

CHAPTER 4

Facilities & Programs



The City operates and maintains a wide array of recreation facilities to provide a high quality of life in San José. Under the direction of the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department (PRNS), the City provides and manages approximately 3,520 acres of parks (regional/city-wide and neighborhood/community), community gardens and open space lands. In addition, the City has plans for implementation to bestow over a 100-mile network of multi-use trails and greenways. PRNS also provides management for over 50 community facilities to serve the indoor recreational needs of a growing urban population.

Following is a list of these City and non-City owned and managed facilities:

- Parks
 - Neighborhood/Community Parks
 - Citywide/Regional Parks
- Trails Network
- Sports Fields
- Community Centers
- Aquatic Facilities
- Community Gardens
- Skate Parks
- Dog Parks
- Open Space (Undeveloped lands)
- Golf Facilities

- San José Family Camp
- Non-City owned parks and recreation facilities include land owned by *Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA)*, *Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation*, *Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)* and various *School Districts*

Following is a partial list of the programs and services the Department is currently responsible for or participates in:

- Mayors Gang Prevention Task Force
 - Youth Intervention Services
 - Safe School Campus Initiative (SSCI)
 - Striving Towards Achievement with New Direction (STAND)
 - Clean Slate
 - San José Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (BEST)
- After School Programs and Homework Centers
- Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Senior Programs
- Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail
- Anti-Graffiti/Anti-Litter Programs
- Christmas in the Park
- Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund (HNVF)
- San José Holiday Parade
- School/City Collaborative
- Sports Facility Reservations and League Play

- Youth Sports
- Various Special Events

The goal of the *Greenprint* is to provide a balanced and equitable parks and recreation system that will provide activities for all age groups in the City. These activities include active and passive, organized and unorganized, programmed and un-programmed, which satisfy the needs and desires of all age groups—pre-school children, school age children, youth, young adults, adults and seniors—through recreation programs and facilities. Following are the facilities the City operates and maintains.

Parks

The City of San José has over 180 neighborhood/community serving parks and nine (9) Citywide/regional parks in its inventory, offering everything from playgrounds and basketball courts to walkways and quiet areas for relaxation. The majority of the park system in San José was built in the 1960s and 1970s. About 25 percent of the parks have been built since 1980. Since the approval of the *Greenprint* in 2000, 30 new neighborhood/community park sites have been added totaling approximately 84.5 acres. Another 106 acres have been acquired for future park development. In addition, developers have also agreed to construct and dedicate 8 new neighborhood/community

parks totaling approximately 31 acres within the next six years and another 30 acres by the year 2020.

•Neighborhood/Community Parks

San José residents depend upon neighborhood and community parks for most of their day-to-day recreation needs. A wide range of outdoor recreation facilities are available including, but not limited to, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, exercise courses, diamond and rectangular athletic fields and picnic areas. Parks include playgrounds with equipment for youth of all ages. These parks are open from sunrise to one hour after sunset. Due to the high cost to operate, maintain and construct permanent restrooms in City parks, it is the policy of the Department to only recommend permanent restroom installations in community serving parks over five (5) acres in size which include amenities for the broader community such as a reservable sports field, a skate park and/or a dog park.

• Citywide/Regional Parks

San José's citywide and regional parks offer diverse features and visitor facilities, from natural settings for outdoor recreation, to cultural heritage buildings and gardens, to festival sites for large community events. San José's citywide and regional parks and gardens also interpret the City's



Fowler Creek Park,
City of San José



Japanese Friendship Garden,
City of San José

natural and cultural history for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors. Citywide/regional facilities have unique features that attract visitors from throughout the Bay Area. Varying in size, these parks provide both passive and active recreation that may include:

- Cultural heritage gardens
- Museums and historic sites
- Amusement parks and zoo
- Golf Courses and natural canyons
- Lakes with outdoor water activities

The following description highlights some of San José’s citywide/regional parks and gardens, which require additional improvements:

Almaden Lake Park has 64.9 acres and is the only park featuring a sand beach and natural swim area in the South Bay. Many visitors come to relax and enjoy the recreation opportunities including fishing, sailing, or non-motorized boating on its 32-acre lake. A small boat launch ramp is available for public use for boats under 16 feet in length. Picnic areas and tables are scattered throughout the park for family or company picnics. The park includes children play areas, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and bocce ball courts. The goal is to expand the park to the south to provide an additional group picnic area,

parking, permanent maintenance facilities and ranger offices. The goal for the north end of the park is to complete the trail connection from the existing pedestrian bridge to the west shore, thus allowing a person to walk or ride around the entire lake.

Alum Rock Park has 718.9 acres and is California’s first and oldest City park, dedicated on March 18, 1872. The park is located within the Alum Rock Canyon, in the foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range on the east side of the City. The park provides visitors over 700 acres of natural rugged beauty, outdoor activities, including hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and picnicking. The park is home to wildlife, including mountain lions, bobcats, deer and other small animals. The headwaters of Penitencia Creek are found within the park. This park has had a very colorful history of recreation uses including a natatorium and dance hall pavilion. Access to the park was once provided by electric trolley system. The park could benefit from major renovations of its existing facilities, especially the interpretive center in the quarry area.

Edenvale Garden Park has 14.5 acres and it was once part of the former Frontier Village Amusement Park. The goal of the park master plan is to provide recreation space that will

complement current and future uses of the adjacent Hayes Mansion. Since the park opened in 1990, a number of improvements have taken place, including the tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, picnic areas, a children's play area, public art area and restrooms. The park master plan calls for the additional development of a pond, boardwalk, island, multipurpose meadow area, amphitheater, additional picnic facilities, a main park entrance to include a proposed "Train Station," general landscaping improvements to give the area an arboretum orientation and a maintenance yard.

Emma Prusch Farm Memorial Park has 39.8 acres and is in the midst of a bustling city. Visitors to the park can experience a bit of San José's rich agricultural past. The park was once part of an 86-acre dairy farm owned by Emma Prusch, who donated this land to the City in 1962. San José's largest barn is now home to everything from sheep, pigs and steer to ducks, chickens, geese and rabbits. The park also features vintage farm equipment, robust community gardens, a rare fruit orchard featuring over 100 varieties of fruit trees from all over the world, and acres of open grass perfect for picnicking, kite flying, games and relaxing. Gardening, landscaping and/or cooking classes are offered throughout the year in addition to cultural and harvest festivals at this unique farm park. The

park offers a variety of educational programs for school children and other groups, and hosts a Summer Camp during the months of June through August. The City is reviewing the water usage associated with development of the agricultural fields for either vegetables or orchards. The park master plan calls for the completion of the interior of the Carriage Barn for farm equipment storage and blacksmith demonstrations, landscaping on Knox Avenue, connection of the windmill to the well and construction of a maintenance yard.

Guadalupe Gardens has 120 acres and grew from the development of Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport. Most of the Guadalupe Gardens falls under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) established safety zone called an "Extended Object Free Area." Any land uses that would compromise the approach zone protection, such as placement of structures, concentrations of people, major changes to the ground topography, or features that could attract birds, are serious concerns to the Airport and the FAA. Although subject to high noise levels and land use restrictions, the presence of such an extensive tract of vacant public land, close to downtown and visible from arriving aircraft, adjacent roadways, and the Guadalupe River Park makes this work-in-progress a major image maker for the City. The Gardens already feature a





renowned Heritage Rose Garden with over 3,700 varieties of roses. It also includes the Courtyard Garden, Historical Orchard and the Taylor Street Rock Garden. The Guadalupe Gardens offers a significant and perhaps unique opportunity for the City of San José to provide a broad array of low density, aesthetic open space uses that would visually enhance this area. In the end, the final development of the Guadalupe Gardens should be considered a model of successful airport vicinity land use compatibility planning.

Guadalupe River Park has 120 acres and is a three-mile ribbon of parkland that runs along the banks of the Guadalupe River from Highway 880 at the north, to Highway 280 at the south. The vision that brought the Guadalupe River Park from neglected flood lands to the heart of the downtown recognized that most great cities are connected to a body of water and celebrate it in some way. The Guadalupe River Park grew from the flood control project to protect San José from devastating floods. It is now a place for people of all ages to enjoy a variety of recreation activities in different park settings along the river banks, from the smallest plaza to the largest open meadow for community festivals. The park provides pedestrian links to the McEnery Convention Center, the Children’s Discovery Museum, the Center for the Performing Arts and the HP

Pavilion. Spaces within the park include Discovery Meadows, Veterans’ Memorial of San José and Santa Clara Valley, Arena Greens, Confluence Park East and West and five Sister City Plazas. The Guadalupe River Park is mainly for passive uses like walking, bicycling, children playing, contemplating the nature of the river, educational pursuits and similar activities. The Guadalupe River Park provides a respite from the hectic life of the urban city. It is still a work in progress, where the City plans to fine-tune its uses to enhance the public experiences and enjoyment when using the park. The Guadalupe River Park, in combination with Guadalupe Gardens, is becoming one of the City’s signature parks and has a potential to become a grand park for the City of San José.

Kelley Park has 167 acres and has been the City’s signature park for years. It is considered a major anchor or destination point for users of the Coyote Creek Trail System. Happy Hollow Park and Zoo opened in 1961. It was the first attraction planned and constructed within Kelley Park. The Japanese Friendship Garden came next. It was an effort to recreate the “Korakuen Gardens” from San José’s sister city of Okayama, Japan. San José Historical Museum was the third attraction to be introduced to Kelley Park. Original and reconstructed replicas of buildings of historical significance from

the 1800s to the 1920s are on display on the Museum's grounds. These historic facilities are used for corporate picnics and other large events. Conference rooms are available both in the Pacific Hotel and in the Firehouse. The Leininger Center was added in the mid 1960s.

The City is in the process of completing a major make over of the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. The main entrance to the Park will be located off of Story Road, and most of the parking will now be on the east side of Coyote Creek, which bisects the Park. A new bridge will connect the eastside parking area to Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. A second proposed midway bridge is also needed to connect the two southern creek banks of the Park. A Vietnamese Cultural Center and Garden is proposed on the east bank with additional picnic areas and neighborhood park improvements. The lower flood plain area of the Park could be used for future soccer fields with associated parking. The existing Kelley House needs major renovation along with other parts of the Park. Upon completion of all the projects, the Park will provide residents and visitors with various theme areas to explore and use. With additional landscape plantings, the Park will provide a more appealing presence to residents. The Park can grow both north and south along the future Coyote Creek Trail.

Lake Cunningham Park has 200 acres and is one of the City's more active regional parks, offering a wide range of recreation activities. The Park includes a 50-acre lake that is excellent for sailing, non-motorized boating and fishing. The marina provides a public boat launch ramp, dock space and boat trailer parking for boats under 16 feet in length. Pedal boats, rowboats and sailboats are available for rent. Numerous picnic areas for both small and large groups are available. The Cypress Pavilion accommodates groups of up to 400 people. The park also includes Raging Waters, a 24-acre water theme park that features over 30 water attractions. In 2008, the City opened the Lake Cunningham Regional Skate Park with 68,000 square feet of skating surface. The skate facility is one of the best facilities in the nation. The City plans to provide shade structures and night lighting to the skate facility. The park master plan calls for the development of an amphitheater, additional restrooms, Park headquarters building, a food concession building and enhancement of access roadways and trails.

Overfelt Gardens has 31.6 acres and is the home of the City's Chinese Cultural Garden. Visitors to Overfelt Gardens enjoy natural wildlife sanctuaries in a peaceful pond setting, surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowering plants and accented by cultural points of interest. This beautiful,

contemplative garden includes an impressive 30-foot bronze and marble statue of the ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius, overlooking a reflecting pond. The Garden includes the Chiang Kai-Shek and Plum Pavilions, the Black Stone, the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall and Friendship Gate. The Brookside picnic area can accommodate large group picnics. The Park master plan calls for a conservatory, a botanical center to include Park administration area, a library and conference rooms, additional demonstration gardens, orientation/observation decks, restoration of cultural artifacts, renovation of the restrooms, parking areas and a maintenance yard.

These major sites in the City's park system, if fully developed, will provide employers and employees, along with residents and visitors alike, with unique recreation experiences to enjoy. The City's health and well-being are strengthened through recreation amenities and programs which provide positive experiences for park users.

Trails Network

A well integrated trail network composed of interconnected trail systems plays an important role in improving the livability of a city. Trails offer easy access to recreation, function as commute routes and help to define and preserve natural areas.

As recreation destinations, trails offer residents and visitors the opportunity to walk, bike and jog, as well as find quiet respite. Some trails also provide appropriate venues for equestrian riders. Alignment of trails through parks makes those sites more relevant, accessible and unified.

The proximity to shops and cafes makes trails appealing venues for day-long activities and less transitory in nature. The proximity of trails to public facilities, permits children and adults to reach libraries and community centers, often without using the busy urban street system. Many trails are along and within the City's commercial areas, providing excellent off-street commute routes. Surveys conducted in 2007 and 2008 show an increase in bicycle commuting and nearly 1,000 people using the Guadalupe River Trail daily, with a majority reporting that they commute to work in Silicon Valley. The Los Gatos Creek Trail is enjoyed by over 1,400 persons daily (Trail Count 2008) on the weekends, and likely provides off-street access to several shopping districts easily accessible from the trail.

Development of trails within riparian areas has a net positive impact on the environment. The introduction of trail users into once neglected and forgotten areas along creeks and rivers provides extra "eyes" which could monitor the condition of

the waterways. Advocates encourage and participate in the clean up of these sensitive areas and new housing and other urban developments look towards the trails and waterways as they transition into community amenities.

The increasing number of trails has contributed to San José being acknowledged as a Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists. Bicycling magazine has acknowledged San José as a top bicycling city.

The City Council's adoption of the Green Vision in October 2007 sets forth Goal #10: the delivery of 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022. The size of the network was defined in the 2000 *Greenprint*. The Green Vision serves to reiterate this commitment but also sets a specific deadline. Since the year 2000, approximately 25 miles of trails have been completed; since initiation of the Green Vision, eight (8) miles of trails have been added; and as of June 2009, there are 50.5 miles of trails open to the public for use. The Green Vision offers high visibility for trail development within the larger context of making San José the epicenter for the clean technology economy. This visibility will support the City as it seeks the necessary funding to deliver the interconnected trail network.

Take a Hike in the Outdoors

The trail network is comprised of 35 trail systems or segments. Full development of these individual systems would actually offer approximately 130 miles of trails. Within each trail system, there are "reaches" that are generally bounded by roadways; there are over 220 trail reaches that contribute to the entire network. Development of trail segments is the preferred approach for several reasons:

1. Trail development is costly, so incremental development aligns well with typical funding availability;
2. It also ensures that trail systems grow logically and strategically based on existing trails;
3. Defining trails by major cross-streets ensures that there are no resulting dead-ends, as well as logical and highly visible points of entry.

For purposes of the *Greenprint Update*, the proposed trails are shown generally. Once the City has the capacity to master plan a trail system, it will work with the community to more accurately define the alignment and its amenities.

Like a well developed roadway system, San José's Trail Network has primary trail systems that carry higher volumes of traffic (like highways) due to adjacency or access to high density development, and extend significant distances or link to regional systems outside of the City's boundaries.



Los Alamitos Creek Trail
City of San José

Primary Trail Systems

***Bay Trail
Coyote Creek Trail
Guadalupe River Trail
Guadalupe Creek Trail
Los Alamitos Creek
Trail
Los Gatos Creek
Trail
Highway 87 Bikeway
Highway 237 Bikeway***

Secondary trail systems are similar in function to arterial roadways, providing access to the surrounding neighborhood and leading to the primary systems. Secondary trails systems account for all other defined trail systems in San José.

Regional and national trail systems include or plan to include trail systems within San José. Alignment with these systems helps San José align with larger efforts, have access to special funding sources and make City's trails more accessible and appealing to larger audience of users. Portions of San José's trails are or will be represented in the following systems:

- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- San Francisco Bay Trail
- National Recreation Trail System
- U.S. Bicycle Route System

Each of San José's trail systems offers a unique experience. Some travel through natural areas while others extend through high urbanized areas. The trail systems are grouped into four designations:

1. Riparian: along a river, creek or other waterway;
2. Utility: along a public utility corridor;
3. Railway: within a former railway alignment; and

4. Highway: adjacent to a state highway facility, within a defined path.

Each of these designations is ultimately to be paved in order to offer full access. However, trails are often open in an "interim" basis when there are no restrictions to access other than a gravel surface.

As part of the *Greenprint*, San José will pursue National Recreation Trail System (NRTS) designation for the entire trail network. That national designation requires a continuous route, so in May 2009 the City received NRTS designation for the Coyote Creek, Highway 237 Bikeway and Guadalupe River Trail (within the north San José area) route by the United States Department of the Interior. As gaps are completed and trails are extended, updates will be provided to the Department of the Interior to accurately represent the growing and interconnected network. The U.S. Bicycle Route System seeks to define preferred bicycle routes for cross-country cycling.

Efforts are underway to have at least one trail system in San José defined as part of Route 95, the coastal route from border to border. Pursuing this designation requires a high level of coordination with regional and state-wide agencies, and depends upon leadership from Caltrans to submit the application to federal officials.

Sports Fields

The City Council recently adopted the Community Sports Field Study, which identifies a mixture of sports fields to be provided in each of the Urban Planning Areas. Three types of fields are recommended: Premiere, High Use and Standard. The Premiere field may include artificial turf, lights, concessions, restrooms, parking and a seating area. It is anticipated that the City will provide at least four Premiere Field Complexes spread out in such a way as to serve the entire City. High Use fields will be built specifically for sports field use and may include a sand based system, new irrigation, rodent control activities and a higher mowing frequency to allow for more frequent use. It is anticipated that the City will convert existing sport fields to High Use in each of the 12 Urban Planning Areas as funding becomes available for such conversions. Standard fields are practice fields and are constructed and maintained at the same level as regular turf. It is anticipated that the City will add Standard fields as appropriate in the development of new parks in each of the Urban Planning Areas.

The City currently provides 52 ball diamonds and 42 rectangular standard fields. If the City were to provide fields per National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) of one ball diamond per 8,000 people and one rectangle field per 10,000

people, then the City would need to add 72 diamonds and 57 rectangular fields. These new fields will require additional land acquisition by the City.

Since land is scarce, the best method to begin to provide additional fields will be through partnerships. The implementation of the Sports Fields study will require the City to develop partnerships with school districts and other entities. The City will also need to acquire additional land for sport parks to accommodate other sports such as cricket.

Examples of existing partnerships include:

- Construction of joint sports fields development at Leland High School completed in 2007;
- Memorandum of Understanding approved with the East Side Union High School District for a joint sports field development.



Mise Park
City of San José





Multi-Service Hub Community Center



Satellite Center



Neighborhood Center

Community Centers

The City of San José currently operates and maintains 55 community centers (including 15 reuse sites) that range in size from 600 square feet to over 40,000 square feet and offer an array of recreation programs and services. The community centers strive to provide quality of life and enhancing recreation opportunities for all residents. There are three types of community centers: multi-service hub, satellite and neighborhood. Each of these is described in more detail below.

Multi-Service Hub Community Centers: These community centers serve as focal points for recreation program delivery and should be within a three mile radius of each resident. The optimal size of a multi-service hub community center is 40,000 square feet. As part of the 2000 Measure P, six community centers have been expanded or rebuilt (Almaden, Camden, Gardner, Mayfair, Roosevelt and Southside) and two more will be completed in 2010 (Bascom and Seven Trees). As a result of the Green Vision goal of designing and constructing green buildings, five of the new community centers (Bascom, Camden, Mayfair, Roosevelt and Seven Trees) have been designed to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings. Although this expansion was significant, additional facilities will

need to be built or current facilities expanded to meet the growing needs of San José’s population. As a result of the significant expansion, three of the ten centers will range from 30,000 up to 40,000+ square feet to provide a comprehensive recreation program as well as a wide array of human and social services. In some cases, these facility expansions will result in the centers co-locating with other community facilities to accommodate indoor/outdoor recreation. Amenities may include a preschool room, gymnasium, computer room, game room, homework center, fitness center, kitchen, classrooms and multi-purpose rooms for a variety of group sizes and activities. The staffing standard for these centers will generally require (15.0 Full Time Equivalents) 15 full-time employees.

Satellite Community Centers: Satellite community centers (up to 20,000 square feet) augment recreation programs and community services. Based on customer needs and interests, these centers may serve seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and/or the general population with a special focus. Use of satellite community centers may change over time along with neighborhood demographics. The staffing standard for these centers will generally require (5.0 Full Time Equivalents) 5 full-time employees.

Neighborhood Centers: In cases of high

neighborhood need, smaller recreation buildings (up to 10,000 square feet) may be used to provide specific recreation and neighborhood services.

Because of higher operations and maintenance costs and limited capacity, construction of new neighborhood centers will be limited. These centers will be staffed according to program needs. The staffing standard for these centers will generally require (3.0 Full Time Equivalents) 3 full-time employees.

All of the facilities should be evaluated to maximize cost recovery efforts to realize long-term financial sustainability.

The City has experienced nine years of budget deficits that have resulted in major reductions to recreation staff and community center operations. For the past several years, PRNS staff has attempted to reconcile the following three divergent realities:

- An increased public demand and expectation for recreation services;
- An approximate doubling of community center space;
- Declining community center staffing levels since 2001.

In response, Community Center Reuse emerged as an alternative to the closure of older and smaller community centers. On April 22, 2008, the City Council approved Council Policy 7-12 (Reuse Policy), which established guidelines for the free use of community center recreation space by nonprofit groups, neighborhood associations, schools, and other government agencies or community service providers, in return for services that primarily benefit San José residents. smaller community centers. On April 22, 2008, the City Council approved Council Policy 7-12 (Reuse Policy), which established guidelines for the free use of existing community center recreation space by nonprofit groups, neighborhood associations, schools, and other government agencies or community service providers, in return for services that primarily benefit San José residents.



Currently, the City of San José operates 55 centers. This includes the 15 Reuse sites and the Washington United Youth Center. Twenty-four of these centers are at least 20 years old. Twenty-eight centers are in good condition and 25, including some of those in good condition, require modernization, renovation or replacement.

Table 4-1 Proposed Urban Planning Area Centers

Planning Area	Multi-Service Hub Centers	Satellite Centers	Neighborhood Centers
Almaden	Almaden		
Alum Rock	Mayfair	Alum Rock Youth Hank Lopez	Capitol Park
Alviso	To be served by North San José facility	Alviso	
Berryessa	Berryessa	Berryessa Youth	Noble Noble House
Cambrian/Pioneer	* Camden	Almaden Winery	Hoffman/Via Monte Paul Moore Park
Central/Downtown	Roosevelt	Alma Youth/Senior Northside St. James Senior Washington United Youth	McKinley
Edenvale	Southside	Edenvale/Great Oaks Los Paseos	Erickson Vista
Evergreen	Evergreen		Millbrook
North San José	Future center per North San José Area Development Policy		
South San José	Seven Trees	Shirakawa	
West Valley	Cypress	Moreland-West Starbird Youth West San José	Calabazas
Willow Glen	Bascom	Gardner Kirk Willows	River Glen

* Although this community center is located in the Willow Glen Planning Area, it will serve as the Multi-Service Hub Community Center for the residents of the Cambrian/Pioneer Planning Area.

** Grace Community Center is a citywide facility and therefore not listed in table above.

Aquatic Facilities

The City currently operates and maintains six swimming pools and one lake swimming program. In August 2007, the City Council approved the Aquatics Master Plan which identified specific projects that will build out by 2022, if funding is available. These include:

- 4 Renovated Pools: Biebrach in the Willow Glen Planning Area, Ryland in the Central/Downtown Planning Area, Alviso in the Alviso Planning Area and Mayfair in the Alum Rock Planning Area;
- 1 Neighborhood Family Aquatic Center in the Evergreen Planning Area - The Neighborhood Family Aquatic Center features a multi-use pool, tot pool, play features, shade and a bathhouse;
- 3 Medium Family Aquatic Centers in the Edenvale, South San José and Cambrian/Pioneer Planning Areas - The Medium Family Aquatic Center features a lap/diving pool, leisure and tot pools, play features and a bathhouse;
- 1 Large Family Aquatic Center in the Berryessa Planning Area - The Large Family Aquatic Center features a 50 meter competitive pool, leisure and tot pools, group pavilion, play features and a bathhouse;
- 1 Bundled Indoor/Outdoor Family Aquatic Center in the Coyote Planning Area - The

Bundled Indoor/Outdoor Family Aquatic Center features an outdoor leisure pool, indoor competitive and leisure pools, play features, a bathhouse and access to a community center;

- 1 Competitive Venue in the North San José Planning Area - The Indoor Competitive Venue features an indoor competitive pool with 1,200 spectator seats, indoor leisure pool with play features and fitness lap lanes;
- 2 Wellness Facilities in the West San José and Central/Downtown Planning Areas - The Indoor Wellness Pools feature a warm water therapy pool, ramp entry and a movable floor
- 2 Spray Parks in the West San José and Alum Rock Planning Areas - The Spray Parks feature a splash pad, fencing, lighting, shade structure and a pool deck;
- 1 Outdoor Water Venue in the Almaden Planning Area.

It is also recommended that partnerships be developed for school leases in the West Valley, Willow Glen, Evergreen and Almaden Planning Areas to fill service gaps by leveraging the availability of school pools in those areas.

The projected capital cost to fully implement the aquatic facilities is approximately \$150 million in 2009 dollars. This will require a phase-in approach and a variety of funding strategies. To that end,



Fair Swim Center,
City of San José

it is recommended that short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives be implemented over a 15-year period. The short-term strategy (first five years) would focus on the repair of existing facilities and the lease of school sites to provide aquatics programming immediately with minimal capital investment. It also includes the early development studies needed to support future phases of implementation. The mid-term phase (second five years) would focus on building facilities to fill unmet service needs, opening them to public use and building community support. The long-term phase (final five years) completes the Citywide aquatics facilities and establishes San José as a premier venue provider. Staffing would vary due to size and type of aquatic facility constructed.



Community Gardens

The Community Garden Program began in 1977 as a way to strengthen a feeling of community within neighborhoods; they are now an integral part of the City’s recreation program. There are now 19 community gardens in San José, many on City parkland, all managed by volunteers. The recently completed community garden at Guadalupe Gardens (pictured) uses recycled water as its water source. Approximately 3,000 residents maintain garden plots each year. Besides the gardens on City-owned property, a half dozen more



Guadalupe Gardens Community Garden,
City of San José

community gardens are run by churches, Santa Clara County or other organizations and receive technical assistance from the Community Garden Program. The City’s involvement has shifted to providing more facilitation and less direct service. Partnerships continue to be developed with school districts and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) for use of open space as community gardens. The City and the County’s discussion regarding a community garden as part of the future use of Martial Cottle Park, a State-County Park, is another example of an emerging partnership.

Community gardens can help build a sense of community as well as provide a mechanism for sustaining community. For people who are isolated by language or culture, the gardens fulfill important socialization needs. Strides made through programs such as the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) can be strengthened and maintained by neighbors gardening together. For people with limited resources and many other residents, the community gardens fulfill basic needs by providing a source for fresh, low cost fruits and vegetables including many not readily available in American markets. Growing one’s own food in a community garden can promote healthy living.

Golf Facilities

The City of San José has three golf courses. San José Municipal is an 18-hole, championship length, par 72 course situated on 150 acres. Los Lagos and Rancho del Pueblo are executive golf courses (shorter in yardage). Los Lagos is an 18-hole, par 68 golf course situated on 180 acres, and Rancho del Pueblo is a nine hole golf course, par 28 situated on 33 acres. The average number of rounds played per year at each of the courses is currently 45,000 for Rancho, 68,000 for Los Lagos and 86,000 for San José Municipal. The City contracts with three operators to operate and maintain each of the three courses. The City offers youth golf programs at Rancho del Pueblo for boys and girls age 7 to 18.



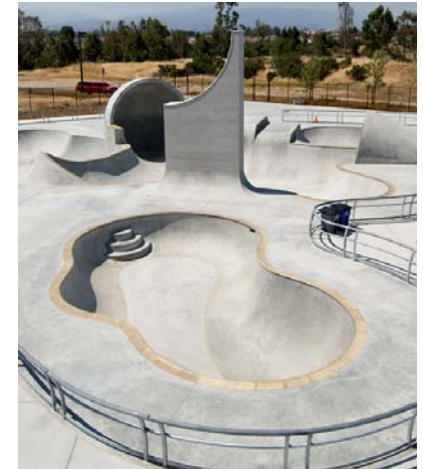
Los Lagos Golf Course
City of San José

Skate Parks

The City operates and maintains six skate parks. They range in size from 5,000 square feet to over 60,000 square feet. Most skate parks are in-ground and made of concrete, with bowls and other skating elements. Knee, elbow and wrist pads are currently required, whether the park is a supervised facility or not. The recently completed Lake Cunningham Regional Skate Park (pictured) is the largest skate park the City operates, and it is the largest skate park in the nation. The skate park offers general skate boarding, skate lessons and BMX bikes on designated days and times.



A skate park allows skateboarders, inline skaters and bicyclists of all ages and skill levels to safely practice their sport. In addition, skate parks have a side benefit of reducing damage to public/private property resulting from unauthorized skate/bicycle use and of reducing conflicts between skaters/bicyclists and business/property owners.



Lake Cunningham Regional
Skate Park,
City of San José



Butcher Dog Park,
City of San José

BMX Track

Currently Calabazas Park features the only City’s bicycle motorcross (BMX) track, the largest city-funded course of its kind in the Bay Area and with few rivals in the rest of California. BMX is now an Olympic sport introduced in the 2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing, China. Therefore, the use of the Calabazas Track is excepted to grow with the sport. Calabazas Track is open for general use by the public to gain the experience of motor cross riding. The Calabazas Track is not a race facility.

Dog Parks

The City currently operates and maintains eight dog parks. They range in size from 1/4 of an acre to 3/4 of an acre. Most have separate areas for small and large dogs. Their surfacing varies from regular turf, to wood chips, to artificial turf. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs while at the dog park, and the City provides doggie bags so that owners can dispose of dog droppings in a sanitary manner.

A dog park is a place for dog owners to socialize while their pets play and interact and it is a place for dogs to get out of the house or yard. The City provides dog parks to allow dogs to be legally unleashed for exercise and for providing a gathering space for dog owners.



Ryland Dog Park,
City of San José

San José Family Camp

San José Family Camp is a City operated camp in Tuolumne County near Yosemite National Park. The City leases land from the U.S. Forest Service and offers a full-service camp from June through August. The camp maintains 65 camper tents during the camp season. During the 2008 camp season over 5,000 people participated in the camp program.

The camp also has a shoulder season made up of pre- and post-seasons. The pre-season operates from the last weekend in April through the month of May. The post-season operates during the month of September. The shoulder seasons operate as a facility rental for group events. There were over 1,700 participants during the 2008 shoulder seasons.



Open Space (Undeveloped Lands)

In order for the City to meet the 2020 General Plan requirements for 7.5 acres per 1,000 people of citywide/regional parklands, the City partners with the County Parks Department, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and the Don Edward National Wildlife Refuge to provide such regional parks and open space lands

The City's largest open space area/natural park at approximately 720 acres is Alum Rock Park, the oldest municipal park in San José. It is a canyon park with steep hillsides and Penitencia Creek runs through it. Other examples of open space lands within the City park system are:

- 30 acres of Canyon Creek Park
- 63 acres of Guadalupe Oak Grove
- 60 acres of Montgomery Hill Park

The 2000 *Greenprint* called for the City to work with other involved agencies to acquire and preserve open space lands within and near to the City for future generations. The 2020 General Plan's greenline strategy describes the City's natural developments limits. The County Parks Departments provide over 9,000 acres of open space lands within the City's sphere of influence.

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

(OSA) provides 2,500 acres and the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge at the edge of the San Francisco Bay provides an additional 6,900 acres within the sphere of the City. These three agencies together provide over 18,400 acres of open space lands within the City's sphere of influence. Add the City's 1,889 acres of citywide/regional parklands to the three agencies' numbers provides the public has access to over 20,250 acres or 17.6 acres per 1,000 people based on 2020 population of 1,138,000. Therefore the City in conjunction with the three other agencies have doubled the original goal of 7.5 acres per 1,000 population.

Open space lands are those lands managed by a public agency, which are open to the public for recreation usages, (non-motorized), which do not require a formalized delineated playing field or turf areas, where picnicking, fishing, non-motorized boating, bicycling, horseback riding and permitted environmental education programs or renovation projects for viewing of natural habitats type land are allowed. A variety of native and non-native plants and animals are found on such lands in the City. Several native plant communities, including serpentine grasslands, salt marsh and riparian forest are examples of such open space lands found in San José. Many open space lands in and around the City are lands in private ownership. These lands are usually not open for public use.

Non-City Owned Park and Recreation Facilities

The City of San José seeks to work cooperatively with other local and regional stakeholders to deliver trail projects and other recreation opportunities. Several current efforts demonstrate the benefit of these partnerships:

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA)

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority serves a portion of the County which does not lie within the boundaries of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The goals of OSA includes the preservation of open space and the creation of greenbelts between communities, regarding lands on the valley floor, hillside viewsheds, watersheds, baylands and riparian corridors. OSA has acquired nearly 15,000 acres of open space lands to date. OSA has also assisted with the City's Trail Program by contributed funding towards projects such as the Penitencia Creek Trail, Albertson Parkway Trails, Willow Glen Spur Trail, Selma Olinder/Coyote Creek Development and Lower Silver Creek Trail.

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation

The County Parks and Recreation Department has a five decade legacy of providing outstanding recreation opportunities in beautiful natural locations. Since the first County parkland was acquired in 1924, the Santa Clara County Park

System has grown to 28 regional parks encompassing nearly 45,000 acres of land. The County is a major partner with the City in providing parkland on the valley floor. Calero County Park, Coyote Creek Parkway, Penitencia Creek, Hellyer Park and the future Martial Cottle Park, as valley floor parks within the City's sphere of influence. Santa Teresa County Park, Grant Ranch Park and Almaden Quicksilver Park are located on the surrounding hillsides of San José.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) - In January 2003, the City and SCVWD executed a Collaborative Action Plan to facilitate development of trails along SCVWD maintenance roads along creeks and rivers. Thirty-six and a half miles of City trails are on land owned by SCVWD.

Various School Districts

There are 19 different school districts within the San José limits. Many of these districts provide recreation opportunities to the community and have permitted the City to offer recreation programs and classes at their facilities, including swim lessons, summer recreation swim, access to youth sport fields, after school programs and homework centers to name a few. Some of these school districts have permitted joint use facilities to be built on their properties, where the City and

the school district jointly operate such facilities as the Alviso Youth Center, Alum Rock Youth Center, Morrill Youth Center, Moreland West Multi-Service Center and future Edenvale/Great Oaks Community Center.



Programs

Four times a year PRNS publishes a Citywide Activity Guide to correspond to the four seasons of the year. The Guide provides a list of all the recreation classes and activities offered by PRNS, along with Special Events information. This information is also posted on-line at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns.

Currently, PRNS offers a variety of swimming lessons and open recreation swim times at various pools in the City, arts and crafts classes, dance lessons, early childhood care, health and fitness facilities and courses, music and theater programs, cooking and poetry classes, beginning fly fishing, and sport development and league play to name a few activities. PRNS offers a variety of day-camp programs and summer drop-in programs. Ultimately, PRNS strives to provide a continuum of services and programs to children, youth, adults, seniors and persons with disabilities.

The Department has introduced the Registration and E-Commerce System (RECS), approved by City Council in December 2007. This is a two-year pilot project charging PRNS with implementing an online program/class registration and facility reservation system. RECS is aimed at automating the fee registration process by streamlining access to programs and services.

Some of the current Department programs/services includes:

Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force

(MGPTF): The MGPTF is a highly collaborative network organized to prevent, intervene and suppress gangs in San José. It was established by then Mayor Susan Hammer in 1991. The Task Force also provides a coordinated inter-agency response to gang related incidents. The MGPTF is comprised of City, county, state, community-based organizations, San José Police Department, faith community, schools, parent groups and other community stakeholders. The 2008-2011 Strategic Work Plan was developed to guide Task Force efforts. The following programs were developed as a result of the MGPTF:

- **Youth Intervention Services:** PRNS collaborates with other city departments and community based organizations to address youth development, crime prevention, gang prevention, asset development, work experience and high school drop-out prevention. Programs are provided at schools, community based organization sites, at the City’s five youth centers and at many of the multi-service hub community centers.
- **Safe School Campus Initiative (SSCI):** The SSCI was developed in 1997-98 in response to trends of escalating youth violence in and around school campuses. The program is designed to realize an incident response protocol focused on maintaining a high level of safety for all San José middle and high schools. PRNS and San José Police Department staff partner together and function as brokers for services within the function of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force. The protocol categorizes crisis responses by the level of threat probability: A level 1 is an emergency in progress that requires immediate police response. There is a clear safety concern and interference with school operations. The police are the first responders and assume incident command. A level 2 is a potential exists for an incident to occur that will cause interference with school operations. Both police and SSCI teams respond. A level 3 is rumors of future threats abound, however, there is not an immediate safety concern or interference with school operations. The SSCI teams are the primary responders.
- **Striving Towards Achievement with New Direction (STAND):** The STAND Program was developed in 1996 and has served as an effective prevention and intervention program

within the City's Youth Intervention Services model. STAND assists youth who attend San José middle schools and high schools by increasing their skills aimed at improving academic achievement, reducing delinquent behavior and preventing further gang involvement.

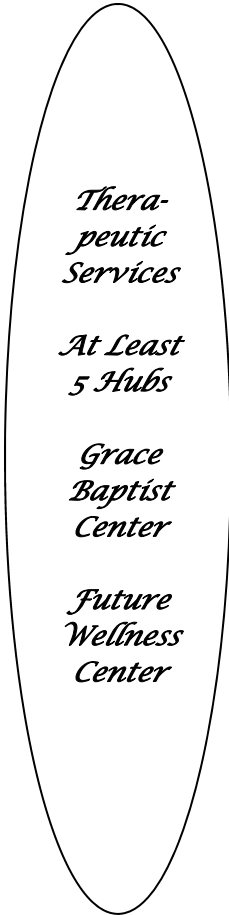
- **Clean Slate:** This program is a tattoo removal program serving former gang involved individuals and at-risk youth between the ages of 14 to 25, who have found tattoos to be a barrier in furthering themselves through education and/or employment.
- **San José Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (BEST):** The BEST program is the funding arm of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and contracts with community-based organizations to provide prevention, intervention and suppression programs for youth exhibiting gang involved behaviors. There are ten eligible services for funding, which include: Personal development and youth support groups, gang mediation/intervention response, outpatient substance abuse services, services for adjudicated youth, domestic violence services, truancy case management services, day education/career development/job training, parent/family

support services, community gang awareness trainings and capacity building workshops and unique service delivery for high-risk youth.

After School Programs and Homework

Centers: In cooperation with various school districts, PRNS provides youth with an opportunity to complete homework assignments, participate in sport activities and engage in enrichment programs, which provide a menu of art, math, science, literacy, dance, music and craft workshops during those lost hours between the end of school until dinner time with family.

Services for Persons with Disabilities: The City of San José Office of Therapeutic Services (OTS) has provided recreation opportunities that have enriched the lives of individuals with disabilities since 1972. However, the population of San José has grown without a corresponding increase in funding for these services. As a result, the City of San José prepared a strategic plan in January 1999 to assess community needs for therapeutic recreation and human services, and to engage residents and service partners in mapping a plan for the future. The resulting document, *The City of San José Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities*, describes a 20-year strategic plan for the Office of Therapeutic Services and collaborating agencies.



To accomplish its mission of *providing a continuum of services to improve health and wellness*, including special programs and inclusive recreation, the Office of Therapeutic Services (OTS), other City departments and collaborating agencies will provide core programs and services for persons with disabilities.

A service delivery model was identified in the OTS Strategic Plan to provide this continuum of services. The model, includes services provided throughout San Jose at community facilities, such as multi-service community centers and other program sites. The service delivery model also includes specialized facilities, designed to meet the needs of specific groups, such as Grace Baptist Community Center, which serves people with mental and developmental disabilities in downtown San Jose. The proposed Recreation and Wellness Center would be the "hub" for therapeutic and related human services. This multi-purpose facility, designed specifically to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, would also serve a wide range of San Jose residents. The Recreation and Wellness Center would be a state-of-the-art fitness and community center to serve the needs of San Jose residents with disabilities. Located for easy access by public transportation, the Center would include therapeutic aquatic pools, a gymnasium and adapted fitness center, classrooms for adapted recreation and

training, and areas for relaxing and interacting. It also would serve as a community center and meeting place for the general community.

At the heart of the OTS Strategic Plan is the charge to increase the integration of persons with disabilities into the multiservice community center programs. A therapeutic recreation specialist, assigned to each district, would interface with existing program sites and staff to ensure that persons with disabilities are appropriately included in all activities, in accordance with the City's Inclusion Statement on page 29.

The implementation of the updated *Greenprint* reaffirms the need to provide recreational facilities for inclusion of all members of the public, including persons with disabilities.

The City should stress the need to incorporate accessibility into park environs and recreation buildings through design guidelines that at least meet or exceeds the requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines. In addition, the City should develop guidelines for playgrounds that stretch the boundaries of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines, in order to enhance the recreational play for all within the limits of the State Playground Standards.

Senior Programs: PRNS' Office on Aging (OOA) provides volunteer opportunities and a wide array of recreation, education and social services programs all designed to keep older adults living independently and remaining actively engaged in their community. The City continues to experience a dramatic demographic shift because its fastest growing segment of the population is age 60 and over, with those over age 85 tripling within the next few years. Because of this shift, older adult programs and services are delivered locally at the community center "hub" rather than in a few stand-alone senior centers. In 2005, the City and the County collaborated to complete a master plan for older adults to identify gaps in services.

Anti-Graffiti/Anti-Litter Programs: These are two Citywide programs that abate graffiti and litter and recruit and train volunteers to assist in the general eradication of graffiti and litter from our streets.

School/City Collaborative: The goal of this program is "to develop sustaining partnerships to maximize minimal resources to serve our children, families and community." Through effective communication and collaboration, we can build a community where our residents can thrive and succeed by sharing facilities.

Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund (HNVF): The HNVF program was established by the City Council in 2000 and is funded by the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, which is an agreement between certain cities (including San José), 46 states and the major tobacco companies regarding the marketing and consumption of tobacco products. Through this agreement, the City of San José will receive millions of dollars in general revenue from the tobacco companies for unrestricted purposes. Historically, \$9-\$11 million has been received annually. The funds are allocated to youth, senior and tobacco cessation programs.

The San Jose Holiday Parade: This annual parade is a key marketing tool to publicize San José during the holiday season.

Christmas in the Park: This annual program heralds the official start of the City's holiday season by turning Plaza de Cesar E. Chavez Park into a Christmas wonderland for the month of December.

Adopt-A-Park/Trail: These are two city-wide volunteer programs that recruit and train residents to assist in the general care and maintenance of City parks, trails and open space properties.

Sport Facility Reservations and League Play:

PRNS' Citywide Sports Program also provides scheduling services for its eight lighted softball fields, 21 non-lighted ball diamonds and 32 rectangular standard fields throughout the City

Youth Sports: PRNS' Citywide Sports Program provides year-round athletic activities for youth in sport competition and sport development classes in basketball, soccer, roller hockey and flag football.

Various Special Events: Special weekend events are either held citywide or at the Council District level to celebrate various cultural and seasonal events. Pumpkins in the Park, VIVA La Spring Fest, The Berryessa Food and Wine Festival, various Easter Egg Hunts, Cherry Blossom Festivals, the Cambrian Celebration, Music in the Park and Music in the Other Park are just a few events which PRNS helps to underwrite annually.

*Parks
Make
Life
Better*



P Parks

A and

R Recreation

K from kids

S to seniors

*Green Spaces
Enhances the
Urban Environment*



