



**SEASIDE
CALIFORNIA**

2024 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

May 2024



Begin the day at a park, trail, natural area or recreation program.

"Parks are so much more than collections of grassy lawns to lay on or benches from which to people-watch. Parks serve an irreplaceable role in developing and preserving our sense of community and pride in where we live. They bring...

Acknowledgements

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...people together, inspire commerce, and spread an appreciation for the splendor of nature."

~ Jerah Smith, Communications Fellow for American Planning Association's Great Places in America program

Adopted by Seaside City Council on May 16, 2024 via resolution.



RSCA

GUARD

OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan

The City of Seaside 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) is an update to the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan that builds on the previously completed plan and incorporates the feedback from an extensive community engagement process conducted in 2023. This citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed with the input and direction of local residents and guidance by from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The process included public meetings and a community survey as baseline data and as a foundation for plan recommendations. As a ten-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation amenities for the community, this Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, trails and open space that promotes recreation, health, environmental conservation and fiscal responsibility as integral elements of a thriving, livable Seaside.

The PRMP serves as a blueprint for the management, enhancement and growth of the City of Seaside parks and recreation system. It assists in guiding decisions related to planning, developing and maintaining parks, open space and recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs, special events and arts and culture activities.

The 2024 PRMP provides updated system inventories, community profile, needs analyses

and a comprehensive capital project list. The Plan identifies parks and recreation goals and establishes a long-range plan for the Seaside parks and recreation system, including action items and strategies for implementation over the next ten years. The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions and fiscal considerations.

Planning Process

This PRMP represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort and reflects the community's interests and needs for parks, open space, trails and programming. The planning process, which included a variety of public outreach activities, encouraged public engagement to inform the development of the priorities and future direction of Seaside's park and recreation system. Community members expressed their interests through surveys, public meetings, stakeholder discussions, online outreach, tabling events and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings.

In addition to community engagement, the actions identified in this Plan are based on:

- An inventory and assessment of the City's existing park and recreation facilities to establish the

system's current performance and to identify needed maintenance, capital repair and replacement projects;

- Service level and walkability assessments to quantify the system's ability to serve current and future residents; and
- Review of on-going and past planning efforts that guide investments in Seaside's parks, trails, open space and programs.

The Plan's capital improvements section and accompanying implementation strategies are intended to sustain and enhance, preserve and steward the City's critical parks and recreation infrastructure.

Park & Recreation System Overview

Department Organization

The Recreation Department serves as the community's key resource for providing parks, recreation, aquatic facilities and programs, and community events and supports tourism and economic development, as well as providing an enhanced quality of life for its residents. The Department is responsible for the management of four major recreation facilities and the provision of recreation programs for families, youth and older adults. There are 25 City-owned park sites totaling 110 acres in the Seaside park system. The City also owns the Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses (360 acres), which is operated and managed by the Troon Golf. The Recreation Department consists of 12 full-time employees across multiple focus areas.

- Administration focuses on long-range planning, development of park site master plans, development of park facilities, pursuing partnerships, and administering grants. Administration provides overall support for the Department in areas of budgeting, communications, and customer service, among others.
- Recreation Services and Centers enables community-wide leisure opportunities including youth and adult sports, community events, youth leadership programs, summer camps, senior activities and programs, and community education classes. Staff supervise recreation program registration, facility rentals and athletic field rentals. Major recreation facilities include the Oldemeyer Center, Youth Education & Resource Center, Soper Fields, and Soper Community Center

Mission

Providing high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse community we serve – connecting people to place, self and others.

- Aquatics staffs the Pattullo Swim Center and offers fitness, recreational and learn-to-swim programs for individuals of all ages. Facility amenities include a six-lane swimming pool with water slide and warm water pool.

Park Operations is managed through the Maintenance & Utilities Division of the Public Works Department and is responsible for physical park asset management and improvements. Responsibilities include landscaping, ballfield preparation and maintenance, playground and sports court safety inspections and repair, trail maintenance and daily maintenance.

Commission & Community Support

The Recreation Department plays a vital role in many aspects of community life, with staff support to the Parks and Recreation Commission, plus coordination with several other City commissions and outside agencies.

Recreation and Parks Commission

The Recreation and Parks Commission is an advisory group to the City Council and provides input on issues relating to the delivery of parks and recreation services to Seaside residents. The Commission recommends policies on recreational services and facilities and cooperates with other

agencies and civic groups in the advancement of park and recreation planning and programming. Commissioners are appointed by the City Council for three year terms.

Art & History Commission

Formed in 2010, the seven-member Art and History Commission advises and facilitates the protection of the City's cultural resources including the collection, promotion, display and preservation of Seaside historical artifacts, and encourages and promotes programs of artistic merit. Commission members serve a four year term.

Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Reduction of Youth Violence

The Task Force is composed of stakeholders from various community and government organizations and aims to stem gang violence in Seaside by implementing the Seaside Gang Violence Prevention and Intervention Program. The goals of the Task Force are to encourage community mobilization and complete and implement Comprehensive Youth Violence Reduction Plan to prevent future youth gang delinquency, crime and violence.

Recreation Department staff also coordinate and engage with a variety of commissions and organizations, including the following:

- City of Seaside Environmental Commission
- City of Seaside Family and Community Support Program
- Friends of Seaside Park Association (FOSPA)
- Blue Zone Project
- Sustainable Seaside
- Community Partnership for Youth
- Boys & Girls Club
- Palenke Arts
- Building Healthy Communities
- Village Project

Recent Accomplishments

The following represents a short list of the accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan.

- Started the Youth Employment Program in 2018, which was highlighted in the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) monthly publication February 2023.
- Expanded and refreshed recreation program offerings to add variety and meet community interests.

- Hosted multiple major community events annually, including Seaside Earth Day, Fourth of July, Oaxaca by the Sea, Halloween Bonanza, Tree Lighting Ceremony, among others.
- Launched STEM programs and camps for pre-school students, elementary students, teen and older adults.
- Coordinated with and supported the efforts of FOSPA across multiple parks.
- Opened the award-winning Robert's Lake Eco-Recreation Station.
- Renovated and restored Cutino Park.
- Renovated Ellis Park.
- Upgraded the recreation registration software program.

Current Challenges & Future Considerations

As with any citywide strategic planning effort, current community challenges provide a context for developing and assessing strategies for the future. The following macrotrends are anticipated to be important priorities over the next decade.

Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility

Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this Plan, the City of Seaside made a concerted effort to reach out to, connect with, and engage a diversity of local communities. The City endeavored to make all voices welcome during the PRMP process, including through a dual language (English and Spanish) community survey. A focus on diversity, equity and inclusion also carries into adaptive recreation programs and ongoing accessibility upgrades of parks and amenities. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

Further, portions of the City's parks, trails and open space system were developed before the 1999 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was implemented. The conditions assessment identified several deficiencies related to ADA compliance. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, open space areas, facilities, recreation programs and other services.



Continued Investments in the Park & Recreation System

From accessible playgrounds to splash pads to bike skill areas to bouldering, the range of play experiences offered by the City will need to change and diversify over time. Also, the diversity of the Seaside community will influence the needs for different or expanded recreational experiences, such as extended family gatherings, community events and social activities, and cultural arts, among others. The demand for new amenities also must be balanced against preserving and maintaining existing parks and natural areas. The development of new amenities may require the use or re-use of existing parkland or more parkland may be required to support the community's evolving, future needs.

Research on recreation also provides information on how park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people's desire to engage in physical activity. It may be valuable to re-evaluate current park designs and maintenance policies to ensure barrier-free, engaging park environments and operational efficiencies. The City will continue to play a major role in enabling healthy lifestyles for the Seaside community and should continue to enhance the park system and recreation program offerings.

Asset Management & Aging Infrastructure

The City of Seaside's parks, trails and open space system is facing numerous challenges related to aging infrastructure. Deferred maintenance and changing demands translate to the need for up-to-date assessments of the condition, function and quality of park system assets, in addition to understanding where deficiencies may exist. Park aesthetics and amenities are important to usage patterns. Also, a user's perception of personal safety is a determining factor in how one uses and feels in and around parks, trails and open spaces. Seaside's 2005 Parks & Recreation Master Plan identified numerous deficits and improvement needs that were not addressed for over a decade; however, the City park system has been undergoing significant upgrades, new development and renovations in the last five years. Parks that were constructed in the late 1960's on the eastern hillside within the Seaside Municipal Water System service area had old park amenities removed as aging triggered failures, but no new amenities were provided. Once grass lawn irrigation restrictions further impacted those parks, non-native weed growth took over. There is still much to be done.

Established park systems require ongoing maintenance in order to safely and effectively serve the community. Public recreation providers across the country consider maintaining existing park facilities to be a key management issue. Poorly maintained assets – from benches to playgrounds to pools – can fail, either structurally or operationally, posing safety risks and reducing



their recreational value. Aging infrastructure also may fail to meet community expectations or need capital upgrades to adapt to changing community interests. However, recreation providers often struggle to establish adequate funding mechanisms for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities, as well as the major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.

In addition to aging infrastructure requiring removal of recreational amenities and park features, the effects of restricted irrigation has taken its toll. The City of Seaside is served by three different water providers: Marine Coast Water District, Seaside Municipal Water System, and California American Water. Each provider has its own rate system and policies for water usage. Due to water restrictions and water storage capacity, the Seaside Municipal Water System required the City to stop irrigating grass in parks within its service area. The visual change in landscape character is distinctive. The perception of neglect and minimal greenspace became predominant in those older parks on the hillside. Park improvements have been slowing working to address the deficits identified in the 2005 PRMP Plan. More work is needed to address removed park amenities and to determine the best landscape approach for parks without irrigated grass areas. Policies and practices regarding water conservation and public greenspaces need to work together to provide the outdoor recreational and environmental values desired by Seaside's residents.

The conditions assessment of the Seaside parks, trails and open space areas included in this PRMP (see Appendix E) provided a baseline of current conditions to inform the development of the capital project list and implementation strategies. The fiscal needs of the parks system are substantial and long-term funding strategies are needed.

Climate Vulnerability, Adaptation, & Resilience

Regional climate change models project that the Central Coast will see increasing maximum and minimum temperatures through the next century, with greater increases in the inland region. Also, coastal wave events in combination with rising sea levels will drive coastal flooding landward, increasing the region's vulnerability.¹ Enhancing native vegetation, planting more trees, reducing energy and water use, and finding more sustainable materials to use in construction of park amenities will play a role in the City's overall efforts. Also, coordinated efforts to link multimodal transportation options to an expanding trail network and linking parks to transit and other community destinations will improve livability and reduce vehicular trips. Adapting to the impacts of climate change could include a review of tree species mix for increased diversity and resilience, as well as community health services in the form of providing cooling stations during extreme weather events.

Sources

¹ <https://climateresilience.ca.gov/regions/central-coast.html>

Active Older Adults

Over the past decade, Seaside has aged – the percentage of residents under 45 years of age has declined, while the percentage of older residents has increased. Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up 24% of Seaside’s population. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are transitioning to new careers, finding ways to engage with their community, and focusing on their health and fitness. The 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report highlighted that, in 2022, the senior population (ages 55+) had increased its participation in outdoor recreation to a record high of 35% and is rising. To meet the needs of active older residents, Seaside will need to consider how the City’s park and recreation facilities, programming and partnerships can meet the needs of this growing group.

Guiding Documents

This PRMP is one of several documents that comprise Seaside’s long-range planning and policy framework. Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they relate to parks, open space, trails, recreation and cultural opportunities across Seaside. Summaries of these plans are provided in Appendix F.

- City of Seaside Parks, Recreation, Community Services Plan (2005)
- City of Seaside 2023-2025 Strategic Plan
- Seaside General Plan (2003)
- Seaside 2040 General Plan Update - draft (2023)
- Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway Conceptual Design Report (2020)
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2011)
- Fort Ord Reuse Plan Volume 2: Reuse Plan Elements (1997)
- Ford Ord Reuse Plan Reassessment Report (2012)

Plan Contents

The remainder of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Seaside and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the Seaside community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory – describes the inventory and classifications for each park and open space within the park system.
- Chapters 5: Parks & Open Space – describes community feedback, trends, local needs, and potential improvements for parks and open space.
- Chapter 6: Trails – describes community feedback, local interests, and potential improvements for the recreational trail network.
- Chapter 7: Recreation & Events – describes community feedback, trends, local needs, and potential improvements for recreation programs, facilities, and events.
- Chapter 8: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the park and recreation system grouped by major program area.
- Chapter 9: Project Recommendations & Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a ten-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability. Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.



Physical Activity Benefits

By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity.



Community Benefits

Recreational facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and well-being. People who feel connected and those who participate in recreational and other activities, such as community food gardens, are more likely to have better mental and physical health.



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities. Outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for residents.



Environmental Benefits

Parks and open space play a role in climate change resilience by cooling the air and countering the "heat island" effect of urban development. Other benefits include improving air quality, diverting stormwater, and creating habitat for pollinators and other insects and animals. Parks and open space also provide opportunities for outdoor education and can serve as outdoor classrooms.

2



SNAPSHOT: SEASIDE TODAY

This chapter offers a brief overview of the City of Seaside and its demographics.

Community Profile

Location

The City of Seaside is a community of nearly 30,000 residents on the southern edge of the Monterey Bay in central California. Most of Seaside lies just across Highway 1 from the coast, about 115 miles south of San Francisco. Dense, single-family neighborhoods make up the southern portion of Seaside, while commercial areas line Del Monte and Fremont Boulevards in the west. The northern portion of the City includes the Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Course, portions of the California State University's Monterey Bay campus, and suburban style neighborhoods. Open space dominates the eastern portion of the City.

Seaside is bordered by Sand City to the west, Marina to the north, and the City of Monterey and Del Rey Oaks to the south. The Fort Ord National Monument extends to the east of the City.

History

The City of Seaside is located on the indigenous land of the Rumsen native peoples, one of

several Ohlone groups who lived in communities throughout the central California coast. Spanish and other European settlers displaced and decimated local native populations in the 1700 and 1800s and established farm and rangelands. In 1888, Dr. John L.D. Roberts purchased about 150 acres of land to create new residential communities – what is now Seaside and Sand City. By 1891, the community was officially named Seaside. The City of Seaside grew throughout the 1920s and 1930s as refugees of the Great Depression headed to California's farming communities.

World War II led to the establishment of an U.S. Army training facility at Fort Ord, located just northeast of Seaside. The base, the first integrated base in the U.S., drew thousands of soldiers and their families, as well as supporting services and businesses to Seaside. It also left a legacy of ethnic and racial diversity unique to Central California, leading to the community's active role in social justice movements from the 1960s to today.

Seaside incorporated in 1954, gaining control of its own governance, but losing significant land and coastal acreage to the City of Monterey and Sand City. Seaside continued to experience rapid growth throughout the 1960s and 1970s as Fort Ord expanded to support the military operations of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

In the following decades, Seaside continued to grow, drawing residents with its temperate climate, scenic beauty, and proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The City’s geographical location along the Monterey Bay offered recreational opportunities and supported the growth of coastal tourism.

Major changes came to Seaside in the early 1990s, when the U.S. government closed Fort Ord as an active-duty military base, resulting in a loss of population and jobs, as well as declines in City revenues. The closure of the base also brought demographic changes in the following decade, Seaside lost a significant number of its Black and African American residents, but became increasingly racially diverse. Today, nearly half of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino.

The closure of Fort Ord also brought new attractions and redevelopment opportunities to Seaside. The Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Course, California State University Monterey Bay, and the Fort Ord National Monument – now major attractions – were once Fort Ord lands. The City acquired some former base lands, and some areas, like the Main Gate and Campus Town areas, now represent the City’s primary redevelopment opportunities.

Economy

Seaside benefits from its strategic location within the larger Monterey Bay area, allowing businesses to capitalize on the region’s economic opportunities. The City’s commercial districts offer a range of local shops, restaurants, and services, contributing to the retail and hospitality sectors.

While the City of Seaside is predominantly a bedroom community with services that support local residents, the tourism industry of the Monterey Bay draws visitors to the area’s beaches, scenic coastline, and recreational attractions. Tourists also enjoy exploring nearby attractions



Table 1. Population Characteristics: Seaside, Monterey County and California

Demographics	Seaside	Monterey County	California
Population Characteristics			
Population (2023) ¹	29,790	430,368	38,940,231
Population (2010) ²	33,025	415,057	37,253,956
Population (2000) ³	31,696	401,762	33,871,648
Percent Change (2000-20)	-6.0%	7.1%	15.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%) ⁴	11.2%	8.8%	10.6%
Household Characteristics ⁴			
Households	10,321	129,977	13,217,586
Percent with children	35.8%	38.8%	33.8%
Median Household Income	\$74,140	\$82,103	\$84,097
Average Household Size	3.05	3.24	2.92
Average Family Size	3.56	3.76	3.5
Owner Occupancy Rate	39.5%	51.7%	55.5%
Age Groups ⁴			
Median Age	33.9	34.9	37
Population < 5 years of age	6.7%	6.9%	6.0%
Population < 18 years of age	23.6%	26.3%	22.8%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	63.5%	60.0%	62.8%
Population > 65 years of age	12.9%	13.7%	14.4%

Sources:

*1: California Department of Finance, January 1, 2023, Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State

*2: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census.

*3: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

*4: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

like the Fort Ord National Monument and the Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Course. Additionally, Seaside's proximity to California State University Monterey Bay has fostered a thriving education sector, with the University serving as an essential economic driver, attracting students and faculty members to the City.

Demographic Profile

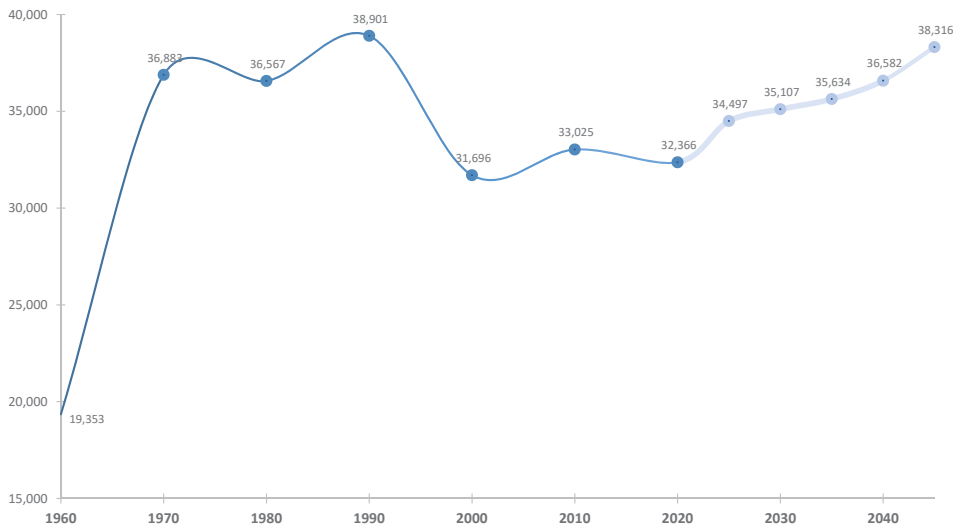
Today, the City of Seaside is a diverse community where nearly half of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino. While the City remains home to many families with children, its population is aging. The City's residents are well educated but have moderate incomes compared to County residents. After losing population in the 1990s, the City has begun to gain population and is anticipated to grow by approximately 4,000 residents over the next two decades.

Population & Anticipated Growth

After its incorporation in 1954, Seaside experienced rapid growth due in large part to the expansion of nearby Fort Ord to support military operations during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Between 1960 and 1970, Seaside's population nearly doubled, growing from about 19,350 residents to 36,880 residents. New residents were drawn to the City for its attractive location near the Pacific coast, the presence of educational institutions like California State University Monterey Bay, and its proximity to major job centers in the region, including Fort Ord. By 1990, Seaside had grown to nearly 39,000 residents. However, the closure of the Fort Ord military base in the early 1990s resulted in the loss of nearly 20% of the City's residents, a population decline Seaside has yet to recover from. Since 2000, the population has hovered at between 31,000 and 33,000 residents.

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the area's regional planning authority, projects

Figure 2. Population Change – Actual and Projected: 2000 – 2045



17% planned growth* (2020-2045)

36% households with children

Increased diversity (2000-2020)

* Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

that Seaside’s population will grow modestly over coming decades, reaching 38,316 residents by 2045.⁵ This is equivalent to 16.7% growth between 2020 and 2045, or approximately 0.7% annual growth.

The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for park and open space acquisition. Planning for parks and recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Age Group Distribution

Seaside’s population has a median age of 33.9 (2021) which is younger than the median age in Monterey County (34.9) and California (37.0). Young adults between 15 to 34 years old make up the City’s largest 20-year population group, comprising 32% of the overall population in 2021.

The age distribution of residents has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. About 17% of residents are in this age category, see Figure 3. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. More than one-third of households in the City (36%) are families with children.

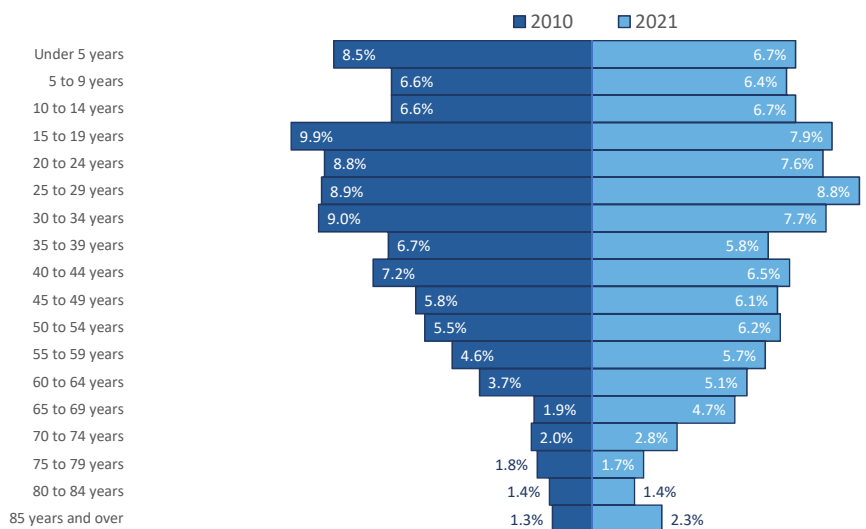
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 25% of Seaside’s population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up 24% of Seaside’s population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

While most of Seaside’s residents (65%) are adults over 25 years of age, approximately one in three are youth and young adults.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 6.7% of Seaside’s population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 13% of the City’s population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 16% percent of Seaside’s residents are teens and young adults.

Over the past decade, Seaside has aged – the percentage of residents under 45 years of age has declined, while the percentage of older residents has increased, see Figure 3.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2021



Race & Ethnicity

Seaside is an increasingly diverse community. In 2021, just over half (53%) of Seaside’s residents identified as White, about 2.5% less than did so in 2010. The increasing diversity of the City’s residents is due primarily to a significant increase in the proportion of residents who identify as Latino, two or more races, or a race not listed in Census options.

In 2021, approximately 9% of residents identified as Asian, 7% as Black or African American, 2% as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and less than 1% as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Approximately 9% of residents identified as two or more races and 19% identified as a race not listed in the American Community Survey options. About 46% of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race, including 38% who identify as Mexican.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Identification - 2010 to 2021

Racial Identification	2010 ⁷	2021 ⁶
White	55.9%	53.4%
Two or more races	6.0%	9.0%
Asian	11.2%	9.2%
Black or African American	9.6%	7.2%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	1.8%	2.2%
American Indian & Alaska Native	1.3%	0.4%
Some other race	16.6%	18.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	41.4%	45.7%

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, most Seaside residents were born in the United States (73%) and speak English very well. However, approximately 49% of residents speak a language other than English at home, and 20% speak English less than very well. Most residents who speak English less than very well speak Spanish or Asian languages, including Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean.

People of color and residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in accessing parks, recreation facilities, and activities. The City’s planning for future park and recreational opportunities should prioritize inclusivity and consider how best to meet the diverse recreational needs of its growing and vibrant community. Inclusion will not only enhance social cohesion, but also enrich the community’s overall well-being and quality of life.



Persons with Disabilities⁶

The 2021 American Community Survey reported 11.2% (7,707 persons) of Seaside’s population as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is higher than county and state averages (8.8% and 10.6% respectively).

Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will help ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition to ADA, there are other accommodations that people with disabilities may need to access parks and participate in recreation programs. Seaside should consider community needs for inclusive and accessible parks, facilities, programs, and communications.

Household Characteristics⁶

In 2021, the average household in Seaside was 3.05 people, higher than the state average (2.92). The average family also is larger, at 3.56 people. Of the 10,321 households in the City, 36% include children under 18, and 22% were individuals living alone.

Forty percent of Seaside’s households own their home, significantly lower than the average throughout Monterey County (52%). Seaside’s housing stock is primarily single-family homes and offers limited option for lower income households, including students and service workers.

Employment & Education⁶

The 2021 work force population (16 years and over) of Seaside was 25,821 (79%). Of this population, 58% is employed, 3% are in the Armed Forces,

4.5% are unemployed, and 35% are not in the labor force. In 2021, the City's unemployment rate was 7.3%, significantly higher than the county (5.5%) and statewide (6.5%) rates.

Residents work in a wide variety of industries. In 2021, about 27% of the City's employed residents worked in the arts, entertainment, and recreation industries, 17% worked in education and health care, 13% worked in the professional, scientific, and management sector, and 12% worked in retail trade.

Most residents (80%) over 25 years of age have a high school degree or higher, higher than the countywide average (73%). About 24% of Seaside residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which is on par with countywide rates (26.5%).

Higher levels of employment and educational attainment positively correlate with both the income and health status of a community – both of which have further impacts on the use and need for park and recreation facilities, as described in the next two sections.

Income & Poverty ⁶

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their ability to pay for recreational services. Seaside's households are generally of moderate incomes, with a median household income of \$74,140 in 2021. This income level was about \$7,900 (11%) lower than the median income for Monterey County households.

Higher income households typically have an increased capacity to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 35% of Seaside's households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), lower than the county average (40%).

Also, it is essential to consider the needs of lower-income residents as well, who may encounter barriers to physical activity due to reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less

financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical activity possible. In Seaside, 14% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 9.5% of local families live below the poverty level (\$26,500 for a family of four), higher than countywide and statewide rates. The City should continue to promote inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that all residents can benefit from the City's diverse and enriching recreational offerings.

Health Status

The overall health of a community's residents can impact their ability to participate in recreation and other physical activity and may also reflect, in part, the locality's level of access to appropriate and convenient green spaces, recreation opportunities, and active transportation facilities.

Information on the health of Seaside's residents is not readily available. However, according to the 2023 County Health Rankings, Monterey County ranks as the 18th healthiest California county overall. It ranks in the mid-high range (3rd quartile) for health outcomes, including length and quality of life. However, it ranks in the low-mid range (2nd quartile) for health factors like health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.⁸

In Monterey County, approximately 75% of adults aged 20 and older engage in leisure-time physical activity, surpassing the rates for both California State and the U.S. Furthermore, an impressive 90% of Monterey County residents have access to adequate exercise opportunities, including parks or recreation facilities, which is significantly higher than the national (84%) average but slightly lower than the statewide average for all California counties (95%). This suggests that the County ensures ample distribution of places for residents to participate in physical activities, making it easier for Seaside residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles. As the community continues to prioritize health and well-being, fostering a supportive environment with accessible recreational opportunities is crucial in maintaining the good relative health of Seaside residents.

Sources

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6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2021.

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8 Data on the health status of Monterey County and State of California residents taken from: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "California Rankings Data". County Health Rankings. Available at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/california/2023/rankings/monterey/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>. Accessed July 2023.

3

What is the Pa

Planning Forward

The Parks & Recreation Ma
10-year guide and strategi
enhancing parks, open sp
opportunities for the Seas

The Parks & Recreation P
future investments to imp
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

This chapter highlights the methods used to engage the Seaside community in the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Community engagement played an essential role in developing the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Several outreach methods were used to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the Plan through convenient online and in-person activities. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mail survey and online community-wide survey in English and Spanish
- Two in-person public meeting
- Stakeholder group discussions
- Tabling and outreach at multiple community events
- Meetings with Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council
- Seaside city website with plan information and feedback opportunities
- Multiple social media postings, email notifications, and City newsletter articles

Community Survey

A community-wide, online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Seaside residents. The survey was available in English and Spanish, and the cover letter accompanying the printed mail survey was written in both languages and included unique QR codes to access each in-language survey online. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the city limits of Seaside on April 5, 2023, and two rounds of reminder postcards

were mailed to the same 2,500 households on April 19th and May 5th. An online version of the survey was posted to the City's website on April 6th.

Overall, 251 surveys from the random sample mailing were completed and returned (10% response rate, 5% margin of error). An additional 107 surveys were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 358 surveys were collected, which included 29 surveys in Spanish.

Information about the survey was promoted through several channels, including on the City's website, through multiple social media postings, and through direct outreach to partner organizations and recreation program participants. The survey was closed on August 4, 2023.

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and which facilities were primarily being used by residents. Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

Survey findings are highlighted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering parks and open space, recreation, and trails (Chapters 5 - 7).

Major Survey Findings:

- **Livability:** Nearly all respondents (95%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Seaside. Over half of respondents rate the condition of parks they have visited as excellent or good, and concerns about park upkeep and maintenance seem to be concentrated in a small number of parks.
- **Usage:** Park visitation is strong, with 78% of respondents visiting parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular reasons are to walk or run (69%) or for fitness and exercise (52%). More than one in three respondents visit to relax (47%), attend community events or concerts (41%), use a playground (36%), or walk a dog (35%).

- **Recreation Programming:** Residents were generally split on whether they feel the City provides enough park, trails, and recreation facilities. More than half of survey respondents would like to see more community events (64%), recreation programs (57%), and developed parks (55%), while between 30-40% feel the City does not have enough sports courts, sports fields, picnic areas, and aquatics programs.
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** When asked to rank specific types of improvements, respondents identified improving and upgrading existing parks as their top priority, followed by adding new recreational amenities to existing parks. The survey asked residents about their priority for a variety of potential additions to the park system. A significant majority of respondents rated additional walking trails (82%) and renovated playgrounds (71%) as a high or medium priority. More than half of residents rated most other amenities as a high or medium priority, including community gardens, additional picnic areas, sport courts, indoor fitness facilities, outdoor fitness equipment, and an indoor gym.

Although the survey was intended to represent a general sampling of the Seaside community, responses from the Latino population appear under-represented relative to the demographics of Seaside. The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

Public Meeting #1

On June 8, 2023, the City hosted an open house meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Oldemeyer Center. The project team prepared a presentation and informational displays covering the major themes of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Survey Highlights, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, and Investing in the Future. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event, and displays were prepared in English and Spanish.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Seaside. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment. A summary of comments for the first online open house is provided in Appendix B.



Public Meeting #2

The City hosted a second public open house on November 8, 2023. Informational displays highlighted the responses to date from community engagement and potential ideas for enhancements or improvements to the Seaside park and recreation system. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event, and displays were prepared in English and Spanish. A short question and answer period occurred following a brief PowerPoint presentation. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comments. A summary of comments for the first online open house is provided in Appendix C.

Community Event Tabling

City staff, Parks and Recreation Commission members and project team members conducted a series of tabling activities at community events and festivals. Tabling occurred between July and October to build awareness of the Plan and solicit input on park and recreation program enhancements. Tabling activities were conducted during the July 4th Celebration and the annual Oaxaca by the Sea Festival.

Approximately 150 people were engaged during these events. Community feedback included strong interest in splash pads (water play elements), sport courts, playground shade, walking and biking trails, and youth recreation programs.

Stakeholder Discussions

Four virtual focus group discussions with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership, coordination and communication. Stakeholders were identified by City staff based on their past coordination their involvement or interest in the future of recreation, park, and sport or trail facilities. The outreach consisted of an initial email invitation to several individuals and organizations to solicit interest and follow-up emails to confirm the meeting date and time with interested parties. The group-based discussion sessions occurred between May and October 2023. The stakeholder groups sessions were organized by topic: aquatics, sport field and sport court users, non-profit program providers, and local partner organizations.

Stakeholders shared their aspirations for parks, recreation, and programs, and provided ideas on possible improvements during the listening sessions – including interests they would like to see addressed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. While each group had different responses to many of the questions, several interests held by all groups emerged. Key themes shared across groups include:

- Improve and update the parks system to expand recreation options and better serve all areas of the community; Pay attention to safety and maintenance.
- Keep facilities and programs affordable, convenient, and safe for all to use.
- Park deficits exist in lower Seaside, and the City should identify where to invest in more multi-sport

fields and courts and partner with school district for fields and facility use.

- City does a good job of programming for seniors, honoring with dances, food/feeding options, etc., but a missing gap in program options is for 18-26 year olds and middle school to high school ages for non-sport youth.
- Promote the City's assets and programs more; inform, educate, engage, and partner with the community.

Specific recommendations are incorporated in the needs assessment sections (Chapters 5 – 7), and a full summary is provided in Appendix D.

Commission Meetings

The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on the development of the PRMP during three regularly scheduled public sessions during 2023. The first session occurred on April 17th, shortly after the planning project was initiated. The Commission discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, specific challenges, opportunities and ideas about parks, trails and programs. Subsequent sessions in October 2023 and February 2024 were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Commission on priorities and recommendations for the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Other Outreach

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Seaside community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- City website home page
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan project page
- Email outreach through the City's distribution list and through partner organizations, including Sustainable Seaside, FOSPA, and Blue Zones Project
- Social media via Facebook
- Announcements at Council and Commission public meetings



SEASIDE CALIFORNIA

Share your thoughts!
¡Comparte tus pensamientos!

Help plan the future of Seaside's parks, facilities and recreation programs. Recently, you were mailed a survey from the City of Seaside asking your opinions about local recreation and park needs. Please complete the print survey and return it in the reply envelope provided or use the QR code or link to take this survey online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJ75NDY>

English

Ayuda a planificar el futuro de los parques, las instalaciones y los programas recreativos de Seaside. Recientemente, la Ciudad de Seaside le envió por correo una encuesta para pedirle su opinión sobre las necesidades locales de recreación y parques. Por favor, realice la encuesta en papel y devuélvala en el sobre de respuesta provisto o use el código QR o el enlace para completar esta encuesta en línea: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/7TYQBWH>

Español

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open House

MAY 2023

Help shape the future of Seaside's parks, programs and open spaces!

The City of Seaside is preparing a citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan as a blueprint for park and open space improvements. Community input plays an important role in the planning process, and **we want to hear from you!** Drop in between 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on June 8th to share your thoughts.

Attend the informal Master Plan Open House to learn more about the plan and provide your ideas and feedback on the future of Seaside's parks, programs and open space.

Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open House

June 8, 2023; 6pm
Oldemeyer Center
986 Hilby Avenue

Visit ci.seaside.ca.us or use the QR code to view project information.

SCAN ME

For more information
Contact us at (831) 899-6821 or via email: DMeeewis@ci.seaside.ca.us
Find us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/seasiderecreation/>
Parks & Recreation Master Plan website: <https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/797/Parks-Recreation-Master-Plan>

The City has nearly 90 acres across 25 public parks that serve Seaside residents and visitors, plus the Pattullo Swim Center and Oldemeyer Center.



CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY

This chapter describes the park classification system and provides an overview of the parks and open spaces in and near Seaside.

The City of Seaside manages over 975 acres of parks and open space lands, providing active recreational facilities for team and individual sports and playground equipment at 15 parks.

Park Classifications

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The Seaside park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve the full range of community needs.

Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective, and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Several factors are considered when classifying parks:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area, or community;
- Suitability of a site for a particular use;
- Cost and effort of development;
- Possibility for public-private partnerships; and
- Operating and maintenance costs.

Each park classification defines the site's function, expected amenities, and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following seven classifications are in effect in Seaside and are defined as follows.

Regional Parks



Size

10 to 40 acres

Developed Parks

- Laguna Grande Park

Future Parks

- Fort Ord National Monument

Regional parks are recreational areas that serve residents from across Seaside and draw users from a larger geographic area. Regional parks are usually larger than 10 acres in size and provide opportunities for diverse recreational activities. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, or large picnic areas. In addition, regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features, such as significant natural areas or access to lakes or rivers. Because of their large size and broad service area, regional parks typically require more support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. These parks are usually designed to accommodate large numbers of people.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Community Parks



Size

5 to 10 acres

Developed Parks

- David Cutino Park
- Soper Field

Community parks typically range between five and ten acres and provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. Generally, these sites are designed for active and passive recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields, outdoor courts, skate parks and recreation centers. Athletic fields may be natural, synthetic turf, or a combination of surfaces, with or without field lighting. Community parks can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wider variety of facilities than neighborhood parks, such as skate parks, volleyball, tennis courts, performance stages and group picnic areas. These parks also may include significant natural areas and trails. For this reason, community parks require support facilities such as restrooms, parking lots and maintenance facilities. Community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Neighborhood Parks



Size

1 to 5 acres

Developed Parks

- Havana Soliz Park
- Lincoln Cunningham Park
- Mescal Neil Park
- Metz Park

A neighborhood park is typically one to five acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location, and opportunity. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Topography and population density can influence the location of a neighborhood park. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. These parks can offer both active and passive recreation on a limited scale, but they are used primarily for unstructured recreational activities. Amenities may include playgrounds, picnic areas, small facilities for active recreation, open lawn areas, and gathering spaces. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Mini Parks



Size

< 1 acre

Developed Parks

- Beta Park
- Capra Park
- Durant Park
- Ellis Park
- Farallones Park
- Fernando Montgomery Park
- Highland Otis Park
- Manzanita Stuart Park
- Martin Park
- Portola Leslie Park
- Sabado Park
- Trinity Park

Also called ‘pocket’ parks, mini parks are small parks that provide passive or limited active recreation opportunities and offer green space, outdoor seating areas, small playgrounds (such as a tot lot), and sometimes artwork. These parks can provide a single purpose use, such as a garden, historic marker, resting place, benches or civic recognition. They are generally less than one acre in size and provide modest recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Open Space



Size

Varies

Existing Sites

- Encanto Park
- Fort Ord National Monument
- Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park
- Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park

Open spaces are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state and typically places that are geographically or geologically unique, with passive recreation use as a secondary objective. Open spaces can provide for connected or linked corridors that can support broader ecological functions than standalone properties. Open spaces can be individual or isolated tracts of open space or connected to a larger natural area network. Open spaces may serve as trail corridors, and low-impact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation may be allowed, where appropriate.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Special Use Areas



Size

Varies

Existing Sites

- Oldemeyer Center
- Pacchetti Dog Park
- Pattullo Swim Center
- Sonoma Sports Court
- Soper Community Center
- Wheeler Tennis Courts
- Youth Education & Resource Center

Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or that fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include recreation or aquatic centers, plazas, historic sites, community gardens, botanical gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport or as an off-leash area, or other sites that offer indoor recreation opportunities.

Typical Amenities

Passive Recreation

- Seating
- Casual Use Spaces
- Community Gardens
- Internal Walking Trails
- Beach / Water Access
- Unique Landscape Features
- Natural Spaces

Active Recreation

- Biking Trails
- Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- Creative Play Attractions
- Playgrounds
- Rectangular Fields
- Diamond Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Water Play

Facilities

- Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- Group Picnic Areas
- Park Shelters
- Skateparks / Bike Skills
- Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

Facility Inventory

The City of Seaside provides and maintains a system of parks that supports a range of active and passive experiences. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within the City.

Seaside’s park system has 26 parks and over 975 acres of parkland and open space. The following table summarizes the current land inventory in Seaside. Additionally, the City owns the 360-acre Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses, which are operated by a third party. The map on the following page shows the location of existing parks and open spaces within the City.

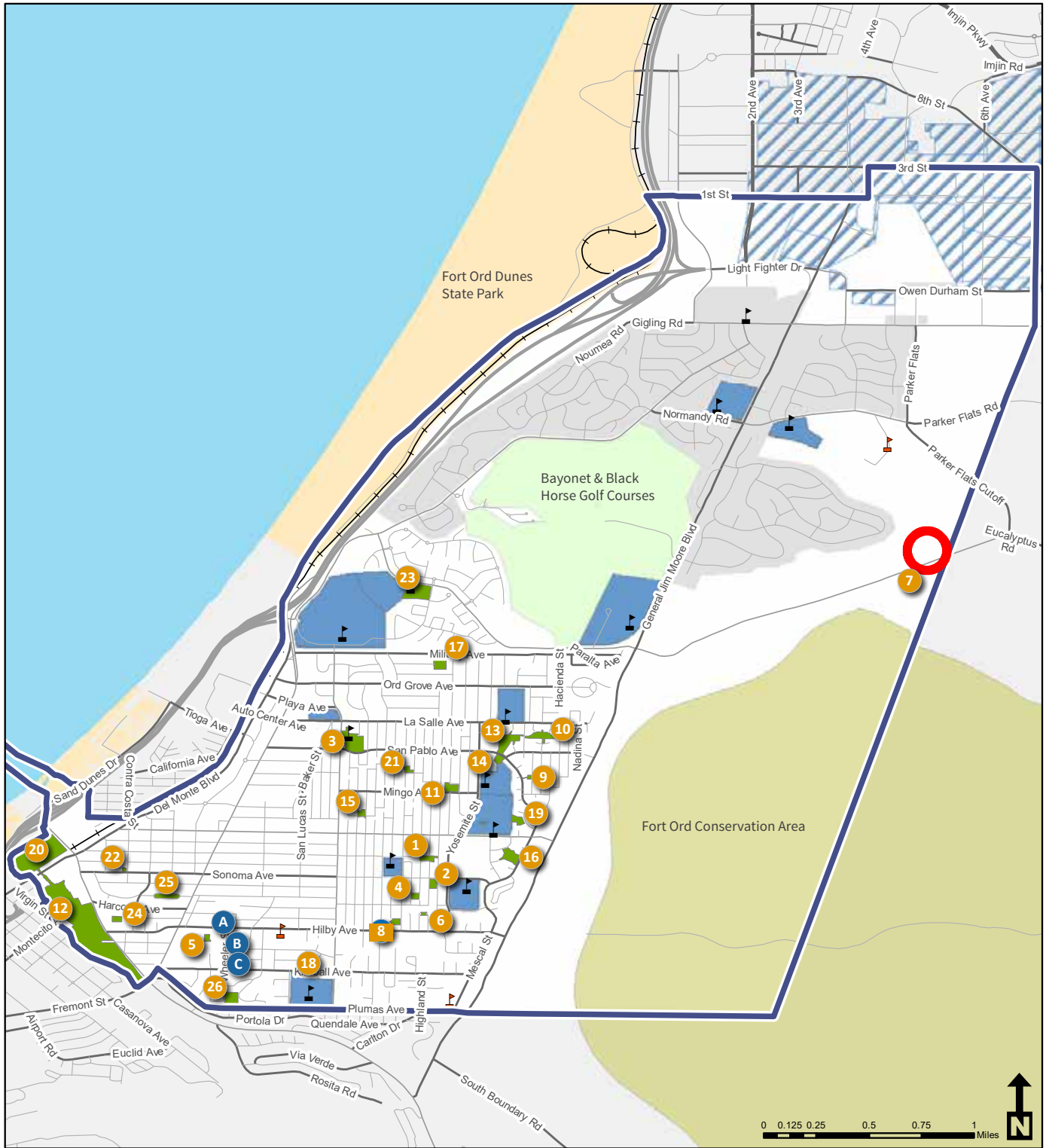
Figure 5. Existing Inventory of City Parks & Open Spaces

Park Type / Name	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	FOSPA Site	Acreage
Regional Parks				
Laguna Grande Park	Regional Park	Regional Park		10.73
Community Parks				
David Cutino Park	Community Park	Community Park		5.62
Soper Field	Community Park	Community Park		6.55
Neighborhood Parks				
Havana Soliz Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Y	2.58
Lincoln Cunningham Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Y	2.86
Mescal Neil Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Y	2.22
Metz Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park		2.10
Mini Parks				
Beta Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	1.13
Capra Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	0.81
Durant Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	0.48
Ellis Park	Mini Park	Mini Park		0.40
Farallones Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	0.82
Fernando Montgomery Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	0.13
Highland Otis Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	1.17
Manzanita Stuart Park	Mini Park	Mini Park		0.77
Martin Park	Mini Park	Mini Park	Y	0.58
Portola Leslie Park	Mini Park	Mini Park		1.11
Sabado Park	Mini Park	Mini Park		0.42
Trinity Park	Mini Park	Mini Park		0.83
Special Use Parks				
Oldemeyer Center	Special Use Area	Special Use Area		2.41
Pacchetti Dog Park	Neighborhood Park	Special Use Area	Y	1.69
Pattullo Swim Center	Special Use Area	Special Use Area		1.98
Sonoma Sports Court	-	Special Use Area		0.29
Soper Community Center	Special Use Area	Special Use Area		-
Wheeler Tennis Courts	Special Use Area	Special Use Area		1.63
Youth Resource Center	Special Use Area	Special Use Area		1.13
Open Space				
Encanto Park	Mini Park	Open Space		0.19
Fort Ord National Monument	Regional	Open Space		918.7
Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park	Regional Park	Open Space		5.67
Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park	Mini Park	Open Space		0.25

Total City-Owned Park Acres

975.2

Map 1. Existing Parks & Open Spaces



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
| 4 Durant Park | 13 Lincoln Cunningham Park | 22 Sonoma Sports Court |
| 5 Ellis Park | 14 Manzanita Stuart Park | 23 Soper Field |
| 6 Encanto Park | 15 Martin Park | 24 Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park |
| 7 Eucalyptus Road Trail Access | 16 Mescal Neil Park | 25 Trinity Park |
| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |

- A Oldemeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

City Limits	School District Property	Major Arterial
City Parks	University / College Property	Minor Arterial
Golf Course	Fort Ord Conservation Area	Local Street
Public School	CA State Parks & Recreation	Railroad
Private School	Freeway	Military Zoning
		Water

City Recreational Facilities

In addition to park sites, the City of Seaside owns a variety of recreation facilities, including multiple recreation centers and the Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses. These facilities are utilized for recreation programs and community activities and can be reserved for group gatherings and events.

Oldemeyer Center

This site is located at the corner of Hilby Avenue and Wheeler Street. This multi-purpose community center serves as a core hub for youth and senior recreation programs and includes a variety of meeting rooms, large hall, dance studio, daycare space, kitchen, administration offices and parking.

Pattullo Swim Center

The Pattullo Swim Center is located at 1148 Wheeler Street and across the street from the Oldemeyer Center. Facilities include a 6-lane x 25-yard swim pool, a warm water pool (40' x 20'), locker rooms, a patio area and parking.

B.J. Dolan Youth Education & Resource Center

The Youth Center is located adjacent to the Pattullo Swim Center at 1136 Wheeler Street. Facilities include a game room, meeting space, computer room, and an office. Outside, a small miniature golf course and parking lot exist.

Community Center at Soper Field

Located at 220 Coe Avenue adjacent to Soper Field, the Community Center offers a reservable meeting room and provides indoor space for recreation programs and classes.

Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses

The City owns the two, 18-hole, par-72 Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses totaling nearly 360 acres. The award-winning facilities are managed and operated via a contract with Troon Golf. The sites offer tournaments, clinics and club matches, as well as lessons and banquet facilities. A Grand Hyatt Resort Hotel is being planned for a portion of the site and will include 330 guest rooms, a conference center with meeting rooms, restaurants, lobby bar, service kitchen, administrative offices, food and beverage, spa and fitness center, and service circulation areas.





Other Recreational Lands

School Grounds

Seaside is served by the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD). There are seven public MPUSD schools in Seaside, and the City partners with the District to use their athletic facilities. Most elementary schools have outdoor playground equipment, small grass or dirt play fields, basketball hoops, and markings for playground games, such as hopscotch. These amenities are similar to those offered by a neighborhood park. Middle and high schools have the same kind of programmed sport fields common in community parks.

Federally-owned Lands

The federal government owns and manages several hundred thousand acres of land in Monterey County, including Fort Ord National Monument, Los Padres National Forest, Pinnacles National Monument, the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge and a broad array of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the 14,658-acre Fort Ord National Monument was created in 2012 from the former US Army training and deployment center. With more than 86 miles of trails for hiking biking or horseback riding, the land provides extensive opportunities for outdoor day-use experiences.

California State Parks

The California State Parks (CSP) owns and operates 20 park units in Monterey County, totaling 17,567 acres. Most of these units are on or near the coast, with Marina State Beach as the closest to Seaside. These state parks and reserves include Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Fremont Peak State Park, Garrapata State Park, Monterey State Historic Park, Moss Landing State Wildlife Area, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Monterey County Parks

Toro Regional Park is located 17 miles from downtown Seaside along Highway 68. Park facilities include an equestrian staging area and riding trails, softball fields, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, mountain biking trails and more than 20 miles of hiking trails. Laguna Seca Recreation Area (also located along Highway 68) approximately 13 miles from Seaside has camping for tents and RVs on 177 sites. The recreation area has a rifle and pistol range and Hospitality Pavilion available for rental use. Laguna Seca Recreation Area is also the site of the WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca and Sea Otter Classic Sports Festival. Jacks' Peak Park borders the City of Monterey and is 15 miles from Seaside. The park provides 8.5 miles of hiking trails and is home to one of three natural stands of Monterey Pine forests remaining in the United States.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a federally protected marine area off the coast, approximately 25 miles from Salinas. Its designated shoreline area spans 276 miles from Marin to Cambria. The sanctuary is popular for paddling, boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, birding and other ocean-oriented recreational activities.

California State University Monterey Bay

Transformed from part of Fort Ord, a former military base, CSUMB hosts events at its World Theater and through its athletic sports programs, as well as lectures, conferences, walking and learning opportunities on campus.

Monterey Bay Coastal Trail

The Monterey Bay Coastal Trail is 29 miles long and winds through the Monterey County communities of Seaside, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Sand City and Marina. The trail is used by both joggers, skaters, walkers and cyclists.

5



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

This chapter describes community feedback, trends, local needs, and potential improvements for the City's parks and open space.

The park system planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas and open space in Seaside. The park assessment includes a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader park system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions also were heavily relied upon in the planning process. This chapter describes community feedback, trends, local needs, and potential improvements for the City's parks and facilities.

Park & Recreation Trends

A review of several recognized park and recreation resources provide an overview of current trends, market demands, and agency comparisons. These outdoor recreation trends, combined with community interests in parks, trails, and open space and an assessment of current conditions and levels of service, help identify and shape recommendations for park system improvements. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

“Poner sombras en los parks xq con el calor tan fuerte que hace en verano todo está súper caliente, agregar canchas de basquetbol. (Put shades in the parks because with the heat so strong that everything is super hot in summer, add basketball courts.)”

- Survey respondent



The following national data highlights some of the current park usage trends and may frame future considerations for Seaside’s park system. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix G.

- 90% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local governments. ⁽¹⁾
- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by hiking, fishing, biking, and camping. ⁽²⁾
- The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, snowshoeing, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon. ⁽²⁾
- A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and is rising. ⁽²⁾
- Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. ⁽³⁾
- Nationally, outdoor recreation economic activity increased 19% from 2020 to 2022, while the overall U.S. economy only saw a 5.9% increase. ⁽⁴⁾

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, in 2022, for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. In terms of team sports, the overall participation rate approached, but did not exceed, the 2019 rate. Basketball, outdoor soccer, and flag football all posted three-year increases of over 4.5%, with basketball leading the way with a 13% increase since 2019. Lifestyle activities generally remained very popular. Golf and tennis have grown more than 20% since 2019, and yoga grew more than 10% in that same time period. Trail running and day hiking participation grew for the fifth straight year.

Sources:

- (1) 2022 American Engagement with Parks Report, National Recreation and Park Association
- (2) 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation
- (3) 2023 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report, Sports and Fitness Industry Association
- (4) 2022 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account data, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

95%

of survey respondents feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Seaside.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (U.S. Department of Commerce) reports on the outdoor recreation economy for the entire country and for each state through its Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA). The 2021 California ORSA reports the value added (gross domestic product) of \$54.7 billion or 1.6% share of state GPD for outdoor recreation activities. Employment in the industry supported 517,238 jobs (2.9% of jobs in state) with compensation of \$28.3 billion.

In 2021, California ranked 1st among all states in ORSA value added and 8th among all states in ORSA value-added growth. Since 2020, ORSA value added has grown 27.8% in California. In 2021, California ranked 1st among all states in outdoor recreation employment, which has grown 13.1% since 2020.

- U.S. Department of Commerce

According to 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 2.3% in 2022 to a record 168.1 million Americans (55%) ages 6 and older. Key Insights include the following:

- **Diversity:** The recreational participant base is much more diverse than ever before. New and young outdoor participants are significantly more diverse than the current outdoor base and are accelerating quickly. The participation rate for Hispanic people has increased from 34% in 2015 to 56% in 2022.
- **Seniors:** A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and rising. This equates to 1 in every 5 outdoor participants and a total of 1 million new participants in 2022.
- **Gateway Activities:** Gateway activities, one of the first outdoor recreation activities people participate in at any age, serve as magnets to outdoor activity and commonly lead to more activity in niche categories like backpacking and adventure racing. Gateway activities continue to drive new entrant outings and frequency of participation. Hiking is the most popular activity. Running, bicycling, fishing and camping round out the top five. Running has the highest average outings per runner at 1.54 per year. Camping has the highest growth rate over the past three years at 29.1% per year. The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, snowshoeing, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon.

Demographics are changing quickly in the U.S. population, and the outdoor recreation market has lagged behind. Park and recreation agencies

are recognizing the need for increased diversity in the participant base of park and recreation users. The new and young outdoor participant bases are significantly more diverse than the total participant base, a formula for long-term growth in diversity for outdoor recreation. Monitoring progress on diversity is key to understanding if outreach is being effective.

The 2021-2025 California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recognizes that public health, including environmental and social wellness, is fundamental to the mission and purpose of park and recreation providers. The Plan states *"Parks are unique places where children can play, people exercise, seniors socialize, families and friends bond, youth are mentored, cultures are celebrated, and where everyone connects with nature. For these basic reasons, the nexus is clear between parks, recreation programs, and health."*

Community Feedback

Community Survey Results

The community survey confirmed that Seaside residents strongly value their local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities. Virtually all survey respondents (95%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Seaside. Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups.

Trends in Playgrounds

Seaside residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects, and educators.

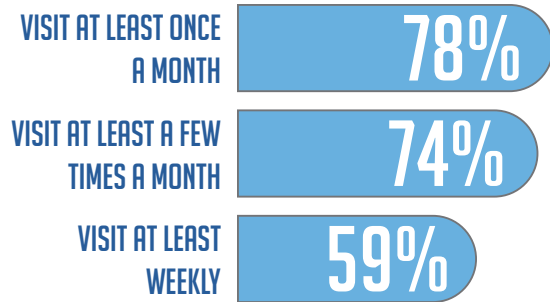
1. **Inclusive Playgrounds**, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
2. **Rope-based Playgrounds**, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
3. **Outdoor Fitness** has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
4. **Outdoor Learning** has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
5. **Human-powered Play** engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, storytelling, or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.



Respondents were asked how often they visit a City park or open space in a typical year. Over half of respondents (59%) visit at least once a week, if not every day. Another 20% visit one to three times per month. Survey respondents showed a high use of parks regardless of age and location of residence. Respondents without children at home were more likely to visit infrequently or not at all, while those with children were more likely to visit at least once per week.

Figure 6. Frequency of Visitation



Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reasons are to walk or run (69%) or for fitness and exercise (52%). More than one in three

Figure 7. Main Reasons for Visiting City Parks & Facilities

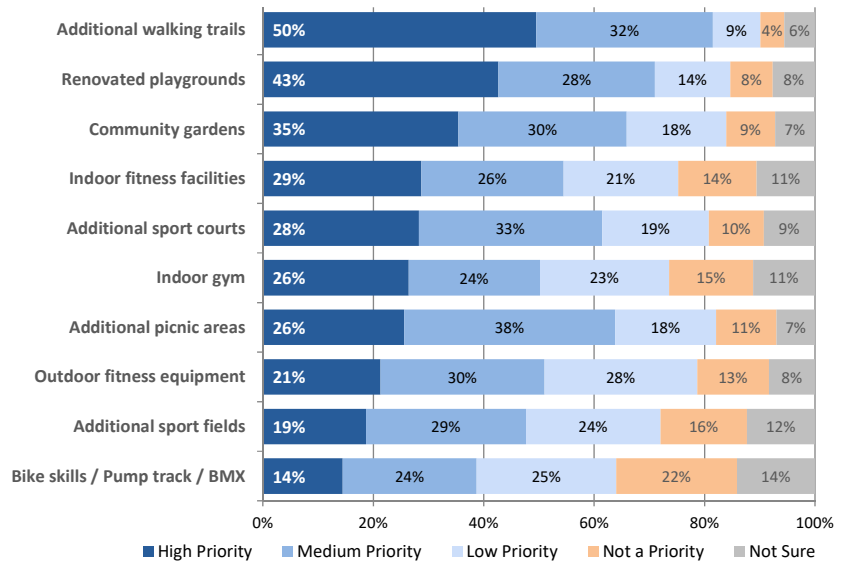


respondents visit to relax (47%), attend community events or concerts (41%), use a playground (36%), or walk a dog (35%). Between 20% and 30% of respondents visit for family gatherings, wildlife viewing, or swimming. Fewer than one in five respondents chose outdoor sports courts, youth sports, recreation programs, sports fields, bike parks, adult sports, or the skate park as a primary reason why they visit local parks, see Figure 7.

Over half of respondents rate the condition of parks they have visited as excellent or good, and concerns about park upkeep and maintenance seem to be concentrated in a small number of parks. Survey respondents would like to see the City prioritize the improving and upgrading existing parks, and adding new recreational amenities to existing parks in the future.

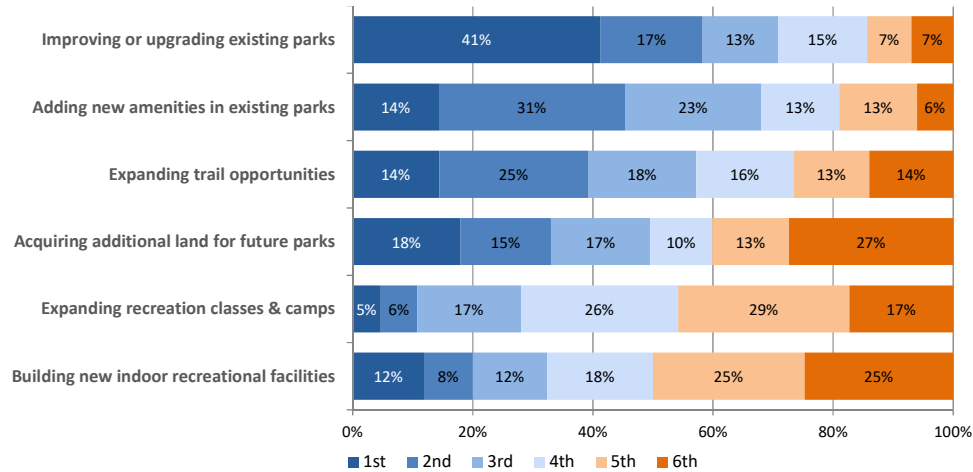
The survey asked residents about their priority for a variety of potential additions to the park system. A significant majority of respondents rated additional walking trails (82%) and renovated playgrounds (71%) as a high or medium priority, see Figure 8. More than half of residents rated most other amenities as a high or medium priority, including community gardens (66%), additional picnic areas (64%), sports courts (61%), indoor fitness facilities (54%), outdoor fitness equipment (51%), and an indoor gym (50%).

Figure 8. Priorities Park & Recreation Amenities



Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential park system investments. In aggregated survey data, respondents identified improving and upgrading existing parks as their top priority, followed by adding new recreational amenities to existing parks, see Figure 9.

Figure 9. Priorities for Future Citywide Park Improvements



The survey also provided for open-ended comments with responses focusing on:

- Park Maintenance & Improvements:** Many comments focus on the need to maintain and improve the existing parks and facilities. This includes upgrading playground equipment, fixing pathways and trails, adding restrooms, providing regular cleaning, ensuring safety from homeless encampments, and overall beautifying the parks.
- Recreation & Facilities:** Respondents suggest adding various recreational activities, programs, and facilities to cater to different age groups and recreational interests, including educational programs, community and cultural events, age-specific programs, and environmental initiatives.
- Equitable Access:** Respondents would like to see equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities across different neighborhoods. Respondents call for creating new parks in underserved areas, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and involving community organizations in park maintenance and enhancement efforts.



Please add a park in the lower, most densely populated area of seaside where many families need to be able to walk to access these critical community spaces.”

- Survey respondent



Construir mas canchas de tenis en Seaside; no hay muchas y las que estan siempre ocupadas (Build more tennis courts in Seaside; there are not many and those that are always busy.)”

- Survey respondent

Stakeholder Discussions

A series of stakeholder discussions were conducted to discern current issues, opportunities, and needs across the City's park and recreation system. Group discussions specialized in aquatics, sports, and both local and non-profit partners.

Sport stakeholders included representatives from the Boys & Girls Club, pickleball advocates and the Monterey Surf Soccer Club. Pickleball players are looking for more courts, and dedicated pickleball courts are in demand. Lighting and support facilities (restrooms or portable toilets) at Wheeler were also mentioned with permanent conversion of at least two of the tennis courts to pickleball. The City's recreation programming could consider youth pickleball instruction. Programs offering soccer continue to put pressure on shared uses at Cutino Park's multi-use field. Monterey Surf Soccer Club is hoping the City does not start its own youth soccer program that might preempt the availability of Cutino for their programs. All sports group representatives were advocating for more available facilities in playable condition.

Partner organizations including members of FOSPA, the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, Blue Zone Project, Village Project, Palenke Arts, Community Partnership for Youth, Boys & Girls Club, and Building Healthy Communities contributed their ideas, concerns, future needs, and improvements for the City's park and recreation system. Among the future needs and improvements suggested by these stakeholders included:

- Increased connectivity to parks and schools; more trails; create connector alleyways
- Larger gathering spaces for community events; multi-use/multi-purpose spaces with shade and seating
- Future state of the art arts center
- Better access to restrooms
- New parks in areas without park and recreation access
- Upgraded playgrounds
- Improved conditions in neglected parks
- Exercises stations in a circuit linking multiple parks
- More supportive capacity building to enable FOSPA to achieve more park support
- Parks that are supportive of all ages and abilities and for the whole family
- Recreation amenities miss the late teen years if not engaged in team sports; expand teen center

The various partnering groups also suggested that the City help coordinate their resources with communication across all groups.

Public Meetings

The City of Seaside hosted two, in-person open house sessions to gather community feedback and identify gaps or deficiencies in the park system. Across a range of potential investments, open house participants ranked additional walking trails as the highest priority. In addition to more pedestrian and biking connections, through the various display boards, comment cards and 'dot exercises', common public needs were identified for more art in the parks, more (and dedicated) pickleball courts, picnic shelters to support more gatherings, and additional park spaces in areas without access to outdoor recreation in their neighborhood. Improving existing parks that have lost their recreation amenities over the years and creating more native plantings were also noted in numerous comments requesting reinvestment in older parks.

The second open house conducted in November involved a presentation and informational displays to highlight the responses to date from community engagement and potential ideas for enhancements or improvements to the Seaside park and recreation system. A short question and answer period occurred following a brief PowerPoint presentation. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Seaside. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

The second open house focused more directly on prioritizing future needs. Dedicated bike routes, walking pathways, city walking tours and connections to FORTAG routes were cited as future trail needs. Better universal accessibility to parks and playgrounds with provision of park spaces in underserved neighborhoods was again cited as a strong need for creating a more equitable park system. Participants repeated many of the recreational amenities cited in the first open house such as pickleball, soccer, more restrooms, picnic shelters, native trees, pollinator gardens, and fitness/exercise stations. Additionally, public feedback targeted multi-use sports courts, maps for biking and walking routes, developing alley



Fix and maintain the existing parks, adding more playground equipment.”

- Survey respondent



Invertir en los parques existentes, y mejorarlos. (Invest in existing parks, and improve them.)”

- Survey respondent

connections, adding water play (splash pad/spray park), and potential roller skating area. Participants also suggested repairing and upgrading existing paved pathways in parks, adding more shade trees and ensuring that ADA accessibility was always considered in new improvements.

Common Themes from Community Outreach

Filling the gaps in park and outdoor recreation locations by providing some form of park amenities, as well as using all parks to fill gaps in native habitat, was emphasized by numerous open house participants and stakeholders. Additional amenities suggested included.

- Pickleball courts
- Basketball courts
- Multi-use sport courts
- Soccer fields
- Fitness circuit / exercise stations
- Splash pad / water play
- Accessible (ADA) playground
- Public art in parks
- Pump track
- Disc golf



Expand access to Fort Ord lands for hiking and outdoor recreation.”

- Survey respondent



Park Conditions Assessment

The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan that ensures the safety of park users, aligns with community needs, and allocates limited funding resources properly. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Amenities can include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields, and other recreational assets. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines can also provide a measure of acceptable condition.

The current conditions of the Seaside park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. The assessments occurred in May 2023 and included visual observations of site conditions, general park infrastructure, and amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix (Figure 10) summarizes the results of these assessments. For each park, an inventory of amenities was summarized and considerations for park maintenance were suggested. In some parks, the landscape architect noted potential design opportunities were noted for park enhancements and/or improvements. These specific recommendations are included in the individual park facility site descriptions. These assessments informed the development of a project prioritization strategy for park improvements.

The matrix on the following page indicates the types of amenities within each park facility, and park infrastructure and amenities are rated based on the following scale:

1 – Good Condition: Generally, amenities in ‘good’ condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park but may have minor cosmetic defects.

2 – Fair: In general, amenities in ‘fair’ condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.

3 – Poor: In general, amenities in ‘poor’ condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities may present safety issues if left open or operational and discourage residents from using the park.

Good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as ‘fair,’ strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as ‘poor’ should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in poor condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe. In general, Seaside’s parks present a wide range of conditions from attractive new park facilities to aged and ineffective park sites. Some improvements in providing universal access, removing architectural barriers, and ensuring compliance with ADA guidelines should be considered, as upgrades and capital repairs are scheduled in older parks and facilities.

Detailed information for each park site and enhancement recommendations are noted in Appendix E for the parks visited.

Highlights from park conditions observations follow the conditions matrix and include suggestions for improvements that also informed the preparation of the Capital Improvements Plan.

Park & Facility Condition Assessment

RATING SCALE

Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site.
2	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).

Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to ¼", surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than ½" wide, surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.

Signage:

1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
3	In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
3	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized.

Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Etc.):

1	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink).

Park Trees:

1	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
2	In fair condition; some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition; Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health; some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

ADA Compliance:

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.

Sport Fields:

1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes.
2	In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.
3	In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year, uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.

Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even; proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

Turf:

1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.

Site Furnishings:

1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chipped paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.

Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles.

Natural Areas:

1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants.
2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy.
3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.

Amphitheater/Stage:

1	In good condition: paving, stage and stair materials have little to no cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear; views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

Landscaped Beds:

1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation.
2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy.
3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.



Park Conditions Summary

Park Access & ADA Accessibility

A significant portion of Seaside’s parks were built prior to adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, the ADAAG Outdoor Recreation guidelines, and the recommendations from the 2014 US Access Board’s report on Outdoor Developed Areas. The highest priority for these ADA/ADAAG outdoor recreation guidelines targets the provision of reasonable access to the developed outdoor area. The conditions assessment site visits documented a number of barriers to access both into parks and to park amenities. While all new parks must comply with these federal regulations, older parks with non-compliant features are expected to be upgraded as any future improvements are planned and implemented.

For example, the chained entry location at Beta Park (end of Luzern) creates a barrier to pedestrian and bicycle access into the park’s paved pathways. A number of side entries to the park did not have curb cuts to provide reasonable access to the park.

Within developed park areas, the access to all amenities was not comprehensive. Many benches and picnic tables were not along accessible routes (paved pathways). Also, older pavement in the parks up on the hill has been deteriorating and would not likely meet ADA guidelines. In areas where asphalt or concrete pavement meet with wood decking for bridges, boardwalks and observation platforms, there were often gaps or grade changes that exceeded allowed measurements for ADA compliance.

Park Pathways, Pavements & Trails

As mentioned under above, a number of older parks had deteriorating paved pathways. While many of those parks also lack much, if any, recreational amenities, the park spaces still should be managed and maintained as public places for walking. The paths at Laguna Grande Park are subject to root upheaval that can create tripping hazards. A pavement management program, often used for roads and parking lots, should also be integrated into managing paved trails across the park system. Laguna Grande Park also had a number of access barriers where asphalt pavement met the decking of boardwalks, bridges and observation platforms.

Playgrounds

Where newer play equipment has been installed, playgrounds provided safe and valuable recreational value. Not all play areas were fully ADA-accessible due to drop-offs from pavement into play safety surfacing. Ramps or other adjustments should be added to provide full access. A number of the older neighborhood parks contained only a swing set or no provision for children’s’ play. These parks should be given higher priority for improvements to create a more equitable distribution of outdoor recreation amenities in the City.



Pacchetti Dog Park



Sonoma Sports Court

Park Structures

Kiosks can provide news and pertinent communications for park users, such as the kiosk at Pacchetti Dog Park. The kiosk at Roberts Eco-Rec Lake was empty during the site assessments. In situations where kiosks are no longer maintained, the City may want to consider removing them, since empty structures can communicate a lack of care and are more subject to vandalism and graffiti.

The restrooms at Laguna Grande were observed to need more frequent restocking of toilet paper (women's side) and trash clean-up.

Sports Courts & Fields

The Wheeler Tennis Courts will need resurfacing in the near term to continue to provide playable courts. There is additional space at this site that might be adaptable for providing another type of active (or passive) recreation activity, such as lawn bowling, bocce or half-court sport court.

The Sonoma Sports Court offers basketball and a form of deck hockey or similar activity. The pavement is beginning to show some cracking and, while currently still playable, it should be planned for future resurfacing. Ellis Park has a new multi-purpose sport court and is in excellent condition.

Park Landscapes

Former grass areas in parks where lawn irrigation had to be discontinued have transitioned to vacant or weedy spaces that appear neglected and unappreciated. As each older park is reconfigured through a master planning process, the City

should consider what landscape approach could replace those open areas to provide some other 'greenspace' value, while also adding outdoor recreational amenities.

Park trees provide essential habitat for birds and other wildlife and help create the natural setting of parks and open spaces. Expanding the tree canopy in Seaside's park system could help relieve the bare landscape appearances, especially in parks where grass lawn irrigation is no longer permitted.

Pollinator gardens have provided a rich and colorful settings within the parks where Sustainable Seaside, and later the Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA), worked to create and maintain these specialized gardens. Bee City status could be celebrated more openly within the park system and by the City in promotions for their parks. On their own, pollinator gardens provide a destination for many types of parks users. On one of the park assessment visits, an entire class of school children walked from the nearby school to "study" the pollinator garden in Beta Park. The excited children were armed with bug cages, magnifying lens, and butterfly nets ready to engage in nature.

Site Furnishings

Site furnishings throughout the park system were a diverse mix of old and new with only limited furnishings meeting the guidelines for ADA-compliance. Benches ranged from newer ADA-compliant styles to older wooden benches sinking slowly into the sandy soil. Benches and picnic tables that were located in open grass areas did not have accessible routes and should be considered when assessing ADA compliance

for outdoor developed areas, since site furnishing should have proportional access (typically 50% should be completely ADA accessible).

Bike racks, dog waste (Mutt Mitt) bag dispensers, trash and recycling receptacles should all be located within reach of an accessible route, usually along a paved pathway. Most of these site furnishings, but not all, were within reasonable reach.

Park Signage

New park signs were observed in all parks but often only one sign was provided. Many Seaside parks have multiple points of entry. The City should identify with signage all of the side entries into parks with park names, City branding, and park rules.

Interpretive signs were present in a few parks. The progress of the pollinator gardens installed by FOSPA may warrant the installation of additional interpretive signage about nature subject, such as the value of native plants, the role of pollinators, drought-tolerance/water conservation, bird habitats, among others. Beta Park, Capra Park and other parks with pollinator gardens could provide such a range of environmental information.

Park Design & Development

Renewed Park Development

The recently prepared site master plans for Lincoln Cunningham and Havana Soliz Parks present an optimistic future for the renovation of these two sites. These build upon other recent park improvements across the City that include Cutino Park, Ellis Park, and Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park.

Also, an improvement plan for the lower slope of Capra Park was engineered in 2020. The design improves accessibility and adds more picnicking amenities and a tot lot play area. The upper slopes were not incorporated into the proposed improvements. A more comprehensive look at the park could help coordinate Capra Park's outdoor recreation (both passive and active) options for the neighborhood. A master plan for integrating future development is recommended. The existing slope could provide unique play opportunities integrated into the changing grades. The upper area contains an oversized play space with only a swing set that should be upgraded to incorporate more climbing,

sliding, and swing apparatus. The potential for a paved pathway moving through the perimeter of the lawn area and connecting more park features should also be considered. The planned backless benches do not comply with the Department of Justice 2010 Standards for an ADA built-in element and should be exchanged for benches with back supports.

Other Enhancements & Site Master Planing

As the park system has aged, a number of older features have been removed in several parks. The footings, concrete pads, asphalt pavement, and foundations of past amenities are visible evidence of a once-robust recreational offering. With water restrictions and an inability to use irrigation to support and supplement typical green lawn approaches, the City needs to look more actively at native landscaping concurrent with restocking these older parks with recreational amenities. Highlights of the parks where additional site master plan would help inform future improvements include the following.

Fernando Montgomery Park contains no outdoor recreation amenities and provides a few paved pathways (aging asphalt) and one bench. Its vacant spaces are visual evidence of former park offerings. A revitalized and upgraded park space in this neighborhood could provide outdoor amenities as a place of respite, while also providing a connection between Fernando and Mescal Streets. Smooth paved pathways, an ADA-compliant picnic table, a challenging play area for school-aged children passing through the park could activate the space, while allowing for quiet visits in a greenspace. Retaining the existing trees and adding more shade trees would enhance the overall natural value and sense of place.

Manzanita Stuart Park has views of the Bay that could be better capitalized on. When the pedestrian overpass (connecting to Lincoln Cunningham Park) is replaced, additional upgrades should be considered for this older park. Future park amenities should be coordinated with the planned improvements for Lincoln Cunningham and Havana Soliz Parks to create visual continuity and avoid duplicating outdoor recreation options. Different types of play options could be considered when the older play equipment needs to be replaced. Also, the park needs new pathway surfacing, bench replacements, and additional shade trees. A central gazebo or small pavilion could add a defining gathering spot.

Mescal Neil Park has an extensive pathway system leading to no remaining points of interest. A single swing set stands alone (without ADA access). This park has considerable slope and aspect that could be used to take advantage of the distant view and the opportunity for play features like a set of slides built into the sections of the hillside. The existing swing set area could be converted to a small skate spot, offering a different type of play, not available in other city parks. The hilltop could support a small pergola or pavilion for gathering and enjoying the views to the ocean. The extensive existing paved pathways, once repaired, could connect a series of exercise stations providing a healthy challenge for older children and adults to be active. More shade trees and retaining the existing trees would be key to enhancing this older park.

Metz Park has room for additional recreation amenities within its vacant spaces. A full master plan may not be warranted, but an exploration of local neighborhood interests could help determine the most appropriate improvements. There is room for an upgraded and expanded picnic area with an ADA accessible route to some of the tables. Two significant 'empty' spaces, between Military Avenue and the ballfield and in the southeast corner beyond the basketball courts, are potential targets for additional amenities. Depending on neighborhood interests and park system needs, these improvements could include pickleball courts, a ParCour challenge course, off-leash dog area, bocce courts, climbing walls, slack line course, or a more traditional playground with apparatus for all ages.

Portola Leslie Park lacks any recreational amenities beyond a paved pathway, a few tables, and a bench. It is adjacent to considerable play and sports facilities that are part of the school campus, but these schoolyard features are not available to the general public. Targeting play options for preschool children and providing areas of respite with a small shelter, benches, picnic tables and a paved loop pathway that connects all future improvements would greatly enhance the value of this park space beyond being a connection between the school campus and Marietta Street. More shade trees should be added to complement the path network and define the seating areas. A complete redesign of the upper terrace area (along Marietta Street) could offer a better setting for some more public art and, perhaps, a scenic overlook. Using the gradient on the site, a small amphitheater-like outdoor classroom could be created with a pollinator garden enhancing the setting.

Sabado Park has remnant former footings and foundations from its former park layout. A site master plan is recommended to guide upgrades and renovations. At a minimum, the existing play space with one small swing set could be enlarged and expanded to provide more play equipment that offers sliding and climbing experiences. Picnic tables with grills could be added to the north paved area. If the remnant structures were removed, there would be additional room for a small sports spot and/or small pavilion. More shade trees and some ADA-compliant benches would enhance the overall park character.

Views to the Bay

A number of the parks uphill from the downtown area have views to the Bay and Pacific Ocean. As these parks are re-designed through master planning processes to improve outdoor recreation value, the views to the ocean should be recognized and integrated into layout and positioning of park pathways and site furnishings. A few of the parks where views add potential scenic value to the outdoor experience include Mescal Neil Park, Manzanita Stuart and Martin Park.

Park System Adjustments

Encanto Park is an undeveloped parkland situated on a steep sandy slope. Wedged between residential properties with no reasonable developable space, this parkland functions as a vacant lot creating a hole in the neighborhood. The City could consider surplusing the land by selling a portion to each of the adjoining property owners.

Stephen E Ross Memorial Park is an open grass area where modular office buildings have been added. The park acreage should be reduced to reflect the actual open space. The park space could be designed to provide a more park-like setting or the park acreage could be subtracted from the system acreage.

Additional recommendations are noted in Appendix E (Site Assessment Summaries) and reflected in the Parks Capital Improvements Plan in Chapter 9.



Create a new park in the central area of Seaside that has ZERO parks within a 1/2 mile. Make park access equitable.."

- Survey respondent

Park Distribution & Gap Analysis

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have equitable access to a balanced distribution of parks, trails, and recreation amenities to stay healthy and active.

To better understand the distribution of existing recreation amenities and where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the community's current access to various recreation opportunities across the City.

The gap analysis used travelsheds for each park classification and calculated travel distances along the road network starting from known and accessible entry points at each park:

- For pocket/mini parks, travelsheds were derived using a ¼-mile service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible park entries.
- For neighborhood parks, travelsheds were derived using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible park entries.
- For community parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, and 1-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.
- For regional parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, and 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these parks also serve a wider array of users.

Composite maps of all of the park classifications illustrate the entirety of City parks to the ½-mile and 1-mile travelsheds.

Maps 2 through 7 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable distance of their home (e.g., ½-mile). The illustrated 'travelshed' for each existing Seaside park highlights that certain areas within the City do not have the desired proximity to a local park. Gaps between these service areas constitute "unserved" neighborhoods.

Striving to provide access to a park within a reasonable distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require

acquiring new park properties in currently underserved locations or improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park.

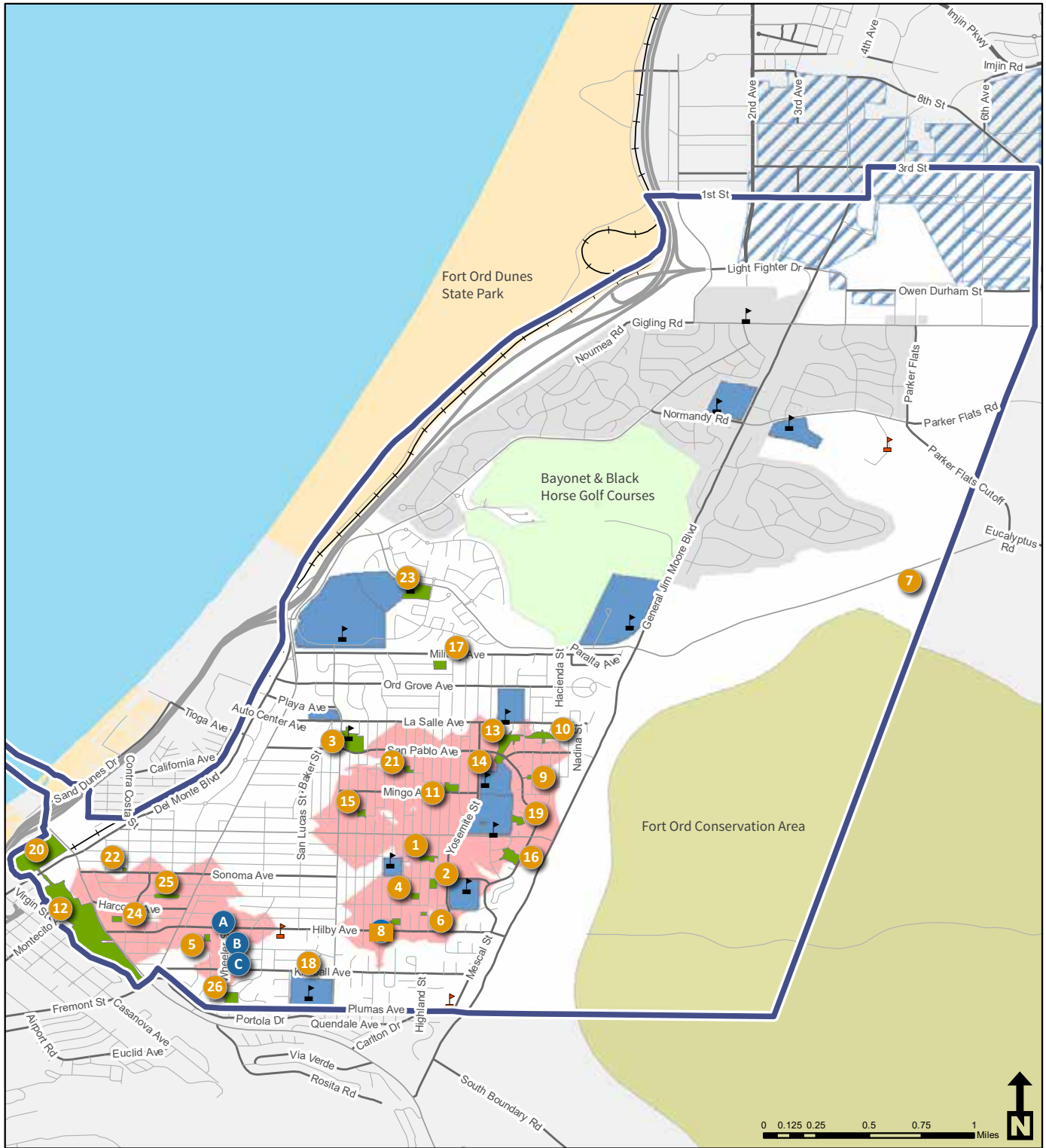
Areas of west-central Seaside have limited access to public parks or open space as indicated by white areas on Map 16. Many residents in the Terrace West, Terrace East, and Olympia neighborhoods are more than a ½-mile walk from a park. These neighborhoods have some of the highest population densities, greatest number of children, and largest Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations. More neighborhood and community parks are needed to ensure communities are being served with appropriate park spaces, and these areas of the City should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable access for all residents (see Map 16):

- Area A: near Broadway & San Lucas
- Area B: near Palm & Hillsdale
- Area C: near Broadway/Elm & Fremont
- Area D: near Sonoma & San Lucas
- Area E: Ft Ord east of Sonoma Ave
- Area F: Ft Ord east of Ord Grove
- Area G: Ft Ord & Eucalyptus
- Area H: Campustown, near 5th Ave
- Area I: Campustown, near 7th Ave
- Area J: 2nd Ave near CSUMB
- Area K: Ft Ord east of Kimball:

While these generalized acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. The City also should consider interim solutions to provide recreational spaces for these neighborhoods to include plazas, parklets, linear parks along alleys, and temporary/periodic pop-up parks. Improving access to parks and open spaces by adding new green spaces, re-programming unused spaces for public use, and improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing parks and open spaces can make it easier for Seaside residents to utilize public spaces, especially in these neighborhoods that include a higher percentage of multi-family, lower income and/or Latino households whose views may not be sufficiently represented in the survey data for this Plan.

Additionally, the Seaside 2040 General Plan depicts a proposed regional park in the southeastern portion of the City with two proposed community parks located in the northeast and southeast.

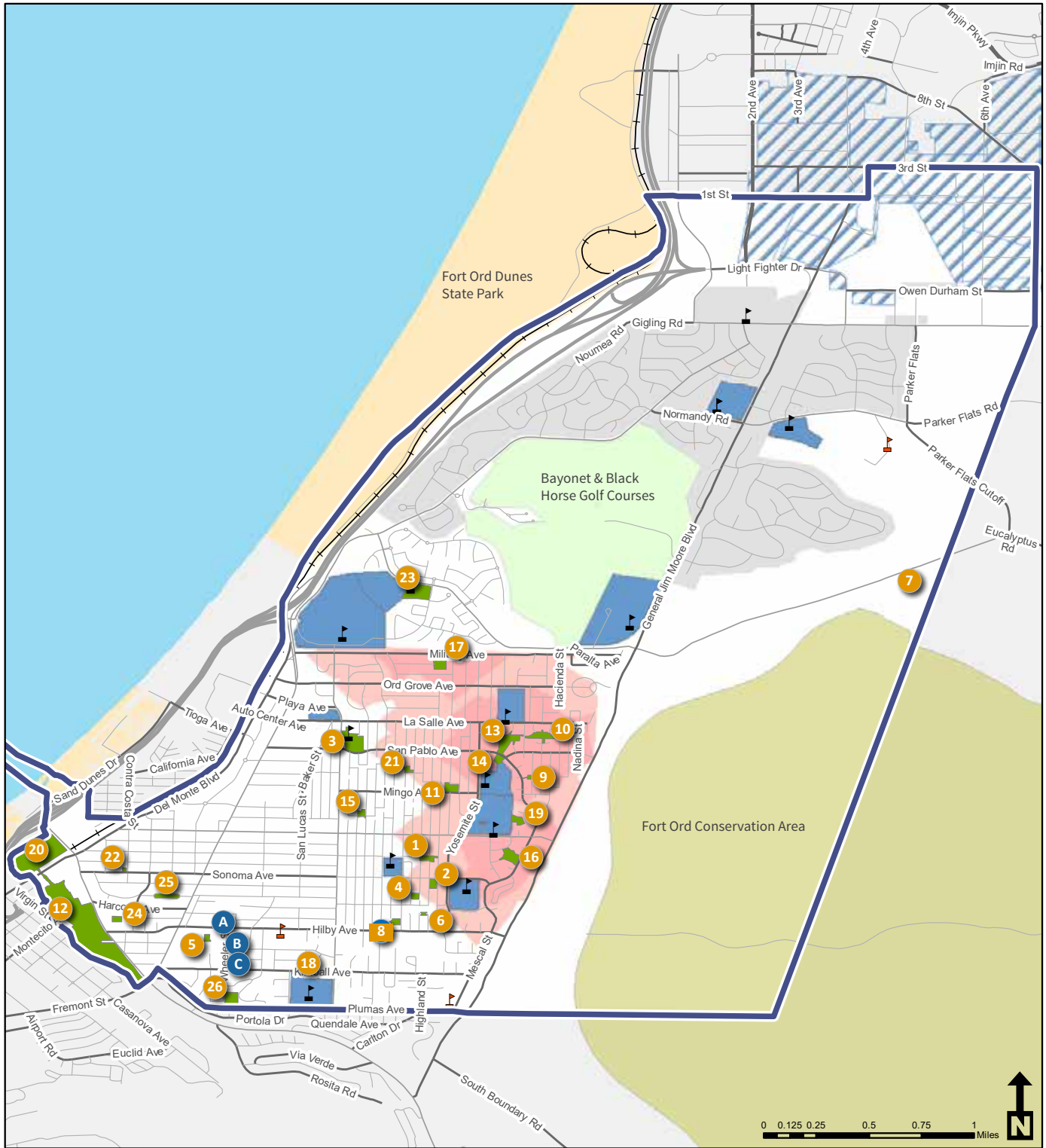
Map 2. Travelsheds for Mini Parks (¼-mile)



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
| 4 Durant Park | 13 Lincoln Cunningham Park | 22 Sonoma Sports Court |
| 5 Ellis Park | 14 Manzanita Stuart Park | 23 Soper Field |
| 6 Encanto Park | 15 Martin Park | 24 Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park |
| 7 Eucalyptus Road Trail Access | 16 Mescal Neil Park | 25 Trinity Park |
| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |

- A Oldmeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Map 3. Travelsheds for Neighborhood Parks (½-mile)



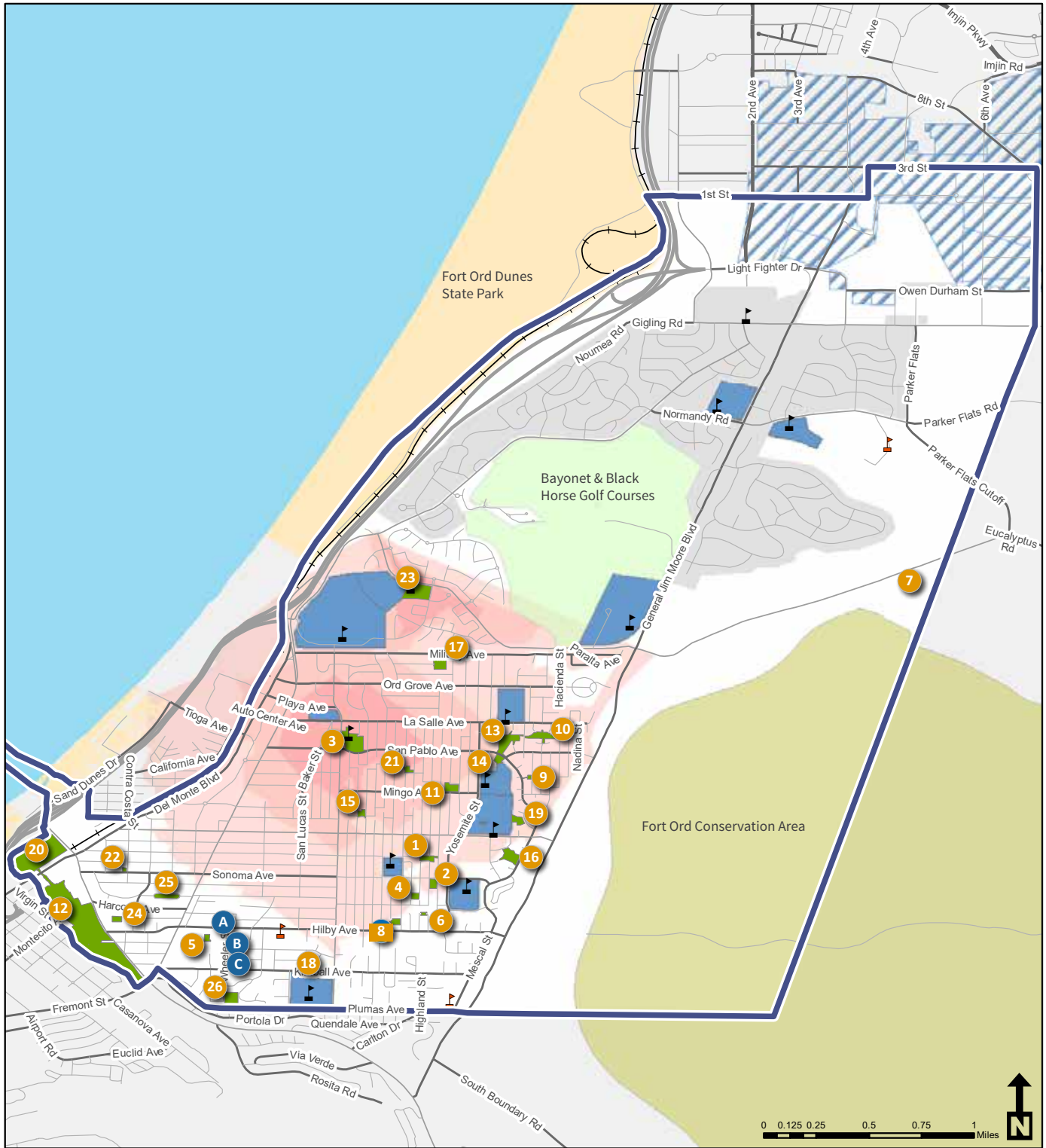
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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
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| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |

- A Oldemeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

City Limits	Public School
1/4-mile Travelshed to Neighborhood Park	Private School
1/2-mile Travelshed to Neighborhood Park	Fort Ord Conservation Area
City Parks	CA State Parks & Recreation
Golf Course	Military Zoning
School District Property	Water
University / College Property	

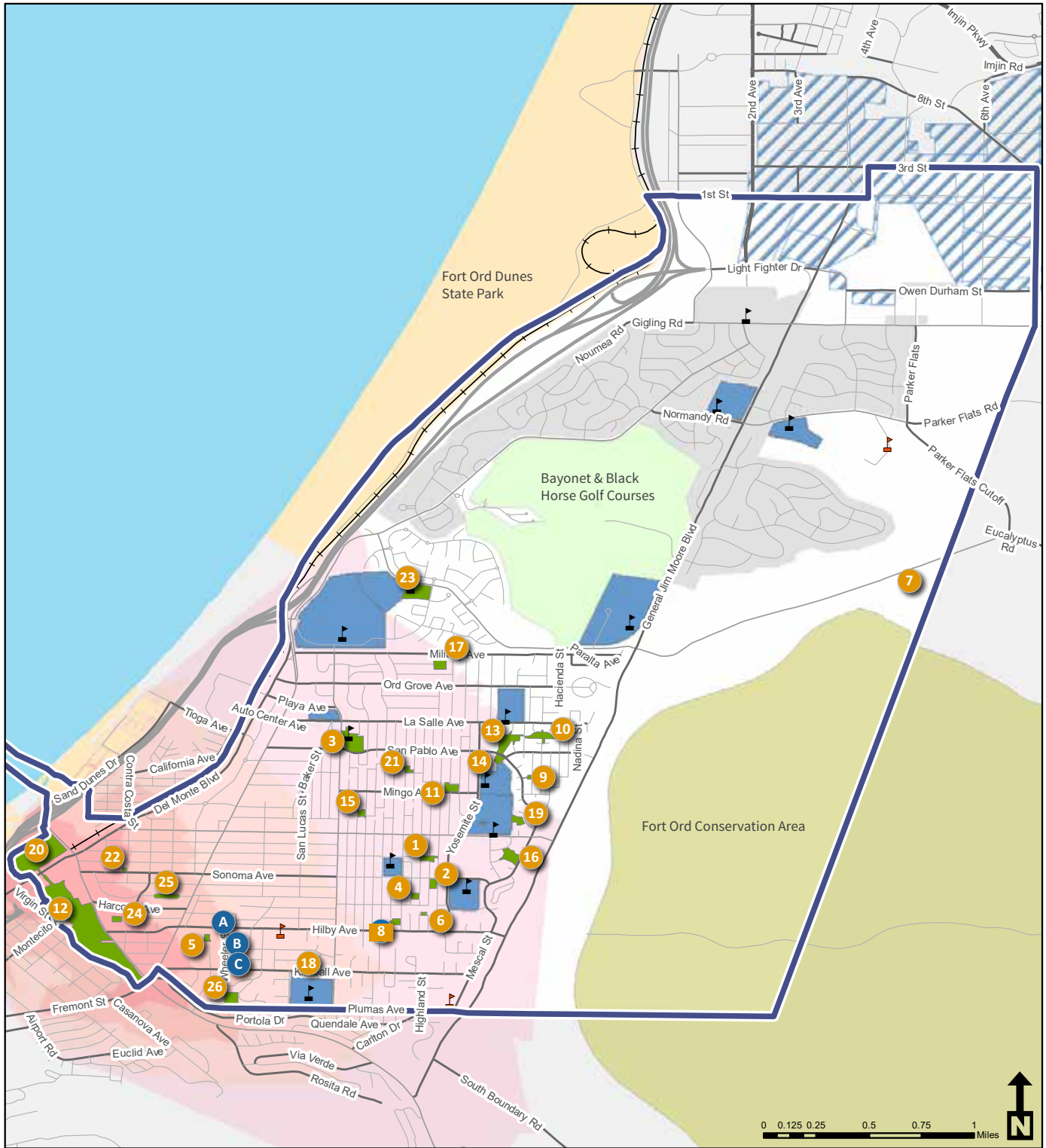
Map 4. Travelsheds for Community Parks (1-mile)



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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
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| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
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- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Map 5. Travelsheds for Regional Parks (2-miles)



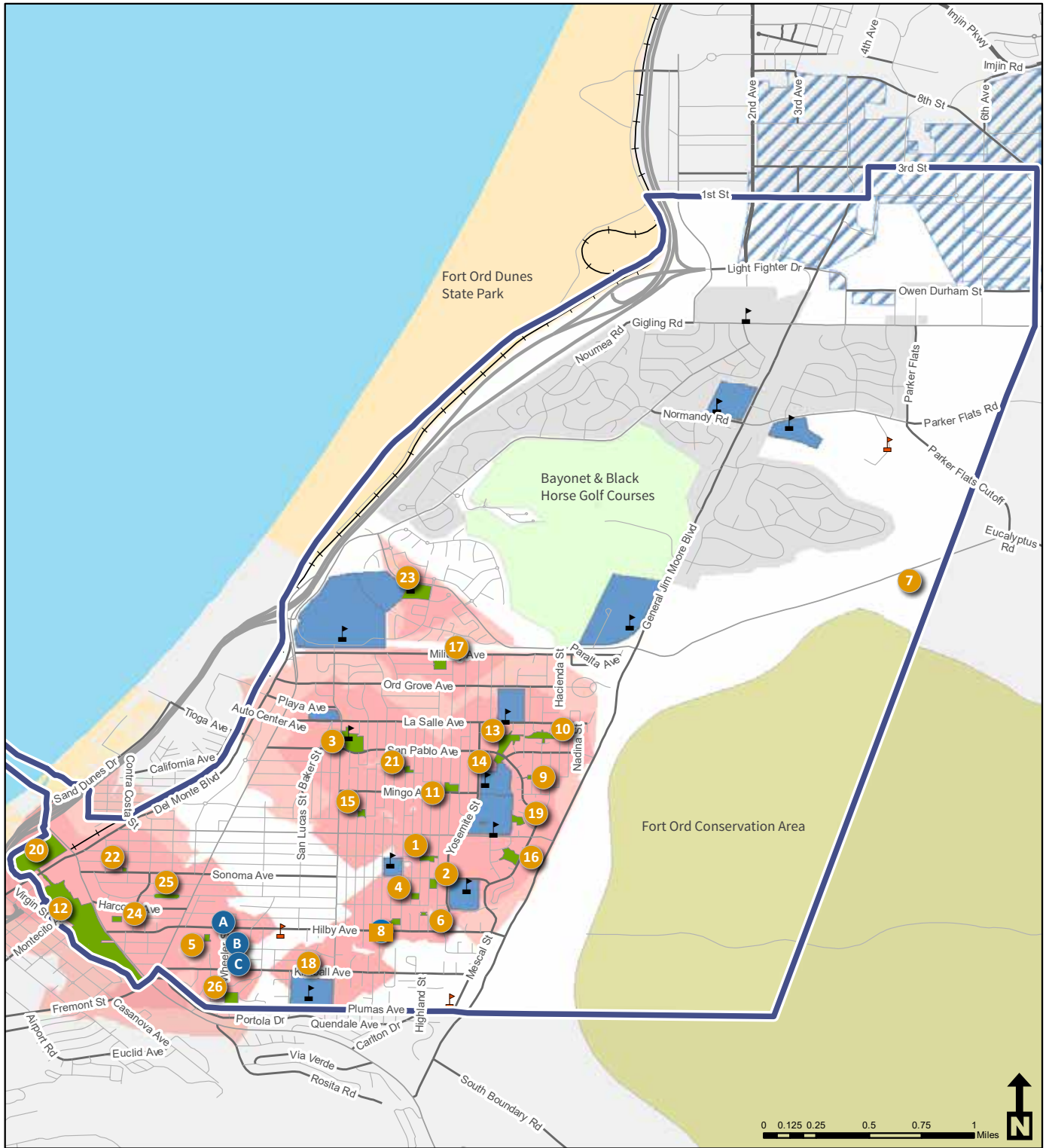
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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
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- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

City Limits	Public School
1/4-mile Travelshed to Regional Park	Private School
1/2-mile Travelshed to Regional Park	Fort Ord Conservation Area
1-mile Travelshed to Regional Park	CA State Parks & Recreation
2-mile Travelshed to Regional Park	Military Zoning
City Parks	Water
Golf Course	
School District Property	
University / College Property	

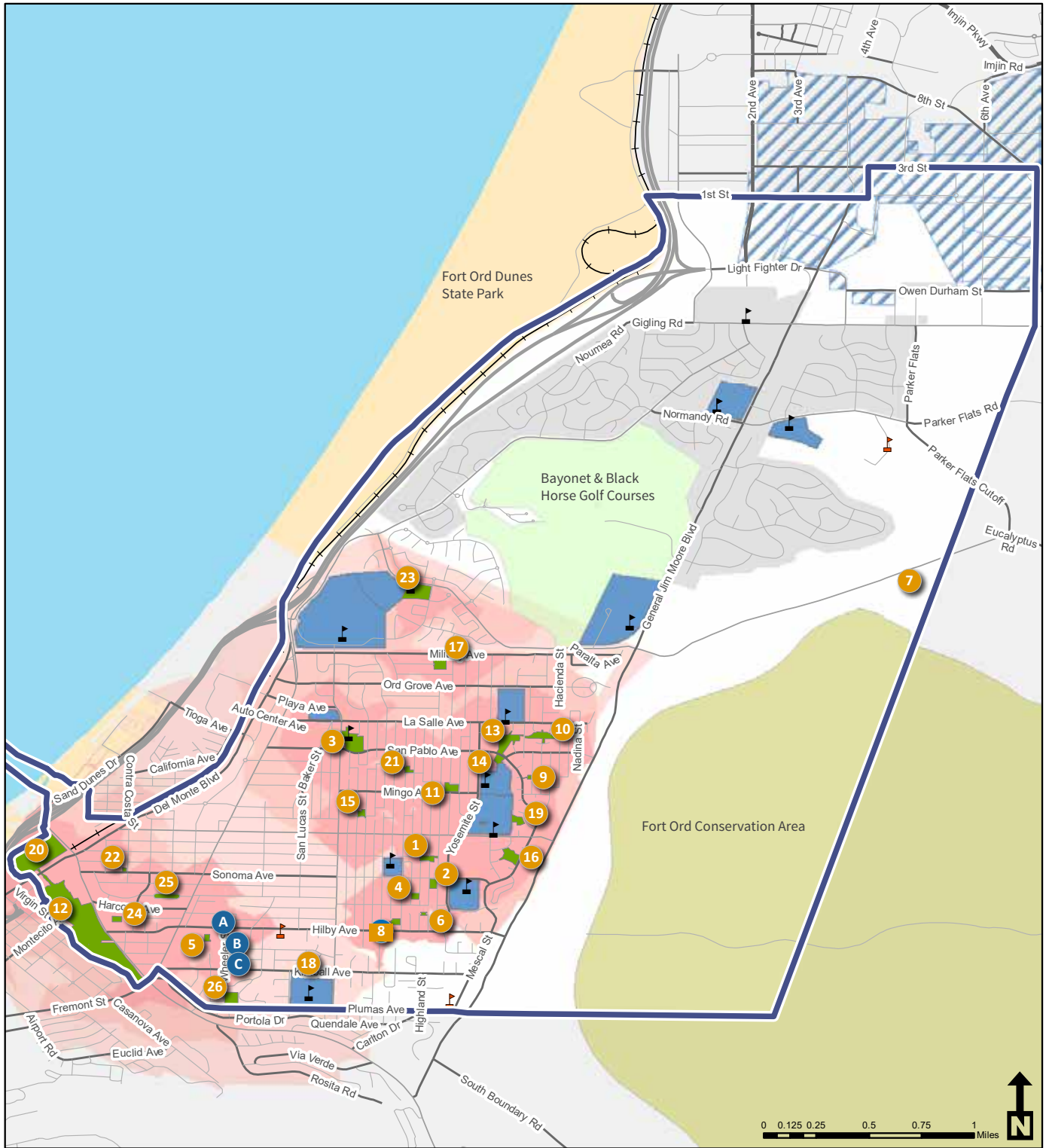
Map 6. Travelsheds for All City Parks (1/2-mile)



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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
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| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
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- A Oldmeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Map 7. Travelsheds for All City Parks (1-mile)



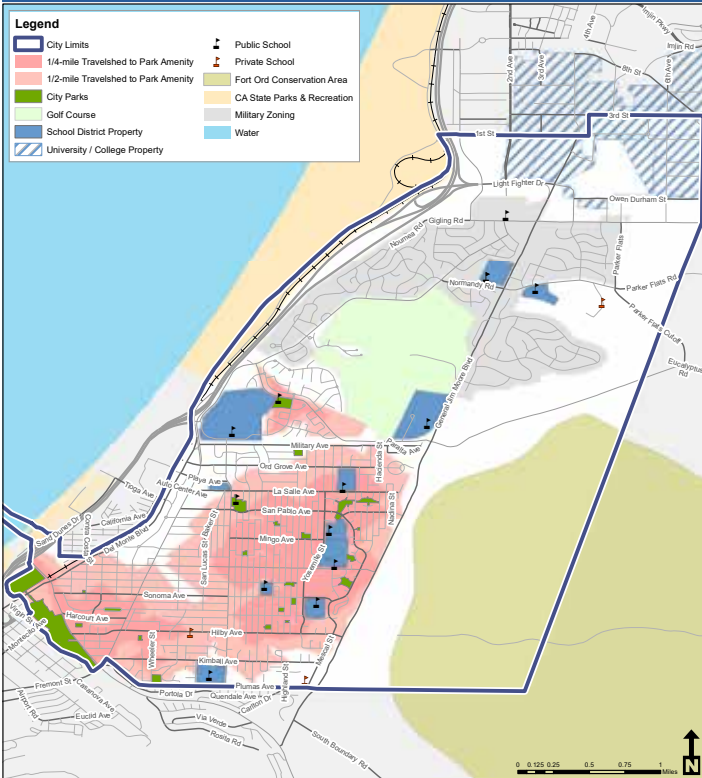
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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
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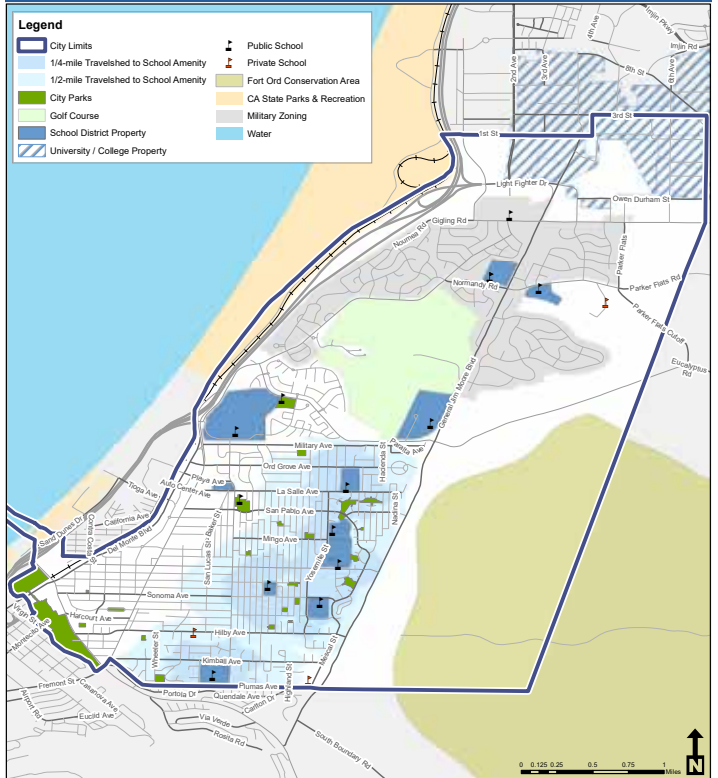
Legend

City Limits	1/4-mile Travelshed to City Park	Public School
1/2-mile Travelshed to City Park	1-mile Travelshed to City Park	Private School
City Parks	Golf Course	Fort Ord Conservation Area
School District Property	University / College Property	CA State Parks & Recreation
Military Zoning	Water	

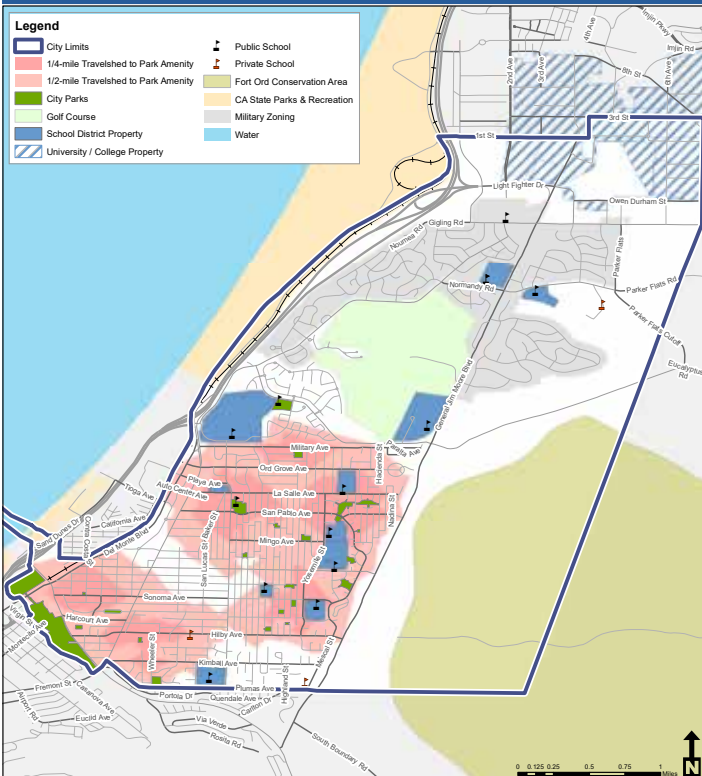
Travelsheds: Park Playgrounds (1/2-mile)



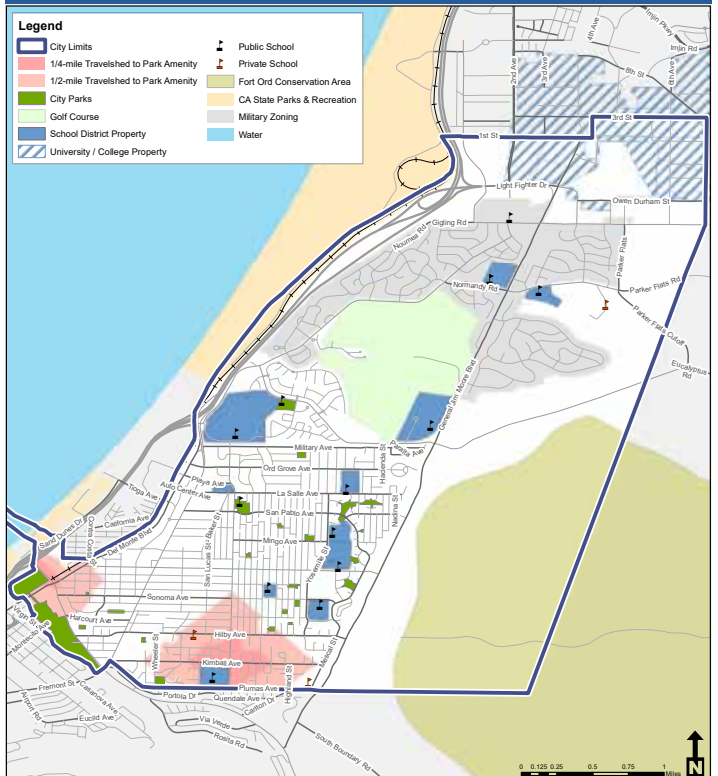
Travelsheds: School Playgrounds (1/2-mile)



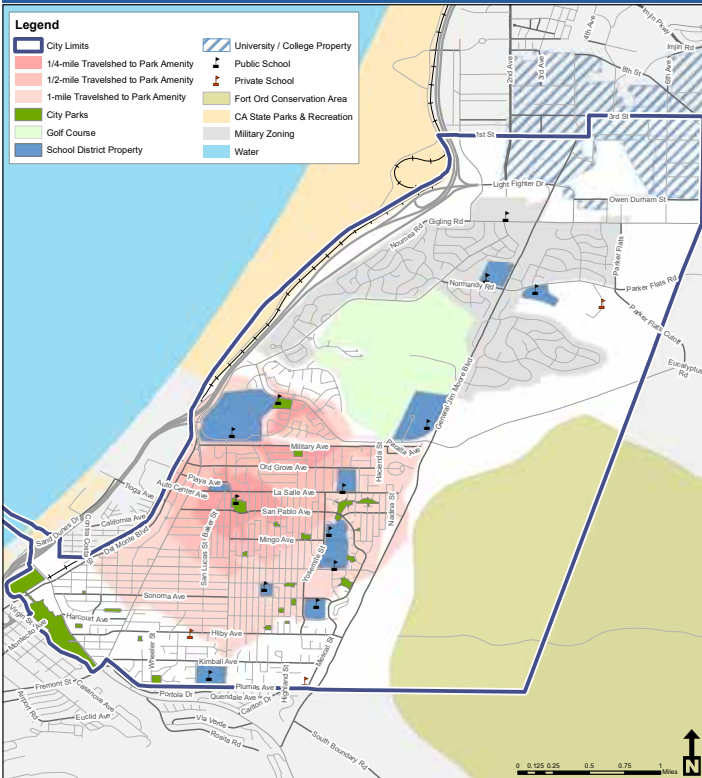
Travelsheds: Basketball Courts (1/2-mile)



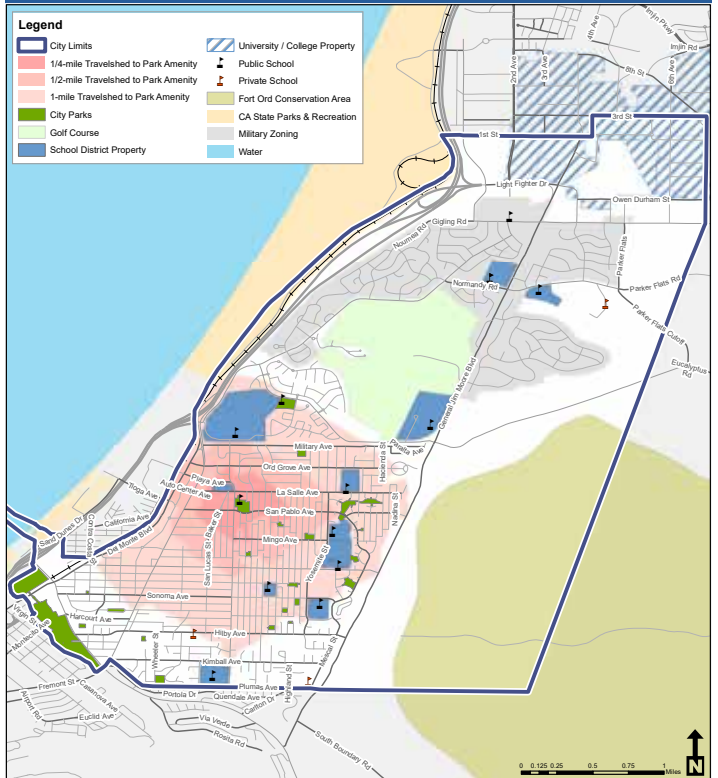
Travelsheds: Picnic Shelters / Pavilions (1/2-mile)



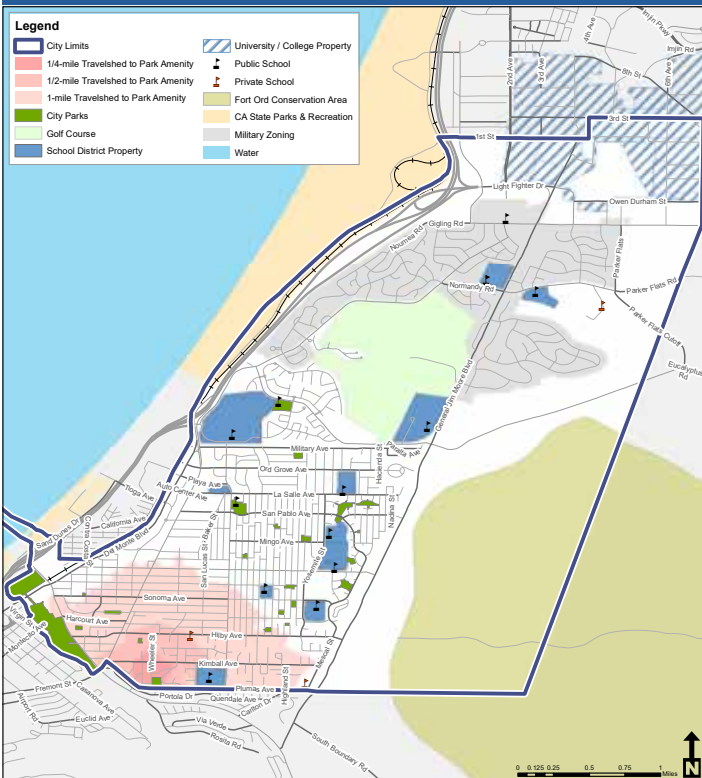
Travelsheds: Baseball / Softball Fields (1-mile)



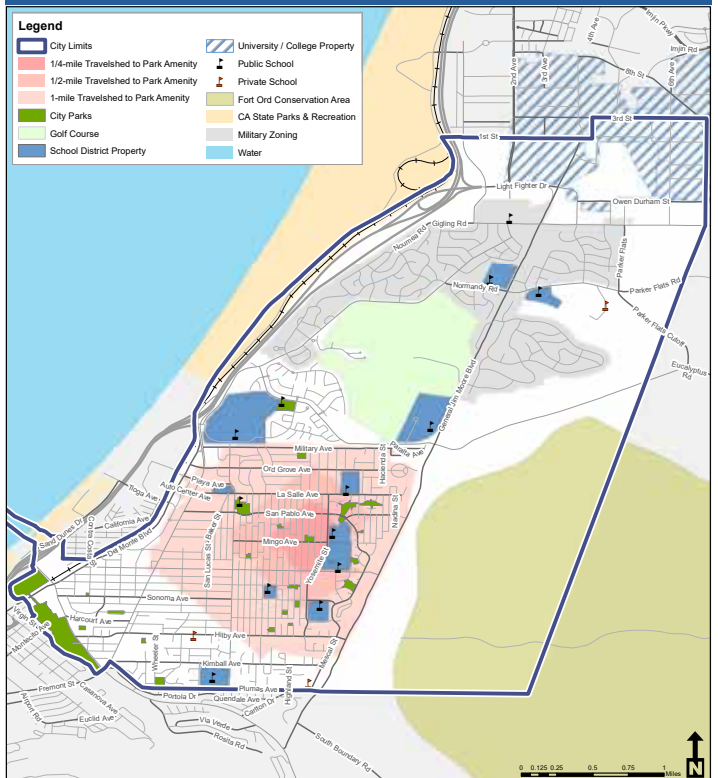
Travelsheds: Soccer Fields (1-mile)



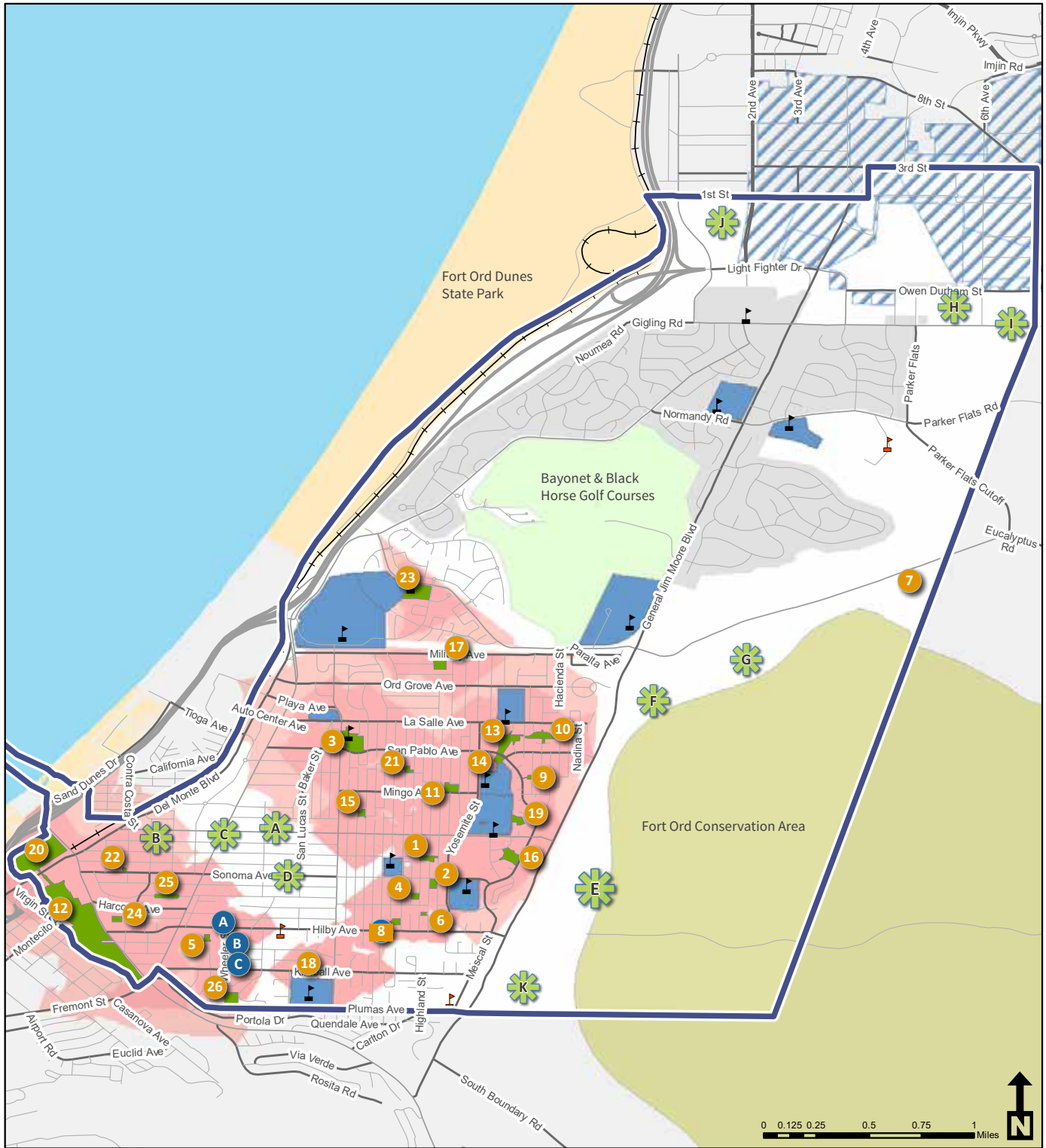
Travelsheds: Tennis & Pickleball Courts (1-mile)



Travelsheds: Volleyball Courts (1-mile)



Map 16. Potential Acquisition Target Areas



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
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- A Oldmeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

City Limits	Potential Acquisition Areas	Public School
1/4-mile Travelshed to City Park	1/2-mile Travelshed to City Park	Private School
City Parks	Golf Course	Fort Ord Conservation Area
School District Property	University / College Property	CA State Parks & Recreation
Military Zoning	Water	

Levels of Service

Service standards offer a benchmark for measuring how well the City is meeting the expectations for the provisions of parks, open space and outdoor recreation facilities for the community. As guidance for assessing current quantities and qualities of parklands and facilities, the level of service (LOS) in Seaside can be compared other agencies across the country. The tradition measurement focused on acres of parkland for the population. While this standard should not be used exclusively, it can offer a starting point for examining a number of more customized and diverse approaches to evaluating the City’s current service provision through a variety of metrics.

National Recreation & Parks Association Agency Performance Review

The 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and accompanying Park Metrics provide comprehensive park and recreation-related data to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from more than 1,000 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States, as reported between 2020 and 2022. This data provides guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies across the United States. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Seaside can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks.

The NRPA data is used to compare different park and recreation providers in communities across the country; however, the Park Metrics database

relies on self-reporting by municipalities. Some agencies only include developed, active parks, while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities, or access. The comparative standards in Figure 11 should be viewed with this variability in mind.

Figure 12 provides the nationwide comparison coupled with aggregate data of jurisdictions with a similar population size to Seaside. In most of the listed categories, the City’s provision of parks and open space falls below the range of other agencies in terms of parkland acres per 1,000 residents, miles of trail, and staffing levels. Large variability exists with the parkland acres per capita depending on whether the golf courses are included or not. Additionally, even though the ratio of residents per park shows favorably for Seaside compared to comparable agencies, many of Seaside’s parks are very small parks with nearly half of the total sites under one acre in size.

Also, the number of full-time equivalent (FTEs) employees and the FTE ratio to population is much lower than comparable agencies, which affects the ratio of operating expenses per FTE. In this category, the degree of seasonal employees, contracted recreation programmers, and outside contracted work may cause some data variability between the comparables and Seaside. Separately, the Agency Performance Report indicated recent increases in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies showing that numbers of authorized full-time positions have steadily rebounded since 2011. The comparable, five year capital budget spending for Seaside is reflective of the City’s recent park system investments – a clear sign of a rejuvenating park system.

Figure 11. NRPA Park Acreage Metrics by Jurisdiction Size (acres per 1,000 population)

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	10.8	13.0	11.3	11.2	8.9	10.1
Lower Quartile	5.3	6.0	5.9	5.0	4.5	5.2
Upper Quartile	18.4	21.1	17.9	17.3	17.1	17.7

Figure 12. NRPA Jurisdiction Size and Parkland Acreage per 1,000 Population

NRPA Metric	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Seaside
Residents per Park (by jurisdiction size)	2,287	2,014	1,064
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10.8	11.3	1.9
Parkland per 1,000 Residents (incl golf course)	10.8	11.3	13.9
Miles of Trails	15	8	3.8
Park & Recreation Staffing (FTEs)	51.5	32.3	21
FTEs per 10,000 Residents	8.9	10.7	7.0
Annual Operating Expenses	\$5,500,000	\$3,255,771	\$2,673,201
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$95	\$104	\$90
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$7,388	\$8,106	\$26,471
Five-year Capital Budget Spending	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,432,758

Acreege-based Approach

The NRPA Agency Performance Review provides a comparative of park and recreation provision using parkland acreage across a range of population sizes. Parkland refers to both maintained parks and open space areas, such as green spaces and courtyards. The current population size of the City of Seaside fits within the 20,000 to 49,999 population size. In that jurisdiction size, the median level of service (LOS) is 10.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The current parkland acreage per 1,000 residents in Seaside is 1.9 acres per 1,000 residents when considering City park acreage without including golf courses or Fort Ord open space. This LOS is considerably less than the national median for a city of this size. The acreage-based measurement of parkland for the City including the golf course acreage is 13.9 acres per 1,000. The parkland acreage including all City-owned parks and open spaces (1,340.2 acres) reaches 45 acres per 1,000 population, considerably higher than comparable jurisdictions. However, the golf courses, while open to public use, are fee-based and often not included in park service level measurements. The Fort Ord open space is not yet developed and easily accessible, so its acreage does not yet contribute significantly to park system offerings.

The Seaside 2040 General Plan recognized the current park and golf course acreage as exceeding the State’s recommended service level. The plan states, “this higher parklands ratio exceeds the California Quimby Act target of 3.0 acres per 1,000 acres (CGC 66477). With the addition of over 12,000 new residents expected by 2040, maintaining 13.0 acres per 1,000 residents would require an additional 180 acres of new parks and open space. Seaside’s demographics – with more children than the County average – highlights the demand for

new park spaces, but the buildout of Seaside East alone is anticipated to add new open space. In the future, the Fort Ord National Monument will open and provide access to over 900 acres within Seaside. This would achieve a ratio greater than 28 acres per 1,000 residents in 2040.” However, the inclusion of golf course acreage skews the representation of the availability of parkland for Seaside residents, and existing service gaps in parkland access exist and should be rectified as noted in the previous section.

Investment-based Approach

Another method for assessing park level of service examines the investment in parks and facilities using population and budget allocations. The NRPA data provides a comparison of annual operating expenses with other agencies and jurisdictions with similar population sizes. Applying the City’s 2023 budget data, the operating expense per capita is \$89.74 per resident, which falls below the \$94.77 median for all agencies and the \$103.95 median for park providers in cities with 20,000 to 49,999 residents, see Figure 12. With 56.5 acres of parkland (excluding the golf course), Seaside’s operating expenses per parkland acre equate to \$26,471, higher than the median expenditures of all agencies in aggregate and similarly sized jurisdictions. This may be a due to the large number of small park sites that require more time for mobilization.

Looking at the provision of recreation amenities within the park system provides another perspective on the adequacy of park service delivery. From the NRPA Park Metrics data, ten amenities were compared with the median values

from an aggregate of all agencies across the country, as well as from similarly sized jurisdictions to that of Seaside, see Figure 13. The comparisons indicate that Seaside is not significantly deficient in playgrounds, basketball courts, dog parks, or skate parks. However, the City provides fewer baseball fields, soccer fields and various sport courts than the median of agencies reporting. Also, based on the mapping analysis provided earlier in this chapter, several areas of Seaside do not have easy access to existing recreational amenities, and residents must drive to access various activities.

Figure 13. NRPA & Seaside Metrics by Amenity Type

Amenities	All Agencies	20,000 to	
		49,999	Seaside
Median Acres per 1,000	10.8	11.3	1.9
Median Trail Miles	15	8	3.8
Amenity	Number of Residents per Amenity		
Playgrounds	3,759	3,028	1,986
Baseball (youth)	6,863	5,033	9,930
Soccer (youth)	7,228	4,947	29,790
Rectangular Field (multi-use)	9,177	7,674	0
Dog Parks	43,532	28,000	29,790
Skate Parks	53,144	32,000	29,790
Tennis Courts (outdoor)	5,860	5,815	7,448
Pickleball Courts (outdoor)	13,922	9,257	7,448
Multi-Use Courts (outdoor)	15,948	9,667	14,895
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	7,404	7,117	7,448

Other Performance Metrics

In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 13 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, the frequency of park and trail visitation ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system.

These level of service metrics include distribution criteria to reflect the percent of travelshed coverage for each type of park in the community. Based on the gap assessment mapping, the City's parks within a 1-mile travelshed cover approximately 68% of Seaside. Areas outside these park travelsheds are mostly located along the eastern and northern areas of the City. Coverage measured as a ½-mile walking distance for parks was considerably lower, providing access to existing parks for only 43% of the City. The gap analysis conducted for this Plan reinforces the need for new park locations to fill known gaps in parkland distribution.

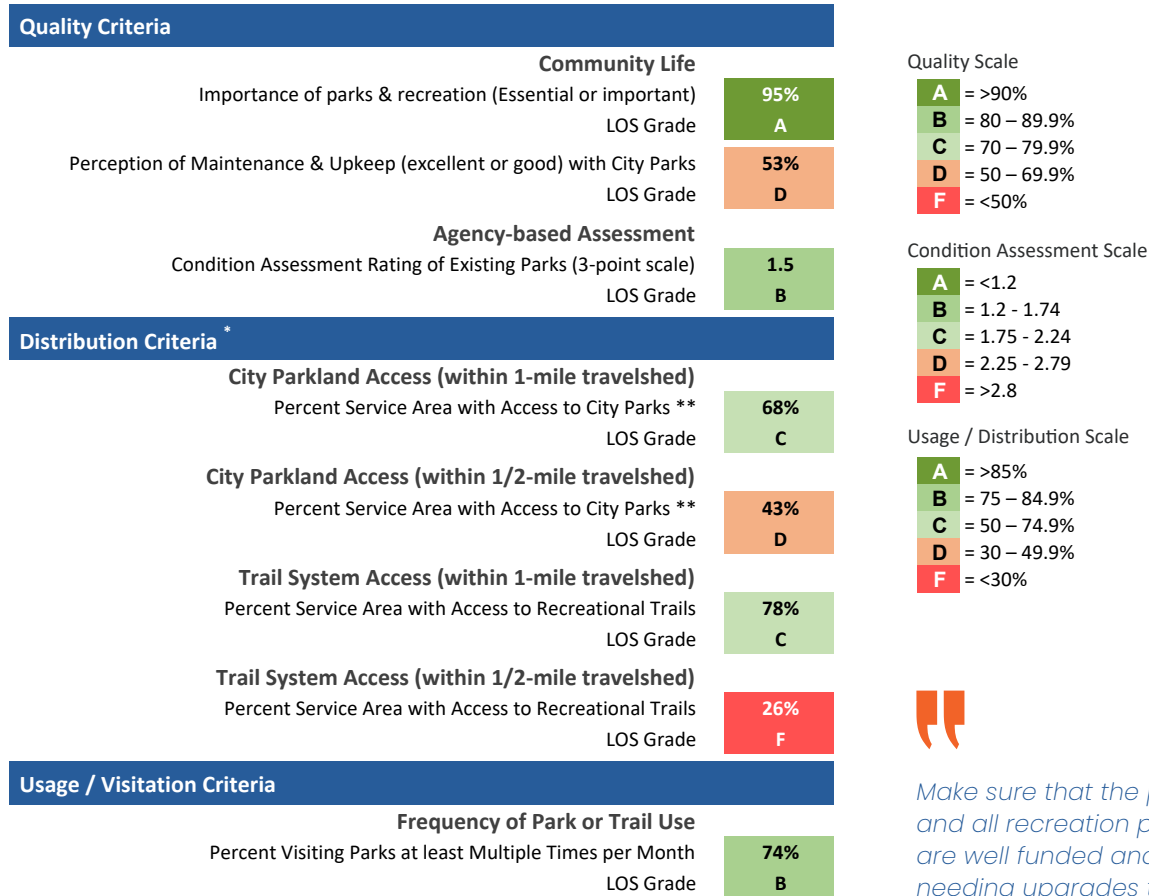
Inclusion & Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity, and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and park and recreation agencies can make a profound difference.



Figure 13. Distribution & Sentiment Metrics



* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the residential portion of the city.

** Note: Area calculation excludes military residential areas and undeveloped land.

SCALE: Excellent Good Fair Limited Poor



Make sure that the parks, trails and all recreation programs are well funded and any areas needing upgrades to make sure all peninsula community residents and people visiting the community to have a good and safe area to enjoy.”

- Survey respondent

Beyond “Metrics” to Uniqueness

Examining the quantity of parklands and developed park acreage and the level of investment in the park system are merely two approaches for evaluating the current service levels for park and recreation facilities. As the Seaside park system matures through the redevelopment of its parks and improves equitable access to recreation opportunities, the City must strive toward a more diverse, unique, and universally accessible suite of outdoor recreation amenities, trail connections, and support facilities that provide an enhanced sense of place and quality of life for the community.

Providing unique outdoor experiences, while working to fulfill basic recreational park amenities, will result in parks with a variety of amenities. The

variety and location of amenities available within the community’s parks and recreational facilities will create a range of preferences and levels of park usage by residents. Park systems should ensure an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, sports courts, sports field and trails, to help distribute the potential usage of load on individual parks. Park planners also should consider that many park users, particularly families, look for a variety of amenities in a park that will provide a range of outdoor recreation activities for every visit.

Through this Parks and Recreation Master Plan process, the Seaside community has indicated

a strong interest in a more varied assortment of recreation experiences. Elevating and highlighting the special landscapes of the City's existing unique park properties and aggressively pursuing options to secure new sites in underserved areas will include expanding options for accessible play, sports, walking, and nature experiences. The City of Seaside is exploring how best to reactivate some of its older parks, and conducting master planning processes for these sites is crucial to ensure a diverse mix of amenities that offer a range of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Open Spaces

Open space typically is characterized by the environmental resources in need of protection and often contains lands that are not desirable for developed public recreation facilities. While most of Seaside's park system is geared toward traditional active and passive recreation, other land managers provide significant natural lands and outdoor recreation opportunities within and adjacent to city limits. These include the Bayonet and Black Horse golf courses (359 acres), the Fort Ord National Monument lands (918 acres), and the Seaside Beach (6 acres), representing over 1,330 acres.

While Seaside has limited open space in its developed park system, Seaside's location places it at the center of three regional parks and open spaces: the Fort Ord National Monument, the Fort Ord Dunes State Park, and the Monterey Bay shoreline. These regional parks and open spaces provide the City with an opportunity to increase park access and to leverage these areas for visitor-serving amenities.

- Fort Ord National Monument offers hiking, biking and equestrian trails for residents and visitors to Monterey County. Located on the former Fort Ord military base, the National Monument covers over 14,600 acres, including 918 acres in Seaside.
- Fort Ord Dunes State Park opened in 2009. The park area includes approximately 990 acres of State parkland, including a boardwalk, four mile path with beach access, and interpretive exhibits. Visitors can enjoy the coastal landscape via bike or foot. Fort Ord Dunes is dominated by a continuous coastal sand dune formation and remnants from former Fort Ord's military history. The California Coastal Commission approved a permit for California State Parks to build a campground in Fort Ord Dunes State Park, including 45 RV sites, 43 tent sites and 10 hike-in/bike-in sites.

- Seaside Beach, south of the Fort Ord Dunes State Beach, serves as a gateway to more than 21 miles of coast linking six contiguous beachfront parks: Monterey State Beach, Fort Ord Dunes State Park, Marina State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, and Zmudowski State Beach. These parks are linked together by the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail, which connects to the City of Monterey in the south and Marina in the north, extending to Pacific Grove and just south of Castroville. The trail is paved, provides access to cyclists and runners/walkers, and offers coastal views and access to the beach, natural habitat, and some of the highest dunes on California's central coast.

Enhancing Interpretive Signage

The City's parkland and open space include an array of habitat and are home to a variety of urban wildlife. In addition to the pollinator gardens, opportunities exist for interpretive education and signage throughout the City's park system. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Seaside's history, culture, natural assets, and wildlife populations can enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning and support other types of passive recreation, such as viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas.

Natural Resource Management Trends

The future of parks as enabling local natural resource stewardship continues to gain traction and supports the values of urban greenspaces, healthy outdoor places, green infrastructure, climate resilience and more. As the NRPA states: *"Parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations."* As key contributors to ensuring the health of our environment, park providers should consider how the following trends, in addition to community trees, can be proactively integrated into their management and practices.

- **Green Infrastructure:** Parks will continue to serve important roles in addressing stormwater management and serving as natural water-quality treatment for runoff. Sustainable landscapes can cleanse air and water, replenish aquifers and reduce and utilize surplus runoff, while providing wildlife habitat.
- **Microclimate Modification:** Urban heat islands created through buildings and pavement can be mitigated with extending shade tree canopy. Use of trees and native plantings can help cool surfaces

and rain water runoff. Tree canopies have long been valued for helping save energy use in buildings and moderate summer temperatures for outdoor activities. Comfortable spaces result in more use of park places. Parks and greenspaces are proving to be among the most effective tools to combat the effects of urban heat islands. Cities are looking to maximize the benefits of their park systems to combat urban heat island effects.

- **Native Wildlife:** Recent studies in conservation news have been revealing an ongoing global biodiversity crisis. This news occurs in tandem with the climate change emergency that also threatens biodiversity and increased rates of species extinction. Parks play an important role in preserving and restoring native plant species and native wildlife communities by intentionally focusing on planting and replanting their green landscapes with native plant species that provide critical roles in the rest of the local ecosystem and its biodiversity.
- **“Rewilding”:** An ecological strategy that helps rebuild wildlife populations by restoring wildlife habitats goes beyond planting native plant species in park landscapes. Rewilding, with tactics such as pollinator gardens, urges a new kind of urban ethic to conserve and protect nature, while reducing the urban ecological footprint. Parks can host significant rewilding areas within their footprints by converting more traditional landscapes of mown lawn and trees into more natural plant communities without losing outdoor recreational values and function.

- **Climate Resiliency:** Canopy trees, native landscapes, green infrastructure and other applications of ecological landscape tactics can contribute to mitigating to some degree for the negative impacts of climate changes. Parks play a role in promoting climate resiliency if planned to accommodate for the future with limited disruption to the park system’s functions.
- **Conservation Staffing:** Conservation organizations, national, state and local park agencies are struggling to fill their staffing needs for stewardship and restoration. This trend is particularly evident with the recruitment and retention of a seasonal work force. Market forces are pushing up wages, and many park and recreation agencies cannot keep up. Opportunities may exist to develop local staff approaches through youth development or volunteer docent programs.

“Create a nature loop or trail that is bikeable and hikeable and closed off to cars.”





Recreation & Events

This chapter describes the trends, local needs, and potential improvements for recreation activities, facilities, and events.

The recreation facilities, offerings and events available within Seaside are a major community asset and support the physical, mental, and social health of community members.

Various recreation options are available through a range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The City currently provides programming through a mix of City-run programs and through partnerships. The City of Seaside operates several major community facilities to support recreation programs, events, and activities: the Oldemeyer Center, Pattullo Swim Center, B.J. Dolan Youth Education & Resource Center, and the Community Center at Soper Field.

Recreation Trends

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Seaside's recreation offerings, events and partnerships. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix G.

- Nationwide, 82% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. ⁽¹⁾
- 72% of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). ⁽²⁾
- More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (90% of agencies), team sports (87%), social recreation events (88%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (80%). ⁽³⁾
- America's children are spending more time outdoors over the past decade, and the COVID pandemic accelerated that trend. Overall, the percentage of children participating in outdoor recreation was high in 2021, at just over 70%. ⁽⁴⁾
- Over the past two years, participation rates are up across the board for America's youth, with strong growth in participation by girls (4.9% higher for girls ages 6 to 12, and 5.3% higher for girls 13 to 17). ⁽⁴⁾
- Yoga continued to have one of the largest gains in fitness activities. ⁽⁵⁾
- Activities with the highest 5-year increase in participation include indoor climbing (13%) and pickleball (12%). ⁽⁵⁾
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced a decline in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. ⁽⁶⁾
- Research from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that arts and culture drive 4.2% of the US gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$ 876.7 billion in 2020. ⁽⁷⁾
- People who say their neighborhood has easy access to quality arts and cultural activities tend to be more satisfied, identify more with local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities. ⁽⁸⁾

Recreation Management magazine's 2022 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes information provided by a wide range of professionals working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Regarding program options, respondents from community centers, park departments, and health clubs reported that they plan to add programs over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

1. Mind-body balance programs
2. Fitness programs
3. Group exercise programs
4. Educational programs
5. Arts and crafts programs
6. Teen programs
7. Functional fitness programs
8. Performing arts programs
9. Environmental education
10. Holidays and other special events

According to the 2022 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half (54%) of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2021. The outdoor participant base has increased 6.9% since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs or services entirely (34%). Additionally, many respondents have had to rethink their programming portfolios. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) had added online fitness and wellness programming as of May

Sources:

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (4) 2022 Outdoor Participation Report
- (5) 2022 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, And Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report
- (6) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (7) US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022
- (8) Knight Foundation Community Ties survey Community Ties Final (knightfoundation.org). Builds off Soul of Community Longitudinal Study (2008-2010) conducted by the Knight Foundation found key drivers of community attachment to be social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. <https://knightfoundation.org/sotc/overall-findings/>

2020, 39% were involved in programs to address food insecurity, and one in four was involved in programs to provide educational support to out-of-school children.

Community Feedback & Insights

Community Survey Results

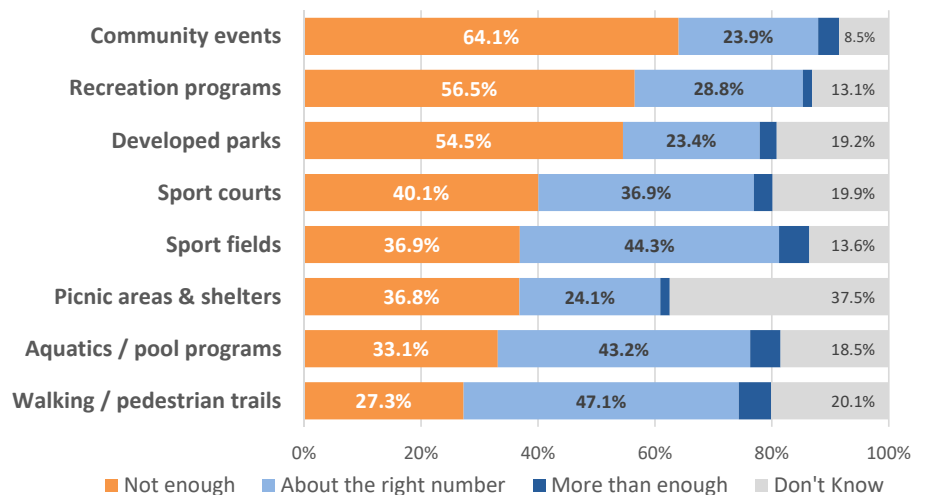
The community survey confirmed that Seaside residents strongly value and have interest in the City's recreation options.

Survey respondents were asked which recreation programs they, or members of their household, had participated in within the past two years. More than three-quarters of respondents had participated in a community event in the last two years. Significantly fewer numbers had participated in other recreation programs, including 34% who participated in adult fitness or wellness classes, between 23% and 29% who had participated in after-school programs or summer camps, youth activities, adult art and music classes, programs for adults 55 and older, and family programs.

Respondents with children in the home were more likely to have participated in youth, teen, and family-oriented programs in the past two years – and to want to see more of these types of programs in the future. Those without children were more likely to have participated in adult and older adult programming and were more likely to feel that more of these types of programs should be available.

Survey respondents also were asked whether the City of Seaside should offer more or less of each type of recreational program. Between 50% and 60% of respondents were interested in seeing more community events, outdoor adventure camps and environmental education programs, youth activities, adult art and music classes, adult fitness and wellness classes, teen activities, and after-school programs or summer camps. Fewer respondents were thought the City should provide more adult sports leagues (46%), family programs (34%), and e-sports leagues (15%), see Figure 14.

Figure 14. Sentiment of Availability of Various Recreation Options

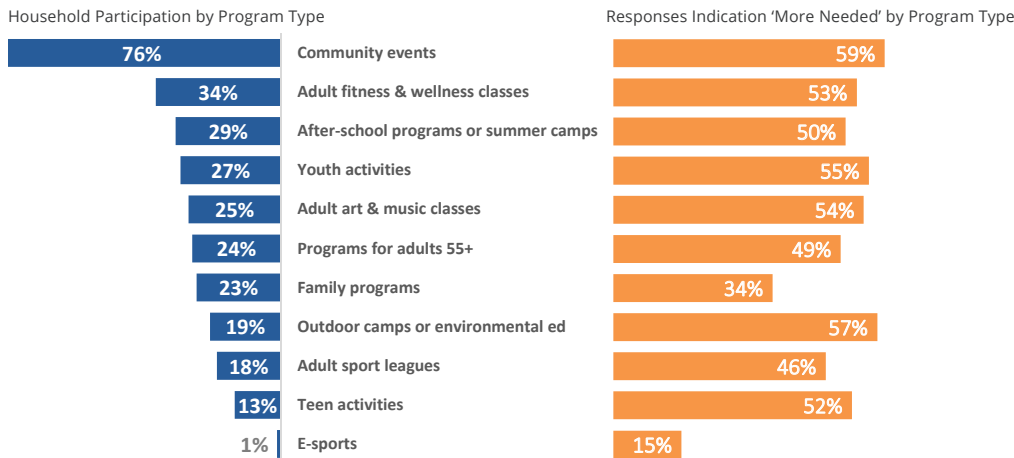


Maintain high level of programs and facilities and staffing. We are proud of the Rec Dept and want it to be a citywide priority."

- Survey respondent

When asked about the number of opportunities the City provides across a variety of programs and facilities, more than half of survey respondents would like to see more community events (64%), recreation programs (57%), and developed parks (55%), while between 30-40% feel the City does not have enough picnic areas and aquatics programs, see Figure 15.

Figure 15. Participation & Interest in Recreation Programs by Type



Survey respondents were asked, in an open-ended question, what other recreation programs the City of Seaside should consider offering. Respondents' comments reflect a diverse range of interests and needs in the community. Respondents seek a diverse range of programs and facilities that cater to residents of all ages and backgrounds, with a strong focus on community building and enrichment. Many respondents requested programs focused on:

- **Education & Skill Development:** Many respondents are interested in educational and skill-building opportunities, such as parent education events, classes in cooking, dance, language, gardening, music, film/media/graphic design, yoga, CPR/first aid, and even drone courses. There is a strong emphasis on offering classes and programs for people of all ages, from children to adults, and addressing the needs of new residents.
- **Recreational Facilities & Activities:** There's a call for improvements to recreation facilities like better pickleball courts, disc golf courses, and soccer fields as well as expanded hours at the City's swimming pools. Respondents are also eager for an array of recreational programs, including aquatics programs and nature-based activities.
- **Community & Cultural Events:** Many respondents are interested in seeing the City support community-building events, including citywide gatherings, block parties, farmers markets, and volunteer events. Many residents are looking for cultural and entertainment events such as festivals, music events, and art fairs. They want to see more concerts in the park and partnerships with non-profits to enhance cultural offerings.
- **Demographic-specific Programs:** Residents suggest specialized programs for various demographics, including children, teenagers, seniors, and people with disabilities. This includes activities like youth talent shows, wheelchair basketball, and programs for the elderly.

- **Environmental Initiatives:** Several respondents are concerned about the environment and suggest initiatives like community composting, tree planting, and cleaning up lakes. They also want to promote sustainable practices like native plant gardening and creating safe bicycle networks.

Other Community Feedback

Participants of both open houses and stakeholder group discussions offered feedback on recreation programs, facilities, and cultural activities. Community feedback from the first open house meeting included the following:

- Youth Programs & Camps
 - Use Laguna Grande Park for more youth camps
- Adult Sport Leagues
 - Create or expand intramural sports programs
- Adult or Senior Classes
 - Add pickleball classes and leagues
 - Consider starting a gardening training program focusing on native plants, sustainability, permaculture
 - Offer outdoor exercise classes like tai-chi or Zumba
 - Teach cycling skills and bike repair
- Aquatic Classes & Program
 - Add lessons for open water safety and swimming at Seaside Beach
- Other Ideas
 - Think about culturally-relevant opportunities (e.g., people gather at a central gazebo and sell snacks, have music or dance into the evenings)
 - Use more parks for community events, concerts, block parties
 - Build more soccer fields and partner with Monterey Bay FC



Recreation Facilities

The City of Seaside provides access to recreation programs and activities in its parks and in several municipal buildings. The day-to-day management, ongoing maintenance, and long-term reinvestment in City facilities are crucial to the success of Seaside's recreation program offerings. Additionally, efficient scheduling and use of the facilities ensures that cost recovery, inclusion, program vitality, and other goals are met.

Oldemeyer Center

Located at the corner of Hilby Avenue and Wheeler Street, this multi-purpose community center serves as a core hub for youth and senior recreation programs and includes a variety of meeting rooms, large hall, dance studio, daycare space, kitchen, administration offices and parking.

Pattullo Swim Center

Located across the street from the Oldemeyer Center, the Pattullo Swim Center includes a 6-lane by 25-yard swim pool, a warm water pool (40' x 20'), locker rooms, a patio area and parking. The Center offers a wide range of aquatic classes, youth and adult swim lessons, and water exercise programs, in addition to lifeguard programs and First Aid/CPR/AED.

B.J. Dolan Youth Education & Resource Center

Located adjacent to the Pattullo Swim Center, the Youth Center provides a fee, safe hang out space for local teens and includes a game room, meeting space, computer room, and an office. The Center provides supervised activities for middle school and high school youth including a variety of games and activities, in addition to access to a music room, guitars, snack area, and a big screen TV. Homework assistance also is available, and the Youth Resource Center promotes and supports youth health and safety related to emotional support, substance abuse, gang involvement and more.

Community Center at Soper Field

Located adjacent to Soper Field, the Community Center provides indoor space for recreation programs and classes and offers a reservable meeting room.

Rental Facilities

Several City parks provide amenities or space available for events, parties, or special group visits.

- Oldemeyer Center multiple room options
- Community Center large meeting room
- Pattullo Swim Center
- Youth Education and Resource Center
- David Cutino Park multi-use synthetic sports field
- Ellis Park barbecue areas, sports court
- Laguna Grande Park barbecue areas
- Metz Park barbecue areas, ballfield, basketball court
- Soper Park barbecue areas, ballfield

Other Non-City Facilities & Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County

The Seaside Boys and Girls Club is located at 1332 La Salle Avenue, adjacent to Cutino Park. The Club provides youth between the ages of 5 and 18 a safe, positive and fun environment with a variety of activities. The Club offers before and after-school programs, in addition to summer camps, fitness and drop-in programs. The Club features a science lab, technology center, learning center and reading room, art studio, teen center and a high school size gym, in addition to the administrative office and organizational headquarters for BGCMC.

The Village Project

The Village Project is a local non-profit organization that provides services and advocates for the Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ communities through free counseling and other clinical and educational support services to youth, adults, and families. The Village Project also runs the Emanyatta Saturday School, which aims to increase black students' understanding of their history and culture to bolster their self-esteem as a primary goal.

Seaside Library

Aside from providing access to books and periodicals, the Seaside branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries also serves as a venue for limited programs and events for children and adults. These include chess club, story times, afterschool gaming, and movie nights.

Recreation Programs

The City is the primary provider for aquatic programs and offers a strong suite of programs and events for community members of all ages. Other recreation services are provided by the Boys & Girls Club and Monterey Peninsula Unified School District which are associated with indoor recreation, athletics and youth development and support services. Also, there are also a number of youth sport organizations that serve the needs of the community.

Program Area Categories

The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Seaside recreation programs. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings between 2019 and 2024.

Program Area Definitions (generalized):

- **Sports** – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics, and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
- **Fitness** – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
- **Cultural Arts** – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, literary arts, music/video production and arts events.
- **Aquatics** – Swim lessons, aqua exercise classes, swim team, and other programs.
- **Education** – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning. Also included is CPR/AED/First Aid.
- **Specialty / General Interest** – Personal development classes and activities.
- **Adaptive / Special Needs** – Inclusive and adaptive programs for the physically and mentally impaired.
- **Special Events** – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
- **Outdoor Education** – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, farm activities, and other activities.
- **Individual / Self-Directed** – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as drop-ins, open gym, use of weight/cardio space, and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.
- **Senior / Human Services** – This can include senior nutrition and meal programs, social service support, job training, life skills training, childcare, and other activities such as health screenings.

Figure 16. Existing City Programs by Classification

Program Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth	Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Tennis, Football, Girls on the Run, Mini Athletes, Sports Camp, Cheer Camp
	Adult	Tennis, Basketball, Co-Ed Softball, Drop-In Pickleball, Flag Football, Kickball
Fitness	Youth	Tiny Tumble, Self Defense & Awareness
	Teen+	Zumba, Tai Chi, Bay Boi Dance Fitness, Self Defense & Awareness, Gentle Yoga, Chi Gong
Cultural Arts	Youth	Pre-School Tap & Jazz, Pre-School Music & Movement, Pre-School Creative Movement, Intro to Tap Dance, Creative Movement, Youth Art
	Teen+	Tam Tam Sacree Drumming, Israeli Folk Dance, Black History Program, Art Competition, Music Class, Creative Writing, Padre Trails Camera
Aquatics	Youth	Swim Lessons, Parent/tot swim, Open swim, Shark Swim Team
	Teen+	Swim Lessons, Lap Swim, Water Exercise, Water Aerobics, Open Swim, Older Adult Swim
Education	Youth	Tiny Tot University, Kids Club, Spring, Summer & Winter Camps, STEAM Camp, Play Well Lego Camp,
	Teen+	Water Safety Instructor, Junior Lifeguard Program, Lifeguard Class, First Aid/CPR/AED Classes, Youth Employment Program, Drivers Education
Specialty / General Interest	Youth	N/A
	Teen	Teen Programs (Cooking, Pool Tournament, STEAM, Dogeball, Chess, Mini Golf, Handball, Foosball, Movies, Trivia, Field Trips, Music, Teen Swim)
	Adult	Parent University
Adaptive / Special Needs		N/A
Special Events		An Evening With My Gal, Float and Flick, Martin Luther King Jr. March, Parent University, Parent's Night Out, Golden Egg Hunt, International Festival, Mother's Day Luncheon, Movies in the Park, Oaxaca by the Sea, National Night Out, Red, White and Blues, Sunday Blues in the Park, Cereal With Santa, Halloween Bonanza, Pumpkin Plunge, Seaside's Birthday, Winter Wonderland
Outdoor Education		N/A
Self-Directed		N/A
Senior / Human Services	Adult	Theme Lunches & Dances, 60+ Trips, Knitting & Crochet, Coffee Chat, Movie Days, Book Club, Bingo, Cribbage, Bridge, Scenic Walks, Technology Class, Exercise & Stretching, Dance (Line, Square, Social), Family & Community Support Program, Nutrition Program, Wellness Checks



Tener mas espacios Para las clases de natacion. Incluir talleres bilingues de costume, tejer , bordar, cocinar. Tener mas programas Para las personas de la 3ra edad , en Español o bilingues. Programas Para jovenes ya sea de algun entrenamiento que les ayude Para enfrentar la vida. Clases de baile Para niños, jovenes y adultos. (Salsa, grupera,cumbia) Talleres de manualidades Para jovenes, y niños y todas las edades. Club de Zuma. Clases de florlorico. (Have more spaces for swimming classes. Include bilingual costume workshops, knitting, embroidery, cooking. Have more programs for the elderly, in Spanish or bilingual. Programs For young people, whether it be some training that helps them to face life. Dance classes for children, teenagers and adults (Salsa, grupera, cumbia). Craft workshops for teenagers and children and all ages. Zuma Club. Florlorico classes.)"

- Survey respondent

Programs Available by Age Groups

Below is listed the basic program categories that are available for different age groups.

Figure 17. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adult
Sports	●	●	●	●
Fitness	●	●	●	●
Cultural Arts	●	●	●	●
Aquatics	●	●	●	●
Education	●	●	●	●
Specialty / General Interest			●	●
Adaptive / Special Needs				
Special Events	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Education				
Self-Directed				
Senior / Human Services				●



I would love to see more lap swim hours added at Patullo pool. Earlier start. Especially during school vacation times we lose so much time and it gets so crowded for us, senior swimmers particularly."

- Survey respondent

Program Classifications

The following are the projected programming classifications for the City. It is important to realize that while certain program areas may be a focus for growth in programs and services, the Department's role in providing the actual service may be different as indicated below.

Classification Definitions

- Core Programs are those programs that are a primary responsibility of the Recreation Department to provide as City-based activities.
- Secondary Programs are those programs that are a lower priority to be provided directly by the Department, but may be offered by other organizations through contract with the City.
- Support Programs are programs that are not a priority for the Department to be providing directly to the community, but where the City may provide support through facilities, program coordination, and promotion of activities for other organizations.

Figure 18 identifies and summarizes recommended future core programs, secondary programs and support program areas for the Department.

Program Impacts Due to Facility Limitations

The ability of the Seaside Recreation Department to deliver a wider range of recreation programs and services is impacted somewhat by the facilities that are available to support these activities. This includes the following program areas:

- Youth Sports – Although most youth team sports are offered by other organizations, most of them are highly dependent on City athletic fields and school fields and gyms as locations for their programs. This limits the size of existing programs and makes it difficult to add new or expand programs such as soccer, pickleball, and other sports.

Figure 18. Future Program Types by Focus Area

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Adult Sports	Education	Adaptive / Special Needs
Aquatics	General Interest	Self-Directed
Cultural Arts	Outdoor Education	
Fitness	Youth Sports	
Senior / Human Services		
Special Events		



I would like to see more parent education events (i.e. for parents of young children, teens, etc...). More art events- similar to the Palenke Arts program."

- Survey respondent



- **Adult Sports** – With an emphasis on serving the needs of youth team sports that utilize athletic fields, it has been difficult to grow adult team sports. Limitations on access to indoor gym space or additional sport courts also impact the scale, scope and variety of adult sports the City can accommodate, such as basketball, volleyball, and pickleball.
- **Fitness** – The City’s existing facilities do not have weight/cardio space and have limited fitness amenities to support a comprehensive fitness program. Expanding the utilization of outdoor spaces for fitness classes also should be promoted.

Program Considerations

The City of Seaside’s recreation programs serve all of the major age groups. As shown in the community survey, the Seaside community considers outdoor adventure camps and environmental education programs, youth activities, adult art and music classes, adult fitness and wellness classes, teen activities, and after-school programs or summer camps to be high priorities for expanding City recreation services.

The City should continue to stay abreast of its program offerings and recreation trends, as well as re-evaluate programs based on participation rates and user feedback. Other recreational offerings could include intergenerational programs or outdoor education programs that overlap with the efforts of FOSPA and integrate the Youth Employment Program. The City also should consider bringing more programming out to the parks and activating the City’s parks with programs and outdoor classes. This will help to cross-pollinate recreation customers with the offerings of park facilities and improve overall community awareness of recreational opportunities within Seaside.

Additional, expanded or new program options may be limited today by indoor facility capacity, staffing, and available instructors. Considerations about existing and planned programs should gauge performance and priority offerings based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Community interest or deficiencies
- Potential for increased participation
- Fill rates for programs (registrants compared to program capacity)
- Rate of program cancellations
- Availability of qualified and knowledgeable staff or contractors to provide consistency and reliability for program delivery
- Financial performance of individual programs (operating expenses vs. revenues)
- Program lifecycle assessment to balance the suite of new, mature, and declining programs
- Revenue potential, affordability, and accessibility
- Cost of service policy metrics

The Department’s program plan for the next five or more years should address the general direction for recreation programming and should include the following areas of programming focus:

Aquatics Program

The Seaside Recreation Department has a strong aquatics program, with an emphasis on lessons and water exercise. The Pattullo Swim Center is popular with residents and has become a regional destination. Swim lessons, water fitness, recreation and leisure swimming, and health and safety programs make up the majority of aquatic programming.



The City's aquatics program generally meets the community's needs and will not likely require significant future changes. The Department will need to continue to stress aquatic programming, especially learn to swim classes for children, as a primary program area. Aquatic exercise programs should also continue to be emphasized, and staffing should be increased to accommodate longer hours of operation, as well as consider additional program options that include water safety, water rescue, and paddleboard/kayak classes, among others.

The strength and continuity of aquatics programming should also be weighed against the physical needs of the pool and its infrastructure. The Swim Center is an aging facility, and the City should continue to assess mechanical systems, decking, and other infrastructure to plan for future renovations or replacements.

Sports

Youth Sports

The Department currently provides a number of sports programs, and most of these are introductory team sports for youth with some individual sports programs and camps. It is expected that the Department will continue to offer these programs and may add emerging sports or non-traditional offerings. Most competitive youth sports leagues and programs will remain the responsibility of community-based youth sports organizations in the greater Seaside-Monterey area. If the City is going to significantly increase its commitment to and offerings for youth sports, additional athletic fields and gymnasiums will be required.

Adult Sports

While the Department has a small base of adult team and individual sports currently, it is not expected that there will be much growth in this area, unless there is an increase in athletic fields and gymnasiums and a stronger commitment to adult sports.

Age-Specific Program Areas

The City provides a strong suite of programs and activities for youth, teens, and seniors, and it is anticipated that this will remain so well into the future.

Youth

It is expected that youth programming will continue to be the cornerstone of offerings by the Department in the future. Periodically refreshing and updating these programs will be important to meet today's youth needs and broadening the focus to expand education, social services, and fitness and wellness.

Teen

Through the Youth Education & Resource Center, the City provides significant resources to teen activities, mentoring, and support. Numerous special events and activities throughout the year provide a variety of experiences for teens to be engaged, in addition to having a safe space to be with friends, play games and music, and have homework assistance. The Department should continue to be the lead agency on these services, with the support of its many partner organizations.



Senior

The City offers a variety of programs ranging from dances, to games, to excursions, to nutrition, to wellness support. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on health and fitness. To meet the needs of active older residents, the Department will need to consider how the City's park and recreation facilities, programming, and partnerships continue to change to meet the needs of this growing and more diverse segment of the community.

Other Program Areas

Cultural Arts

Currently, the Department's programming in this area is mostly dance classes and activities at the Avery Gallery. Adding additional programming in the adult art has been requested by the public, and there also may be a need to expand into performing and visual arts. This should include the reliance on other cultural arts groups (i.e., Palenke Arts) as providers or contributors to programming of this type. The drive of Palenke Arts for an arts center will be able to support these types of programs if funded and built.

Outdoor Recreation (Outdoor Education)

There are currently very few activities that are being offered by the Department in this area. However, this was identified as an area of interest through the public input process. Increasing the level of programming in this area in the coming

years will be important. This will likely require partnering with other outdoor education providers in the area. It will be important to have a covered outdoor classroom space that provides a "home" for these types of activities to take place.

Special Needs

This is not a significant program area for the Department currently, but there may be a need to have these types of services available for the community. It is anticipated that the vast majority of programming will be provided by other agencies that specialize in these services, but this will need to be coordinated by the Department.

Indoor Recreation Facility

Interest in the City providing expanded recreation programs appears to be strong; however, due to the lack of indoor facility capacity, the City should pursue the construction of a multi-use indoor recreation facility to enable comprehensive recreation programs for Seaside residents. The facility should include gymnasiums, classrooms, multi-functional rooms, and fitness rooms. The development of an indoor recreation facility requires extensive planning, including a feasibility analysis, appropriate site, and management and operation plans, as well as exploration of potential financial and programming partnerships. Additionally, the City should seek private construction capital and sponsorship opportunities, such as naming rights, to lessen the total funding request of voters. While public sentiment exists for expanded recreation services, a cautious approach should be taken and consideration given prior to the acquisition and development of such a facility.



Special Events

The Recreation Department is responsible for the coordination of several community and special events throughout the year. These public events provide gathering opportunities, celebrations and activation of the downtown and City parks. While not every event is hosted or run by the City, these special events draw the community together, attract tourists and visitors from across Monterey County and are popular with residents. A selection of recent community events include the following:

Opportunities to connect are clearly crucial to Seaside’s residents. Survey and public meeting responses showed strong interest for continued and additional community events. Additionally, the City could explore ideas for other events that draw from the diversity of the community, such as festivals or activities celebrating Latin American, African American, Asian or Native American traditions.

Community gathering and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis; however, the overall number and breadth of City-sponsored special events should be carefully managed to align with the availability of resources and impacts

to staffing and general park and facility use. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community-wide events as possible. A structured approach will help the City manage the growth of these popular offerings; ensure high-quality, adequately resourced events; and enlist community sponsorships, partnerships, and support.

In addition to maintaining the various event and program offerings, the City should continue to coordinate with Palenke Arts, local artists, galleries, and other art organizations to periodically refresh the major events and explore other options to engage the community with the arts and attract visitors. Small-scale projects can take the form of electrical box coverings, building murals or temporary art, and larger scale endeavors can include drone shows or expanded studio or maker-space at one of the community centers. The City is currently soliciting artists for a mural project at the skate park at Cutino Park.

Figure 19. Special Events throughout the Year (2020-2023)

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
An Evening With My Gal	FCSP Resource Fair	National Night Out	Cereal With Santa
Float and Flick	Golden Egg Hunt	Parent's Night Out	Halloween Bonanza
Martin Luther King Jr. March	International Festival	Pattullo Summer Kick Off	Oaxaca by the Sea
Parent University	Mother's Day Luncheon	Red, White and Blues	Parent's Night Out
Parent's Night Out	Movies in the Park	Sunday Blues in the Park	Pumpkin Plunge
	Parent's Night Out		Seaside's Birthday
			Winter Wonderland



Arts & Culture

In 2010, the City of Seaside formed an Art and History Commission to support a variety of public art activities and facilitate the display and preservation of Seaside's cultural resources. The Commission has led and promoted a variety of activities in the City to expose residents to arts and culture, and the City is growing an Art in Public Places Program to expand its permanent art collection. The Art Program emphasizes local artists, in addition to youth shows, group shows and invitational exhibits. Through physical displays at the Walter Lee Avery Art Gallery and an online virtual display, local art exhibits are promoted for the community – free of charge.

As the art inventory grows over time, an asset management program and art conservation fund should be considered for the nascent public art collection. Each permanent art installation project should be accompanied with an allowance or calculation of future maintenance and costs. Artists should provide technical specifications about best management practices for the materials integrated in the art work, as well as a forecast of likely timing for the necessary cleaning and upkeep of the piece of work. The asset management practice for the public art collection should help track and manage the entire life cycle of each asset, as well as their distribution across Seaside. In such a system, the life cycle costs of each asset can be better predicted and managed to help engage appropriate maintenance tasks for each art work.

To further develop a future workplans and strategy, the City should consider developing an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan to provide a framework to foster the expansion and promotion of arts, culture, and heritage in Seaside.

Communications & Marketing

Feedback from the community survey suggested some limited awareness of the recreation options and amenities available to Seaside residents, 21% of survey respondents noting that they are not aware of City offerings. The Department should continue to take a strong role in coordinating and promoting recreation services to improve awareness and inclusion for residents. The City should strive to build upon its already extensive promotions through the recreation program guide, social media, City Council announcements and other media. The City's website and Recreation Activities Guide were noted as the top two ways survey respondents would prefer to learn about parks, recreation facilities, and special events. Stronger marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs that are available and should continue to focus on the following areas:

- Website enhancement to better promote programs and services in addition to the program guide, including searchable program offerings and services offered by other providers;
- Social media, email, direct mail, flyers, and community event signs of program registration options;
- Continued cross marketing and/or promotional opportunities with other organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club, school district, library, and others; and
- Using appropriate communication channels to effectively market to various demographic segments.

7



RECREATIONAL TRAILS



Make nice walking trails with open spaces for running and exploring.”

- Survey respondent

This chapter describes the recreational trail system and provides an overview of trail classifications and existing and conceptual trail corridors.

“Add ADA accessible trails and connectivity with schools and neighborhoods”

- Survey respondent



Trails and paths provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools, transit, business centers, and other destinations. Recreational trails are critical infrastructure for a healthy and livable community, promoting alternatives to vehicle use. Improving and expanding trail connections was identified as one of the highest capital project priorities during the community engagement process, and walking was the top recreational activity for Seaside residents.

Trail Trends

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally. Furthermore, national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the most popular forms of outdoor recreation over the last ten years, and summaries of recreation trends are provided in Appendix G.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted outdoor recreation activities, including trail use. Local and regional park and recreation agencies that managed trail systems were pressed to adapt to heavy usage and crowded trailhead parking, as many people shifted their daily exercise routines to outdoor activities, such as walking and bicycling.

The 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends report from the Outdoor Foundation found that hiking is the most popular outdoor activity. There were 881,000 new hikers in 2022. Hiking is considered one of the “gateway activities” that serve to initiate participation on other outdoor recreation activities. Running has the highest average outings per runner (54 per year). The annual growth for biking (all categories: road, BMX, mountain) was surveyed at 22.9% or 54.7 million cyclists. Notably, the 2022 version of this report shared that the number of seniors, ages 65 and older, participating in outdoor activities grew by 16.8% between 2019 and 2021. Trails are essential infrastructure for these and other outdoor recreation activities.

The annual study from the National Recreation and Parks Association of how Americans use their parks determined that people who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to arrive at that park by walking, biking or running, with walking being the most common method of transport.

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industries Association revealed that Americans took up new activities in significant numbers, with the biggest gains in running, cycling, and hiking. Walking, running, and hiking were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. Participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity.

With the rapid increase in electric-assist mobility and the potential for user conflicts due to increased speeds, Seaside will want to determine the best approach for ensuring safety for all trail users and how best to promote trail etiquette on multi-use pathways.

Community Insights

As noted in previous chapters, feedback from the community surveys and two public meetings provided a wealth of local insights on current usage and interests in various recreation amenities, including trails. Survey respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (69%).

Respondents were asked about their support for a variety of potential additions to the park system. A significant majority of respondents rated additional walking trails (82%) as a high or medium priority. From a list of ten potential park system investments, respondents identified additional walking trails as their top priority.



Trails for Walkable Communities

Parks are known to contribute to a healthier community by providing accessible outdoor recreation particularly through the inclusion of walking trails. Getting to a park by foot or bike can also offer a healthier option than driving a car. In the NRPA publication *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience, comfort, access and design, safety, and the park itself. Sidewalks, bikeways, and trails should provide an integrated



Have guided walking trails on Fort Ord. Plant more trees with the population - make Seaside greener.”

- Survey respondent



Have tour guides for walking in both English and Spanish.”

- Open house participant



alternative transportation system for residents to access parks and other destinations within their community. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the Surgeon General has issued a Call to Action to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes with links to public transit also provides economic values.

Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see the City of Seaside do to improve parks and recreation programs. One of the common themes that emerged from the 229 specific comments was for improved or additional walking trails. The community seeks an expansion of walking trails and the establishment of safe bike routes, emphasizing the importance of connectivity between parks. Residents also specifically requested repairs to existing paths, wheelchair-friendly paths, and pet-friendly trails.

During the June and November 2023 public open house meetings, participants selected “additional walking and biking trails” as the top future investment for Seaside’s park system. Other comments included:

- Help people have bike access and publish bike and walking map for safe ways to get around, including roads to use and to avoid.
- Connect, improve, and use alleyways and create separated lanes to get the central areas connected from the Bay to Fort Ord.
- Build a dedicated bike lane system that traverses east to west, as well as north to south, across Seaside.
- This entire central area (near Sand City) is missing parks and safe trail connections; develop an ocean to national monument bike/walk trail.
- Complete the walkway through Havana Soliz, Lincoln Cunningham and Stuart Parks, including a new pedestrian bridge over San Pablo Avenue.
- Plan for multiple, safe access routes to the planned FORTAG trail and expand trails into Fort Ord.

These community needs are already informing future investments as the City continues to coordinate with regional partners for the first, 1.5-mile segment of the Fort Ord Regional Trail & Greenway along the Canyon Del Rey corridor through Del Rey Oaks and Seaside. The California Transportation Commission awarded a grant to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County \$10.3 million to build this first segment.



Add bike barriers – physical barriers to moving cars.”

- Open house participant

Recreational Trail Classifications

Trails can be stand-alone or comprised of loops and connections within any park type. Seaside is planning to promote the implementation and use of trails to help connect and create a more walkable community. Trails may be created through natural areas, within parks or connect to sidewalks. Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation networks generally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, or a single use. Recreation trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint.

Regional Trails / Multi-Use Paths

Regional trails are typically planned and designed with active transportation and high volume recreation use as their primary purpose. As such, these should be designed as multi-use paths (Class I Bikeways) and physically separated from motor vehicle traffic and within either a highway right-of-way or an independent right-of-way. Regional trails are paved and should follow the trail design standards for California State Parks. In general, regional trails are completely separated from roads by distance or barriers, and at-grade crossings of roadways are minimized to avoid conflicts. Regional trails should be a minimum of 12 feet wide under most conditions, with a minimum two-foot wide graded area on both sides that should be flush with the trail. These trails are intended to be long-distance routes that connect to other

trails and extend to other cities. Coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, community development programs, and transportation planning is central to developing a complete system of regional trails.

Connector Trails

Connector trails are the key linkages between regional trails and other major areas. These trails can be paved or soft surface trails, but these are typically narrower than regional trails, due to more limited use and possible land access issues. These trails are designed for recreation and transportation uses. Connector trails should meet the City's sidewalk standards as a minimum and have a width of eight feet to 12 feet. Connector trails are in high demand by the community as key infrastructure to make walking and bicycling more convenient modes of travel within Seaside.

Local Trails

Local trails are typically paved pathways within parks or soft surface trails that can range from two foot to ten feet wide. These trails are typically designed for recreational uses such as neighborhood links, park trails, and hiking, off-road bicycling, and equestrian trails. These trails can also meet special interest activities, such as BMX and mountain biking. Local trails may be constructed as concrete or asphalt pathways or with native soil from the site or with a surface of gravel or wood chip material if additional reinforcement is required. Trail surfaces are usually graded slightly to reduce the potential for erosion.

Figure 24. Recreational Trail Classifications

Classification	Function	Use Type	Users	Surfacing	Width
Regional Trail	Major connections through community and beyond	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters. Equestrians (where feasible)	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk.	12-18'
Connector Trail	Connects parks, trails, neighborhoods and destinations	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk. Gravel, possible.	8-12'
Park / Local Trail	Interior loops or point-to-point routes in public spaces.	Multi- or single use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk; gravel, native soil, wood chips also possible.	2-10'



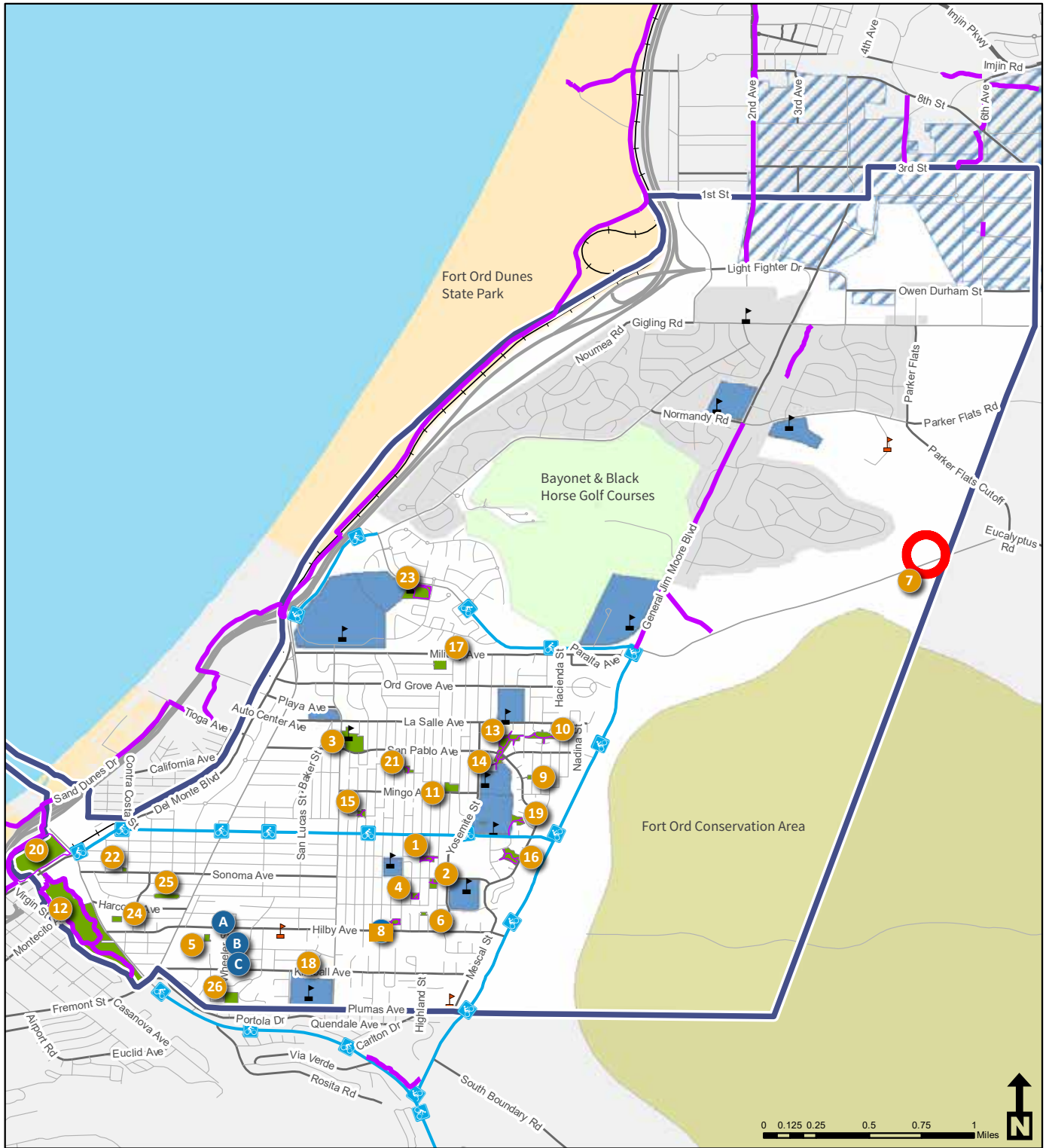
Credit: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Trail System Inventory

In addition to paved pathways and natural surfaced trails within individual parks, Seaside has been planning to grow a trails network to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and connections across the City.

- The Monterey Bay Coastal Recreational Trail follows the alignment of the former Southern Pacific Railroad and extends for 18 miles from Castroville in the north to Pacific Grove in the south. The path hugs to coast and connects numerous popular destinations. In Seaside, the Coastal Trail runs parallel to Sand Dunes Drive and can be accessed from the Seaside Beach parking area. A trail side connection also reaches into Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park and runs along the western edge of the lake.
- The Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) is a community-proposed 30-mile regional network of paved recreational trails and greenways connecting communities to open space. The project was included in the Transportation Agency for Monterey County-authored and 2016 voter-approved Transportation Safety & Investment Plan (Measure X). FORTAG is anticipated to run through the Seaside section of the National Monument. The Phase 1 Segment of FORTAG stretches 1.5 miles along the State Route 218 and Canyon Del Rey corridor through Del Rey Oaks and Seaside and is currently in process. The southern loop of FORTAG encircles Seaside and bisects Del Rey Oaks, following a 15-mile route that includes 4 miles of the existing coastal trail system. The proposed trail includes spurs connecting with existing bike/pedestrian infrastructure. Several sections of the paved trail will be accompanied by nearby unpaved trails running loosely parallel to the main paved trail. Several of these unpaved trails already exist.
- The Fort Ord National Monument offers hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for residents and visitors to Monterey County. Located on the former Fort Ord military base, the National Monument covers over 14,600 acres, including 918 acres in Seaside; however, only 7,200 acres are open to the public. The remainder of the area, including the portion in Seaside, is undergoing munition hazard cleanup by the U.S. Army and is anticipated to be open as soon as feasible. The potential future entry points into the National Monument are at Gigling Rd, Broadway Ave, and Eucalyptus Rd, as well as informal and formal trailheads.
- The Eucalyptus Road trailhead is a designated location for future improvements to provide better access to the trail system in the Fort Ord National Monument. The access road (Coe Road) is currently temporarily closed approximately a ½-mile from the future trailhead location on Eucalyptus Road. The trailhead location would provide access to an extensive system of existing hiking and biking in the natural areas of the Monument.
- Local trails within Seaside parks provide walking opportunities in natural areas, such as Laguna Grande Regional Park. The older parks (Havana Soliz, Lincoln Cunningham, and Manzanita Stuart Parks) up on the hilltop were once connected through a paved path and pedestrian bridge (currently closed) crossing over San Pablo Avenue. A future reconnection of those parks via a replaced San Pablo pedestrian bridge is being proposed within the six-year parks capital improvement plan.

Map 16. Existing Recreational Trails



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
| 4 Durant Park | 13 Lincoln Cunningham Park | 22 Sonoma Sports Court |
| 5 Ellis Park | 14 Manzanita Stuart Park | 23 Soper Field |
| 6 Encanto Park | 15 Martin Park | 24 Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park |
| 7 Eucalyptus Road Trail Access | 16 Mescal Neil Park | 25 Trinity Park |
| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |

- A Oldmeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

City Limits	Public School
City Park Paths/Trails	Private School
Existing Recreation Trails	University / College Property
Existing Bikeways	Fort Ord Conservation Area
City Parks	CA State Parks & Recreation
Golf Course	Military Zoning
School District Property	Water

Trail System Gap Analysis

A gap analysis was conducted to examine and assess the accessibility of existing recreational trails. As with the parkland analysis, travel distances were calculated along the road network starting from each existing trail segment's known access points. Local trails within parks were also depicted. Travelsheds were calculated with ¼-mile, ½-mile and 1-mile distances for major trails (e.g., Monterey Bay Coastal Recreational Trail) and ¼-mile and ½-mile travelsheds for the remainder (e.g., local/park trails). Map 17 illustrates the citywide distribution of recreational trails and the relative access to these corridors within reasonable travel walksheds. Approximately 26% of the City has access to regional trails to a ½-mile and local/park trails to a ¼-mile. The service area grows to 78% of the City when the travelshed is expanded to a 1-mile distance for regional trails and ¼-mile distance for local/park trails.

Similar to transportation planning, recreational trail planning should be geared toward connectivity as a system performance metric, rather than mileage. Only considering a mileage standard for paths within the Seaside park system will result in an isolated and inadequate assessment of community needs with little consideration for better trail connectivity. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City to enhance off-street linkages between parks, schools, and major destinations, as feasible. The use of policies and objectives is more appropriate for the expansion of the trails network with a focus on connectivity, rather than the use of a per capita distance metric (e.g., miles per 1,000 population). Therefore, this Plan does not propose a mileage-based trail facility standard. To be clear, the proposed exclusion of a mileage-based standard for trails does not diminish or reduce the importance of or value in continuing to expand and grow the trail network; the intent is merely to orient the City's efforts toward a policy-based approach of trail connectivity.



Trails for walking and biking! I have 3 children ages 7-12, and it is SOOOO difficult to ride our bikes and walk safely around Seaside. I also worry about kids who walk and bike to and from school. Trails would be nice for leisurely walks and safety."

- Survey respondent

Trail Recommendations

The Seaside 2040 General Plan included several policies relevant to supporting a city-wide trail system with the goal to ensure safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian connections to park, open space, and recreational facilities.

- Access to parks. Increase connectivity to park and open space through bicycle facilities and priority pedestrian routes.
- National Monument connectivity. Promote the development of trails within Seaside East to the National Monument.
- Coastal and beach access. Improve coastal and beach access from existing Seaside neighborhoods.
- Trail Standards. Strive to meet California State Parks' standards for accessible trail design.

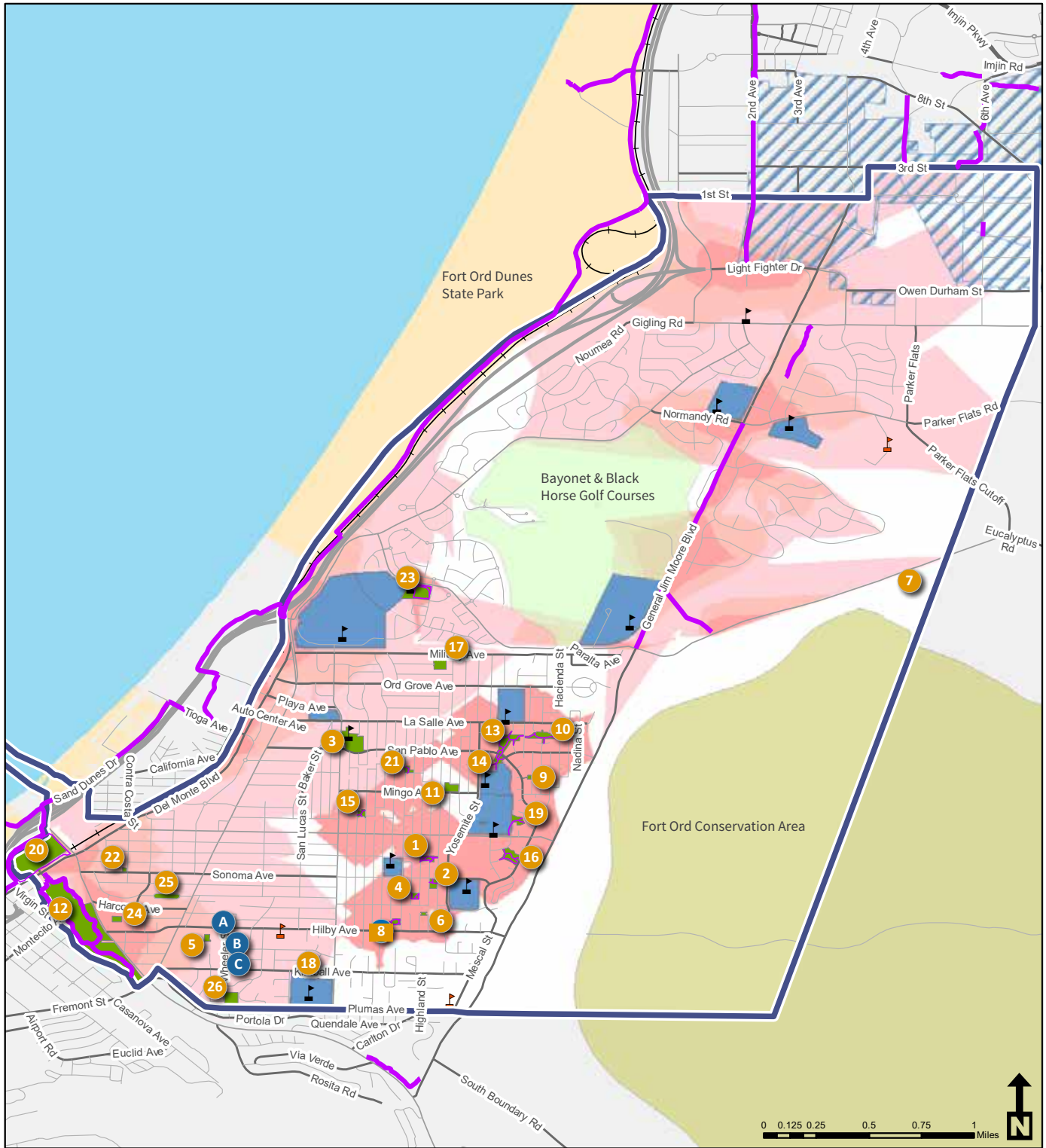
The 2040 Plan also stated a specified goal of providing public access to coastal areas through the provision of multiple access points, increased visibility and signage, and increased opportunities for alternative modes to safely travel to the beach. This goal included the continual participation in regional trail planning efforts, such as FORTAG, and local bicycle planning to better link existing Seaside neighborhoods and former Fort Ord lands to the California Coastal Trail. The General Plan depicts the proposed northern and southern loops of the Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (Figure 34).

Trail Amenities

Access & Trailheads

Safe, convenient entryways to the burgeoning trail network will enhance access for users and will be a critical component of a successful trail system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks, and signage and may consist of site furnishings, such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, bike repair stations, and bike racks. More recent trailhead installations are adding electric bike charging stations to continue to expand alternative modes of transportation. Trailheads may be within public parks and open space or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (e.g., Monterey County, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Caltrans, etc.) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead designs and layouts should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and consider the intended user groups and unique site conditions.

Map 17. Travelsheds for Existing Recreational Trails (up to 1-mile)



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
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| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |

- A Oldmeyer Center
- B Pattullo Swim Center
- C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend

- City Limits
- 1/4-mile Travelshed to Recreational Trail
- 1/2-mile Travelshed to Recreational Trail
- 1-mile Travelshed to Recreational Trail
- City Park Paths/Trails
- Existing Recreational Trails
- City Parks
- Golf Course
- School District Property
- Public School
- Private School
- University / College Property
- Fort Ord Conservation Area
- CA State Parks & Recreation
- Water

Areas of Respite

Beyond trailheads that can provide access to the trail with parking, restrooms, drinking water or seating, rest areas along trail segments can enhance the trail user's experience to enjoy the natural settings and/or urban dynamics of the trail's environment. Areas of respite are usually available within developed parks connected to the trail system, but longer sections of trails between trailheads and parks could offer places to rest, stop and chat, enjoy wildlife viewing, reconnoiter, meet-up with fellow trail users, etc. Differentiated from trailheads, these 'rest stops' can simply offer pull-offs with benches or picnic tables, observation or viewing platforms, or interpretive signs. These sites should also be included in the emergency response system with an identifying code to provide locator information.

Alignments & Connections

The expansion of the trail network should prioritize trail alignments and locations that are optimal from multiple perspectives: trail user, trail experience, and trail connectivity. Cost, regulatory, and site suitability factors are typically incorporated into implementation timing. New trail alignments should strive to accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented) and utilize interim solutions, such as widening sidewalks and utilizing existing or planned utility corridors as opportunities for trail improvements. Integration of trail projects with other pedestrian infrastructure projects and other transportation projects implemented by the City is essential for expanding the reach of trail opportunities. Trail alignments for neighborhood and park trails should serve as connections to regional, multi-use trails to provide access and reduce the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the trail network. New developments also should provide for connections to nearby trails and pathways, wherever feasible. The Conceptual Recreational Trail System map (Map 18) indicates potential alignments that can vary depending upon landowner willingness, along with environmental constraints and design considerations.

Trail Development Opportunities

Opportunities to develop additional trails and connections may be limited due to existing dense urban development. One consideration is for the re-design and use of certain alleyways or lower volume local streets that run east-west through central Seaside to enable enhanced neighborhood connectivity and potentially link the FORTAG trail

alignment to the coastal trail. This will require additional assessments to identify preferred alignments and outreach to residents along potential corridors. These east-west corridors could be treated as paseos to include unifying design elements (i.e., lighting, benches, signage) and locally-appropriate urban trees to provide shade and create an enhanced sense of space.

The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas, such as portions of the former Fort Ord site, should be based on sensitive and low-impact design solutions that offer controlled access to protect the resource, while providing for a positive experience for all modes of trail user. The determination of future trail alignments should prioritize natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies and State requirements.

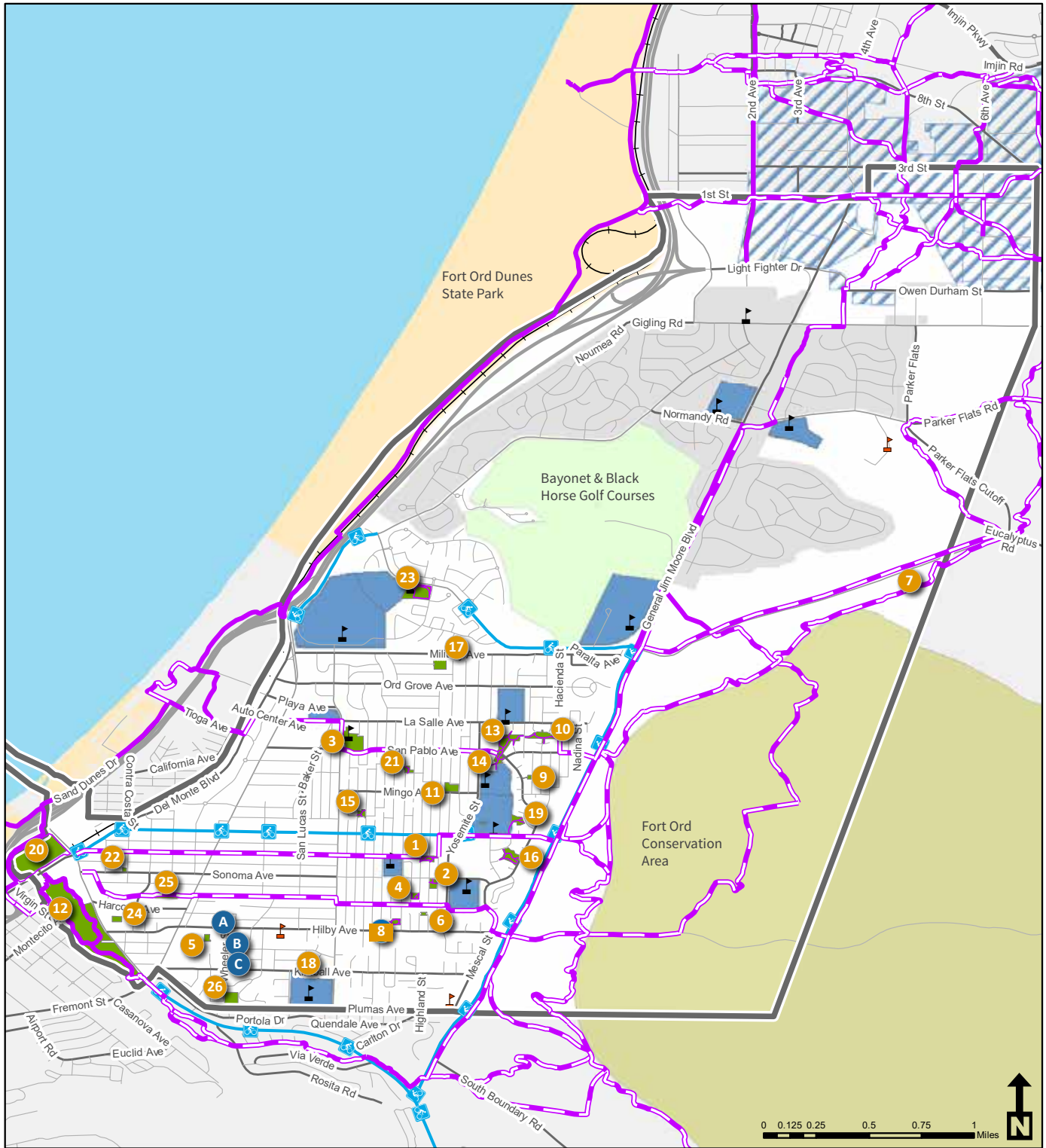
Trail Signs & Wayfinding

Enhanced signage and consistency in brand identification could increase awareness for residents and visitors of nearby recreational opportunities, and coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is necessary to inform, orient, and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages, and a unifying design identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be consistently implemented throughout the network:

- Directional and regulatory signs;
- Trail user etiquette;
- Hierarchy signs;
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding;
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest;
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles;
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical, and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail; and
- QR codes to provide links to additional information.

Also, the installation of kiosks at trailheads is a best practice that should continue and provides important trail information, while reinforcing the visual brand of the Seaside trail experience.

Map 18. Conceptual Recreational Trail Network



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Beta Park | 10 Havana Soliz Park | 19 Portola Leslie Park |
| 2 Capra Park | 11 Highland Otis Park | 20 Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park |
| 3 David Cutino Park | 12 Laguna Grande Park | 21 Sabado Park |
| 4 Durant Park | 13 Lincoln Cunningham Park | 22 Sonoma Sports Court |
| 5 Ellis Park | 14 Manzanita Stuart Park | 23 Soper Field |
| 6 Encanto Park | 15 Martin Park | 24 Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park |
| 7 Eucalyptus Road Trail Access | 16 Mescal Neil Park | 25 Trinity Park |
| 8 Farallones Park | 17 Metz Park | 26 Wheeler Tennis Courts |
| 9 Fernando Montgomery Park | 18 Pacchetti Dog Park | |
- A Oldemeyer Center
 B Pattullo Swim Center
 C Youth Education & Resource Center

Legend



GOALS & ACTIONS

The goals and actions described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Seaside aims to provide.

Taken together, the goals and objectives provide a framework for the city-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Additionally, goals are stated within functional areas related to the planning, development and administration of the Seaside park and recreation system.

Also, these goals were influenced in part by the National Recreation and Parks Association's Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization and help frame recreation advocacy at the national level. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing

opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity.
- **Social Equity** – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few.

The following goals and actions support the policies from the City's General Plan, and several policies are carried over for consistency and referenced in parentheses by policy number and bullet number (e.g., PO-1, b3).



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Goal 1: Encourage and support active and ongoing participation in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreational opportunities.

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning and design and recreation program development in order to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and engender public support.
- 1.2 During the creation of specific plans, site master plans, or other similar area Seaside planning processes, create a park and open space plan that shows the location and extent of future parks, open space, and recreation-open space areas. (PO-1, b12)
- 1.3 Continue to support and promote the Recreation and Parks Commission as the forum for public discussion of park and recreation issues.
- 1.4 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Recreation and Parks Commission and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, Art & History Commission and Environmental Commission, and with the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.
- 1.5 Continue to encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, local non-profits, faith organizations and businesses.
- 1.6 Track and evaluate recreation trends, park use patterns, and park user needs.
- 1.7 Communicate the value of the City's investment in parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities and provide information to the public about park and recreation funding and the stewardship of tax dollars.
- 1.8 Continue to use a variety of methods and media to publicize and increase resident awareness about recreational opportunities available in local neighborhoods and citywide.
- 1.9 Regularly update the City website and mobile interfaces to provide easy access to information about parks, trail routes, activities, events, and maps along with ensuring the website follows best practices for accessibility and inclusion.
- 1.10 Develop an evaluation process for marketing media such as newspaper, seasonal brochures, website, direct mail, targeted emails, radio, and television advertising to continuously determine effectiveness of marketing dollars.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Goal 2: Provide park and recreation opportunities throughout parklands, facilities, and programming that engages all members of the community to the best of their ability.

- 2.1 Address and remove accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to activities, facilities, programs, parks and trails.
- 2.2 Provide programming and services, as well as accompanying communications and marketing materials, that reflect the guiding principle of the General Plan of Seaside as “An Inclusive City for All”.
- 2.3 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical abilities, skill levels and age; beyond compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design and California Title 24. Upgrade existing parks to remove any physical barriers.
- 2.4 Explore unique and/or specialized recreational amenities that expand the range of outdoor play experiences beyond the traditional options.
- 2.5 Continue to expand intentional engagement with diverse community groups to create and partner on new diverse events and community celebrations.
- 2.6 Continue to pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as youth stewardship programs, and active communication through faith-based groups and non-profit organizations that work with underserved communities.
- 2.7 Implement signage and information in multiple languages at parks and trails, and include information about amenities, etiquette, trail length, material/accessibility.
- 2.8 Prioritize park and recreation investments in underserved areas of the City or neighborhoods to improve equitable access to public amenities.
- 2.9 Identify appropriate locations within parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs or cultural displays while ensuring that these features are incorporated through a diversity and inclusion lens.



DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

Goal 3: Maintain Seaside parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, preservation of habitat and natural systems, and safety for park patrons.

- 3.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 3.2 Maintain an inventory of assets and their condition; update the inventory as assets are added, updated or removed from the system and periodically assess the condition of park and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- 3.3 Continue to engage, coordinate, and partner with user groups of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, skatepark, etc.
- 3.4 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities.
- 3.5 Implement the coastal access / directional signage program for all public access points. (PO-5, b2)
- 3.6 Standardize park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) to reduce inventory and replacement costs and improve appearance of, and maintenance consistency within the park system.
- 3.7 Develop City-owned or maintained park sites based on site-specific master plans or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals, and available financial resources.
- 3.8 Encourage innovation in new park design allowing community gardens, urban agriculture and orchards, paseos, plazas, tot lots, roof-top gardens and other urban parks and green spaces. (PO-1, b6)
- 3.9 Utilize CPTED principles in the design and renovation of existing parks and open space facilities to improve safety. Provide appropriate lighting and visibility in park facilities, while minimizing adverse impacts to adjacent properties. (PO-3, b3) (PO-3, b4)
- 3.10 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning, and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 3.11 Integrate public art, in partnership with the Art & History Commission, and park design from the onset of facility planning to create compelling, engaging, and captivating public places; prioritize experiences that are interactive and allow for dynamic sensory exploration.



RESILIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 4: Adapt to climate change and increase local park system resiliency by improving environmental conditions, stewardship, and sustainability in parks, open spaces and recreation facilities within planning, development, maintenance, and operations.

- 4.1 Utilize, as appropriate, native and lower-resource requiring vegetation for landscaping in parks and City-owned properties to minimize maintenance requirements and control invasive vegetation through removal and other environmentally responsible means.
- 4.2 Design new and renovated facilities using appropriate technology, construction materials, and maintenance procedures to gain cost efficiencies and conserve resources.
- 4.3 Increase energy and water conservation and efficiency at new and existing park and recreation facilities. (PO-7, b1)
- 4.4 Design future parks to use natural processes to capture, utilize, and infiltrate stormwater. (PO-7, b2)
- 4.5 Increase awareness of environmental sustainability practices by highlighting conservation practices at park and recreational facilities. (PO-7, b4)
- 4.6 Identify and pursue opportunities to develop climate resiliency demonstration projects in the park system.
- 4.7 Promote educational opportunities to emphasize the need to maintain and manage biological resources to maintain the uniqueness and biodiversity of the former Fort Ord. (PO-2, b4)
- 4.8 Develop a tree canopy plan that accounts for tree replacement planting, identifies opportunities for native canopy shade trees in existing parks, and promotes shade trees in developed or paved urban parks and plazas to reduce heat islands, increase resiliency, and cool stormwater runoff.
- 4.9 Enhance processes for successful tree establishment, including planting techniques, soil amendments, mulching, and options for seasonal watering.
- 4.10 Use recreation facilities in support of the City's emergency preparedness planning to serve as heating or cooling centers, distribution centers, and/or emergency gathering.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Goal 5: Provide a diversity of parks, recreation facilities and open space and a balance of opportunities for both passive and active recreation that meet the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.

- 5.1 Meet a city-wide park standard ratio of three acres per thousand residents, (excluding the Fort Ord National Monument and Bayonet) reflecting the standard requirement in the Quimby Act. (PO-1, b1)
- 5.2 Provide a distributed park and open space system, such that all residents live within a ½-mile access of a park, trail or open space.
- 5.3 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the park and open space system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, known service gaps, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 5.4 Evaluate older, existing parks for opportunities to upgrade and increase amenities to expand outdoor recreation experiences and serve wider user types. Revive aging park infrastructure to improve current facilities.
- 5.5 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, local user appeal, fiscal opportunity and revenue-generating potential.
- 5.6 Pursue use or development agreements, easements, fee simple purchases or other arrangements to secure suitable locations for new parks and trails to serve existing and future residents.
- 5.7 Require a minimum amount of open space in higher density residential and mixed-use projects. Carefully and deliberately integrate these spaces into project design and require maintenance by the property management organization. (PO-1, b2)
- 5.8 Plan for a range of play types, universal access and a phasing plan when replacing or upgrading playground equipment.
- 5.9 Pursue opportunities to add an all-inclusive or a “boundless playground” to the park system.
- 5.10 Develop a wider variety of recreation opportunities and plan for sport fields, courts and specialized recreational facilities (e.g., splash pad, off-leash area, disc golf, etc.) with consideration of local needs, partner support/capacity, recreational trends, and availability of similar facilities within the city and region.
- 5.11 Consider incorporating alternative sport opportunities for youth and adults in the park system such as disc golf, futsal, bouldering, and other non-team physical activities.
- 5.12 Provide a range of park types and community recreation facilities on former Fort Ord, including a regional recreation area in Seaside East. (PO-1, b4)
- 5.13 Provide environmental education opportunities in open space areas with creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other engaging experiences.



RECREATION, ART & EVENTS

Goal 6: Provide a varied and inclusive suite of recreation opportunities and experiences to promote health and wellness, year-round activity, and social engagement.

- 6.1 Promote and expand recreational programming and events to enhance community identity, community activity and environmental education; Incorporate the diversity of community festivals, events, movies in parks, community gardens, historical interpretation and other cultural activities into the Seaside brand of park and recreation services.
- 6.2 Partner with the community and local organizations to foster a variety of cultural events and support community cultural celebrations.
- 6.3 Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, considering programs that are in high demand, serve a wide range of users and utilize the City's indoor and outdoor assets.
- 6.4 Strategically expand recreation programs that complement services of other providers as facilities, staffing levels and partner opportunities allow.
- 6.5 Continue to support and expand the Youth Employment Program promoting job and life skills, among others.
- 6.6 Continue to foster and expand partnerships with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, non-profit agencies, private recreation oriented clubs and local providers to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 6.7 Periodically evaluate recreation program offerings in terms of attendance, current trends, customer satisfaction, cost-to-subsidy, and availability of similar programs through other providers and make adjustments as necessary.
- 6.8 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 6.9 Identify and implement opportunities for integrating arts and culture into parks and open space, including, where feasible and appropriate, through permanent and temporary public art installations, arts performance and events, interpretive strategies, and other dynamic expressions.
- 6.10 Encourage the collaboration of arts and culture marketing and communication efforts through shared event calendars, social media management, and other cohesive strategies.



TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

Goal 7: Expand and develop a network of shared-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and public amenities.

- 7.1 Support implementation of the FORTAG regional trail and coordinate with FORTAG on trail design and connectivity and promote trail art. (PO-1, b5)
- 7.2 Integrate the planning for and prioritization of recreational trails with the City's General Plan Mobility Element and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, utilizing the conceptual alignments provided within this Plan.
- 7.3 Implement pedestrian and bicycle access improvements along Canyon Del Rey Boulevard and from the Main Gate area to provide safe passage to the coast consistent with the pedestrian improvement focus areas and FORTAG implementation. (PO-5, b1)
- 7.4 Continue to participate in regional trail planning efforts, such as FORTAG, and local bicycle planning to better link existing Seaside neighborhoods and former Fort Ord lands to the California Coastal Trail. (PO-5, b4)
- 7.5 Work with regional agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail rights-of-way and easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- 7.6 Coordinate construction of trail projects with other capital improvement projects including utility and transportation projects.
- 7.7 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- 7.8 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities, wherever feasible, to facilitate the use of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Where sidewalks are an integrated component of a trail system, sidewalks may be needed and should be designed to accommodate multiple uses.
- 7.9 Work with City departments and community groups to ensure safe pedestrian access across physical barriers to parks and recreation facilities. Incorporate traffic calming strategies at access points to parks, open space, and trailheads. Incorporate traffic calming design techniques into design guidelines, as appropriate.
- 7.10 Furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that may include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.
- 7.11 Develop and implement a system of signs (e.g., trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that coordinates with the City's streetscape and furniture standards and wayfinding signage program in accordance with best practices.



ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Goal 8: Provide clear leadership through exceptional management, partnerships, collaborations, and agreements that supports and promotes park, recreation, and open space system.

- 8.1 Pursue sufficient financial resources to ensure a vibrant and well-maintained parks and recreation system and allocate adequate funding for maintenance, staffing and asset preservation.
- 8.2 Identify and implement partnerships with other public, private, non-profit, and community organizations to support capital projects, community events, programs, and other special initiatives.
- 8.3 Establish and maintain joint use agreements with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, CSUMB, federal government, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District to allow greater park access. (PO-6, b1)
- 8.4 Strengthen public-private partnerships with groups, such as the Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA), to build and maintain public parks and recreational facilities. Continue working with Sustainable Seaside and other partners, when programming ecology education. (PO-6, b2)
- 8.5 Participate in regional and federal programs and partner with land trusts or other nonprofits to seek funding to preserve, maintain, and manage natural open space. (PO-2, b3)
- 8.6 Participate in coordinated regional planning for parks and open space development and access. (PO-6, b3)
- 8.7 In addition to the adopted Community Facilities District, explore options for Quimby Act fees, other developer impact fees, disposition and development agreements or other mechanisms to provide funding for improvements. (PO-1, b10)
- 8.8 Explore park funding and dedication requirements for new development, including the addition of park-like features, such as tot lots, paseos, and urban orchards in new developments. Collaborate with developers for future park, facility or trail projects to meet the goals of this Plan. (PO-1, b9)
- 8.9 Stay abreast of best practices in technology and implement systems and tools to improve customer service and support efficient operations.
- 8.10 Invest in professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Commission members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with relevant national and regional associations.
- 8.11 Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan periodically and approximately every ten years to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs and to be positioned for grants, partnerships and other project.





CAPITAL PROJECTS & IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and amenity enhancement projects.

Key Project Recommendations

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents for the continued support of a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability, and character of the Seaside community.

Park Development & Enhancements

In the immediate near-term, the City should focus on park renovations for Lincoln Cunningham, Havana Soliz and Capra Parks based on recent site master plans and the community engagement

surrounding these projects. Additionally, several parks have aging infrastructure that warrants upgrades, and a number of the older parks contained only a swing set or no provision for children’s play. These parks should be given higher priority for improvements to create a more equitable distribution of outdoor recreation amenities in the City. Park site master planning will help guide and determine the best, future uses and phased improvements for Fernando Montgomery, Manzanita Stuart, Mescal Neil, Metz, Portola Leslie, and Sabado Parks.

The City should also consider adding the following recreation features to expand recreational opportunities beyond named park and trail project targets as funding allows:

- Shade structures for playgrounds
- Splash pad
- All-inclusive playgrounds
- Older youth outdoor recreational amenities, such as parkour elements, bike skills or mountain biking
- Gathering spaces (picnic shelters, etc.)
- Outdoor fitness areas
- Multi-sport courts (e.g., futsal/hockey, pickleball/tennis)
- Public art

Including facilities for alternative or emerging sports can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract and engage park users. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports could be expanded in the City. Outdoor fitness amenities, natural play, and more creative play equipment can provide more outdoor opportunities for physical health, fun, and social interaction.

Other projects may include adding amenities to existing parks, such as picnic shelters for small gatherings and paved pathway connections to improve user circulation and ADA-compliant routes. A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provided year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities that also balance fiscal stability.

Recreation Programming

The City should continue to focus on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users, while continuing to monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure local needs and interests are addressed by program offerings. Expanded promotions, marketing, and communications about existing recreation program opportunities may be necessary to improve local awareness about what is offered and strengthen usage of facilities and programs. The City also should continue to match its programming efforts with available staff and financial resources, recognizing that increasing the role of the Recreation Department in providing programs and events will require an increase in full and part-time staff.

The City also will continue its provision of special events that offer both residents and visitors the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities and celebrations of Seaside’s unique character. Community





events are an important element for local identity, economic activity, and social engagement that contribute to quality of life in Seaside. Future planning for a new regional park within the Fort Ord area should include a community event space and/or amphitheater to provide the infrastructure to accommodate larger gatherings, events, and festivals.

Trail Connections

Recreational path and trail connections, improvements and relationships to streets, sidewalks and bike lanes are needed to help link destinations across Seaside. The FORTAG Study, along with Map 18 in this Plan, identified several trail alignments to be accomplished to expand recreation trail connections and address existing gaps for bicycle and pedestrian access. The City should continue to coordinate trail-related projects through transportation system planning or related Public Works projects. Also, acquiring additional land, easements, and/or rights-of-way for the expansion of the recreational trail network are necessary and should be coordinated with the Public Works Department. There may also be opportunities to explore trail development partnerships with local user groups and pursue additional trail segments and connections, as appropriate.

ADA & Other Accessibility Enhancements

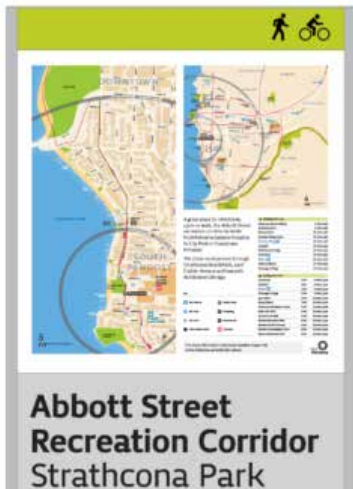
Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances to playgrounds or stable surface access to site furnishings, are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. The CIP includes upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability, and quality of park features and grounds.

Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

The City must secure additional parkland to serve its population and provide more accessible outdoor recreation space for the community, especially in the Terrace and Olympia neighborhoods. With the nature of urban development in central Seaside, opportunities to acquire sufficiently-sized sites to accommodate parks will be difficult. To implement an acquisition program, the City will need to actively search for potential locations and willing property owners to secure future park sites, ahead of or concurrent with anticipated new development. New parks in the central core may need to take the form of over-sized or adjoining lots or other creative approaches to establish mini parks in these areas as a near-term priority.

Wayfinding & Signage

Parks, trails, and other public open spaces are the primary opportunities for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible, and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. The City has installed newer park entry signs, but typically only one sign was provided. Since many Seaside parks have multiple entry points, the City should identify with signage all of the side entries into parks



with park names, City branding, and park rules. To clarify ownership and the managing agency, the City should install additional, graphically-unified signs to help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City. Signage should be installed at key trail nodes and all City parks (primary and secondary entry points) to include directional and mileage information, site and system maps, unique features, and user etiquette information.

Implementation Tools

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Seaside; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Seaside City Council has demonstrated its willingness in the recent past to support park and recreation efforts and enhance the quality of life in Seaside.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Recreation and Public Works Departments are finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement, and support the implementation of proposed objectives, initiatives, and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize all ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents, and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix H, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the City budget, Seaside maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt, and the City currently holds no debt according to the 2023-2024 Budget. A short-

term bond or levy could be structured to maximize voter support to include parkland acquisitions and redevelopment, general park element upgrades, and/or recreation center renovations. The potential to bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan or take advantage of unforeseen opportunities, such as acquisitions, may warrant a review of debt implications and operating costs for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

Park Impact Fees & In-Lieu Fees

With the future Fort Ord redevelopment and planned Campus Town development, the City should consider how to require new residential developments to provide developed parkland and recreational amenities pursuant to the California Quimby Act (Quimby) and/or the Mitigation Fee Act (MFA), and/or pay a fee in-lieu thereof.

The Quimby Act allows California jurisdictions to establish parkland dedication requirements of at least 3.0 per 1,000 residents and up to and 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents depending on current parkland provision. Developers wishing to create new residential parcels may meet the Quimby Act requirements either through direct land dedication, or payment of an equivalent in-lieu fee. The equivalent in-lieu fee levels must be calculated based on the parkland service standard per 1,000 residents, current per-acre land values, and number of persons per household.

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. Park impact fees apply to new building permits for new residential and nonresidential development. Projects that paid in-lieu fees at the time of subdivision pay a reduced rate for the impact fees. The City should prioritize the usage of impact fees and in-lieu fees to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

Low Impact Design & Stormwater Capturing Opportunities

The resurgence of integrated landscape design provides an opportunity to consider options to design and restore parks to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve watershed health and enable environmental education and interpretation. Visible stormwater features, educational signage, and design elements could improve local ecology and inform visitors

about the impacts of pollutants (i.e., dog waste, pesticides, and herbicides) and encourage more environmentally-friendly choices. The City should also consider connecting existing and future parks with stormwater capture elements and the adaptive re-use and/or redesign of park facilities.

Parkland Donations & Dedications

Additional parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the city. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the owner's passing or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Property dedication for park use by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. The City should vet any potential dedications to ensure that such land is located in an area of need and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

Grants & Appropriations

State and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including several offered through California State Parks (Prop 68, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities, and Habitat Conservation Fund). Pursuing grants is not a cure-all for park system funding. Grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency. This can be as much as 50% of the total project budget, depending on the grant program. Seaside should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent feasible by pursuing grants independently and collaborating with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

Internal Project Coordination & Collaboration

Internal coordination with the Public Works Department and Planning Division can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the conceptual recreational trail network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential property acquisition areas, planned path corridors, and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations will be necessary.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources to provide community parks and recreation services. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these capital project recommendations.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already significantly contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Seaside, especially through the efforts of FOSPA. Volunteer projects include park restoration, pollinator gardens and naturoscaping, invasive plant removal, and tree planting, among others. Community sponsored park clean-ups, beautification and planting projects, among others, engage citizens and create a stronger sense of community pride and ownership in park and recreation facilities; however, the City must continue to demonstrate its commitment to park maintenance and upkeep and volunteer support in recognition of the community's contributions. Also, the City should maintain and continue to update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to civic groups and high school and university students to encourage student projects.

While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals adds value to the Seaside parks and recreation system, volunteer

coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time. Additional resources may be necessary to enable a volunteer coordinator to more fully utilize the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix H identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants, and acquisition tactics that the City could utilize to further the implementation of projects noted in the Capital Improvements Plan projects List.



I like to volunteer when I can. If there was a portal on the city's website that gives info about volunteer opportunities, that would be nice. But, there might be one already."

- Survey respondent

Capital Improvements Plan

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies capital park, trail, and open space projects considered for the next ten years. It assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition, and development of parks, recreational amenities, and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Seaside residents have indicated an interest in park facility restorations and upgrades as priorities, and the Capital Improvements Plan is reflective of that desire. Figure 25 summarizes the aggregate capital expenditures by project category for the next ten years.

The Capital Improvements Plan on the following page provides brief project descriptions and sequencing to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

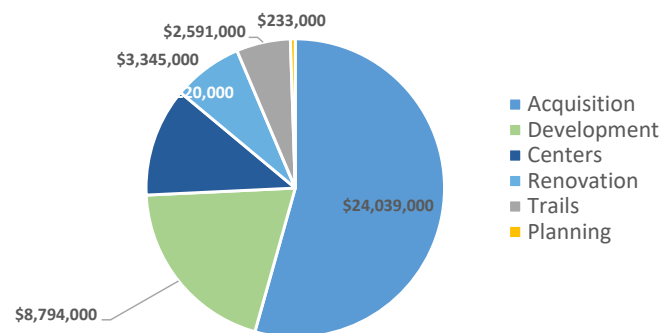
Overall, the current costs for projects identified in the ten-year CIP total over \$44 million. As projects are phased over the next ten or more years, the planning-level project costs have been inflated at an increase of 3.5% annually. The proposed project list focuses primarily on improving existing facilities through timely repairs, replacements, and upgrades to ensure an ongoing, healthy, and safe recreation system for Seaside.



Fight for better funding."

- Survey respondent

Figure 25. 10-Year Capital Improvements Plan Expenditures



Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Capital Improvement Plan

Costs add 3.5% inflation factor to 2024 costs & rounded to \$1000

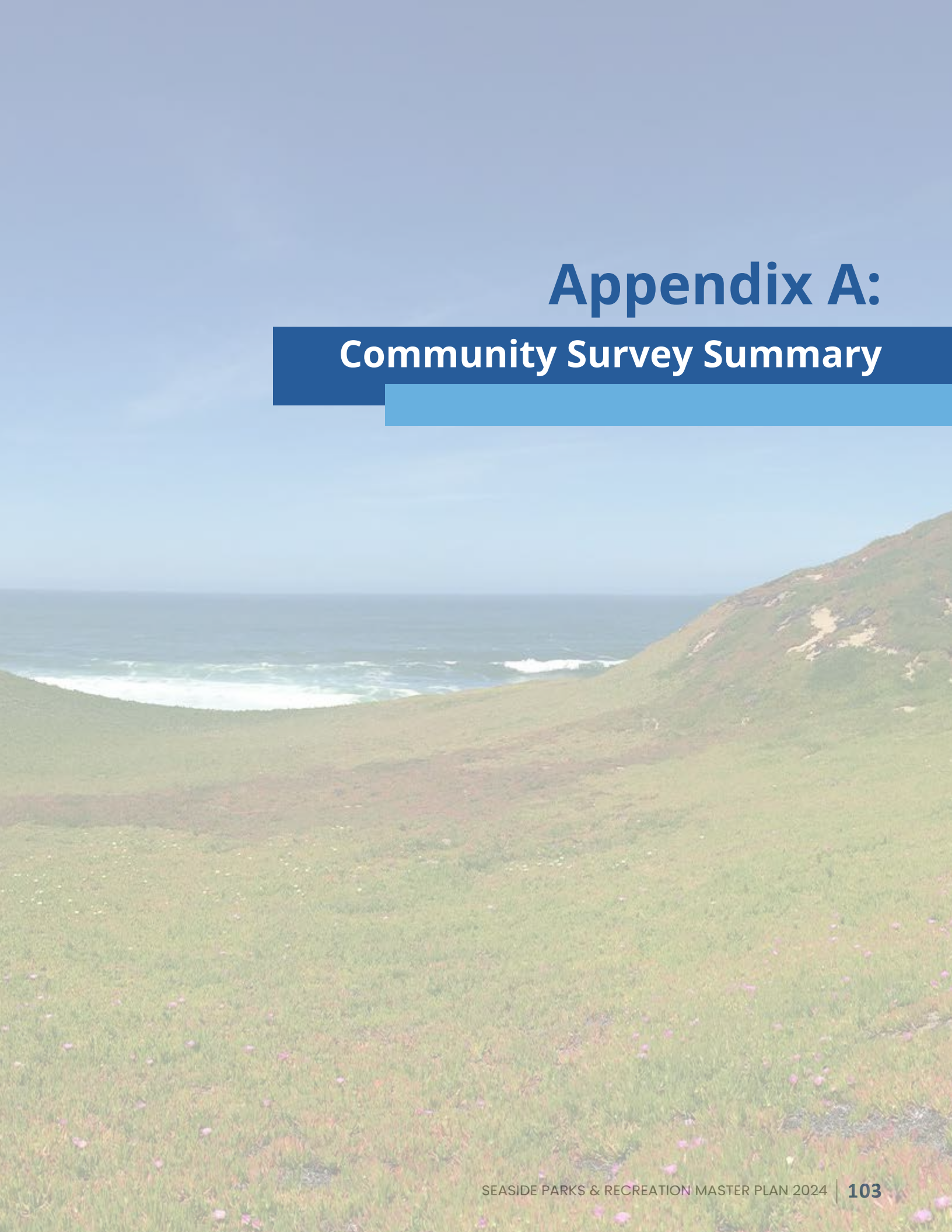
Facility Name	Project Description	Project Type	Priority	2024 Cost Opinion	Implementation Phase										Total	
					2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033		
Beta Park	Improve side entries, connections & signage	R	3	\$40,000								\$49,000				\$49,000
Capra Park	Implement improvement plan: playground, picnic tables/pergolas, access improvements	D	2	\$450,000				\$499,000								\$499,000
Durant Park	Add teen amenity (e.g., sport court/parcour, climbing structure, big swings); Shade structure	D	2	\$350,000						\$416,000						\$416,000
Havana Soliz Park	Implement site master plan	D	1	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000											\$1,400,000
Highland Otis Park	Improve paved access from Highland St	R	3	\$30,000					\$34,000							\$34,000
Laguna Grande Park	Trail upgrades (RTP Grant)	D	1	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000											\$1,700,000
Lincoln Cunningham Park	Implement site master plan	D	1	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000											\$1,200,000
Manzanita-Stuart Park	Master plan for renovation	P	2	\$40,000		\$41,000										\$41,000
	Replace pedestrian bridge	R	1	\$2,800,000			\$2,999,000									\$2,999,000
	Upgrade play area w/ shade structure; Replace benches; Coordinate w/ Lincoln & Soliz Parks	D	2	\$700,000				\$776,000								\$776,000
Mescal-Neil Park	Master plan for complete renovation	P	2	\$50,000					\$57,000							\$57,000
	Add play features & shade, tables, benches, upgrade pathway system	D	3	\$800,000						\$950,000						\$950,000
Metz Park	Add amenity along Military; Replace trees	D	3	\$250,000												\$0
Pacchetti Dog Park	Extend ADA access with paved pathway	R	3	\$30,000				\$33,000								\$33,000
Portola Leslie Park	Master plan for complete renovation	P	3	\$40,000								\$49,000				\$49,000
	Add unique play features and/or outdoor classroom	D	3	\$300,000												\$0
Sabado Park	Site plan & improve for picnic area, playground, sport court, shade trees & lighting	D	2	\$600,000						\$713,000						\$713,000
Trinity Park	Add picnic area & shade trees; Improve ADA access	D	3	\$140,000				\$155,000								\$155,000
Wheeler Tennis Courts	Convert 2 tennis to pickleball; Add playground: Add portable toilets	D	2	\$400,000			\$428,000									\$428,000
Mini Park Expansion	Parkland acquisition (Area A, Map 16)	A	1	\$1,500,000		\$1,553,000										\$1,553,000
	Site plan Area A & improve for picnic area, playground, shade trees & lighting	D	1	\$1,000,000				\$1,109,000								\$1,109,000
	Parkland acquisition (Area B, Map 16)	A	1	\$1,250,000			\$1,339,000									\$1,339,000
	Site plan Area B & improve for picnic area, playground, shade trees & lighting	D	2	\$1,000,000					\$1,148,000							\$1,148,000
	Parkland acquisition (Area C, Map 16)	A	3	\$1,250,000					\$1,434,000							\$1,434,000
	Parkland acquisition (Area D, Map 16)	A	3	\$1,750,000								\$2,226,000				\$2,226,000
Seaside East community park	Acquire acreage for future community park (Area F, Map 16)	A	3	\$5,000,000										\$6,584,000		\$6,584,000
Seaside East regional park	Acquire & develop new park (former Fort Ord lands, Area E, Map 16)	A	2	\$8,000,000											\$10,903,000	\$10,903,000
FORTAG trails	Support trail implementation projects	D	3	\$250,000						\$297,000						\$297,000
Eucalyptus Road Trail Access	Parking improvements; trailhead signage	D	3	\$500,000						\$594,000						\$594,000
Oldemeyer Center	ADA Upgrades	R	2	\$2,120,000		\$420,000	\$1,700,000									\$2,120,000
	Re-Roof center	R	2	\$200,000	\$200,000											\$200,000
	Refurbishment	R	2	\$360,000	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000								\$360,000
	Parking Lot (incl YERC & Pattullo)	R	2	\$75,000	\$75,000											\$75,000
Pattullo Swim Center	Lobby flooring	R	1	\$25,000	\$25,000											\$25,000
	ADA Upgrades	R	2	\$70,000								\$70,000				\$70,000
Soper Community Center	Refurbishment	R	2	\$150,000	\$150,000											\$150,000
	ADA Upgrades	R	1	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000										\$2,200,000
Recreation Center	Refurbishment	R	2	\$20,000	\$20,000											\$20,000
	Feasibility study to explore potential for new recreation center for City programs	P	2	\$80,000			\$86,000									\$86,000
System-wide	Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage	D	2		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$20,000									\$80,000
	Minor ADA access & amenity upgrades (e.g., ramps, seating, accessways)	R	2		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$150,000
Totals					\$38,120,000	\$4,875,000	\$4,359,000	\$6,687,000	\$2,687,000	\$2,688,000	\$2,985,000	\$113,000	\$2,311,000	\$6,599,000	\$10,918,000	\$44,222,000

NOTES:
 This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions. Detailed engineering, design and/or costing may be necessary for projects noted.
 This list is not an official budget and is intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.

Project Types
 A = Acquisition
 P = Planning
 D = Development
 R = Repair / Replacement

Priority
 1 = Very High Priority
 2 = High Priority
 3 = Moderate Priority

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Appendix A:

Community Survey Summary

To: Dan Meewis, City of Seaside Recreation Director
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: August 31, 2023
Re: **Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Seaside that assesses residents' recreational needs and priorities.

KEY FINDINGS

Seaside residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (96%) think parks and recreation are important or essential to quality of life in Seaside. Very few, about 4%, feel they are useful, but not necessary, or not important at all.

Residents visit Seaside's parks very frequently to participate in a range of activities.

Residents of Seaside frequently use the city's parks and recreation facilities, with six in ten visiting at least once a week, if not every day. The most common reasons for park visits included for walking or running, fitness or exercise, and relaxation.

Residents support improving the City's park and recreation system while maintaining existing parks and facilities.

Over half of respondents rate the condition of parks they have visited as excellent or good, and concerns about park upkeep and maintenance seem to be concentrated in a small number of parks. Survey respondents would like to see the City prioritize the improving and upgrading existing parks, and adding new recreational amenities to existing parks in the future.

In open ended comments, survey respondents would like to see the City prioritize:

- **Park Maintenance and Improvements:** Many comments focus on the need to maintain and improve the existing parks and facilities. This includes upgrading playground equipment, fixing pathways and trails, adding restrooms, providing regular cleaning, ensuring safety from homeless encampments, and overall beautifying the parks.
- **Recreation and Facilities:** Respondents suggest adding various recreational activities, programs, and facilities to cater to different age groups and recreational interests, including educational programs, community and cultural events, age-specific programs, and environmental initiatives.
- **Equitable Access:** Respondents would like to see equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities across different neighborhoods. Respondents call for creating new parks in underserved areas, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and involving community organizations in park maintenance and enhancement efforts.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Seaside staff, Conservation Technix developed the 16-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the city limits of Seaside on April 5, 2023, and two rounds of reminder postcards were mailed to the same 2,500 households on April 19th and May 5th. An online version of the survey was posted to the city’s website on April 6th. Residents who did not receive a mail survey were able to complete the survey online. The survey was closed on August 4, 2023, and the full dataset was compiled and reviewed.

The survey was available in English and Spanish and the cover letter accompanying the printed mail survey included unique QR codes to access each in-language survey online. Overall, 251 surveys from the random sample mailing were completed and returned (10% response rate, 5% margin of error). An additional 107 surveys were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 358 surveys were collected, which included 29 surveys in Spanish.

Information about the survey was promoted through several channels, including on the City’s website, through multiple social media postings, and through direct outreach to partner organizations and recreation program participants.

Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all city residents. Mail survey responses underrepresent residents under 35 years of age and over-represent residents over the age of 55. See Figure 1 below for age demographics for the mail and online surveys, as well as comparative percentages for Seaside’s population. See page 12 for other demographic subgroup data comparisons.

Figure 1. Age demographics of survey respondents

Age group	Survey Respondents			Seaside	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	All	Over 20
Under 20	1%	0%	1%	28%	n/a
20 to 34	11%	19%	13%	24%	33%
35 to 44	12%	30%	18%	12%	17%
45 to 54	15%	17%	15%	12%	17%
55 to 64	17%	17%	18%	11%	15%
65 to 74	25%	17%	22%	8%	10%
75 and older	19%	1%	13%	5%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based on the combined responses from the mail survey and online. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Usage and satisfaction of parks and recreation facilities

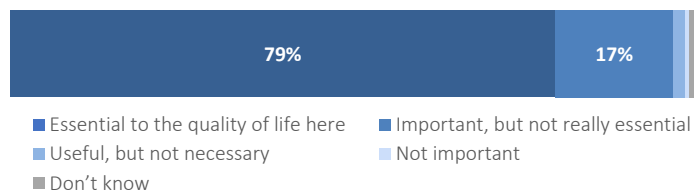
How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Overall, virtually all respondents (96%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Seaside. Seventy-nine percent of respondents overall feel that they are essential; while an additional 17% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential, see Figure 2. Only about 4% of respondents believe parks are useful, but not important, or not important. Online respondents more frequently rated parks and recreation opportunities as 'essential' to Seaside's quality of life as compared to mail respondents.

Figure 2A/B. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Seaside, would you say public parks and recreation opportunities are...

Response options	Mail	Online-only
Essential to the quality of life here	77%	85%
Important, but not really necessary	18%	15%
Useful, but not important	3%	0%
Not important or don't know	2%	0%

Combined results



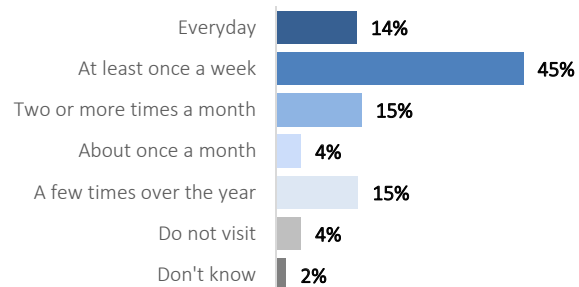
Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups. There were also no significant differences based on where respondents live. Respondents with children in the home tended to rate parks and recreation opportunities as essential more frequently than those without children. Online survey respondents were slightly more likely to deem park and recreation opportunities as essential to quality of life than mail survey respondents.

How often do residents use City parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they visit a City park, recreation facility, or open space in a typical year. Nearly six in ten respondents visit at least once a week, if not every day, see Figure 3. Another 20% visit one to three times per month, while about 15% visit a few times per year. Only about 4% of respondents do not visit a park at all.

Survey respondents showed a high use of parks regardless of age and location of residence. Respondents without children at home were more likely to visit infrequently or not at all, while those with children were more likely to visit at least once per week. Online respondents reported more frequent use than mail survey respondents.

Figure 3. In a typical year, how often do you visit or use City of Seaside parks, recreation facilities or open spaces?



Why do residents visit Seaside’s parks and recreation facilities?

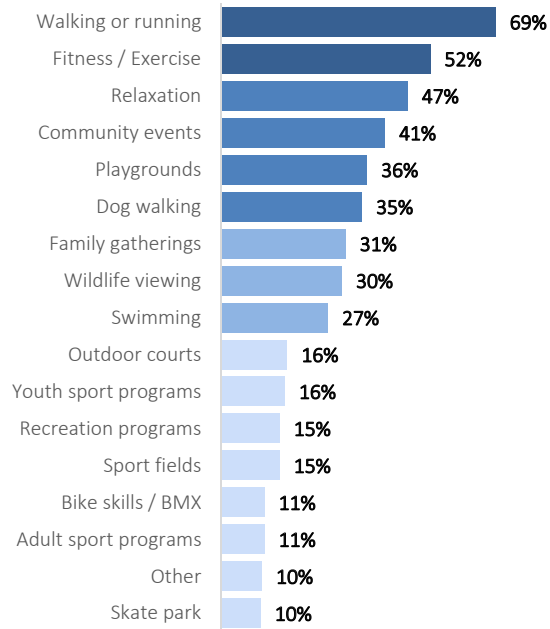
Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reasons are to walk or run (69%) or for fitness and exercise (52%). More than one in three respondents visit to relax (47%), attend community events or concerts (41%), use a playground (36%), or walk a dog (35%), see Figure 5. Between 20% and 30% of respondents visit for family gatherings, wildlife viewing, or swimming. Fewer than one in five respondents chose outdoor sports courts, youth sports, recreation programs, sports fields, bike parks, adult sports, or the skate park as a primary reason why they visit local parks.

Approximately one in ten respondents identified an ‘other’ reason for visiting parks, such as to play pickleball or enjoy nature.

Respondents under the age of 44 were more likely than older residents to visit for playgrounds, recreation programs and camps, sports fields, and skate parks. However, many activities, including running and walking, fitness or exercise, relaxation, dog walking, and community events are similarly popular across all age groups.

Respondents with children in their home are more likely to visit parks to visit playgrounds, have family gatherings, participate in youth programs or sports, swim, or use the sports fields or the skate park, compared to respondents without children in the home. Residents who live south of Broadway Avenue were less likely than residents to the north to report visiting for sports courts and fields or sports programs.

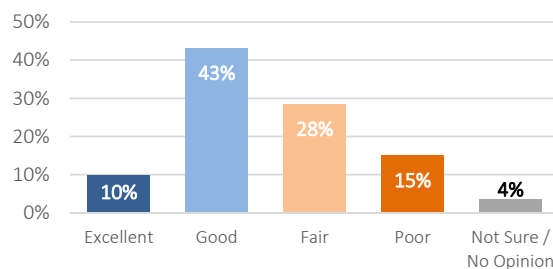
Figure 5. What would you say are the main reasons your household visits Seaside parks and recreation facilities?



How would residents rate the maintenance and upkeep of parks they have visited?

Survey respondents have varying views on the condition of Seaside’s parks, as shown in Figure 7. Over half of respondents (53%) rate the condition of parks they have visited as either excellent or good, while 43% rate them as fair or poor. This may reflect a community desire for increased maintenance, cleanliness, and security within parks and/or community needs for additional park amenities, as expressed in other survey questions.

Figure 6. How would you rate the maintenance and upkeep of Seaside’s parks you have visited?



Respondents who live between Military Avenue and Broadway Avenue were significantly more likely than those in other areas to rate the condition of City parks as ‘poor’ – a rating largely attributable to their perceptions of their nearest City park. There were no significant differences in how residents of various ages or household makeup rated the condition of the City’s parks.

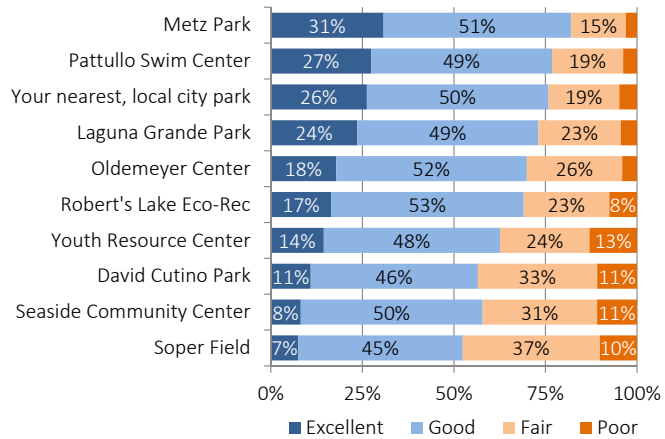
When asked about the condition of specific parks, respondents answered more favorably than they did about the system generally. Respondents rated the condition of Metz Park, Pattullo Swim Center, and their “nearest, local city park” the most favorably. Of those respondents who had an opinion, over 75% rated the condition of these parks or facilities as excellent or good. In a follow-up question asking respondents to list their “nearest City park”, 18% listed Laguna Grande Park and 13% listed Cutino Park. Up to 8% of respondents listed one of 29 other parks and facilities, see Attachment 2 for the complete list.

More respondents had concerns about the condition of Soper Field, the Seaside Community Center, and David Cutino Park, with 43 to 48% of those with an opinion rating the condition of these facilities as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.

Why don’t residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not visit Seaside’s parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces more often, 29% responded that they do visit often. However, about one in five respondents do not visit more because they feel parks are not well maintained (23%), do not have enough restrooms (23%), don’t know what is offered (21%), or don’t feel safe in parks or facilities (21%), see Figure 8.

Figure 7. How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks and recreation facilities? (chart excludes ‘not sure/no opinion’ responses)



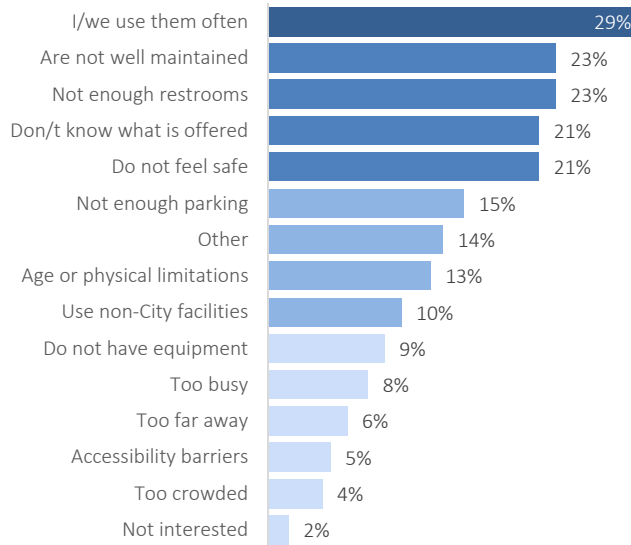
Smaller percentages of respondents noted that parks have insufficient parking (15%), do not have the right equipment (9%), are too far away (6%), have accessibility barriers (5%), or are too crowded (4%), preventing them from visiting local parks more often.

Some residents face age or physical limitations (13%), use parks or facilities provided by other cities or organizations (10%), are too busy (8%), or are generally not interested (2%), suggesting that further improvements may not increase their use of parks.

In addition, about one in seven respondents wrote in responses citing needs for improved safety and cleanliness in facilities and a lack of specific facilities of interest dogs as reasons why they do not visit more frequently.

Respondents living to the north of Military Avenue were more likely to cite a lack of information about what is offered or a lack of preferred equipment as reasons they do not visit more, compared to those living in other areas. There were no significant differences in responses based on age or number of children in the home.

Figure 8. Check ALL the reasons why your household does not use Seaside’s recreation facilities, parks, or open spaces more often.

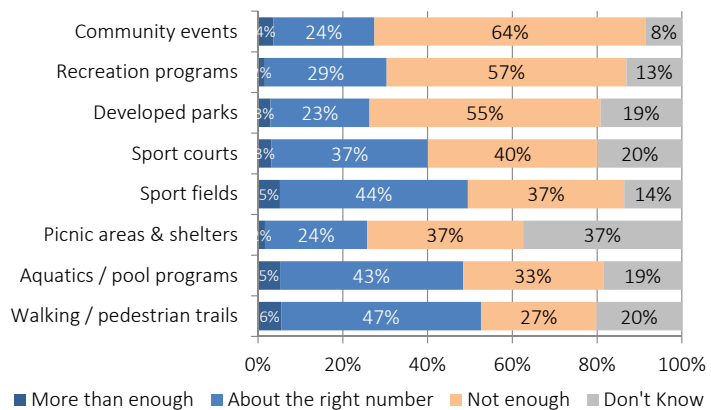


Does the number of existing park and recreation amenities meet residents’ needs?

Residents were generally split on whether they feel the City provides enough park, trails, and recreation facilities.

More than half of survey respondents would like to see more community events (64%), recreation programs (57%), and developed parks (55%), while between 30-40% feel the City does not have enough sports courts, sports fields, picnic areas, and aquatics programs, see Figure 9. Respondents generally feel the City has enough walking trails.

Figure 9. When it comes to meeting the needs for park and recreation facilities, how would you rate the availability of each of the following?



Residents with children in their home were more likely than those

without to believe there are not enough of every listed amenity except community events, where their responses were similar. Respondents who live north of Broadway Avenue were significantly more likely than those to the south to feel the City did not have enough developed parks with playgrounds,

recreation programs, and community events. There were no significant differences between respondents based on age.

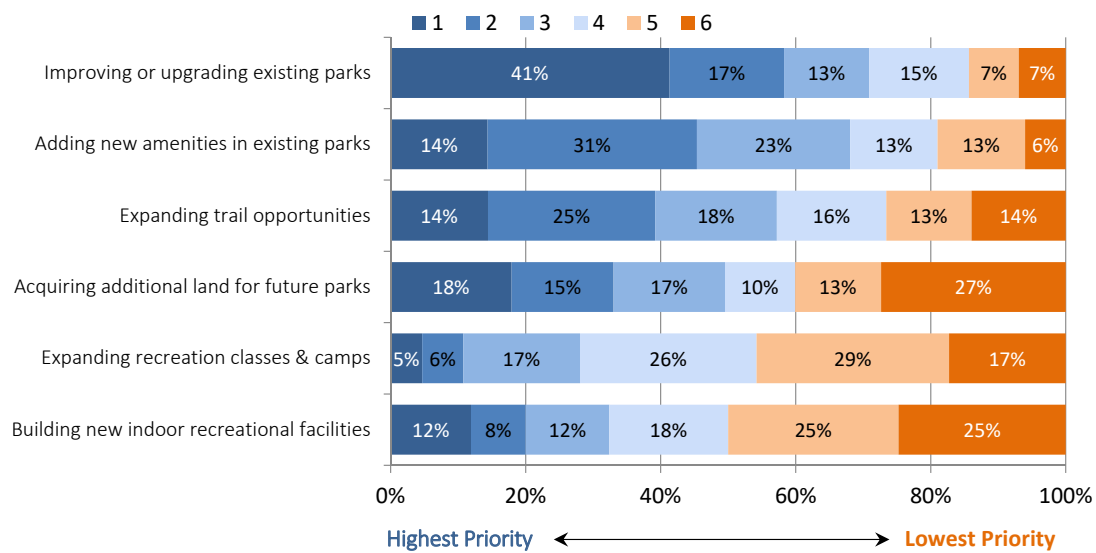
Investment Priorities

What park and recreation investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential park system investments. In aggregated survey data, respondents identified improving and upgrading existing parks as their top priority, followed by adding new recreational amenities to existing parks, see Figure 10. Expanding trail opportunities and acquiring additional land for future parks were moderate priorities. Building new indoor recreational facilities and expanding recreation programs and camps were ranked as the lowest priorities by respondents.

There were no significant differences in priorities based on age, household composition, or location of residence.

Figure 10. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 6th priority is lowest). *Chart shows combined data from the mail and online surveys.*



What park and recreation amenities would residents prioritize adding in Seaside?

The survey asked residents about their priority for a variety of potential additions to the park system. A significant majority of respondents rated additional walking trails (82%) and renovated playgrounds (71%) as a high or medium priority, see Figure 11.

More than half of residents rated most other amenities as a high or medium priority, including community gardens (66%), additional picnic areas (64%), sports courts (61%), indoor fitness facilities (54%), outdoor fitness equipment (51%), and an indoor gym (50%). Fewer respondents rated additional sports fields and a bike skills course/pump track as top priorities.

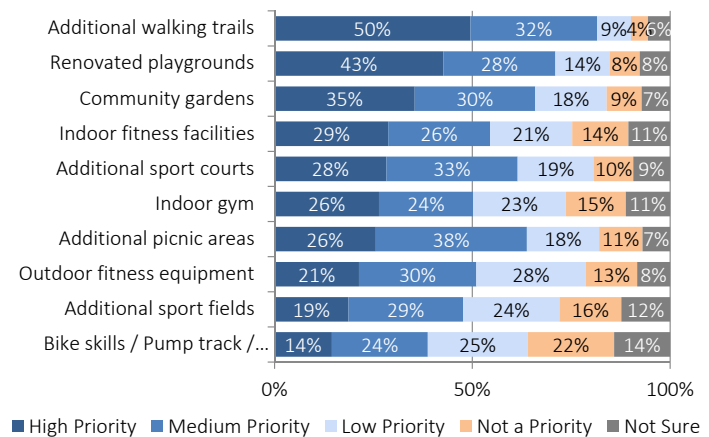
Respondents between the ages of 35 and 65, expressed a greater interest in additional or upgraded playgrounds as compared to other residents. Residents with children at home were more likely to support additional playgrounds, sports fields, and bike skills courses, as compared to those without children at home.

Do residents have specific improvements they would like to see?

Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see the City of Seaside do to improve parks, trails, aquatics, and/or recreation programs. While respondents provided 229 specific comments and ideas, a few themes emerged:

- Park Maintenance and Improvements:** Many comments focus on the need to maintain and improve the existing parks and facilities. This includes upgrading playground equipment, fixing pathways and trails, adding restrooms, providing regular cleaning, ensuring safety from homeless encampments, and overall beautifying the parks. People also express a desire for proper maintenance of infrastructure like bridges, lighting, and sports courts.
- Recreation and Facilities:** Respondents suggest adding various recreational activities, programs, and facilities to cater to different age groups and recreational interests. Suggestions include adding more tennis courts, bike trails, skate parks, basketball courts, nature trails, swimming facilities, exercise equipment, and youth classes. There is also a call for creating accessible facilities and spaces for all, including seniors and teenagers.
- Homelessness and Safety:** The issue of homelessness and safety is prominent in the comments. Many respondents express concerns about homeless encampments in parks and their impact on safety. There is a call for addressing homelessness through outreach and shelters to create safer environments for park users.
- Equitable Access:** Respondents would like to see equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities across different neighborhoods. Respondents call for creating new parks in

Figure 11. The following list includes park amenities that the City of Seaside could consider adding to the park system. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.



underserved areas, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and involving community organizations in park maintenance and enhancement efforts.

- **Communication and Marketing:** Respondents emphasize the importance of better communication and marketing to inform residents about park activities, events, and improvements. Suggestions include utilizing signage, email notifications, and community outreach to raise awareness and engagement.

The full list of write-in comments is provided in Appendix 2.

Recreation Programs

Which recreation programs and activities are used by and of interest to residents?

Survey respondents were asked which recreation programs they, or members of their household, had participated in within the past two years. More than three-quarters of respondents had participated in a community event in the last two years, see Figure 12. Significantly fewer numbers had participated in other recreation programs, including 34% who participated in adult fitness or wellness classes, between 23% and 29% who had participated in after-school programs or summer camps, youth activities, adult art and music classes, programs for adults 55 and older, and family programs.

Respondents with children in the home were more likely to have participated in youth, teen, and family-oriented programs in the past two years – and to want to see more of these types of programs in the future. Those without children were more likely to have participated in adult and older adult programming and were more likely to feel that more of these types of programs should be available.

Using the same list, survey respondents were asked whether the City of Seaside should offer more or less of each type of recreational program. Between fifty and sixty percent of respondents were interested in seeing more community events, outdoor adventure camps and environmental education programs, youth activities, adult art and music classes, adult fitness and wellness classes, teen activities, and after-school programs or summer camps. Fewer respondents were thought the City should provide more adult sports leagues (46%), family programs (34%), and e-sports leagues (15%), see Figure 13.

Younger residents, particularly those under 35, were less likely than older residents to express interest in programs for families, teens, and older adults. Survey respondents with children at home were more

Figure 12. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the last two years. (“Yes” responses shown)

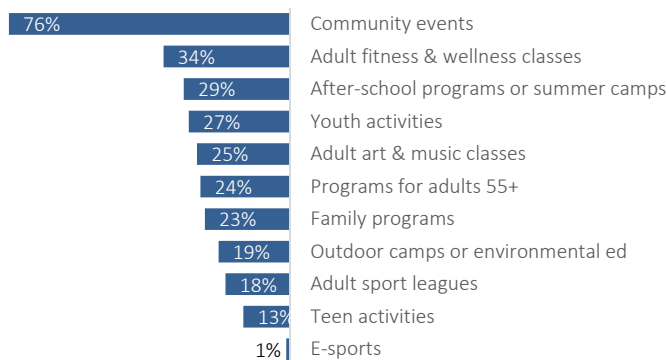
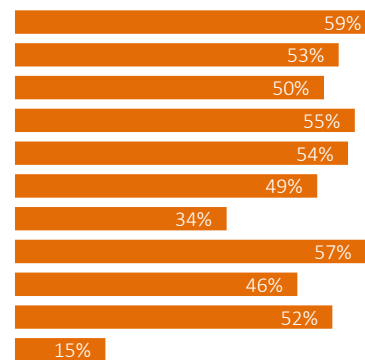


Figure 13. ...Using the same list again, indicate if there should be more or less of each available. (“More needed” responses shown)



likely than those without to note interest in family, youth, and teen programs. Residents without children at home were more likely to express interest in programs for adults and people over 55, which reflects the demographics of this group. Those living between Military Avenue and Broadway Avenue were more likely than those to the north and south to believe the City needs more of nearly every listed program.

What other recreation programs should the City consider?

Survey respondents were asked, in an open-ended question, what other recreation programs the City of Seaside should consider offering. Respondents' comments reflect a diverse range of interests and needs in the community. Respondents are enthusiastic about improving their community through education, recreation, engagement, and environmental initiatives. They seek a diverse range of programs and facilities that cater to residents of all ages and backgrounds, with a strong focus on community building and enrichment. Many respondents requested programs focused on:

- **Education and Skill Development:** Many respondents are interested in educational and skill-building opportunities, such as parent education events, classes in cooking, dance, language, gardening, music, film/media/graphic design, yoga, CPR/first aid, and even drone courses. There is a strong emphasis on offering classes and programs for people of all ages, from children to adults, and addressing the needs of new residents.
- **Recreational facilities and activities:** There's a call for improvements to recreation facilities like better pickleball courts, disc golf courses, and soccer fields as well as expanded hours at the City's swimming pools. Respondents are also eager for an array of recreational programs, including aquatics programs and nature-based activities.
- **Community and cultural events:** Many respondents are interested in seeing the City support community-building events, including citywide gatherings, block parties, farmers markets, and volunteer events. Many residents are looking for cultural and entertainment events such as festivals, music events, and art fairs. They want to see more concerts in the park and partnerships with non-profits to enhance cultural offerings.
- **Demographic-specific programs:** Residents suggest specialized programs for various demographics, including children, teenagers, seniors, and people with disabilities. This includes activities like youth talent shows, wheelchair basketball, and programs for the elderly.
- **Environmental initiatives:** Several respondents are concerned about the environment and suggest initiatives like community composting, tree planting, and cleaning up lakes. They also want to promote sustainable practices like native plant gardening and creating safe bicycle networks.

A compilation of write-in comments is on file with the Seaside Recreation Department.

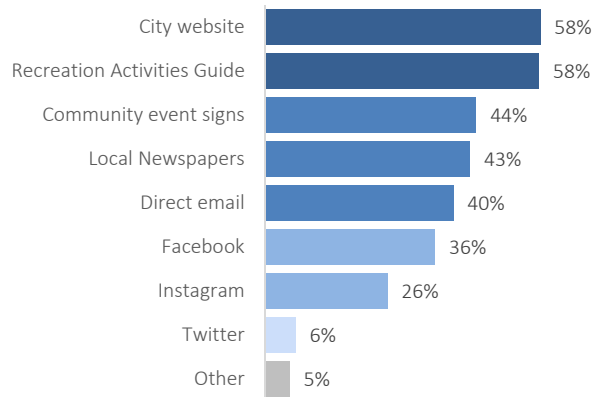
Communication preferences

How do residents want to hear about Seaside’s parks, programs, and events?

A majority of residents prefer to learn about City parks, recreation facilities, and special events through the City website (58%) or Recreation Activities Guide (58%), see Figure 14. These methods were popular across all age groups.

The community event signs, local newspapers like the Monterrey Herald and the Monterrey County Weekly, and direct email were also popular ways of learning about Seaside parks, preferred by 40-43% of respondents each. Social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, was less popular. A few respondents wrote in other preferred methods of contact, such as through direct mail.

Figure 14. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Seaside’s parks, programs, and events.



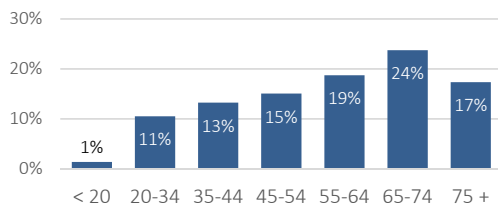
Comparatively, respondents over the age of 55 were more likely to prefer to learn about City offerings through local news media, while younger respondents were more likely to prefer social media. Residents with children at home were more likely to prefer communication through social media than those without children at home. There were no significant differences in communication preferences between residents living in different areas of the city.

Demographics

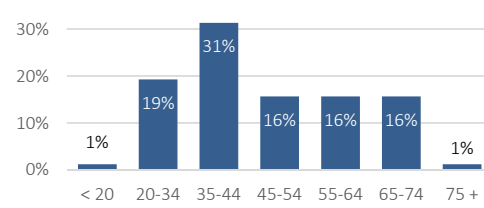
Age groups

Overall, 60% of mail respondents were above 55 years of age and 25% were younger than 44. Online-only survey respondents tended to be younger than mail respondents – 52% were under 44 years and only 33% were over 55.

Mail survey responses



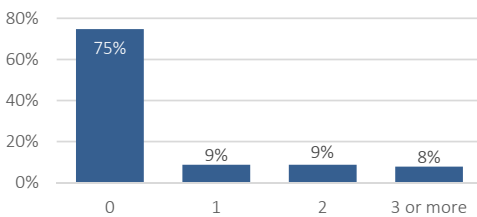
Online-only survey responses



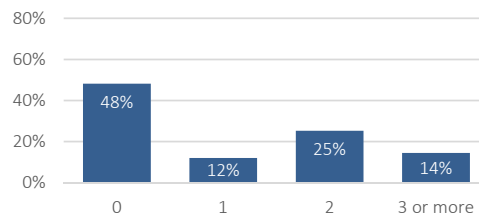
Number of children in household

The majority (75%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while about twenty-five percent live in a household with either one (9%), two (9%), or three or more (8%) children. Online-only survey respondents were significantly more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey – fifty-two percent had children in the home.

Mail survey responses



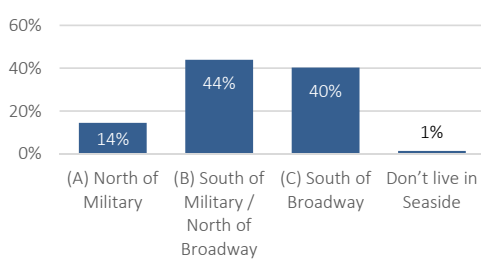
Online-only survey responses



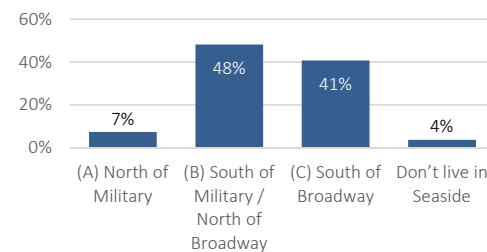
Location of residence

Nearly all survey respondents live within the City of Seaside. About 44% of mail respondents live between Military Avenue and Broadway Avenue (map area B), 40% live south of Broadway Ave, and 14% live north of Military Ave. Online survey respondents were similarly distributed, though they were slightly more likely to live in the central part of the city (48%) and to live outside of Seaside (4%).

Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Seaside Resident:

The City of Seaside has started a community-led process to update its citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and programs thriving for the next 10 years. As an initial step, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community’s recreation needs. We ask that you consider your needs for the future as you evaluate recreation amenities. Your opinions are important to the City.

The survey has 17 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Use the QR code to take this survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJ75NDY>



1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Seaside, would you say that city parks and recreation opportunities are...

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Important, but not really essential
- Useful, but not necessary
- Not Important
- Don't know

2. In a typical year, how often do you visit or use City of Seaside parks, recreation facilities or open space?

- Everyday
- At least once a week
- Two or more times a month
- About once a month
- A few times over the year
- Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces
- Don't know

3. How would you rate the maintenance and upkeep of the City of Seaside’s parks you have visited?


- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Not Sure / No Opinion

4. How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure / No Opinion
Your nearest, local city park (see Question 5 below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Cutino Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laguna Grande Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metz Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert's Lake Eco-Rec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soper Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oldemeyer Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pattullo Swim Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth and Education and Resource Center (Teen Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seaside Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What is your nearest City park? _____

Save a stamp! Use the QR code and take this survey online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJ75NDY>
 Or send it back in the enclosed Return-Reply envelope provided. Thanks for participating!



6. When it comes to meeting the needs for park and recreation facilities, how would you rate the availability of each of the following? (Check only one box in each row)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Developed parks with playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas & shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields (soccer, baseball, softball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics/pool programs (classes, family & open swims)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs for all ages (camps & classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events (such as Halloween, 4 th of July, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. What would you say are the main reasons your household visits Seaside parks or recreation facilities? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness / Exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sport programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike skills / BMX | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor sport courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking or dog park | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family gatherings / picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community events / concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation programs, classes or camps | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A – I didn't use any Seaside facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth sport programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

8. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Seaside's recreation facilities, parks or open spaces more often. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age or physical limitations | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough restrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy to go to parks or open spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barriers related to physical accessibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Too crowded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too far away / Lack transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in park or recreation activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not know what is offered | <input type="checkbox"/> Use facilities and parks provided by another city, organization, or private club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have the right equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not feel safe in park or open space | |

9. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Seaside's parks, programs and events.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City website | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Newspapers: Monterey County Weekly, Monterey Herald |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seaside Recreation Activities Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |



Community Survey on Park & Recreation

10. The City of Seaside must prioritize limited funding to address citywide park system needs. The following list includes park amenities that the City of Seaside could consider adding to the park system. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority	Not Sure
Additional picnic areas & shelters for group gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgraded or renovated playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional walking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike skills course / Pump track / BMX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional sport fields (soccer, baseball, softball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional sport courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Currently, the City of Seaside offers youth sports, camps, community events, and other activities. Program offerings may need to change over time to reflect community interests. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the past two years **AND** indicate if there should be more or less of each available.

	Have you participated or used		Should be more or less of this type of activity or program available?		
	Yes	No	More Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Needed
Community events (Music in the Park or outdoor movies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family programs, such as scavenger hunts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-school programs or summer day camps for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth activities (fitness, music, gymnastics or crafts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities (game nights, trips, school break camps, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-sports or electronic gaming leagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor adventure camps or environmental education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult classes (arts, crafts or music)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult classes (fitness, aerobics or wellness)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sport leagues (volleyball, pickleball, basketball, softball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over (drop-in activities, trips, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What other recreation programs or activities should the City consider? _____

13. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 6th priority is lowest). Mark each ranking number only once.

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE .						Don't know / No opinion
	Highest priority → Lowest priority						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	
Adding new, outdoor recreational amenities in existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquiring additional land for future parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building new indoor recreational facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding recreation classes & camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding trail opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving or upgrading existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. If you wanted the City of Seaside to do just one thing to improve parks, trails and/or recreation programs, what would it be?

The following questions help us understand whether we have gathered responses from a broad segment of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question.

15. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

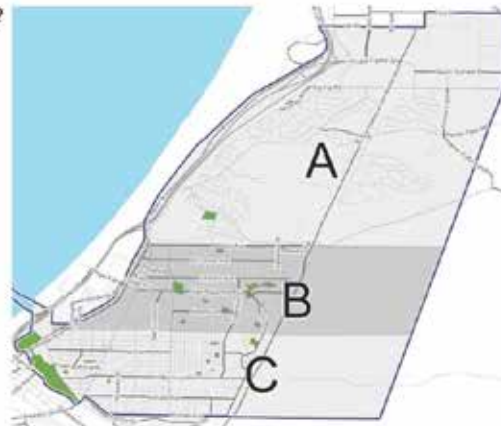
- 0 2
 1 3 or more

16. What is your age?

- Younger than 20 55 to 64
 20 to 34 65 and 74
 35 to 44 75 and older
 45 to 54

17. Using the map, in which section of Seaside do you live?

- (A) North of Military Avenue
 (B) South of Military Ave / North of Broadway Ave
 (C) South of Broadway Avenue
 Don't live in Seaside



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Seaside Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online with the QR code or at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJ75NDY>

Learn more about Seaside parks, trails and programs and stay informed about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process at www.ci.seaside.ca.us



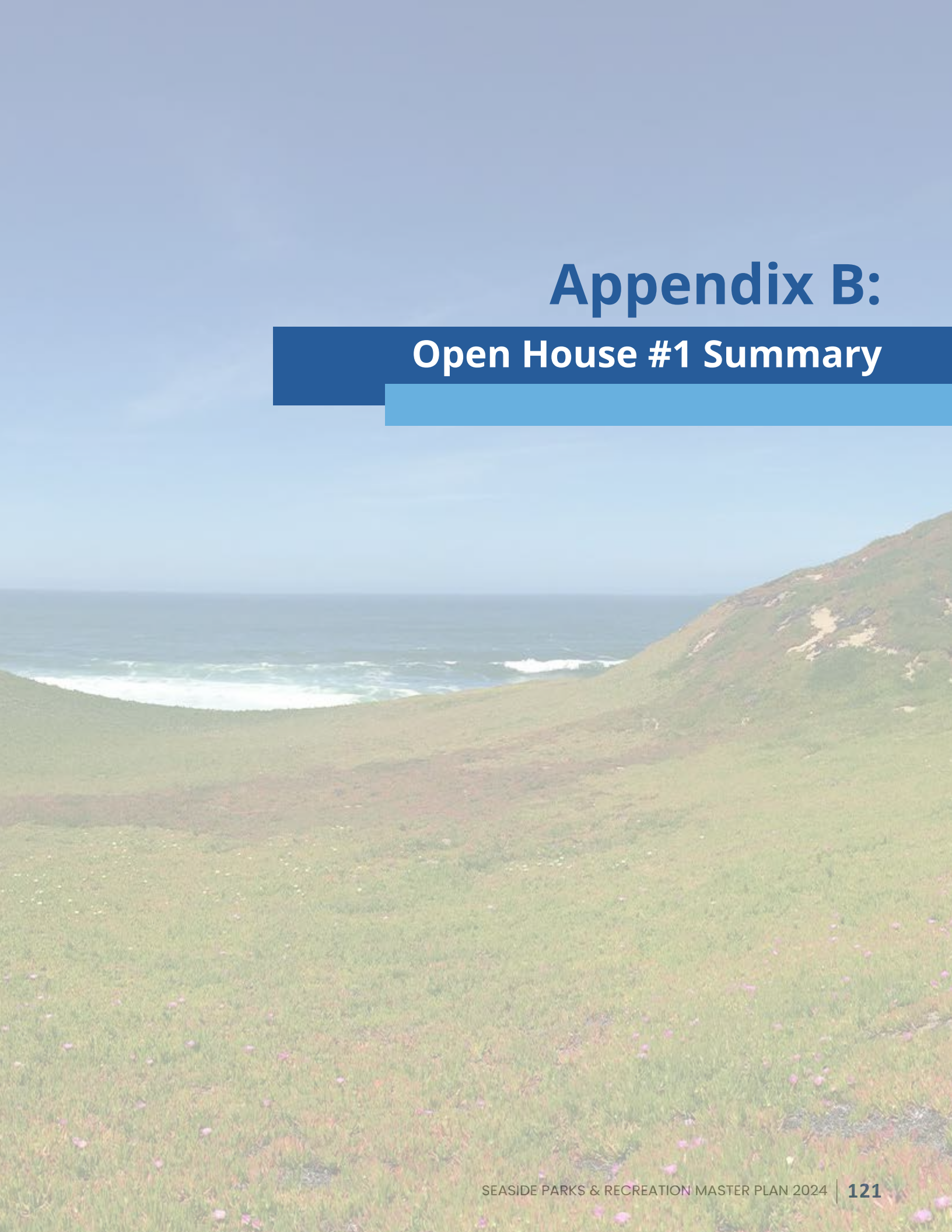
The City of Seaside is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:
 Conservation Technix Inc., PO Box 885, Orinda, CA 94563

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Appendix B:

Open House #1 Summary



PROJECT NUMBER: #22-151PLN **ISSUE DATE:** June 14, 2023
PROJECT NAME: Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
City staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: **Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)**

Community members were invited to an open house for citywide Seaside Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Oldemeyer Center. The project team prepared a presentation and informational displays covering the major themes of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Survey Highlights, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, and Investing in the Future. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event, and displays were prepared in English and Spanish.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Seaside. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Exploring Investment Priorities (dot exercise)

- 22 - Additional walking / biking trails
- 18- Additional art in parks
- 9 - Pickleball / futsal / multi-sport courts
- 8 - Outdoor fitness equipment
- 7 - Picnic shelters
- 4 - Shade structures for playgrounds
- 4 - Additional sport fields
- 2 - Outdoor splash pad / water spray park
- 8- Other (write-in)
 - Parklets in underserved dense areas
 - Turn alleys into garden green belts and walk/bike path
 - Landscape with CA native plants /or Agroforestry
 - FORTAG Trail
 - Bike Trails
 - Integrate with Urban Forest management. Plan and climate adaptation plan/process

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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- Create safe biking and walking corridors that connect urban areas to natural system (sea to Ford Ord National Monument)
- Native trees for shade +1

Recreation Program Area Ideas

- Youth Programs & Camps
 - Use Laguna Grande Park for youth camps (more)
- Adult Sport Leagues
 - Yes! Pickleball
 - Create or expand intramural sports programs
- Adult or Senior Classes
 - Add pickleball to rec offering
 - Consider starting a gardening training program focusing on natives, sustainability, permaculture
 - Outdoor exercise classes like tai-chi or Zumba
 - Cycling skills and bike repair
- Aquatic Classes & Program
 - Accountability & training
 - Safety for open water swim at Seaside Beach
- Other (write-in)
 - If you build it (soccer field), they will come
 - Think about cultural relevant opportunities (In many Hispanic cultures people gather at a central gazebo and site and sell snacks, have music or dance in the evenings)
 - Use more parks for community events, concerts, block parties
 - Partnership with Monterey Bay FC (soccer team)

Targeting Future Needs (Are there types of experiences you would like to see?)

- ADA playgrounds equipment for wheelchairs
- Add adult fitness stations at existing parks- maybe they can become part of trail system
- Indoor gym
- Activities for teens/adults: pump track, climbing, obstacle course, exercise stations
- Indoor basketball gym
- Develop an exercise circuit where by each park has different equipment so that people can be encouraged to explore
- Pump track/bike skills
- Outdoor gym
- More music concerts in parks!
- Havana Soliz and Lincoln is vast. Please use this space for outdoor field. Pickleball?
- Artificial turf area for softball, etc.
- Maintain existing courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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- Do not add pump track to local neighborhood park. No parking or restroom available. Most of our parks are neighborhood-oriented parks.
- OMG - no water play
- Encourage a city of bike-commuters. Bike-walk- grocery, parks, work
- Pump track /bike skills
- Outdoor gym
- Indoor gym
- Fitness Area
- Better sidewalks and access for pedestrians

Targeting Future Needs (map comments)

- FORTAG
- Add public green space/parks and rec amenities to gap areas
- Look at areas at Broadway and San Lucas to fill the hole – there are 2
- Sell unused parks (2) and put here – map has arrow to the left of the Pacchetti Park area
- Arrow to white space north of Soper Park: Is this white area really a gap since it is so close to Soper Filed (within at least a ½ mile)?
- Next 5 years focus on improvements to existing parks
- Citywide map with bike and walking trails
- ADA access trails
- Intentional improvements to bike/walk path connections and safety throughout Seaside
- Update bike routes maps/wayfinding

Targeting Future Needs - Walking & Biking Trails

- Community rides
- Group walks
- Safe crossings
- How about bike lanes on Fremont?
- Seeing the beauty of our parks. Visual
- Pump track can be done
- New walking by bridges 3 connecting parks
- Bike access on Canyon Del Ray. Bikes use sidewalks
- Plan for multiple access safe routes to the planned FORTAG trail
- Help people have bike access and publish bike and walking map for safe ways to get around
- Laguna Grande Park walkway bad as Seaside sidewalks
- Longer, safe scenic trails connecting parks.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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Targeting Future Needs - Walking & Biking Trails (map comments)

- Develop pollinator and wildlife pathways that also serve walking and biking
- Integrate separated bike and walkways into East Broadway re-design
- Use alleyways and create separated lanes to get the central areas connected from Bay to Ord +1
- Linear park along GJM +1
- Connect the parks with trails
- Interconnect parks with trail system
- Northside of Seaside: Havana Soliz- Lincoln Cunningham- Stuart-Highland Otis
- Southside of Seaside: Farallones-Durant-Capra-Beta Mescal Neil
- (Extend) Map to Frog Pond
- Bike map to Jack's Park
- Regional Parks
- Before "development" all of Seaside was covered in oaks and beauty+ \$ prosperity. More trees in Seaside - a Garden City tourist draw \$
- Prioritize the Marquis Trail Project connecting Manzanita, Lincoln and Soliz Parks +1
- Don't cut the oak trees! Walking trails through this gorgeous area! +1 (gray area on map to the left of Parker Flats Rd.
- Within parks space, be sure pathways are slightly elevated along native soil to maximize rainwater infiltration

Other Comments / Priorities? Anything Missing?

- Public art
- Reach out harder, further to Latinx Community
- Plan for maintenance of parks and facilities. Find efficiencies through community partnerships
- North Seaside needs parks too!
- Disc golf course
- We need to adhere to the plan and get things accomplished!
- Consider how to support/incorporate an ARTS center as a recreation feature. Talk with J. Sanchez @ Palenke Arts
- Pool bigger, to have more % of children
- Repair existing walkways
- Review 2005 Master Plan!
- 2005 Master Plan barely been implemented
- Community development integrated with recreation. Block parties
- Spanish – Inter[pret] material into Spanish
- Grassy Areas! Even small patches!
- Improve existing walkways! +1
- Gym to have as a community place. Need more space for youth
- Better connectivity with safe and lovey active transport bike/walk for fun and errands
- Maintain existing parks, outdoor courts
- Walking trails for all abilities
- More walking trails

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Number #22-151PLN

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- Sabado Park needs a play structure to be removed!
- Disc golf
- Keep survey open longer
- Childcare for future town halls
- More dance programs and opportunities. Concerts?
- Martin Park: community garden, maybe work with Blue Zone, Pollinator garden, fix and turn on street lamps
- Repair paths with decomposed granite- not concrete, tired of tripping +2
- Gymnasium
- Soccer field
- Parklets in dense multifamily areas
- Expand youth programs, youth lead programs
- Rethink alleyways to become walking paths and connect parks
- More soccer/football fields
- More food growing
- Trails
- Get all parks on system of care like FOSPA
- Exercise circuits in neighborhood parks and between parks so people can make a walking circuit
- Access point to Ford Ord Trails from parks
- Park maintenance
- Convert alleyway to bike/walk ways, more connectivity on bike/walking paths
- Signage in parks with indigenous history and Seaside history
- Guided outdoor exercise classes, bike, tai chi or Zumba
- Concert hall, Arts and Culture Center
- More parks in underserved (have no parks)
- Nature based park-play area (kids climb boulders, and logs to balance etc.)
- Support organizations like FOSPA
- Recreation pathways connecting urban areas to Fort Rod National Monument
- Support Palenke Arts
- Dedicated pickleball courts (current courts are shared with tennis)
- Use the whole town as a “park” by planting more trees
- Multi-modal connectivity between parks and open space
- Get more feedback from diverse representation /residents. Meet them where they are at

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (June 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Number #22-151PLN

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Comment Cards

- Sabado Park is central to a lot of families with children. It has lots of trash/glass in sand and only one swing set to play on. It would be great if there were a play structure for kids. It needs a revamp.
- Please incorporate maximizing rainwater/stormwater capture everywhere that is feasible. This is free, passive, high quality rainwater to infiltrate ground water and aquifer. Free, Passive, High Quality!

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

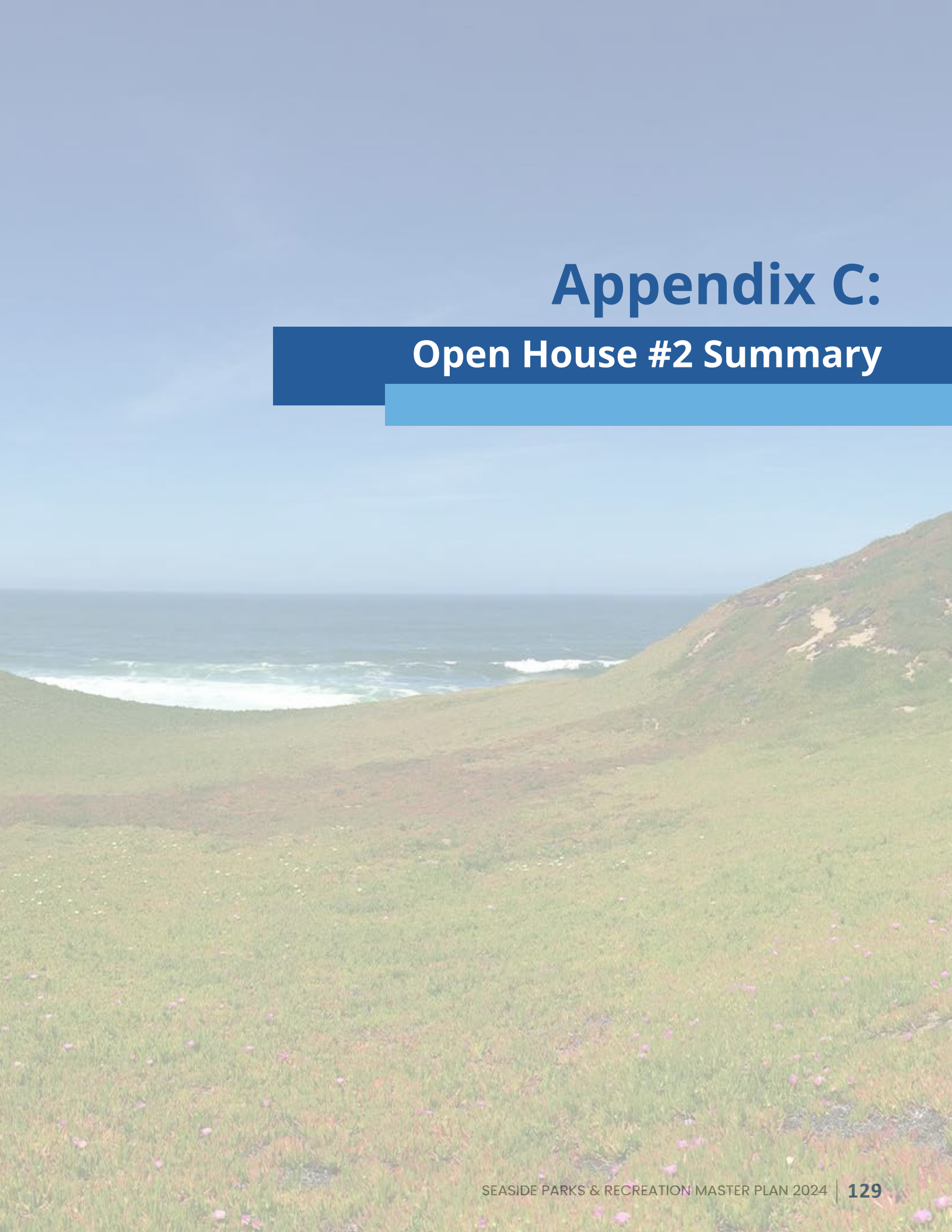
-- End of Notes --

cc: Daniel Meewis, Recreation Director
File

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Appendix C:

Open House #2 Summary



PROJECT NUMBER: #22-151PLN **ISSUE DATE:** November 10, 2023
PROJECT NAME: Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
City staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: **Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (November 8th)**

Community members were invited to a second open house for the citywide Seaside Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Oldemeyer Center. The project team prepared a presentation and informational displays to highlight the responses to date from community engagement and potential ideas for enhancements or improvements to the Seaside park and recreation system. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event, and displays were prepared in English and Spanish.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. A short question and answer period occurred following a brief PowerPoint presentation. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Seaside. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Targeting Future Needs – Parks

- More soccer fields
- Repaired walkways
- Fitness circuit connecting parks
- Tennis courts
- Plant native pollinators everywhere
- Incorporate wise design to infiltrate stormwater, address climate resiliency
- There is an obvious area that is severely disconnected from our parks... the Sonoma-Broadway-Noche Buena-Fremont is grossly underserved. It is an equity issue.
- Sonoma to Broadway and San Lucas to Fremont is white/barely pink on all the maps. Do something about it!
- Basketball court – dual or triple use (basketball, roller skate, soccer)
- Indoor gym
- Consider alleyways as open space/nature areas (There are other cities doing this – not impossible)

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (November 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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Targeting Future Needs - Trails

- Publish bike map of Seaside roads to use and to avoid
- Havana Soliz walkway
- A safe space for local roller skating community
- Laguna Grande walkway
- Connect and improve all alleys – walking paths
- ADA accessible trails at Laguna Grande in new S. Forest area, plus trail repair
- More dedicated routes from ‘central’ areas of Seaside to ocean (Rec Trail) and Fort Ord (including FORTAG)
- A dedicated bike lane system that traverses east to west, as well as north to south, across Seaside
- Better safety for riders day/night
- Broadway, from Fremont to the trail, is not safe to bike as I’d like
- Tour guides for walking in both English and Spanish
- Bus stops in front of parks
- An ocean to national monument bike/walk trail
- Long-term: linear park on westside of Gen Jim Moore Blvd (Coe to Hilby) -x2
- Gen Jim Moore Blvd – make it a trail

Targeting Future Needs - Trails (map comments)

- Hilby not good with bikes – use Elm or Kimball
- How about Flores as a north-south bike street?
- This entire central area (near Sand City) is missing parks and safe trail connections
- So many vacant lots = opportunity for parklets
- Bike paths – call Tom Hughes or Rachel Christopherson
- Bike barriers (add) – physical barriers to moving cars
- Complete walkway through Havana Soliz, Lincoln Cunningham and Stuart, including new pedestrian bridge over San Pablo
- Biek trail into Fort Ord needed!
- Santa Cruz has an amazing mountain bike system. With endless possibilities using Fort Ord, Seaside could really benefit from this increased type of tourism
- Connect bike and walking map to “Frog Pond” in Del Rey Oaks
- Some places bikes should use sidewalks for safety (parts of Canyon del Rey)

Potential Project Recommendations

- See “Landscape Structures” for the coolest, modern park playgrounds
- Put a new park here (under post-it note) (Sonoma & Terrace)
- Unique, never before thought of playground, like a trampoline!
- Save or restore the pedestrian bridge connecting Stuart Park and Cunningham Park
- Big ‘yes’ to #1. Laguna Grande Park needs some love. Please make sure lights follow Dark Sky International recommendations for city parks

Exploring Investment Priorities (dot exercise)

- 11 – additional walking/biking trails
- 7 – additional art in parks
- 5 – outdoor fitness equipment
- 5 – outdoor splash pad
- 4 – futsal/multi-sport courts
- 3 – picnic shelters/benches/water stations
- 1 – pickleball/tennis courts
- 0 – mini parks/parklets
- 7 - Other (write-in)
 - 3 – new park in central area
 - 1 – ensure ADA access to new trails or during park updates
 - 1 – a safe space for the local roller skating community
 - 1 – habitat and food gardens
 - 1 – more environmental science and education programs

Recreation Ideas

- The park needs a pool
- The park needs soccer
- Install restrooms at the park
- Outdoor movie theater/amphitheater
- Shade structures
- Super slides!
- Turn the lawn by SPD into rec spaces or hardscape for multiple sports
- Capra Park has a master plan!
- Please no playground (Lincoln Cunningham)
- Benches for grandma
- No playground. Benches to sit and enjoy (Lincoln Cunningham)
- Increasing use of parks and natural areas by working with Dudleya Nature Center as it develops in Seaside
- Anybody should be able to come and enjoy the parks, which should include a sandbox
- Use creative approaches to develop and improve parks in affordable and sustainable ways. Re-use materials, reduce waste. Also take advantage of professional and other resources within Seaside for project implementation.
- Require ecological expertise on any design team that is involved in park or open space design projects. All ‘decorative’ landscaping should also be functional as habitat, stormwater catchment, carbon sinks. There is an opportunity for Seaside to lead on these essential issues by requiring native plants and/or food producing plants in landscapes, rather than defaulting to ‘drought tolerant’ or other generic categories.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (November 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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Other Comments / If Seaside could do just one thing to improve parks and recreation facilities, what would it be?

- Clean restrooms
- Put a new park in the high density area . The area with more kids, more Hispanic population and NO park access within a ½ mile
- Prioritize native plant and pollinators in parks
- More gardens in parks
- Add more native tree species
- Walkways all repaired
- Fitness stations across parks – ‘fitness trail’
- Sheltered, flat concrete skating surface
- Park playgrounds aimed at >11 year olds and adults. Hardscape suitable for diverse recreation (skating, pickleball, etc.)
- Create structured programs and networks to develop and support community leadership efforts in neighborhoods and public spaces. Leverage the energy of this community to engage with itself and improve things. Facilitate – use partners.

Comment Cards

- Filling the gaps should also include opportunities for increasing nature (as well as rec). This could be done by integrating trees and native habitat into development projects and infrastructure projects
- I am in the process of forming a non-profit nature center, Dudleya Nature Center, in Seaside. I am hoping to partner with the city on this endeavor. We have federal non-profit status and I am developing a media and marketing plan for 2024 when I complete my MS in non-profit administration.
- Normal playground (slides, ladders, etc.); people of all ages can enjoy the park; sports equipment with the shed idea; picnic tables, grills and shades in case people want to picnic at the park or have a birthday party; reservations for the parts of the park, different costs depending on the area of the park you want to reserve.
- Clean bathrooms; soccer field and basketball court (basketball hoop and soccer goals); good slides; storage or shed for equipment (such as soccer balls, basketballs, footballs and skating equipment); snack bar; janitors and people watching the sheds and helping with the equipment (you get more jobs that way); areas for people to walk, skateboard, scooter, etc.
- Whatever the project, make sure ADA access is a priority (we’ll all be there someday). Also incorporate more native tree species anywhere you can squeeze them in. Urban greening will help reduce the temps in summer and much of Seaside is already paved over. Removal of invasive plants that are harming the plant community is important. If lights are installed, be conservative with numbers/density and please look up and follow Dark Sky International recommendations to reduce excess light pollution. Continue to support FORTAG and pursue the conceptual trails you’ve developed. So cool!
- I would like to see bike lanes and more accessibility to the parks. I think it would be cool to see fruit trees for people to pick from, and potentially, bring seeds home to grow. Calisthenics equipment (pull up bars and dip bars). Bike track for road bicycles (velodrome/flat cycling). Native plants.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (November 8th)

Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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- I would love a plaza in the middle of downtown Seaside surrounded by recreation areas like the Watsonville plaza.
- Preservation of the bridge between Stuart Park and Lincoln-Cunningham Park. Full clean of the locker rooms at the Patullo Swim Center (it's a great place!)
- Dog area (fenced) at Lincoln-Cunningham or somewhere else.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- *End of Notes* --

cc: Daniel Meewis, Recreation Director
File



Appendix D:

Stakeholder Summaries

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Project No.:	Proj-# 22-151PLN
Location:	Zoom	Interview Date:	May 24, 2023
Notes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	5:30pm
Participants:	Patty Kennedy, FOSPA	Tanja Roos, Blue Zone Project	
	Cathy Rivera, FOSPA, Sustainable Seaside	Rachel Christopherson, FOSPA	
	Roelof Wijbrandus, FOSPA	Laura Murphy, RCD Monterey County	
	Jeannie Reese, FOSPA	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	
	Emily Howard, FOSPA		
Subject:	Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion: Local Partners		

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City facilities, programs and parks. The discussion occurred on May 24, 2023, virtually via Zoom.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park & Recreation Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about system planning and local recreation needs.

Opening Comments & Values about Seaside Parks and Recreation

- Laguna Grande is the City's showcase park
- Water tower at the top of Yosemite offers great views
- Tell the story, know the past; the area used to be covered in coastal oaks with moss, sand dunes, gorgeous; Center for Blue Economy – beauty has a lot of power; more trees, greenspace, walking/biking opportunities
- Enjoy seeing families with kids at parks
- Need workout stations and bike lands
- Places to gather and enjoy being outside
- Value FOSPA and the groups of volunteers, who diligently work to make parks better. FOSPA values the City for being open to the collaboration by providing tools and staff support; contribute to make the city stronger
- Value access points to neighborhood parks and proximity to schools. Increase connectivity; linking the school and parks with safe routes

Interview Notes (continued)

- Sense of community is really important; link the community through resident groups, pay attention to demographics, orient to subgroups, kids have localized needs
- Linking the community leads to knowing other parks in the city and expanding the understanding of what is available

Maintenance & Upkeep Comments

- City has focused effort on larger, heavily used sites
- People want FOSPA to do their local park, with City support. Other parks are in 'sad' condition
- Through FOSPA, 15-20 people show up every weekend; groups are possibly large enough now to split and do dual parks per weekend
- Neighbors are invested in the parks; they bring 'heart' and community connections. Parks have been neglected for decades
- City benefits from FOSPA as a continued resource and connection to capacity building
- FOSPA could benefit from some capacity building with support from city
- Define the relative value added to identify cost savings provided by FOSPA. Growth in FOSPA is only to City's advantage
- Lack of access to sanitation (restrooms)

Ideas for Future Improvements

- Need more parks in deficient areas – access and safety
- Recreational needs exist in lower Seaside – Latino communities in park deficit areas. Do focused outreach in Spanish to residents to hear what they need. Outspoken community members might not represent broader, or Latino, needs; Parklets, soccer, basketball
- Lots of kids play soccer in streets, also roller hockey, skateboarding, basketball
- City segmentation – multi-family housing closer to ocean, with single family uphill. Parklets needed in multi-family areas
- It will be a challenge to get a park into the footprint of the existing areas of higher density
- Property on Broadway and Fremont used to be a gas station, could be a small park
- FOSPA model could expand to include smaller sites in high density areas
- Parks as ecosystem services: food production, bee/pollinator spaces
- Parks as robust community spaces that could include recreation programs on site
- Parks as community resiliency centers
- Add and upgrade playgrounds
- Collect stormwater runoff and support local/native plants
- Add more trails
- Create Connector alleyways
- Trinity Park could be improved
- Havana Soliz and Lincoln Cunningham – connect with trails (concept planning underway/pending). Existing trails are dangerous/hazardous and need renovation. There are no shade structures or picnic areas

Interview Notes (continued)

- Identify where the City can invest in more turf, multi-sport fields; partner with school district for fields and facility use
- Create multi-use, multi-purpose spaces: benches with tables, gathering spaces, shade structures
- Weave in 'green' into connectivity, especially in Seaside east when it develops
- Relationship between FOSPA and City could benefit from a more defined process and clarify the relationship/responsibilities; create longevity; craft a relationship structure
- Install native plants, drought tolerant; do not use weed barriers

Actions within the next 10 years

- Natural landscaping that includes stormwater capture, habitat needs, no plastics and maintenance appropriate to the vegetation
- Use curb cuts as means of passive irrigation with stormwater
- Stronger ethic and culture of park maintenance
- Bring up the quality and condition of all parks
- Rehabilitate existing walkways and add new connections
- Grow FOSPA to expand support for all parks
- Outdoor education opportunities and coordinate with school district
- Improve communications between City and neighbors, and City and FOSPA; more active outreach to neighbors and meet them where they are
- Add exercise stations in a circuit linking multiple parks
- Showcase Seaside for residents and regional visitors

-- End of Notes --

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Project No.:	Proj-# 22-151PLN
Location:	Zoom	Interview Date:	June 1, 2023
Notes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	12:00pm
Participants:	Shari Hastey, Community Partnership for Youth	Ron Johnson, Boys & Girls Club	Rosalyn Green, Building Healthy Communities
	Stacie Andrews, Village Project	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	
	Juan Sanchez, Palenke Arts		
Subject:	Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion: Non-Profit Program Providers		

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City facilities, programs and parks. The discussion occurred on June 1, 2023, virtually via Zoom.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City’s Park & Recreation Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about system planning and local recreation needs.

General Comments & Values about Seaside Parks and Recreation

- Cutino Park has had great improvements and upgrades
- Parks as safe places, gathering place, decompress and enjoy nature; run, exercise, play
- Being open to what is needed; giving people a place to ‘be’ – instead of hearing ‘no, no, no’ for skating, for example; provide space for that next trend or the missing need
- Parks as multi-use spaces; place of gathering to transform the community; place of belonging
- Accessible for whole family; art, color, representation (i.e., murals showcase community vibrancy)
- Recreation programs valuable and great to have different opportunities
- The off leash area is good and heavily used

Current Challenges

- There are a lot of small parks
- City doesn’t have hardwood floors space for basketball or volleyball. Missing out on tournament circuits
- Seaside Raider Football displaced with improvements to Cutino
- Footprint limitation – density already exists and can’t displace people to make a new park
- Consider re-using Fort Ord open space
- Maybe reclaim some of the golf course for big events

Interview Notes (continued)

What's Missing or Needs to be Improved?

- Need larger spaces to accommodate audience, especially for spectators
- Pickleball
- Parking
- Consider a Tatum's Garden (Salinas) model – offerings for users of all abilities
- Palenke Arts is looking for a 'forever home' that could include outdoor space and a sensory garden

Partnering & Coordination

- Be creative in resourcing (building space, land, water); resourceful
- Palenke wants a state of the art arts center
- BHC doesn't have a 'place' – uses the Fellowship Hall at church
- Boys & Girls Club added cameras to interior and exterior spaces, and this has help with criminal activity
- The Recreation Dept has a lot on its plate. Kudos for taking more on above P&R, including non-violence program. Organizational wear for being expected to do a lot more than just P&R; beaten down; scrambling
- Reframing – share accomplishments more
- Sit together and coordinate programming more; how can groups work more together to lift each other; clearinghouse for information
- Our organizations are serving the same people; look at comparables for similarly-resourced communities

Future Needs & Ideas for Improvements

- Missing gap is 18-26 year olds, also middle school to high school ages for non-sport youth
- Kids face immense pressures – mental health, jobs; need low cost places to 'be'
- Teen center is tiny and outdated, underutilized, should stay open later. Marina's teen center is hopping
- Palenke has only a few classes that have teens; they need a place to 'be' – someplace open to gather and hang out; create a non-judgmental space
- Palenke does offer a paid apprenticeship for audio, marketing, event coordination
- Imagine College at Seaside HS – hip hop, spoken word, etc.
- City does a good job with seniors, honoring with dances, food/feeding options, etc.
- Provide more BBQs, gazebos
- Basketball at Lincoln Cunningham
- Add lights, enhance security/safety
- City needs the ability to stay on top of maintenance; whatever you create, you have to be able to maintain
- Gathering space for all recreation, multi-sport complex, including hardwood courts (i.e. Hardwood Palace in Roseville). Need more fields, have huge football league
- Roberts Lake has picnic tables, but they are not well used. More promotion and marketing

-- End of Notes --



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Project No.:	Proj-# 22-151PLN		
Location:	Zoom	Interview Dates:	September 19, 2023 October 13, 2023	Time:	1:00pm 2:00pm
Notes by:	Jean Akers				
Participants:	Samantha Tobar, Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County Constance Constable, Pickleball advocate Michael Lang, President, Monterey Bay Pickleball Club (conducted: 10/13/23)		John Licea, Monterey Surf Soccer Club Jean Akers, Conservation Technix		
Subject:	Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion: Sports				

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City facilities, programs and parks. The discussion occurred on September 19, 2023, virtually via Zoom. An additional Zoom call was conducted with Michael Lang on October 13, 2023.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park & Recreation Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about system planning and local recreation needs.

Introductions & Opening Comments

- The Boys & Girls Club uses the Cutino soccer field on a weekly basis and provides adult basketball programming 1-2x per week at their facility.
- Pickleball has evolved in Seaside from very informal use of tennis courts and its popularity has been growing.
- The Monterey Bay Pickleball Club is advocating for additional Pickleball courts in Monterey and Seaside. Wherever feasible.
- Monterey Surf Soccer Club serves about 800 youth from across the Peninsula, ages 6 to 17 years old.

Coordination & Existing Conditions

- Cutino field is used on Saturdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Fridays from 4:30-6:00pm. Cutino is a critical facility for their programming.
- Natural grass fields in the Peninsula are plagued with ground squirrel and gopher activity, making many fields unsafe.

Interview Notes (continued)

- Monterey Surf Soccer Club conducts a week-long summer camp in July.
- Pickleball uses 2 courts at Wheeler Tennis courts informally, then on a trial basis with moveable nets and chalked lines. Now, two courts at Wheeler have painted lines to provide for 4 Pickleball courts.
- Lots of cracking on surface of tennis/Pickleball courts at Wheeler.
- Some parking issues have arisen with the popularity of Pickleball as users sometimes parked poorly in the adjacent neighborhood. Painted lines and more signage have helped define parking areas more clearly.

What's working well and what isn't?

- Coordination for field facilities has been going smoothly and the process has been straightforward.
- Chris Russo has been very responsive to field user rental requests.
- Completion of Phase III at Cutino is anxiously awaited. Field users and B&G Club find access around the construction area to be inconvenient.
- Pickleball is very well attended. Parking is sometimes an issue. Player groups join about 3x per week.
- Pickleball and tennis courts need resurfacing. Slippery and cracked. Affecting safe play.
- City staff have been great.
- Some concern has been expressed that the City might start its own youth soccer program and preempt use of fields, eliminating Monterey Surf Soccer Club's field availability.
- High School may get field lighting but won't allow non-school programs to use the field
- Cutino Park sometimes has older youth ("riff-raff") hanging out at the restrooms causing concern.
- For field reservations, both B&G Club and Monterey Surf would like to know about field reservation results much sooner to allow for more effective planning and scheduling.
- Does the City offer preference for field reservations when organizations include Seaside residents? Is there a differential in rental rates and availability between resident and non-resident?

Ideas for Future Improvements

- More fields in playable condition are needed
- More synthetic turf fields would be good
- Field lighting would extend play in the fall
- Restrooms (or portable toilet) would be nice at Wheeler Tennis Courts
- Court lighting would extend play at Wheeler Tennis Courts
- Convert two of tennis courts to permanent Pickleball court
- Playground at Wheeler would provide more diverse rec opportunities
- New dedicated Pickleball facility would be great
- Could vacant lot adjacent to Soper Field be acquired and developed for Pickleball courts
- City rec programming should consider programs that get kids outdoors and in nature more
- City rec programming could consider youth Pickleball instruction classes

-- End of Notes --

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Seaside Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Project No.:	Proj-# 22-151PLN		
Location:	Zoom	Interview Date:	June 14, 2023	Time:	12:30pm
Notes by:	Steve Duh				
Participants:	Ray Bennett, lap swimmer		Steve Duh, Conservation Technix		
	Kerri Williams, certified infant swim resource instructor				
Subject:	Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion: Swim Center Users				

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City aquatics and the Pattullo Swim Center. The discussion occurred on June 14, 2023, virtually via Zoom.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park & Recreation Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about system planning and local recreation needs.

General Comments

- Staff very nice
- Facility is cleaner than other pools in the region
- Clean, clear water – well-balanced – feels a bit cold though
- Price for seniors is very affordable; appreciate the City keeping the prices reasonable/affordable.
- There are shortened hours now for lap swimming due to recent shift in schedule to accommodate summer programs and classes. Sometimes there are three people to a lane for lap swimming, but usage is not consistent on a daily or weekly basis; it is hit or miss in terms of how busy the lanes will be.

Promotions & Awareness

- Not sure if the facility is well-known or of general knowledge. Do more to promote the pool; the price is good.
- Cereal with Santa event is fun; glad it came back.
- Swim birthday parties are great, since the party gets access to the whole facility, rather than sharing it with other users.
- Promote more through social media, especially Instagram (but embedded links do not work in Instagram).

Interview Notes (continued)

- Promote through social media ‘groups’ such as Monterey Bay Moms and Monterey Bay Kids. The Monterey Parents magazine is good, but it is expensive to advertise in it.

Improvements, Offerings & Scheduling

- There are drafts in the building, and the pool area feels cool, especially when the lifeguard office door is open.
- Need to enforce the rule that showering is mandatory before entering pool (otherwise all the hair gel, deodorant, perfume, pollen, etc. lands in pool). This is not a ‘signage’ problem; there are adequate signs at the Swim Center. Staff needs to help enforce the rule.
- Offer more lap swim times
- Do more to enhance/expand offerings for water safety (pool and ocean)
- Expand CPR training and host a “water safety day” including childcare. Expand to include certifications for local first responders and build more local lifeguards over time. Consider offering some sort of perk to attract and retain lifeguards (e.g., passes for fitness, etc.) At the Monterey Sport Center, lifeguards are provided with membership to the facility
- Kerri uses the Swim Center as a program location for her infant swim class. The City has been easy to work with as a contracting agency; staff are good. Hard to get hours for the infant age group for private lesson/program scheduling; Earlier or later afternoon is better than midday.
- Lifeguards sometime have loud music playing, but they are responsive about lowering or turning off the music if asked.
- There is a 15-minute block between noon and 12:15pm when no one is in the pool. Not sure why.

Other Comments

- Does the slide at the pool work? It seems to be unused/inoperable

-- End of Notes --

The background of the page is a photograph of a coastal landscape. It shows a wide, grassy hillside in the foreground, sloping down towards the ocean. The grass is a mix of green and brown, with some small pink flowers scattered throughout. In the distance, the ocean is visible with white-capped waves breaking against the shore. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The title 'Appendix E: Park Site Assessments' is overlaid on the right side of the image, with 'Appendix E:' in a large blue font and 'Park Site Assessments' in a white font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Appendix E: Park Site Assessments

Consultant field visits to all Seaside parks, trails, and open space areas occurred over a three day timeframe in May 2023. These were intended as a preliminary visual inspection to assess each site's physical features to document existing quantities, condition, and opportunities for enhancements.



Beta Park

Mini Park

1.13 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

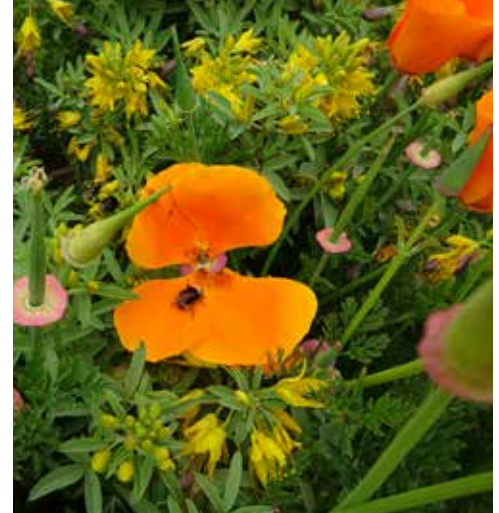
- Pollinator gardens could have interpretive signage about principles and values of native plants and supporting bees and other insects.
- During site visit a class of elementary school children walked to the park for a class on nature, bringing their magnifying glass and bug jars for exploring, learning and collecting.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Side entries could be signed with park identification.
- Chained entry at one street end (Luzern) was a barrier to pedestrians and cyclists.

AMENITIES

- Pollinator garden planting beds
- Swing sets (2)
- Paved pathways
- Benches
- Mutt Mitt dispensers
- Open grass areas
- Retaining walls
- Trash & recycling receptacles
- Play structures (2-5 & 5-12 yr olds)



Capra Park

Mini Park

0.81 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park has very limited outdoor recreation features. Install new play options with unique slides or climbing features.
- Capitalize on the views of the bay from the park.
- Activity in the park including group picnicking with added grills and gardening groups could be better supported with provision of restrooms (or at least portable toilets).

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Retaining wall in middle of park has been failing. Redesign of the park should accommodate more recreation amenities and grading treatment to eliminate or repair the retaining wall.

AMENITIES

- Basketball sport court
- Bench
- Fencing
- Irrigation/garden hose spigot
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- On-street parking
- Open grass area
- Picnic table with BBQ grill
- Pollinator garden
- Shade tree
- Swing set
- Trash & recycling receptacles



David Cutino Park

Community Park

5.62 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- New facility offering a variety of recreation amenities with good ADA access.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- The area in the rear of the new sports field seemed inaccessible. It was unclear what its purpose had been or how it could add value to the new facility.

AMENITIES

- Bleachers
- Concession building
- Lighted synthetic turf sports field
- Mural wall at sport court
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- On-street parking
- Park identification sign
- Restrooms
- Shade trees
- Skate park
- Sport court (basketball / soccer)
- Storage containers
- Viewing area (behind home plate)





Durant Park

Mini Park

0.48 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add ramp into playground to provide better ADA access or increase depth of wood fiber surfacing.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Plan to control invasive grasses before they can go to seed..

AMENITIES

- BBQ grill (double)
- Benches
- Mutt Mitt dispenser with can
- On-street parking
- Park identification sign
- Picnic table with wheelchair seating
- Planting beds
- Paved pathways
- Playground
- Seating wall
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Ellis Park

Mini Park

0.4 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

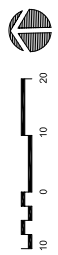
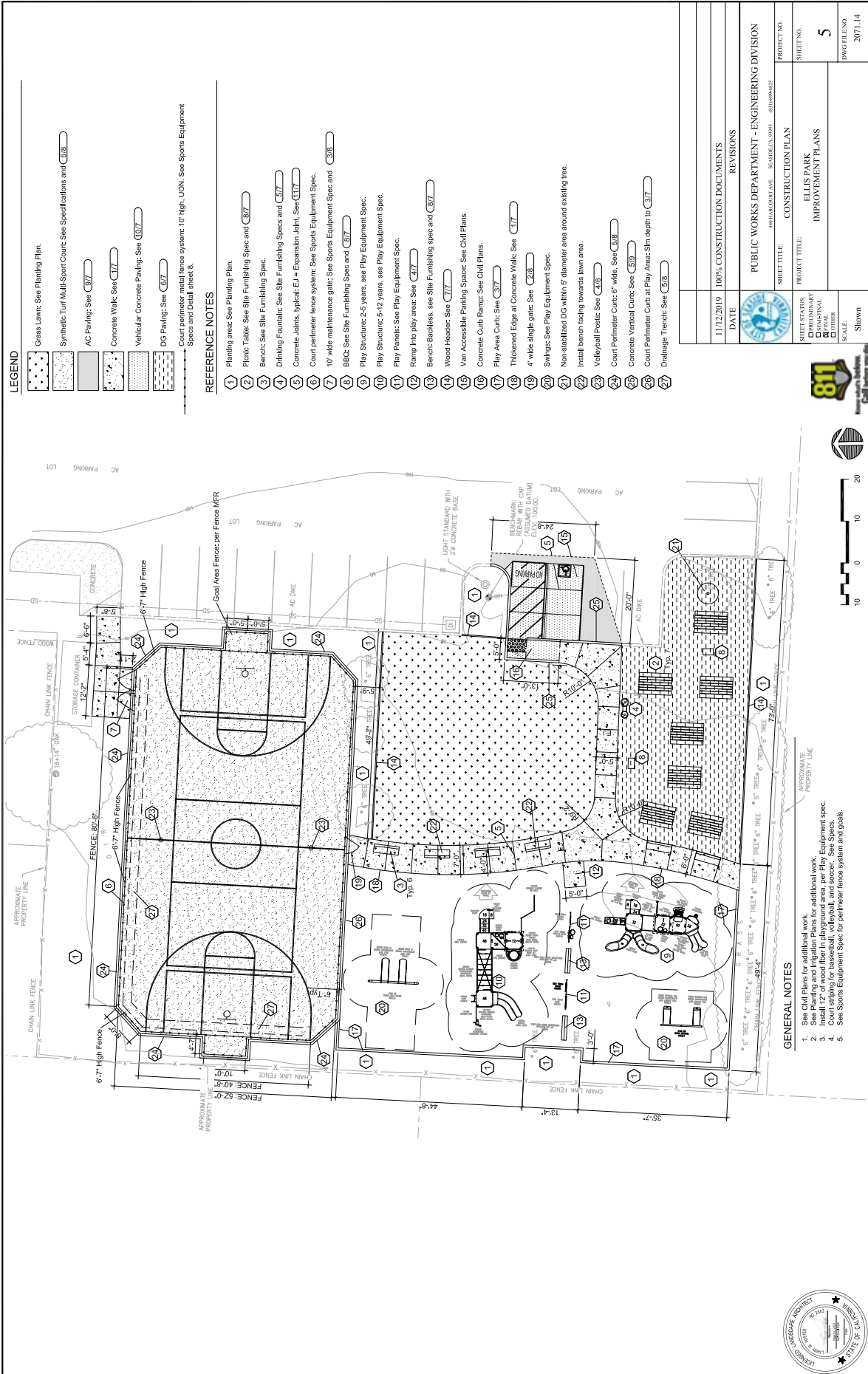
- New facility providing a range of outdoor recreation and full ADA access.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

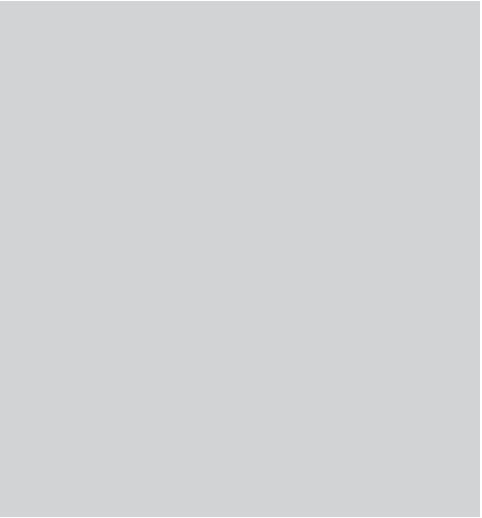
AMENITIES

- Benches (8)
- Drinking fountain
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- Open grass area
- Parking (part of Oldemeyer Center)
- Picnic tables (6)
- Playground equipment (2-5 & 5-12 yr olds)
- Sport court (for deck hockey and basketball)
- Swing sets (2)
- Trash & recycling receptacles



REVISIONS	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
11/12/2019	100% CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - ENGINEERING DIVISION	
SHEET NO.	5
PROJECT TITLE:	ELLIS PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS
SHEET STATUS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRELIMINARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
PROJECT NO.	4414400007.AVE - SEASIDE, CA 94065
DWG TITLE NO.	2071.14
SCALE:	Shown



Encanto Park

Open Space

0.19 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Very steep sandy slope between two cul-de-sacs. Could benefit from more slope stabilizing vegetation, but not suitable for future park development.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Remove from parkland inventory. Consider 'surplusing' site to adjoin property owners.

AMENITIES

None



Farallones Park

Mini Park

0.82 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Shift location of trash & recycling receptacles further from picnic tables to allow wheelchair access to end of table.
- Prune vegetation back from pathways where plant growth constricts the pavement width.

AMENITIES

- BBQ grill
- Benches
- Fencing
- Irrigation
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- On-street parking
- Open grass area
- Paved pathways
- Picnic table with wheelchair seating
- Playground – post/platform structure, swing set, spinner
- Shade trees
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Fernando Montgomery Park

Mini Park

0.13 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Contains no recreational amenities. Consider a master plan for complete renovation and upgrades.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

AMENITIES

- Bench
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- Park identification sign
- Partial paved pathways
- Pine tree
- Planting beds
- Shade tree
- Stone walls
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Havana Soliz Park

Neighborhood Park

2.58 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- This 1967 park needs a complete renovation. Existing spaces that housed former park amenities could be re-used for new outdoor recreation features.
- There is no legitimate ADA access due to missing curb cuts, root upheavals and poor asphalt pavement quality.
- Implement to new site master plan.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Paved pathways need complete replacement.
- Light poles are likely non-function. Replace entire lighting system – consider LED lamps.
- Add park identification signs at all entries.

AMENITIES

- Park identification sign
- Mutt Mitt dispensers
- Trash receptacles
- Benches
- Light posts
- Pollinator garden
- Robert Daniel's planter boxes



HAVANA SOLIZ PARK CONCEPT PLAN

LINCOLN CUNNINGHAM & HAVANA SOLIZ PARKS MASTER PLAN

REVALE, GA
 NOVEMBER 2, 2023
 23.015



Highland Otis Park

Mini Park

1.17 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Renovations are fairly recent, but a smooth paved path to Highland should be added.
- This is one of the parks with views to the bay. Any future added improvements should consider retaining that visual access.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

AMENITIES

BBQ grills (4)

Benches

Mutt Mitt dispensers

Exercise station (at high point)

One handicapped parking stall with travel aisle

On-street parking

Paved pathways to amenities

Picnic tables (4) (2 with wheelchair seating)

Planting beds

Playground (lower): 2-5 yr old play structure, climbing boulder, climbing net, spring seesaw

Playground (upper): swing set, spring seahorse

Shade trees

Trash & recycling receptacles



Laguna Grande Park

Regional Park

10.73 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Older asphalt pavement is buckling from numerous root upheavals. Pavement joints with wood decking may need to be repaired to ensure ADA access.
- Rodent activity in lawn areas may present tripping hazards.
- Trash pick-up and litter control should be scheduled more often.

AMENITIES

- Park identification signs
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Lake
- Natural area
- Shade trees
- Open grass areas
- Drinking fountains
- Bike racks
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Trash & recycling receptacles
- Observation decks
- Paved pathways



Lincoln Cunningham Park

Neighborhood Park

2.86 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Implement the recent site master plan.
- Pedestrian overpass connecting to Manzanita Stuart Park should be scheduled for repair/replacement.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Park could use some shade trees.

AMENITIES

Basketball ½ court (crusher waste surface)

Benches (old, wooden)

Blue bird nesting boxes on light poles

Concrete “play” feature (outdated)

Light posts (non-functioning)

Mutt Mitt dispenser

Paved pathways (degraded asphalt)

Playground

Pollinator garden

Trash & recycling receptacles

Underground water tank with solar pump



LINCOLN CUNNINGHAM PARK CONCEPT PLAN

LINCOLN CUNNINGHAM & HAVANA SOLIZ PARKS MASTER PLAN

SCARBOROUGH, CA
NOVEMBER 2, 2020
21.015



Manzanita Stuart Park

Mini Park

0.77 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- This is one of the parks with views to the bay. Any future added improvements should consider retaining that visual access.
- Pedestrian overpass (closed) connecting to Lincoln Cunningham Park should be scheduled for repair/replacement.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Add park identification signs at side entries.
- Replace old wooden benches.
- Repair asphalt pavement.
- Check for adequate depth of play safety surfacing – more wood fiber may be required.

AMENITIES

- Benches (old)
- Park identification sign
- Paved pathways
- Planting areas
- Playground: large play structure
- Plaza area with public art



Martin Park

Mini Park

0.58 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted

AMENITIES

- BBQ grills (2)
- Bench
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- On-street parking
- Open grass area
- Paved pathways
- Picnic tables (2)
- Pine trees
- Planting beds
- Playground
- Trash receptacles



Mescal Neil Park

Neighborhood Park

2.22 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- This is one of the parks with views to the bay. Any future added improvements should consider retaining that visual access.
- The park should go through a complete master planning process to determine the best composition of outdoor recreational amenities and what segments of the old pathways could be repaired and which should be removed. Retention of some of the pathways would be advisable where existing trees should be preserved. Any future design for the site should capture the value of the rolling topography, views to the Bay and consider complete ADA access to planned recreation amenities.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Coordinate with FOSPA to determine short-term upgrades and longer – term master plan improvements.

AMENITIES

Benches

Concrete & asphalt pathway system (dysfunctional)

Light posts (non-operational)

Mutt Mitt dispensers with cans

Park identification & rules signs

Picnic table

Swing set



Metz Park

Neighborhood Park

2.1 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand size of tree pits (now empty) in sports court area to provide more room for tree replacements. Add shade trees.
- Continue ADA upgrades as picnic tables are replaced.
- Add more recreation amenities in vacant spaces.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

AMENITIES

Ball field
Benches
Handicapped ramps to sports court & ball field
Mutt Mitt dispenser
One handicapped parking space
On-street parking
Park IC signs
Paved pathways
Picnic tables
Restrooms (closed when field not scheduled)
Sport court
Trash & recycling receptacles



Pacchetti Dog Park

Special Use Area

1.69 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Existing paved pathways are not contiguous throughout the off-leash area, limiting the degree of universal access. Connecting the gaps between the entrance and concrete pathway to the shelter would provide better ADA-compliance.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Volunteer-driven maintenance & improvements.

AMENITIES

- Benches
- Concrete pathway (not connected to entry)
- Double-gated entry
- Fencing
- Gazebo with picnic table
- Kiosk with message board
- Little library
- Memory Garden
- Mutt Mitt dispensers
- On-street parking
- Picnic tables
- Shade trees
- Small & "all" dog areas
- Storage shed
- Tool shed
- Trash receptacles
- Water spigots (2)
- Wood chip surfacing



Portola Leslie Park

Mini Park

1.11 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Prepare a full-renovation master plan since this park lacks any recreational amenities beyond tables & benches.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

AMENITIES

Bench
Little library
Mutt Mitt dispenser
On-street parking
Park identification sign
Paved pathways
Picnic tables (3)
Public art
Trash & recycling receptacles



Roberts Lake Eco-Rec Park

Open Space

5.67 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Upgraded edge of lake access treatments and trail improvements could improve safety and ADA access along the perimeter of this open water amenity.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Schedule more frequent (and thorough) trash collection.
- Power wash observation deck to periodically remove masses of waterfowl waste.

AMENITIES

Connection to Monterey Coastal Trail

Lake

Observation deck

Pagoda/gazebo

Parking

Paved pathways

Peace pole

Play area

Trash & recycling receptacles

Wildlife viewing



Stephen E Ross Memorial Park

Open Space

0.25 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- No recreational amenities. No shade. No ADA access.
- This site contains three modular office buildings comprising almost half the acreage. It is adjacent to the Library and City Hall and could be designed to function as a gathering space or public plaza.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.

AMENITIES

Benches
Open grass area
Memorial sign



Sabado Park

Mini Park

0.42 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park has previous infrastructure but now lacks much in outdoor park & play opportunities. Master planning for renovation and future improvements is needed.
- Lots of room on old foundation and in sand play area for future additions to the park.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Additional park identification signs would be useful at each entry from public right of way.
- Check depth of sand in swing set area to ensure adequate provision of safety fall surfacing. Consider switching out sand for engineered wood fiber or poured in place surfacing.

AMENITIES

Bench
Evergreen trees
Open grass area
Park identification sign
Pergola
Retaining walls
Swings in sand area
Trash receptacle



Sonoma Sports Court

Special Use Area

0.29 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Good internal ADA access, but there is no provision for handicapped parking or ADA access routes from street/sidewalk.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Some pavement cracking throughout the court surface but still playable. Resurfacing will be needed in coming years.

AMENITIES

- Basketball/deck hockey sport court
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Fencing
- On-street parking
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Soper Field

Community Park

6.55 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding roofs (or fencing) to dugouts for safety.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Some of the bleachers lack safety railing; a requirement of the International Building Code.

AMENITIES

- Ballfield
- Batting cage
- Bleachers
- Dugouts
- Scoring tower / concession / restroom building
- BBQ grills
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Bike tools stand
- Cell tower
- Community Center
- Drinking fountains
- Mutt Mitt dispensers
- Parking
- Paved pathways
- Picnic area (7 tables; 1 / handicapped seating space)
- Playgrounds
- Shade trees
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Trinity Park

Mini Park

0.83 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Playground has room for more play pieces. Consider adding swings.
- Renovate and upgrade the area of the narrow stone path and circle at the east end of the park to provide more park-like options for outdoor enjoyment.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- New shade tree plantings should not have grass growing at the base of their trunks to avoid mower and string trimmer damage.
- Ground squirrel (?) holes are peppered throughout lawn area. They present a tripping hazard during open play.

AMENITIES

- BBQ grills
- Irrigation
- Mutt Mitt dispensers with can
- On-street parking (1 handicapped space at play area)
- Open grass area
- Picnic table with wheelchair space
- Picnic tables (in grass)
- Playground
- Shade trees
- Trash & recycling receptacles



Wheeler Tennis Courts

Special Use Area

1.63 acres

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- There is room on this site for additional park and outdoor recreation amenities.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Trim vegetation from path pavement edge to remove encroaching ice plant growth.

AMENITIES

- Fencing
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- Paved pathway from entrance
- Picnic table
- Player benches
- Storage shed
- Tennis courts (4)
 - (2 of 4 are striped for Pickleball option)
 - (4 portable Pickleball nets)
- Trash receptacles



Eucalyptus Road Trail Access

Open Space

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Currently undeveloped. Access is reached by foot or bicycle from a closure on Eucalyptus Road about ½ mile from the BLM Monument sign.
- Future trailhead parking would provide proximate access to Trail 56 within the Monument trail network as well as other limited-access roads on Federal land.
- An existing flat area at the Monument sign (BLM FONM) exists off Eucalyptus Road through a short gravel entry. There is plenty of room for a trailhead easily providing for 10-12 vehicles with turnaround room.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Current Eucalyptus Road closure could be shifted to just behind the BLM Monument sign.

AMENITIES

None



Appendix F: Summary of Past Plans

These City documents continue to provide valuable planning guidelines for the Seaside community. Elements from these plans were incorporated into this current Parks & Recreation Master Plan process to maintain consistency and coordinated planning.

City of Seaside Parks, Recreation, Community Services Plan 2005

The Parks, Recreation, Community Services Master Plan, adopted in 2005, contained an analysis of current and estimated future demand for these facilities by community residents and, also, the management and operations needed to maintain these facilities. The Plan identified two critical issues for the future of the City's park system. First, the critical need was to provide adequate park facilities in all of the Seaside neighborhoods. The second critical issue was the provision of support facilities, specifically sports fields. The plan also identified the park and facilities needs and importance of upgrading the existing park system. The plan recommended that a number of parks required updated master plans that reflected changes in the neighborhood, new facility needs or existing conditions within the park itself.

The Plan's report on the existing park system stated that many mini parks were in poor condition and provided little recreation opportunity. Poor park condition was a major concern expressed by the public during the planning process. Deferred maintenance had left many parks with deteriorating facilities or empty spaces where facilities had been removed. The Plan also identified the need for additional neighborhood, community, and regional parks to serve the Seaside area. Approximately one-half of those needed park lands and additional open space acreage could be provided through the future development of designated Seaside area within the Fort Ord Reuse Plan. The Plan also targeted the need for additional land for sports fields, and special use facilities such as skate parks. The Plan proposed recommended demand standards for the level of provision of parks and recreation within the city for both existing service standards and build-out demand. As a strategy to eliminate redundancy of parks in close proximity, the Plan explored options for the consideration of divestment of five of the 13 mini parks: Sabado Park, Fernando Montgomery Park, Capra Park, Durant Park and Encanto Park. Other mini parks were recommended for updated master planning or upgrades. The Plan also made recommendations for master planning most of the existing neighborhood parks to determine the types of future upgrades due to the need for substantial renovation. Beyond the recommended types of upgrades for existing parks the Plan also outlines the design and development guidelines for needed future neighborhood, community and regional parks as well as linear parks, special use areas, trails and open space.

City of Seaside 2023–2025 Strategic Plan

The City's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan resulted in twelve (12) strategic priorities. Each Department identified strategic plan goals and objectives for the 2023-2025 planning cycle. Each goal aligned with the existing results of the 2020 strategic planning session. The Recreation Department included the goals to complete the Park Master Plan update; revitalize the trail network at Manzanita Stuart Park, and Havana Solis Park (in coordination with Public Works); create a teen center; and implement the City's tree program. The Public Works Department included goals to complete the Ellis Park construction (done) and the Cutino Park improvements (phase 1 done; Phase 2 in progress). The Public Works Department also listed key capital improvement projects that included Lincoln Cunningham basketball court construction; Phase 1 trails for Lincoln Cunningham & Havana Soliz Parks Concepts, a recreation trail program; Havana Soliz Park revitalization construction; Highland Otis Park lower playground area construction; and Fernando park construction. Most of these park-related projects were noted as "in process".

Seaside General Plan 2020

Seaside's General Plan serves as the 'blueprint' for future growth and development, containing policies and programs that provide the community's decision makers with a basis for decisions related to land use and development. The adopted 2020 General Plan's Conservation/Open Space Element (Chapter 6) was developed during the 2004 Seaside General Plan. The current process (as of May 2023) of updating the General Plan (Seaside 2040) has draft chapters for Parks and Open Space (Chapter 7) and Conservation (Chapter 8). The Parks and Open Space Element includes policy guidance about recreation services and facilities in the city.

General Plan Seaside 2040 DRAFT

From the opening page of the chapter: "Easy access to safe and well-maintained parks, open space, and recreation facilities is vital to Seaside as a community.....The City is committed to supporting community-led efforts to protect and improve existing green spaces, build social capital, enhance natural habitat, protect scenic views, and broaden support of conservation." The Parks and Open Space chapter describes the current types and acreages of park and recreation facilities in the city and target the need for improving access to parks and open spaces by adding new green spaces, reprogramming unused spaces for public use and improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing parks and facilities. The Parks and Open Space Element includes policy guidance about recreation services and facilities in the city.

The Seaside 2040 Plan (draft) recognizes the effect of water restrictions on certain parks, the need for improvement of park facilities, the benefit of a more consistent revenue stream for park maintenance and the value of volunteer-led (FOSPA) work in improving city parks. Once Fort Ord munition hazard cleanup is completed, developed access to the National Monument is expected through entry points at Gigling Road, Broadway Avenue and Eucalyptus Road. The Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway is a community-proposed 28-mile regional network of paved recreational trails connecting communities and open space. The Chapter also suggests "Seaside should benefit from additional specialized recreation facilities including a skate park, multi-use and soccer fields, a group picnic area, amphitheater, adventure playground, and additional off-leash, dog areas."

The Parks and Open Space Chapter of the Seaside 2040 Plan proposes goals that seek to

- 1.) Increase the amount and availability of park and recreation facilities through the addition of new regional, community and neighborhood parks.
- 2.) Create a high-quality and well-connected series of natural open spaces that support expanded recreational opportunities.
- 3.) Ensure a well-maintained and safe system of parks, recreational facilities and open spaces.
- 4.) Improving bicycle and pedestrian access connections throughout the park system.
- 5.) Maintain and enhance public access the Coast through the provision of multiple access points, increased visibility and signage and increased alternative travel modes to the beach.
- 6.) Maintain and expand joint use agreements with partnering agencies and organizations to help with park design, construction, maintenance and funding to facilitate greater park access.
- 7.) Increase sustainability efforts and awareness in parks.

The Conservation Element (Chapter 8 of the Seaside 2040 Plan) addresses the conservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of Seaside's natural resources including cultural and paleontological resources. Several agencies, organizations, and City departments are involved in the preservation of biological resources in Seaside, guided by the following adopted plans: Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan and Coastal Implementation Plan; Fort Ord Installation-wide Multi-species Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and the Fort Ord Installation-wide Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The Conservation chapter also recognizes the value of and need to protect Dark Skies, scenic and visual resources, cultural and paleontological resources. Among the goals for conservation, the City positions urban forestry as essential to the quality of life for a more resilient urban environment.

Campus Town Specific Plan

Developed in 2019, the Campus Town Specific Plan is intended to implement the vision of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority Base Reuse Plan and the City's General Plan for a "University Village" adjacent to California State University Monterey Bay. California State Law authorizes cities to prepare and adopt Specific Plans in accordance with Government Code Sections 65450-65457. Specific Plans are used as a bridge between the General Plan and individual development proposals in a defined area. This Specific Plan implements the Seaside General Plan for the 120-acre Campus Town area.

The Campus Town Specific Plan provides the framework for development that will serve residents, visitors, and students in a "new urbanist" community. Key elements of development in the area will be focused on providing arts and entertainment, retail, housing, visitor lodging, and employment space for the University student and faculty population and the broader Seaside community to increase the overall economic opportunity available in the region. The approximately 120-acre Specific Plan Area is intended to be developed with up to 1,485 housing units, 250 hotel rooms, 150,000 square feet of Retail, Dining and Entertainment, and 50,000 square feet of Office, Flex, and Makerspace, and light industrial, as well as park/recreational areas and supporting infrastructure. In relationship to parks and recreation, the Plan establishes standards and guidelines for the public realm, including standards and guidelines for bicycle networks and facilities and Open Space networks.

Proposed designated Open Spaces primarily following thoroughfares, intend to serve as community gathering spaces and neighborhood living rooms, influencing the character and utility of the public realm. Connections to existing and proposed trails will ensure that seamless connections to and through the Specific Plan Area with FORTAG trail spurs and separately planned bicycle infrastructure improvements connecting with the proposed bikeways within the Specific Plan Area. A series of Open Spaces link the central east-west street, forming a green network to help unite the Specific Plan Area. Neighborhood parks are to be located near residential neighborhoods that in turn connect to mixed-use village centers and CSUMB. The proposed Open Space network includes more than 9 acres for public recreation that is also accessible to the Seaside community at large. The proposed system of Open Space contain a variety of outdoor recreation features including sports fields, playgrounds, passive areas and civic plazas designed to provide a high level of connectivity throughout the neighborhoods.

Fort Ord Reuse Plan Volume 2: Reuse Plan Elements (1997)

Recreation and Open Space Element first describes the larger open space and recreation planning that transfers over 8,000 acres to the Bureau of Land Management and the designation of the coastal dunes area as the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. The Recreation Element also proposes standards for future neighborhood and community parks.

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks are generally expected to serve a population of between 500 and 1,500 residents. They may include mini parks (up to 1/2 acre in size) and larger parks for an entire neighborhood (up to 10 acres in size). They are typically located with easy walking and biking distance of residents (approximately 1/4 to 1/3 mile radius) so that minimal parking facilities are required. They should be located where neighborhood sidewalks and/or trails exist so that they are easily accessible by non-motorized forms of transportation. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible and visible from the surrounding area. Access for the physically challenged should be provided where feasible to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve youth from pre-school age to high school age, as well as to provide space for more adult-related activities such as pick-up basketball games, dog walking, Frisbee throwing, nature watching, and other casual activities. They should include play structures for small children when located in proximity to residential neighborhoods and ball fields when sufficient land is available. Larger community recreation structures may be present in more densely populated neighborhoods.

Community Parks: Community parks serve the entire community. They may range in size from 10 to 50 acres, although it is expected that community parks larger than 15 to 20 acres will have substantial acreage

dedicated to open space/habitat protection. They may focus on one unique community-wide feature or be designed to host substantial numbers of people and contain many diverse activities. Community parks may include features such as a public meeting space (i.e. gazebo and band shell), camping and recreational vehicle facilities, passive green space, ball fields, restrooms, group shelter(s), volleyball, wading pool, and sports complexes (e.g., swimming pool, ball courts). They may also be an area of natural quality and used for more passive outdoor recreation such as walking, nature observation, photography, relaxing/reading, sunbathing, and picnicking. Community parks may also include the facilities that are typically provided in neighborhood parks.

Community parks should be designed to serve neighborhoods in a 1 to 3-mile radius. They typically include improvements for on-site parking since visitors may travel by automobile to utilize the parks facilities. Parking will typically include accommodation for horse and other trailers where the park functions as a trailhead. Access for the physically challenged should be provided where feasible to comply with ADA.

The Recreation Element also made projections of population-based recreation demand within the 20-year development time frame as well as the projected full residential build-out of the former Fort Ord base. Local community standards were applied in order to identify the amount of park land which is needed to be set aside.

The Reuse Plan also proposes a network of trails using the open space, recreation lands, habitat management lands and institutional settings to serve as both alternative transportation and as recreation that draws ecotourism activities. Objective D for the City of Seaside's Recreation Policy in the Reuse Plan: "Establish a system of community and neighborhood parks which provide recreation opportunities reflective of local community standards." Policies to meet this objective include creating the park facilities projected to meet the recreation demand of the future population using the neighborhood and community park acreage standards. The Reuse Plan also recommends that Seaside maximize the use of existing former military recreation facilities and develops a plan for adequate and long-term maintenance for every public park prior to construction. The Reuse Plan also recommends that Seaside adopt a comprehensive trails plan to improve access to parks, recreational facilities and other open space that links to all sectors of the former Fort Ord.

Eucalyptus Road: This facility begins at the intersection of Coe Avenue and General Jim Moore Boulevard just north of Seaside. It is aligned to the northeast, and the pavement ends at Barclay Canyon Road. While Eucalyptus Road does not currently provide any connections, future improvements in the eastern part of the former Fort Ord may make this an important element in the roadway system.

Currently, the majority of these facilities are relatively low-volume roadways, but will become more important as the base is redeveloped. No current LOS analysis was performed because traffic volumes on internal Fort Ord roadways have been negligible since the base closure.

Ford Ord Reuse Plan Reassessment Report 2012

The requirement for a reassessment of the Base Reuse Plan results from a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club against FORA (Fort Ord Redevelopment Authority) in 1997. The Reassessment report made edits to reuse plan text and added the requirement for periodic reassessments to ensure progress for the base's reuse and the potential to adjust and reassess planning direction based on local and regional changes over time.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The 2011 Transportation Agency for Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan identifies existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Monterey County including all its communities. The Plan is aimed at creating a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network for the County that supports sustainability, active living and community by integrating bicycling and walking as a viable mode of travel. The Plan identified priority bikeway projects throughout the county. In the City of Seaside, sections of Broadway and Del Monte Boulevard were on the list of Priority Bikeway Projects. Beyond those top three priority projects, Seaside had over 20 bikeway improvements listed for improvements that would add almost 19 miles to the bikeway network. The Plan also included bicycle facility projects proposed by the California State University Monterey Bay campus, mostly south of Imjin Road in Marina and Seaside.

AMBAG (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) provides a blueprint for establishing the priority areas for pedestrian investment. This TAMC bike/ped plan provides additional geographic priorities to the AMBAG Blueprint Priority Areas: major barriers to walking, safe routes to school areas, and safe routes to transit connections. The Plan also recognized the importance of regional trails in meeting the recreation and transportation needs for Monterey County residents. Seaside had several pedestrian improvement projects that related to intersection and crossing improvements at locations along Broadway Avenue. Sidewalk projects within the CSU Monterey Bay campus were also included in the pedestrian improvement projects.

Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway Conceptual Design Report

The Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) is envisioned as a regional transportation corridor and recreational attraction connecting open space to major destinations in northwestern Monterey County. The 2020 FORTAG Conceptual Design Report, prepared for the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), provides design concepts and guidance for implementation throughout the overall corridor FORTAG with recommendations for specific segments. The regional trail and greenway includes approximately 27 miles of new paved trail, built for ADA compliance to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists of all abilities. Where space is available, the trail will be surrounded by an open space greenway buffer on both sides.

The proposed FORTAG alignment, when combined with the existing Coastal Recreation Trail, will generally form three loops that encircle the City of Marina, the CSUMB campus, and the City of Seaside, respectively. For the purposes of phased development and conceptual design treatments, FORTAG has been divided into seven major segments. The segments, from south to north include: Ryan Ranch, Canyon Del Ray, National Monument Loop, CSUMB Loop South, CSUMB Loop North, Northern Loop and Northern Marina. These segments have been defined jurisdictionally, as well as by environmental context. The Conceptual Design Report presents each segment's the unique potential for user experience and informs trail design considerations within each segment.



Appendix G: Recreation Trends

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review

In the 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and its accompanying Park Metrics share comprehensive park and recreation-related data collected and analyzed to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from more than 1,000 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2020 and 2022. These resources provide guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. This data can offer a perspective for Sammamish Parks and Recreation to compare their service provision to other agencies across the country. However, every park & rec agency has its own unique characteristics, combination of responsibilities and community composition. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Sammamish can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks. The agency performance report indicated recent trends in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies show that numbers of authorized full-time positions has steadily rebounded since 2011.

Key Findings & Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 45,000 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 22 parks comprising over 571 acres. When including non-park sites (such as city halls and roadway medians), the median management scale for park agencies increases to 30 sites encompassing 676 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Park Facilities

The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,287 residents
- One playground for every 3,759 residents
- 10.8 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- 15 miles of trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking
- 8.9 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents

Figure G1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

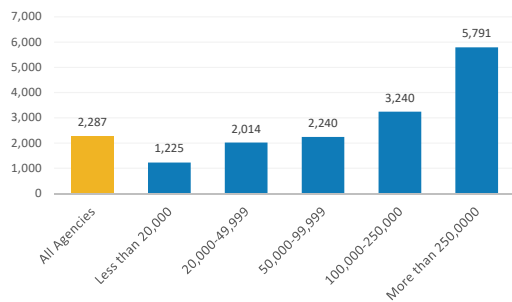
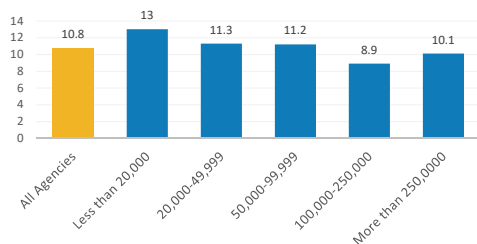


Figure G2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (95%) and basketball courts (86%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Most agencies (three in five) offer community and/or recreation centers. Recreation centers (63%) are provided more often than community centers (59%). Senior centers (41%), performance amphitheaters (37%) and nature centers (33%) are also common.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 15 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 89 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer’s markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

Programming

At least seven in ten agencies provide themed special events (89% of agencies), team sports (86%), social recreation events (88%), youth summer camps (82%), fitness enhancement classes (81%), and health and wellness education (80%).

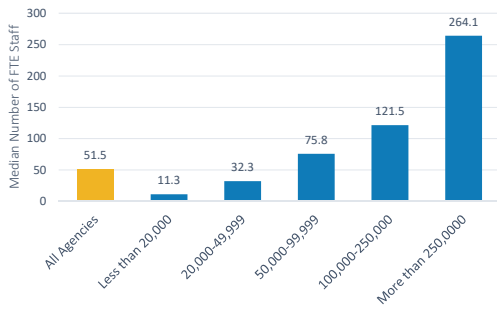
Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 51.5 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.9 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction

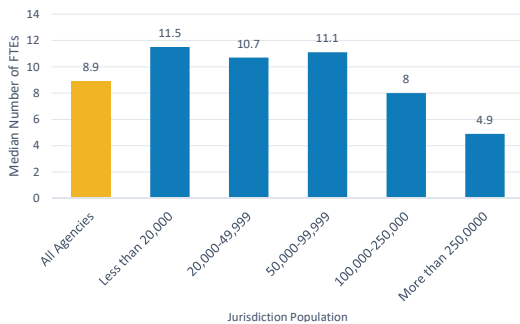
Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 32.3 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 75.8 FTE.

Figure G3. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.9 FTEs.

Figure G4. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 56% to renovation projects and 30% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$8 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- \$5.5 million per year on total operating expenses
- \$7,823 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- \$94.77 on annual operating expenses per capita
- \$105,484 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 55% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 5% on capital expenses not included in the agency’s capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 46% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 41% on recreation, and 13% on other activities

Agency Funding

The typical park and recreation agency:

- Derives 61% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 22% from generated revenues, 8% from dedicated taxes or levies, 3% from other dedicated taxes and 6% from grants, sponsorships and other sources
- Generates \$21.71 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

2022 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2022 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 21.9 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry.

Partnerships

The 2022 report indicated that most (82.3%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (59.6%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 98% and 94% respectively.

Revenue Outlook

The year 2020 represented a dramatic departure from the norm, with nearly two-thirds (64.9%) of respondents indicating that their revenues for the year were lower than the previous year. By 2021, the number reporting a drop in revenue fell to 26.7%—still a dramatically different result from most survey years, but an obvious improvement over 2020. At the same time, while only 13.4% of respondents saw their revenues increase in 2020, by 2021, more than half (51.7%) were reporting revenues on the rise again. Respondents were much more optimistic about 2022 and 2023, with 60% indicating they expect to see higher revenues in both years. At the same time, 9.8% still expect revenues to fall in 2022.

Facilities & Improvements

A majority of park respondents (43%) reported plans to add features at their facilities and were also the most likely to be planning to construct new facilities in the next few years (39%).

The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (21.4% of respondents with plans to add features are planning to add splash play)
2. Synthetic turf sports fields (19.5%)
3. Playgrounds (17.7%)
4. Fitness centers (15.5%)
5. Park shelters (14.1%)
6. Dog parks (13.6%)
7. Park restroom structures (12.7%)
8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (12.3%)
9. Exercise studio rooms (11.8%)
10. Disc golf courses (11.8%)
11. Concession areas (11.8%)

Programming

Nearly all respondents (96.4%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 57% of respondents); day camps and summer camps (54%); group exercise programs (53%); fitness programs (53%); educational programs (51%); youth sports teams (50%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (43%); arts and crafts programs (41%); adult sports teams (38%); and programs for active older adults (38%).

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

1. Mind-body balance programs (29.9%, up from 23.4% in 2021)
2. Fitness programs (27.9%, up from 25.5%)
3. Group exercise programs (27.9%, up from 25.7%)
4. Educational programs (25.9%, up from 20.8%)
5. Arts and crafts programs (21.9%, up from 17.4%)
6. Teen programs (21.9%, down from 23.7%)
7. Functional fitness programs (21.4%, up from 17.8%)
8. Performing arts programs (21.4%, up from 17.4%)
9. Environmental education (20.9%, up from 20%)
10. Holidays and other special events (20.4%, down from 21%)

General Challenges

Facility managers were asked about the challenges they anticipated impacting their facilities in the future. Generally, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents including staffing (63%) and their ability to support equipment and facility maintenance needs (50%).

With COVID-19's impact on the wane, we asked respondents to tell us about their top goals for their facilities in the coming year. The most common responses centered around increasing participation and membership, as well as building and renovating facilities. Recruiting and training staff, as well as just "getting back to normal" also made up a large number of the responses.

2023 Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 2.3% in 2022 to a record 168.1 million Americans (55%) ages 6 and older. The number of outdoor participants has grown over the last eight years, however, the number of outings per participant declined in 2022 for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020. Key Insights include the following:

Diversity

The recreational participant base is much more diverse than ever before. New and young outdoor participants are significantly more diverse than the current outdoor base and are accelerating quickly. The participation rate for Hispanic people has increased from 34% in 2015 to 56% in 2022.

Seniors

A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and rising. This equates to 1 in every 5 outdoor participants and a total of 1 million new participants in 2022.

Gateway Activities & Growth Trends

Gateway activities, one of the first outdoor recreation activities people participate in at any age, serve as magnets to outdoor activity and commonly lead to more activity in niche categories like backpacking and adventure racing. Gateway activities continue to drive new entrant outings and frequency of participation. Hiking is the most popular activity. Running, bicycling, fishing and camping round out the top five. Running

has the highest average outings per runner at 54 per year. Camping has the highest growth rate over the past three years at 29.1% per year.

The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, snowshoeing, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon.

Participation Rate Decline

The frequency of participation is declining across outdoor recreation. In 2013, the average number of outings per participant was 84.6. Over the last ten years, average number of outings has dropped to 71.8 per participant.

Demographics are changing quickly in the U.S. population, and the outdoor recreation market has lagged behind. Park and recreation agencies are recognizing the need for increased diversity in the participant base of park and recreation users. The new and young outdoor participant bases are significantly more diverse than the total participant base, a formula for long-term growth in diversity for outdoor recreation. Monitoring progress on diversity is key to understanding if outreach is being effective.

2023 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this February 2023 participation report summarizes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The report is based on over 18,000 online interviews of a nationwide sample that provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at more than 124 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities, including a section dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 on participation results.

Compared to 2017, activity increased by 9.2% in total participation rates. Activity in the U.S. continues to increase for the fifth consecutive year. In 2022, 77.6% of all Americans, or 236.9 million people participated in at least one activity during the 2022 calendar year.

There were more things to do as outdoor activities thrived, fitness at home became more popular, and team sports started back up after the COVID-19 hiatus. Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year.

In terms of team sports, the overall participation rate approached, but did not exceed, the 2019 rate. Basketball, outdoor soccer, and flag football all posted three-year increases of over 4.5%, with basketball leading the way with a 13% increase since 2019.

Lifestyle activities generally remained very popular. Golf and tennis have grown more than 20% since 2019, and yoga grew more than 10% in that same time period. Trail running and day hiking participation grew for the fifth straight year. However, facility-based fitness activities like elliptical, group stationary cycling, and weight resistance machines, which suffered as clubs were shuttered during COVID, have struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure G5. 2021 Total Participation Rate by Activity Category (U.S. population, ages 6+)

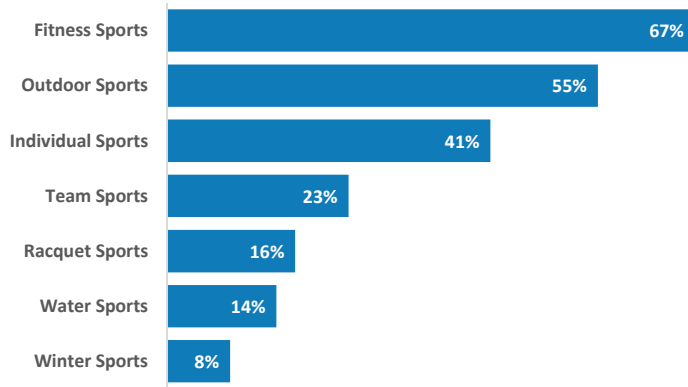
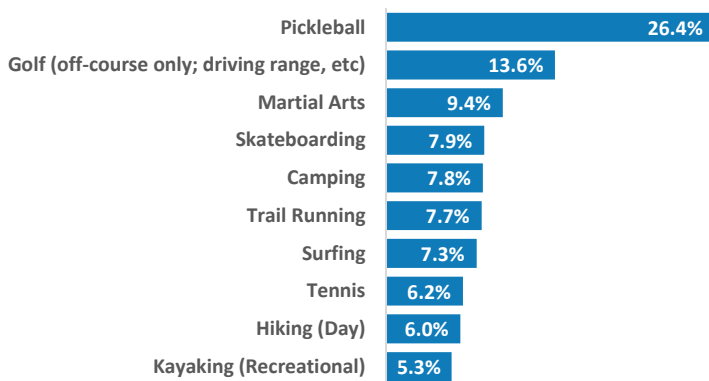


Figure G6. Activities with the Highest 5-year Increase in Participation (average annual growth, 2018-2022)



California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2021-2025 California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides a statewide framework for actions to meet the state’s outdoor recreation needs. The SCORP is developed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is based on public input and an assessment of statewide park assets and needs. The 2021–2025 SCORP improves upon the previous 2015 SCORP and summarizes recent key finding from focus groups and continues the vision for local assistance grant program allocations to California.

Action Plan

The following priorities are based on key findings from the seven SCORP Advisory Council focus groups and the 30 public focus groups. LWCF projects will address at least one of the following priorities:

New Park Access

- Create or expand parks in communities that lack sufficient park space. Create new parks within a half mile of underserved communities, or expand existing parks to increase the ratio of park acreage per resident in underserved areas.
- Acquire private land from willing sellers in natural areas to expand regional parks, or create new open space for outdoor recreation while preserving nature.

Multi-Use Parks Designed for All Age Groups in New or Existing Parks

- Construct recreation features designed to bring families together by supporting art and music, sports, and multi-generational activities.
- Construct recreation features for all age groups to support different active and passive recreation interests of all ages.
- Incorporate project design ideas from all age groups.

Health Design Goals for New or Existing Parks

- Include recreation features resulting from asking community members for their park design ideas for public health.

Safety and Beautification for New or Existing Parks

- Construct lighting for night-time use, or restrooms, landscaping, signs, or other enhancements to make the park appear welcoming and support longer hours of use.

Preservation

- Through the LWCF, place outdoor open space land under new 6(f)(3) protection for public recreation.

The SCORP included a park access tool that provides a broad analysis at geographic scales to calculate the ratio of park acres per thousand people and the percentage of people who lives within a half-mile of a park. The tool found that over 61% of Californians live in areas with less than 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The park access tool also revealed that nearly 8 million people, 21% of Californians, have no park within a half mile of their homes.

The 2021-2025 SCORP recognizes that public health, including environmental and social wellness, is fundamental to the mission and purpose of park and recreation providers. The Plan states *“Parks are unique places where children can play, people exercise, seniors socialize, families and friends bond, youth are mentored, cultures are celebrated, and where everyone connects with nature. For these basic reasons, the nexus is clear between parks, recreation programs, and health.”*

Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans’ usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans’ lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding. Key findings include:

- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
- Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by the local government.
- Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency.

People who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to be park and recreation users. Individuals living near at least one park are much more likely to arrive at that park by an “active” means (e.g., walking, biking, running), with walking being the most common method of transport. Conversely, 80 percent of U.S. adults who do not live within a walkable distance to parks or recreation opportunities travel to those amenities by car. The typical adult in the United States visits their local parks or recreation facilities every other month. Four main reasons for visiting local parks and recreation facilities stand out: being with family and friends, exercising and being physically fit, taking a break from day-to-day stresses, and being closer to nature. Park and recreation agencies can customize their offerings to the specific needs, wants and desires of their community members by knowing their motivation for visiting parks.

Figure G7. NRPA Park Engagement: Key Reasons for Park Visits

Key Reasons Why We Go to Parks	% of Survey Respondents
To have someone care for my children while I am at work	5%
To learn a skill or craft	13%
to connect with members of my community	22%
To experience excitement/adventure	30%
To be closer to nature	50%
To have a break from day-to-day stresses	52%
To exercise or be physically fit	53%
To be with family or friends	54%

According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

“Parks and recreation’s success results from its vast offerings of parks, trail networks and other recreation facilities that deliver critical programs for every segment of a community. Each person’s relationship with parks and recreation is unique. Some people flock to their local park to stay physically fit, meet with friends and family, or reconnect with nature. Others depend on their local park and recreation agency for indispensable services that improve their lives.

But there remains much work to do. One-hundred million people do not live within a walkable distance of at least one park or recreation facility. Further, many survey respondents indicate they have felt unwelcome at a park or recreation facility or say the infrastructure and programming are not inclusive. Parks and recreation is for everyone — regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Professionals, advocates and political leaders have the opportunity to narrow any accessibility or inclusivity gaps through greater community engagement and addressing inequitable funding and infrastructure investments that have deprived millions of people of access to parks and recreation.”

Outdoor Recreation Economy

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (U.S. Department of Commerce) reports on the outdoor recreation economy for the entire country and for each state through its Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA). The California ORSA reports the value added (gross domestic product) of \$54.7 billion or 1.6% share of state GPD for outdoor recreation activities. Employment in the industry supported 517,238 jobs (2.9% of jobs in state) with compensation of \$28.3 billion.

In 2021, California ranked 1st among all states in ORSA value added and 8th among all states in ORSA value-added growth. Since 2020, ORSA value added has grown 27.8 percent in California. In 2021, California ranked 1st among all states in outdoor recreation employment. Since 2020, outdoor recreation employment has grown 13.1% in California.

Inclusion & Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and parks and recreation can make a profound difference.

Parks for Climate Resiliency

Numerous studies have been documenting the contributions of parks and public lands to better climate resiliency. Parks, open space and natural lands can cool urban heat islands, buffer flood impacts, improve water quality and improve air quality. Urban tree canopy in parks can remove air pollution and sequester carbon. Parks and greenways along storm-affected coastlines are being created to help buffer impacts of anticipated flooding due to sea level rise, storm surges, and increased precipitation. Climate resilience strategies involving parks can focus on resilient shoreline development, green stormwater infrastructure and increased tree groves.

As the climate changes, outdoor recreation opportunities and availability can become more inconsistent. Wildfires, flooding, reduced snowpack and other environmental impacts from climate changes can directly and indirectly affect visitor-use patterns. Recreation planners and managers play a role in climate resiliency by protecting vulnerable resources that can impact outdoor recreation opportunities.

Trends in Playgrounds

Across multiple communities, residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects and educators.

- 1. Inclusive Playgrounds, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
- 2. Rope-based Playgrounds, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
- 3. Outdoor Fitness has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
- 4. Outdoor Learning has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
- 5. Human-powered Play engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, story-telling or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.

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A scenic view of a grassy hillside overlooking the ocean under a blue sky. The foreground is a lush green field with small pink flowers. The middle ground shows a grassy slope leading down to the ocean. The ocean is a deep blue with white waves breaking. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Appendix H: Implementation Tools & Tactics

Local Funding Options

The City of Seaside possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of the parks and recreation program.

General Obligation Bond

Cities, counties and some special districts can issue bonds if approved by two-thirds of the electorate (general bond) or by the parties subject to the assessment/fee (limited obligation bonds). Bonds, whether general obligation bonds or limited obligation bonds, provide a revenue stream into ready capital that can be used acquisition or improvement of parks.

1975 Quimby Act

The Quimby Act fees under the Subdivision Map Act (California Government Code §66477) authorizes a city or county to adopt (by ordinance) a program to require the dedication of land or payment of fees in lieu thereof or a combination of both for park and recreation facilities as a condition of approval on new, subdivided residential development. The Quimby fee program must include standards that relate to the proportion of subdivision acreage and its density. Standards must be established for parks and recreation facilities in the jurisdiction's adopted general plan or a specific parks plan and can only be used for developing new or rehabilitating existing facilities that will serve that future population. The Quimby Act authorizes a mitigation rate up to five acres of park area per 1,000 subdivision residents. If park services are provided by an entity other than the city or county (such as a park district), the Quimby Act is applied jointly by the city or county and the entity providing park services. The Quimby Act does not apply to commercial or industrial subdivisions. Quimby fees cannot be used for maintenance or operations. If a developer improves parkland or provides recreational equipment, the value of the improvements and equipment must be counted as a credit toward the total fee or dedication. Fees collected under the Quimby Act must be used within five years or refunded.

1987 Mitigation Fee Act

The 1987 Mitigation Fee Act (AB1600 et seq.) enables the establishment of a development impact fee program that sets a monetary extraction in connection with an approval of a development project for the specific purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of public facilities directly related to that development project. The Mitigation Fee Act allows for fees to be charged to all new development that increases the need for capital facilities. These park impact fees can apply to new residential and nonresidential development to fund a share of future parks and recreation capital facilities investments. The fee program must be carefully planned to establish the appropriate formula for calculating the new developments "fair share" contribution to future improvements in parks and recreation capital facilities. Key requirements of the Mitigation Fee Act for establishing the scope and amount of the fee structure dictate that the fees are only targeted for capital facility and infrastructure improvements, cannot fund existing needs and must be based on a rational nexus to the new development's impact on existing services. The impact fee is set to cover the parks and recreation facilities investments that will maintain citywide capital facilities standards as new

growth occurs. Most jurisdictions have developed fee programs that do not impose the maximum allowable fee after making comparisons with other California communities and seeking to balance the cost burdens that new fees place on new development. The Mitigation Fee Act requires that the collected fees must be expended on or designated for planned future park and recreation projects within five years after deposit of the fee or the funds must be refunded.

Special Tax

A special tax is applied to a particular purpose and can provide a secure stream of revenue. A special park district imposes a tax for park purposes, as an example. A special tax requires a two-thirds approval by the electorate rather than a simple majority vote. Parcel taxes are a form of special tax imposed on property owners and collected along with property taxes by a county. The revenue from a parcel tax can be used for operations and maintenance.

Utility User Taxes, Transient Occupancy Taxes, and Business License Taxes

These other kinds of special taxes can be imposed by cities or counties for dedicated revenues to parks. Whether the tax source comes from utility users, hotel or other short-term visitors, or business licensing, the revenues from these taxes can be used for any park purposes.

Transaction and Use Taxes

These taxes can be imposed by a city or county for local purposes, such as parks, recreation and open space. A two-thirds vote by the elected body is required to put the proposed tax on the ballot. If it is for park purposes, it is considered a special tax and requires approval by two-thirds of the voters. The revenues can be used for park purposes including operations and maintenance. If acquisition or development needs additional capital, the tax revenues can be used to secure bonds.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the environmental impacts of new development be mitigated whenever feasible. Under CEQA, a government agency that does not have approval authority over a development project (such as a park district) can seek to have the development contribute land or funds to mitigate the development's impact on parks. The agency seeking CEQA mitigation does not have the power to decide what or how that mitigation is addressed. Mitigation can be achieved through the payment of fees, the dedication of land or improvement of existing park facilities. The lead CEQA agency has broad discretion so it is best to pursue the terms of mitigation through negotiation.

Federal & State Grants & Conservation Programs

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA provides technical assistance to communities in order to preserve open space and develop trails. The assistance that RTCA provides is not for infrastructure, but rather building plans, engaging public participation, and identifying other sources of funding for conversation and outdoor recreation projects.

Recreational Trails Program Grant

The RTP is a state-administered local assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational

trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. Non-motorized RTP Projects are administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS). Motorized Projects are administered by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR). The RTP provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trails-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program that provides grants for planning and acquiring outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including trails. The fund is administered by the California State Parks Department. Cities, counties, and districts authorized to acquire and develop park and recreation space are eligible for grant funding. Projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and elements of local comprehensive land use plans and park master plans. A 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

Community Development Block Grants

These funds are awarded to cities and urban counties for housing and community development projects. The major objectives for the CDBG program are to meet the needs of low and moderate income populations, eliminate and prevent the creation of slums and blight and meet other urgent community development needs. The project lead will need to confirm that the project is within an area that is eligible for funding.

Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program

Statewide Park Program (SPP) competitive grants will create new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities across California. A project must involve either development or a combination of acquisition and development to create a new park, or expand an existing park, or renovate an existing park. All projects must create or renovate at least one recreation feature. Applications where the majority of the total project cost is for a major support amenity will be less competitive. Projects should create a new recreation opportunity(ies) as the primary goal. There is no matching fund requirement. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, qualifying districts or non-profit organizations.

Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs

Proposition 1 provides funding to meet California Water Action Plan objectives of more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system. The program is administered by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. To date, the CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs awarded over \$75 million to 68 multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects.

The Roads and Trails Program

This program provides education and technical assistance to trail and open space managers and advocates regarding non-motorized trail planning, design, construction, funding and management throughout California.

Habitat Conservation Fund

The Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) administers the state-funded Habitat Conservation Fund grant program which allocates approximately \$2 million each year to cities, counties, and districts. This program requires a 50% match from grantees. Eligible projects: nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation – Local Government Assistance

OHP's Local Government and Environmental Compliance Unit offers guidance and assistance to city and county governments in the following areas: drafting or updating historic preservation plans and ordinances; developing historic context statements; planning for and conducting architectural, historical, and archeological surveys; developing criteria for local designation programs, historic districts, historic preservation overlay zones (HPOZs), and conservation districts; developing and implementing design guidelines using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards; developing economic incentives for historic preservation; training local historic preservation commissions and review boards; meeting CEQA responsibilities with regard to historical resources. OHP also administers the Certified Local Government Program (CLG). OHP distributes at least 10% of its annual federal Historic Preservation Fund allocation to CLGs through a competitive grant program to assist CLGs in preservation planning activities.

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Funds

The Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program (EEMP) provides grant opportunities for projects that indirectly mitigate environmental impacts of new transportation facilities. Projects should fall into one of the following three categories: highway landscaping and urban forestry, resource lands projects, or roadside recreation facilities. Funds are available for land acquisition and construction. The local Caltrans district must support the project.

Bicycle Transportation Account Program

The Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) is an annual program providing state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. In accordance with the California Bicycle Transportation Act, projects must be designed and developed to achieve the functional commuting needs and physical safety of all bicyclists. Local agencies first establish eligibility by preparing and adopting a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that complies with SHC Section 891.2. The BTP must be approved by the local agency's Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Program

The Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) grant program promotes transportation and land use planning projects that encourage community involvement and partnership. These grants include community and key stakeholder input, collaboration, and consensus building through an active public engagement process. CBTP grants support livable and sustainable community concepts with a transportation or mobility objective to promote community identity and quality of life.

Environmental Justice Grant Program

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Grant Program promotes the involvement of low-income, minority communities, and Native American tribal governments in the planning for transportation projects. EJ grants have a clear focus on transportation and community development issues to prevent or mitigate disproportionate, negative impacts while improving mobility, access, safety, and opportunities for affordable housing and economic development. Grants are available to cities, counties, transit districts, and tribal governments.

CAL FIRE Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for projects that will plant trees and vegetation to reduce GHG emissions and improve functionality of urban forests, arrest the decline of urban forest resources, address climate change resilience, improve the quality of the environment in urban areas, and optimize co-benefits to urban residents. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, qualifying districts or non-profit organizations. For projects that meet the criteria for benefiting a disadvantaged community and are determined by CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry staff to be successfully completed are eligible to receive up to two maintenance cycles (locally established cycle) of funding for ongoing tree and plant care and maintenance in the post-performance period.

ReLeaf Grants

California ReLeaf provides pass-through grants to ReLeaf Network Members and other community groups interested in planting and caring for trees in California. The purpose of these programs is to meet the critical need of creating and sustaining healthy communities in California by providing funding for an array of urban forestry efforts, ranging from education and outreach to tree-planting projects.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Community Facilities District

Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, a Community Facilities District (CFD) may be used to purchase, construct, expand, rehabilitate or acquire public improvements, or provide public services. CFDs can be created to provide a funding and reimbursement mechanism for public facilities and/or services for various Specific Plan areas. Community Facilities Districts may be seen as a preferred method of financing infrastructure because no finding of special benefit for each parcel is required. They are also established to ensure that new development projects do not solely become the responsibility of the General Fund.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes, and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development, and use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works, and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation, and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the organization's financial resources and funding criteria. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation, or open space facilities and projects.

Acquisition Tools and Methods

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

The City purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal through a written purchase and sale agreement. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In

addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

If a landowner wishes to remain on the property for an extended period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases their life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. The landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made by donating a remainder interest. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property will be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the landowner's life, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the City in advance, no guarantees exist concerning the property's condition upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to ensure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This type of agreement is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon completing designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with their property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This type of easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits land uses to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach provides trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. The city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal through a written purchase and sale agreement. Timing, payment of real estate taxes, and other contingencies are negotiable.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows landowners to trade the right to develop a property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and where development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns a business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irs.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of an investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Other Land Protection Measures

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect unique open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Big Sur Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the Seaside area (www.bigsurlandtrust.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and the Wetlands Conservancy.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize the protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors to provide services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments to develop public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

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