

**8.8 PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY**

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**SANTA CLARA  
GENERAL PLAN**

## 8.8 PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

Table 8.8-1 lists the City’s existing parks and recreation facilities, and includes acreage and types of activities provided at each facility. Table 8.8-2 provides a breakdown of parks and recreation facilities that are planned with proposed (approved, not constructed and pending development as of February 2009). As shown in these tables, there are five classifications for parks and recreation in the City. These include Community Parks, Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Public Open Space and Recreation Facilities. Descriptions of each facility type follow the tables. These tables only include facilities owned by the City or those publicly accessible to all community members, excluding school sites. Facilities such as cemeteries, that are not specifically for recreation, as well as those that are regional in nature, such as the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club, are also not defined as “parks” for the purpose of the General Plan.

**TABLE 8.8-1: EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION**

<i>Existing Parks</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Activities</i>									
		Auditorium	Activity Room	Picnic/BBQ	Restroom/PT	Swimming Pool	Basketball Courts	Playing Field	Tennis Courts	Playground	Parking Lot
<b>Community Parks</b>											
Central Park	52.0			2	3		1	2	10	3	3
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>52.0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>Mini Parks</b>											
Geof Goodfellow Sesquicentennial Park	0.1										
Memorial Cross Park	0.4										
Rotary Park	0.2									1	
War Memorial Playground (Washington Park)	0.9			1	1					1	1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>											
Agnew Park	2.0		1	1	1		1			1	
Bowers Park	7.4		1	1	1					1	1
Bracher Park	3.5			1	1		1			1	
City Plaza Park	1.6			1							1
Earl R. Carmichael Park	10.5			1	1		1	1	1	1	
Everett Alvarez Park	1.7			1	1		1			1	
Fairway Glen Park	4.1			1					1	1	
Fremont Park	4.6									1	
Fuller Street Park	2.4			1	1					1	
Henry Schmidt Park	7.7		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
Homeridge Park	6.0			1	1		1			1	1



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Existing Parks	Acres	Activities									
		Auditorium	Activity Room	Picnic/BBQ	Restroom/PT	Swimming Pool	Basketball Courts	Playing Field	Tennis Courts	Playground	Parking Lot
Jenny Strand Park	9.7			1	1		1		1	1	1
Larry J. Marsalli Park	7.0			1	1			1		1	1
Lick Mill Park	10.5		1	1			1		2	1	1
Live Oak Park	11.0			1						1	1
Machado Park	3.5		1	1			1			1	
Mary Gomez Park	8.0			1			1		2	1	1
Maywood Park	9.5		1	1					4	1	1
Montague Park	5.5		1	1	1		1		2	1	
Parkway Park	4.1			1	1					1	
Steve Carli Park	3.0				1		1			1	
Thamien Park	3.5			1	1		1			1	1
Warburton Park and Pool	6.0			1	1	1	1			1	1
Westwood Oaks Park	1.7		1	1	1		1			1	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Public Open Space</b>											
Agnews Historic Park, Mansion & Auditorium	14.5		1								1
Civic Center Park	3.0										1
Ulistac Natural Area	40.0										
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Recreation Facility</b>											
Community Recreation Center (Central Park)	0.0	1	4		1					1	1
George F. Haines International Swim Center (Central Park)	0.0		1			3					
Gymnastics Center (Earl R. Carmichael Park)	0.0		1		1						
Lawn Bowling Green (Central Park)	0.0		1								
Mary Gomez Pool (Mary Gomez Park)	0.0					1					
Montague Swim Center	2.5					1					
P.A.L. BMX Track	45.7				1						
Reed Street Dog Park	1.7				1						1
Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club	185.0								7		1
Senior Center	2.4	1	8		1	3					
Skate Park	0.9										
Youth Soccer Park	11.2		1		1						

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<i>Existing Parks</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Activities</i>									
		Auditorium	Activity Room	Picnic/BBQ	Restroom/PT	Swimming Pool	Basketball Courts	Playing Field	Tennis Courts	Playground	Parking Lot
Teen Center	1.0	4									
Veterans Memorial (Central Park)	0.0										
Warburton Swim Center (Warburton Park)	0.0	1									
Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center	1.5	3									
<i>Subtotal</i>	252	2	23	0	6	9	2	0	7	1	3
Existing Parks Total	497.6	2	32	25	26	10	18	5	31	29	21

Source: City of Santa Clara, Parks and Recreation Division, 10/09

**TABLE 8.8-2: NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITH PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

<i>Pipeline Parks</i>	<i>Acres</i>
<b>Mini-Parks</b>	
90 N Winchester Blvd (BAREC)	1.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	1.0
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
900 Kiely Boulevard (former Kaiser Hospital site)	2.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	2.3
<b>New Parks Total</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Source: City of Santa Clara, Planning Department, 10/09

### 8.8.1 Mini Parks

Although most of Santa Clara’s parks are larger than one acre, the City does contain a few mini parks, defined here as parks of no more than one acre in size. These parks typically have small service areas, dedicated to smaller-scale, more specific activities. For example, the 0.2 acre Rotary Park, located behind the Triton Museum of Art, offers a playground, picnic tables and sitting area for families. Overall, the 1.6 acres of mini-parks comprise only a minor proportion, less than one percent, of the City’s parkland space. As new development occurs on smaller, confined parcels, the percentage of mini parks may increase as a new alternative for open space within the City.

### 8.8.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally between one and fifteen acres in size and offer both open space and amenities for individual neighborhoods. They provide facilities for various activities, including passive uses, children’s playgrounds and sports fields. For



example, the 2.4-acre Fuller Street Park, near Fuller Street and Esperanca Avenue, serves the surrounding neighborhood with open space, a play area and picnic facilities. This is a typical size for parks within the City, accounting for 134.5 acres, or almost 50 percent of the City's total parkland.

### **8.8.3 Community Parks**

Community parks draw visitors from a larger radius, often from the entire City, due to their larger size (over fifteen acres) or unique recreation amenities. Central Park is the centerpiece of the City's park system and the only community park. This 52-acre park has open space, picnic areas and a playground, as well as recreation facilities that include the George F. Haines International Swim Center, Santa Clara Tennis Center, playing fields, lawn bowling and an exercise course.

### **8.8.4 Public Open Space**

Several of the City's prominent civic and community buildings are located within parks, offering open space focused on civic activities. For example, the Agnews Historic Park, on Sun Microsystems/Oracle's Santa Clara campus, provides a peaceful open space that also houses four historic buildings, preserved through a historic easement. Use of these parks is primarily passive; however, they provide an open, landscaped setting for historic resources in the City. Ulistac Natural Area, 40 acres of open space located along the Guadalupe River on Lick Mill Boulevard, between Tasman Drive and Montague Expressway, showcases seven distinct natural California and wildlife habitats. Only a few parks are classified as public open space, making up a little more than six percent of the City's total park acreage.

### **8.8.5 Recreation Facilities**

The City has an array of recreation facilities, including sports fields, a skate park, swimming pools/centers, senior center and youth center. Many of these facilities are located within larger park sites, creating a variety of options at a single location. Host parks are shown in parentheses on Table 8.8-1. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation offers a variety of classes and programs at these sites. In total, recreational facilities account for almost a quarter of the City's total park acreage.