing water quality and stormwater quality management.
- Policy 2.6:** Adopt land use controls that prevent incompatible uses for parcels adjacent to existing open space lands and recreation areas.
- Policy 2.7:** Establish buffers from adjoining land uses to protect the natural state of all creekside areas.
- Policy 2.8:** Encourage access and improvements along the creeks on public property.

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Los Altos' existing park and recreation facilities include several small neighborhood parks, a nature preserve, a community center, and several shared facilities at existing elementary school sites. Dedicated park land in the City is limited. The City should pursue options to lease or purchase existing and alternative park sites.

The City's Recreation Department offers a wide-range of recreational programs and classes, including special programs for children, teens, and seniors. As the community continues to grow and evolve, programs should address the changing recreational needs of its residents.



Goal 3: Expand recreation programs and facilities for all ages using City and non-City sites.

- Policy 3.1:** Encourage development of a comprehensive Recreation Plan for existing and future park facilities and recreation services.
- Policy 3.2:** Continue to seek cooperative use of school facilities for recreation programs.
- Policy 3.3:** Provide and expand continuing support for children and teen facilities and programs.
- Policy 3.4:** Promote and provide programs and recreation facilities for seniors.
- Policy 3.5:** Ensure the availability of community pool facilities.

Goal 4: Ensure proper maintenance of parks, open space, and public facilities.

- Policy 4.1:** Provide adequate level of maintenance for City parks, open space, and public property to ensure safety, aesthetics, and recreational enjoyment for Los Altos residents.
- Policy 4.2:** Provide opportunity to create assessment districts for unique or maintenance needs.

A safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle system offers residents recreational and commute alternatives to vehicular travel. Providing connections with major destination points within and outside the community also creates an environment that encourages people to explore the community. Therefore, the City should continue to expand bike paths, lanes, and routes throughout the community.

Goal 5: Develop and promote a pathway system within the City, which also connects to open space in surrounding areas.

- Policy 5.1:** Keep all pathways visible, safe, and appropriately maintained.
- Policy 5.2:** Promote residential area pathways throughout the City.
- Policy 5.3:** Encourage regional pathway systems.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Community facilities, such as police and fire protection, schools, libraries, and cultural and social facilities are provided by a range of public and private agencies and individuals. The City works with these various providers to ensure that adequate levels of community facilities and services are available for the residents and businesses of Los Altos. Private businesses and individuals are also important providers of services such as childcare and local cultural activities. As the community continues to develop and age, it is important to ensure that adequate levels of community facilities and services are maintained and improved.

Goal 6: Ensure an adequate level of fire protection and police protection within Los Altos.

- Policy 6.1:** Promote community order by preventing criminal activity, enforcing laws, and meeting community service demands.
- Policy 6.2:** Provide community-oriented policing services that are responsive to citizen needs.



Policy 6.3: Provide response times for police and fire protection services emergencies that are comparable to similar jurisdictions in Santa Clara County.

Policy 6.4: Continue cooperative mutual aid agreements with nearby jurisdictions to ensure rapid and sufficient response to emergency situations.

Policy 6.5: Prevent or mitigate hazardous situations.

Goal 7: Work with local school districts and other educational organizations to ensure a high quality public education system.

Policy 7.1: Continue to work with the Los Altos and Cupertino Union Elementary School Districts, Mountain View-Los Altos Union and Fremont Union High School Districts, and Foothill and De Anza Community College to provide a high quality educational system to residents.

Goal 8: Ensure a high level of library service.

Policy 8.1: Continue to support the cultural enrichment provided by the Los Altos libraries through access to informational, educational, and recreational materials and services.

Policy 8.2: Promote local libraries, through planning and programming, as an integral part of the community, and in particular, the main library as an element of the Civic Center complex.

Goal 9: Encourage the provision of cultural facilities and activities within the City.

Policy 9.1: Continue to support the activities of the Los Altos History Museum, the Hillview Community Center, and the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve.

Policy 9.2: Work with private developers to offer cultural activities within the community, such as a community theater and cinema.

Goal 10: Ensure that resources are available to serve the City's dependent residents, including but not limited to children, disabled, seniors, homeless, victims of crime/abuse, and drug/alcohol abusers.

Policy 10.1: Cooperate with other organizations and providers to promote and optimize resources for dependent residents.

Policy 10.2: Adopt land use controls for second units, zoning, and day care that encourage dependent care services.

Policy 10.3: Encourage the use of open school sites for childcare and student care, including before-school, after-school, and year-round child care.

COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A variety of service providers and jurisdictions offer a range of services to Los Altos. By coordinating with these service providers, the City is able to reduce overall cost and improve the level and range of services available.



Given the similarities and proximity of surrounding jurisdictions, the potential exists to gain efficiencies in the delivery of urban services through economies of scale. Los Altos contracts with neighboring cities for sanitary sewer collection and treatment, solid waste disposal, and fire services. Los Altos also leases school district land for park use.

Goal 11: Maximize opportunities for joint public and private utilization of City, private sector, private school land and facilities, and public school district land, facilities, programs and resources to provide the most cost efficient and effective services for present and future Los Altos residents.

Policy 11.1: Cooperate with other governments, districts, and the private sector through: (1) joint agreements between the City and public school districts and private schools to share facilities, personnel, programs, and future land purchase opportunities; (2) continued exchange, sharing, and evaluation of joint services with school districts; (3) working with public and private schools to provide recreation facilities and programs on school land; and (4) optimizing leisure activities related to recreation, culture, and arts.

Policy 11.2: Adopt land use controls that encourage the delivery of human services where appropriate.

Policy 11.3: Work with other agencies where appropriate as a possible means to reduce the cost of operation and providing services.

Policy 11.4: Encourage private sector provision of facilities and/or services.

Policy 11.5: Encourage the school districts to develop and retain open space facilities.

Policy 11.6: Plan for the integration of current and future Civic Center functions and facilities with pathways, traffic patterns, roads, landscaping, lighting, parking, and design.





IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS APPENDIX

updated annually with the budget process and whenever the City's General Plan is amended or updated to ensure continued consistency and usefulness.

The Implementation Programs Appendix provides a guide to implement adopted General Plan policies and plans for City elected officials, staff and the public. The purpose of the Implementation Programs are to ensure the overall direction provided in the General Plan for City growth and development is translated from general terms to specific actions.

Each implementation program is a measure, procedure, or technique that requires additional City action. This action may either occur on a City-wide basis or in specific areas within the City. The City Council, by relating the Implementation Programs to the General Plan, recognizes the importance of long-range planning considerations in day-to-day decision making and budgeting. Implementation of the specific programs will be subject to funding constraints.

USE OF THE GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The Implementation Programs are intended for use in preparing the Annual Report to the City Council on the status of the City's progress in implementing the General Plan, as described in Section 65400 of the California Government Code. Because some of the individual actions and programs described in the Implementation Programs Appendix act as mitigation for significant environmental impacts resulting from planned development identified in the General Plan, the annual report can also provide a means of monitoring the application of the mitigation measures as required by Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This Implementation Programs Appendix may be



OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

This Implementation Program provides actions to implement the adopted policies and plans identified in the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element. The Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Implementation Program is a series of actions, procedures and techniques which includes a description of the responsible agency/department, funding source, time frame and related policies in the Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element.

OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

OCC 1: PRESERVE EXISTING OPEN SPACE

Preserve the City's existing open space land in perpetuity.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Responsible Agency/Department: | Community Development, Recreation |
| Funding Source: | General Fund |
| Time Frame: | Ongoing |
| Related Policies: | 1.1 |

OCC 2: PURSUE ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Pursue opportunities for additional open space land in the form of parkland dedication, and public open space easements, leaseholds, land donations/dedications, and gift annuities.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Responsible Agency/Department: | Community Development, Recreation |
| Funding Source: | General Fund, development fees |
| Time Frame: | Ongoing |
| Related Policies: | 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 |

NATURAL RESOURCES

OCC 3: PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

Assess development proposals for potential impacts to significant natural resources pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act. Require appropriate mitigation for all significant impacts if impact avoidance is not possible.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Responsible Agency/Department: | Community Development, Public Works |
| Funding Source: | Development fees, mitigation |
| Time Frame: | Ongoing |
| Related Policies: | 2.2, 2.3, 2.7 |



OCC 4: WATERCOURSE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Implement the City's Watercourse Protection Ordinance.

Responsible Agency/Department: Community Development/Public Works
Funding Source: General Fund, development fees, mitigation
Time Frame: Ongoing
Related Policies: 2.3, 2.5, 2.7

OCC 5: IMPROVE SURFACE WATER QUALITY

To reduce pollutants in urban runoff, require new development projects and substantial rehabilitation projects to incorporate Best Management Practices pursuant to the National Pollutant System Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES), the Santa Clara County Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program and the Santa Clara County Drainage Master Plan to ensure that the City complies with applicable State and federal regulations.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works
Funding Source: General Fund, State and Federal funding sources, development fees, mitigation
Time Frame: Ongoing
Related Policies: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

OCC 6: RECREATION PLAN

Develop and periodically update a Recreation Plan, which addresses existing and future facilities and services. In implementing and updating the plan, focus on retrofitting and improving the existing facilities and constructing new facilities in the most cost-effective manner. Improvements and new construction will implement requirements of the ADA. Specific actions are listed below:

- 1) Develop a financial plan for the purchase and development of parkland;
- 2) Identify potential sites for acquisition and construction of recreation facilities to meet the recreational needs of the City;
- 3) Involve the City's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission in the development and update of the Recreation Plan;
- 4) Develop park sites consistent with the Recreation Plan;
- 5) Develop local bicycle, riding, and pedestrian trail systems consistent with the City's current Bicycle Transportation Plan and coordinate improvements to the regional trails system with the County;
- 6) Encourage use of community parks and facilities for cultural activities, special events and programs;



- 7) Adopt and maintain a capital improvement program for parkland acquisitions, improvements, existing park retrofits and recreational facilities, and a phasing schedule for commitment of resources including the design and construction of facilities; and
- 8) Prepare and update an assessment of the open space and recreational opportunities offered by various unused open space lands, privately operated facilities and leased open space lands.

Responsible Agency/Department: Recreation, Public Works, City Manager, Community Development
Funding Source: General Fund, State and Federal Funds, development fees
Time Frame: 2002/2003 and Ongoing
Related Policies: 1.2, 1.4, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 5.2, 5.3

OCC 7: CONTINUE TO REQUIRE PARKLAND DEDICATION

As new development projects are proposed in Los Altos, continue to require dedication of parkland, a fee in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, as a condition of new development pursuant to the Quimby Act and the Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

Responsible Agency/Department: Community Development, Public Works, Recreation
Funding Source: Development fees
Time Frame: Ongoing
Related Policies: 1.1, 1.4

OCC 8: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Provide a full range of recreational opportunities to serve the community by:

- 1) Promoting a high level of public outreach by coordinating with community organizations, special interest groups and private businesses to provide recreation program opportunities, and distributing newsletters or brochures to inform the community of available recreation programs and facilities;
- 2) Coordinating with other agencies/organizations such as the school districts, Parks, Art, and Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, and other appropriate agencies to achieve maximum utilization of recreation programs and facilities in the community;
- 3) Facilitating cooperative recreational programming with surrounding jurisdictions to expand opportunities and cost efficiencies;
- 4) Identifying and evaluating the provision of drop-in, team sports, and other after-school recreation programs for youth;
- 5) Involving the Youth Commission in recreational programming for youth and teen center activities;
- 6) Continuing work with the Hillview Senior Center and Garden House to identify the available programs and facilities for seniors, and looking for ways to augment them where appropriate;



- 7) Exploring means to provide programs to those who cannot afford to pay by utilizing corporate sponsorships, volunteers and joint use of school facilities and services; and
- 8) Developing new recreation programs to reflect the changing needs and interests of Los Altos residents.

Responsible Agency/Department: Recreation, School Districts
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Related Policies: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5

OCC 9: PARK MAINTENANCE

Properly maintain and operate the grounds and facilities of existing parks to minimize vandalism and crime, affirm safe and pleasant environments, and maximize public use and enjoyment. Enhance the safety and maintenance of existing and future parks by:

- 1) Updating (as needed) operational maintenance standards to provide quality maintenance of parks and recreation facilities;
- 2) Reporting regularly on the City’s maintenance efforts and costs, as well as maintenance goals; and
- 3) Exploring the use of Assessment Districts (e.g., special benefit districts, maintenance districts, community facilities districts) for the upkeep and/or upgrade of public and private property and facilities.

Responsible Agency/Department: Recreation
 Funding Source: General Fund, development fees, property owners
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Related Policies: 4.1, 4.2

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

OCC 10: PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION

Promote fire prevention in Los Altos in the following ways:

- 1) Continue to provide fire protection services;
- 2) Implement fire hazard education and fire prevention programs, including fuel modification programs;
- 3) Coordinate with the local water districts to ensure that water pressure for urban areas and sites to be developed is adequate for fire fighting purposes.
- 4) Adopt and implement the Uniform Fire Code provisions and appropriate amendments to reflect the unique Los Altos topography, climate, vegetation and urban form.

Responsible Agency/Department: Fire
 Funding Source: General Fund, development fees, property owners
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Related Policies: 6.3, 6.4, 6.5



OCC 11: MINIMIZE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Protect residents and businesses from criminal activity by providing substantive levels of police protection, educating the public about methods to reduce criminal activity and continuing the graffiti removal program. The specific actions to implement these goals are identified below:

- 1) Annual review of Police Department budget to ensure that a sufficient emphasis is placed on staffing and programs for crime prevention;
- 2) Coordinate with all Santa Clara County public agencies to increase public awareness about criminal activity and crime prevention activities. Maximize the use of Neighborhood Watch programs in both residential and business communities;
- 3) Continue to develop crime prevention programs for youth, older adult, neighborhood, and business groups;

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| Responsible Agency/Department: | Police Department |
| Funding Source: | General Fund, development fees, property owners |
| Time Frame: | Ongoing |
| Related Policies: | 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 |

OCC 12: ADEQUATE LEVEL OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Ensure the quality of life Los Altos residents have grown to expect using the following methods:

- 1) Continue to work with the school districts and other educational organizations to ensure a high quality public education system;
- 2) Continue to support a high level of library service; and
- 3) Continue to encourage and promote the provision of cultural facilities and activities.

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| Responsible Agency/Department: | City Manager, Recreation |
| Funding Source: | General Fund |
| Time Frame: | Ongoing |
| Related Policies: | 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 11.3, 11.6 |