
Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities

Chapter 7 of the Santa Cruz County General Plan/LCP

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LIST OF REFERENCED APPENDICES (LOCATED AT END OF GENERAL PLAN)

- Appendix A – Sources + References
- Appendix B – Land Use Designation Maps
- Appendix F – Natural Resource + Environmental Hazard Areas: Maps + Development Constraints
- Appendix G – Coastal Priority Sites Use + Development Standards
- Appendix L – Public Service Providers to Unincorporated Santa Cruz County
- Appendix M – Santa Cruz County Parks + Recreation Facilities



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7.1 INTRODUCTION

The Parks, Recreation + Public Facilities Element is an optional element under state planning law. This element addresses topics related to providing community facilities and infrastructure to support existing and future populations. Policies and programs are derived from various source documents, including but not limited to, the County Strategic Plan, and adopted plans for parks, stormwater management, and solid waste management.

The park development policies and implementation strategies in this element address land uses related to recreation, set standards for parks, and address the provision of adequate park facilities, their funding, sharing with other jurisdictions, and equitable access. Additionally, community services such as schools and libraries, as well as utilities and infrastructure, such as water supply, drainage, and broadband, are addressed in this element.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ELEMENTS

This element correlates closely with the Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation (ARC) Element and the Public Safety (PS) Element. The ARC Element addresses water quality and quantity issues, protection of the County's open spaces, and other natural resource topics. The Public Safety Element addresses wildfire hazards and provides standards for development and maintenance of infrastructure to support fire services. The coastal recreation policies in this Element cover the protection of coastal views and recreational land uses along the 42 miles of Santa Cruz County coastline, which is closely tied to the Access + Mobility Element, where coastal access is addressed in greater detail.



Simpkins Family Swim Center; Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County



7.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

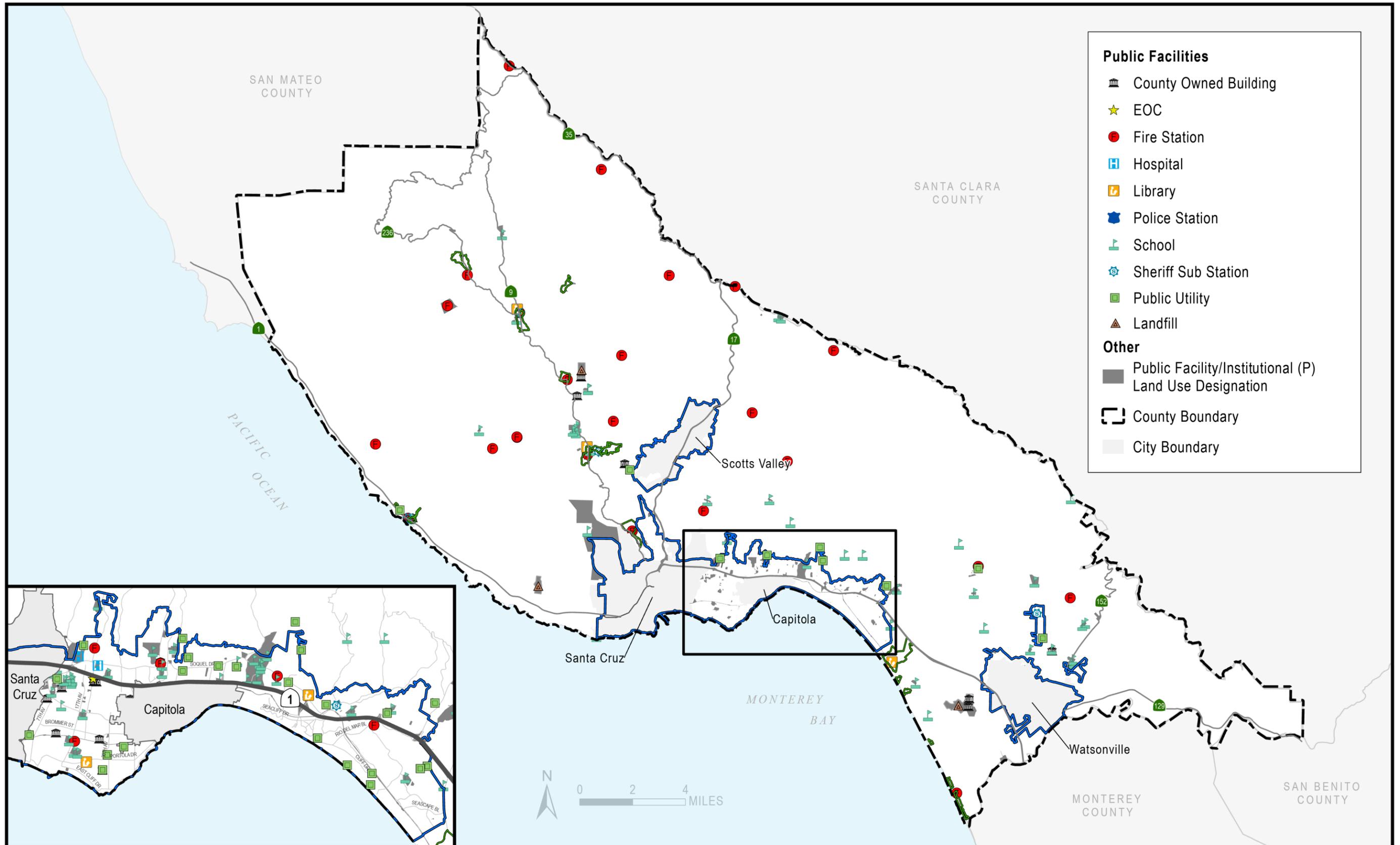
Public services are provided by a number of different agencies and districts. The County maintains a complete listing of districts and agencies providing community services (Appendix L: Public Service Providers to Unincorporated Santa Cruz County) and on its GISweb services site.

PARKS, RECREATION + CULTURAL SERVICES

The County parks system serves communities in the County in two ways: regional facilities that serve the entire County's population, and local parks (e.g., neighborhood, rural, community parks, and coastal access) that serve unincorporated neighborhoods that are outside an independent recreation and park district boundary. Parks within the incorporated cities or the four independent recreation and park districts of Boulder Creek, Alba Road, and La Selva, are not addressed in this General Plan as they are outside of the purview of the County. Similarly, parks and open spaces that are outside of city limits but operated by an agency other than the County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department (Parks Department), such as State Parks or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, are not a focus of this General Plan element. The County's parks are classified primarily as neighborhood, community, rural, and regional as shown in Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities. The Parks Department completed a Parks Strategic Plan in 2018 identifying major goals. The department manages cultural and recreational programs throughout the County, including youth programs, interpretive nature programs, senior programs arts programming, cultural services, and special events. The County parks system includes park classifications as shown in Table 7-4.

The Parks Department provides cultural and recreational programs, youth programs, teen programs, and adult and senior programs. The Parks Department holds community events and supports the arts by leading public art programs, organizing the Arts Commission, and supporting art and recreational programming provided by other organizations.

Figure 7-1: Public Facilities Map



Source: Santa Cruz County. Please refer to the Santa Cruz County GISWeb for the latest data and maps available.



FIRE + POLICE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided by 13 different fire protection districts or service areas including the fire districts that serve the incorporated cities. Each fire protection district conducts its own planning process including the development of a master plan, if the district maintains a master plan. Approximately 43% of the entire county consists of unincorporated lands outside a fire district or city that provides fire protection. This resulted in the formation of the County-formed CSA 48, also known as Santa Cruz County Fire Department. CSA 48 is a special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Santa Cruz County currently contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for the administration of CSA 48 including operational oversight and supervision of all career and volunteer firefighters (LAFCO of Santa Cruz County 2021). Under state law, the fire agencies in Santa Cruz County can provide the following services: fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, ambulance services, and other services relating to the protection of lives and property is critical to the public peace, health, and safety of the state.

Police services are provided by the County Sheriff's Office in the unincorporated area, which also operates the County jail. Approximately half of Santa Cruz County's resident population of 264,298 lives in unincorporated areas. There are six Sheriff stations located throughout the county. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for patrolling state highways and county roadways, enforcing traffic regulations, responding to traffic accidents, and providing service and assistance to drivers in disabled vehicles. CHP maintains a mutual aid agreement with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and assists local governments during emergencies when requested. The County is located within the CHP Coastal Division, whose service area includes 325 miles along the Central Coast with 11 area offices, one resident post, two commercial vehicle inspection facilities and three communication/dispatch centers. These facilities are staffed by nearly 700 uniformed and non-uniformed employees (CHP 2017b). The area office in Santa Cruz County (Office 720) is located at 10395 Soquel Drive in Aptos, CA (CHP 2021).

SCHOOLS

There are 10 public school districts, a community college district, and the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) offering education. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a public agency charged with providing educational leadership, resources, and services to schools to ensure quality educational opportunities for all students. This mission is accomplished through partnerships with teachers, school districts, nonprofits, parents, businesses, and other governmental agencies. Direct instructional programs are offered through special education, alternative education and regional occupational programs. District services are provided in the areas of professional development and fiscal services. The SCCOE is also responsible for coordination of local services with the California Department of Education. More information about the school districts in the County is provided through the Annual Report to the Community published by SCCOE.



Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County

LIBRARIES

Library services are provided by the Santa Cruz Public Libraries District and are governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that includes all jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County. The Library's Strategic Plan and Facilities Master Plan contains detailed information on the vision and planned improvements for libraries in the County.

SEWER, WATER + STORMWATER

Sewer and water services are provided by over 12 different districts and agencies. The Sanitation Section of the Santa Cruz County Community Development & Infrastructure Department (CDID) is responsible for the collection of wastewater (sewage), and oversees administration and staffing of several of those sanitation districts and county service areas (CSAs).

Except within Davenport, drinking and recycled water services are provided by other agencies, including the City of Santa Cruz, the Soquel Creek Water District, the Scotts Valley Water District, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, the City of Watsonville, and the Central Water District.¹ The County participates in the Regional Water Management Group, which prepares the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan).² The IRWM Plan provides a framework for local stakeholders to manage this region's water and water-related resources. The IRWM Plan includes strategies for developing and implementing policies and projects to ensure sustainable water use, reliable water supply, better water quality, improved flood protection and stormwater management, and environmental stewardship.

¹ For a complete listing and geographic boundaries of water purveyors see the Santa Cruz County GISweb.

² The IRWM Plan for Santa Cruz County does not cover the Pajaro River Watershed, which is prepared separately by the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), which includes the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the San Benito County Water District and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. The County of Santa Cruz is an active member of the Stakeholder Group for the Pajaro IRWM Plan.



Groundwater provides 55-60% of public water agency supply in the Santa Cruz Region, with the remainder coming from local surface water sources. With the exception of a small volume obtained through surface diversions, the non-agency water users (agriculture and rural residences and businesses) rely entirely on groundwater. Except for 200-300 parcels in the Summit area that receive water through the Monte Vina pipeline from the San Jose Water Company, the Santa Cruz Region is supplied exclusively by local water sources. This situation is unusual in California; most communities rely to some extent on imported water to support their populations.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 provides authority and responsibility for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for state intervention as necessary to protect the resource. Under SGMA, local agencies must form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) by 2017 and create groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for high and medium priority basins by 2020 or 2022. Santa Cruz County has three basins that are regulated under SGMA: the Santa Margarita Basin, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin, and the Pajaro Valley Basin. The Mid-County Groundwater Agency adopted a [Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) in 2019. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency submitted for and received approval to use their [Basin Management Plan](#), adopted in 2014, as an alternative to a Sustainability Plan. The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan on November 17, 2021 and submitted the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources for approval in January 2022.

The County of Santa Cruz also prepares a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) in response to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for agencies designated by the State Water Resources Control Board. Under this General Permit, the agencies are mandated to implement specific types of urban runoff pollutant control measures and submit annual reports to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The County also prepared a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) in 2017 that describes priorities for implementation of regional stormwater projects.



*Bioswale collects and filters stormwater
Photo Credit: MIG, Inc.*

SOLID WASTE

The County CDID sponsors a wide range of recycling and waste reduction programs that have resulted in significant diversion of waste from landfill disposal. In addition, the County owns and operates solid waste facilities and conducts recycling, reuse, and waste diversion operations at those facilities. The combination of various programs and facility operations has resulted in the County (unincorporated area) achieving approximately 58% waste diversion. The cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville are achieving diversion levels of 52%, 51% and 72% respectively, based on the 2002 Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) report. New legislation requires the County to achieve more aggressive waste diversion targets including a 50% reduction of organic waste from 2014 levels by 2020 and a 75% reduction by 2025 (Senate Bill 1383 and Assembly Bill 1826). The County's Zero Waste Plan includes a strategy, objectives, and programs to achieve a zero waste goal and to include a new composting facility or partnership with a facility elsewhere to handle organics. (County of Santa Cruz 2016)

ELECTRICITY + TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Electrical service is provided in the County by Central Coast Community Energy using infrastructure provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Telecommunications, including landline telephone, cellular telephone, cable, and Internet services are provided by a variety of providers, including AT&T, Verizon, Cruzio, DISH, Spectrum, Comcast, Xfinity, among smaller companies.



7.3 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES + IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

LAND USES

GOAL PPF-1.0 RECREATIONAL + PUBLIC FACILITIES/INSTITUTIONAL LAND USES

Support an active and healthy community by enabling the development of facilities that support community services, recreational opportunities, and the enjoyment of open spaces.

OBJECTIVE PPF-1.1 PUBLIC FACILITY/INSTITUTIONAL DESIGNATION (P)

To provide a public facility/institutional land use designation that ensures adequate availability of land for both public and quasi-public facility uses throughout the urban and rural areas of the County.

Policies

PPF-1.1.1 (LCP) Public Facility/Institutional Designation (P). The P designation shall characterize lands used for a variety of public and quasi-public serving uses, including schools, fire stations, government buildings, water supply and treatment facilities, as well as privately owned facilities built and maintained for public/quasi-public purposes, such as churches, hospitals, and sanitary landfills. This designation is also intended for appropriate ancillary public facility activities and secondary private uses.

PPF-1.1.2(LCP) Public Facility/Institutional Intensity of Use. Permit new development or increases in intensity of uses up to the maximum building intensity shown in Table 7-1, for public institutions and private non-residential facilities where consistent with infrastructure and environmental constraints, as well as scenic, natural, and agricultural resource protection.

Land Use Designation		Building Intensity ¹		Implementing Zone Districts ²
		Maximum Building Height	Estimated Lot Coverage	
Public Facility/Institutional (P)	Medical Mixed Use	60 feet	50% - 95%	PF
	Other Uses	40 feet	40% - 95%	PF
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (O-R)		28 feet	0% - 40%	PR, TP

¹ P and O-R designations provide for a wide variety of uses. The building intensity standards shown herein are potential maximums only. Actual building height and lot coverage for any future development will be determined through project review based on the specific use proposed.
² PF = Public Facilities, PR = Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, TP = Timber Production
 Note: On sites with mapped natural resources and hazard risks, overriding minimum site area and building intensity rules may apply (see Appendix F).

PPF-1.1.3 Residential Development in Public Facility/Institutional Designated Areas. Permit new residential development or increases in intensity of use for existing residential uses only if determined to be ancillary to the existing Public Facility use. Allow building intensities as indicated in Table 7-2: equivalent to Urban Medium Density Residential (R-UM) within the Urban Services Line (USL)/Rural Services Line (RSL), and equivalent to Rural Residential Density(R-R) outside the USL/RSL, as determined by application of the Rural Density Matrix. Special allowances for affordable housing and school employee housing are detailed in Policy PPF-1.1.4 and Policy PPF-1.1.5, respectively.

PPF-1.1.4 Affordable Housing. Recognizing that affordable housing serves a public purpose, allow 100% affordable rental housing projects as an ancillary or primary public/quasi-public discretionary use on P designated sites within the USL/RSL. The housing units must be affordable to lower-income households as defined in Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations. Allow building intensity up to Urban High Density Residential (R-UH) as shown in Table 7-2. Within the RSL, affordable housing is exempt from Policy BE-2.2.6 (Residential Land Use Designations and Density within the RSL).

PPF-1.1.5 School Employee Housing. Recognizing that housing that is affordable to teachers and other school employees is essential to support education, yet is often in short supply in the County, allow multi-family rental housing for school employee households as an ancillary or primary public/quasi-public discretionary use on P designated sites that are owned by a private school or a public school district. Development of school employee housing must be consistent with the environmental carrying capacity of the parcel and adequate services and appropriate infrastructure must be available or provided concurrent with development. Allow building intensity up to Urban High Density Residential (R-UH) as shown in Table 7-2. Additionally, school employee rental housing is not subject to provisions in the General Plan that limit residential density or require a minimum amount of land area per dwelling, including the Rural Density Matrix.



Table 7-2: Land Use Intensities for Residential Uses on Sites Designated for Public Facility/Institutional Uses		
Land Use		Building Intensity
Affordable Housing ¹		Up to Urban High Density Residential (R-UH) 1 – 30 units / acre ³
School Employee Housing ²		Up to Urban High Density Residential (R-UH) 1 – 30 units / acre ³
Other Residential Development	Within USL/RSL	Up to Urban Medium Density Residential (R-UM) 1 – 15 units / acre ³
	Outside USL/RSL	Equivalent to Rural Residential (R-R) 1 unit / 2.5 – 20 acres ⁴
¹ Affordable Housing projects that meet specific criteria as specified in Policy PPF-1.1.4. ² School Employee Housing projects that meet specific criteria as specified in Policy PPF-1.1.5. ³ Per Table 2-1: Urban Residential Land Use Designations. ⁴ Per Table 2-2: Rural Residential Land Use Designations and subject to Rural Density Matrix. Note: On sites with mapped natural resources and hazard risks, overriding minimum site area and building intensity rules may apply (see Appendix F).		

PPF-1.1.6 Public Facilities in Other Land Use Designations. Allow public and quasi-public facility uses in other land use designations where consistent with the policies specified for that land use.

See also Policies BE-1.4.3: Public Facility Uses in Residential Land Designations, and BE-3.2.2: Public Facility Uses in Commercial Designations, as well as Objectives ARC-1.3 Prevent the Conversion of Commercial Agricultural Land, and ARC-1.4 Resolving Land Use Conflicts to Protect Commercial Agricultural Land.

PPF-1.1.7 Cooperative Planning of Public Facility/Institutional Uses. Encourage cooperative planning and Master Plan review between appropriate review agencies, such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Health Services Agency, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, etc., to assure adequate assessment of public facility needs.

PPF-1.1.8 Environmental Review of Major Public Facility/Institutional Developments. Encourage the development of master Environmental Impact Reports for major multi-phased public facility developments to guide and facilitate planning and permit processing for such projects.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-1.1a Implement the Public Facility/Institutional designation through Public Facility (PF) the zone district as shown in Table 7-1 and in Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC) section 13.10.170. Maintain and apply PF zoning regulations to govern the location, design, and use of public and quasi-public uses and facilities, and to provide for the review and approval of project Master Plans for major sites. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-1.1b Along the Soquel Drive corridor between Mattison Lane and Soquel Avenue, allow for development of hospitals with mixed complementary land uses in order to facilitate a medical mixed-use activity center, with particular focus on the former drive-in movie property. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

See also Objective 1.3: Vibrant Activity Centers, and Policy BE-3.2.3: Medical Mixed Use.



OBJECTIVE PPF-1.2 PARKS, RECREATION + OPEN SPACE (O-R)

To allow uses that are compatible with the scenic values and natural setting of the County, including open space, parks, and commercial recreation.

Policies

PPF-1.2.1 (LCP) Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Uses (O-R). The O-R designation shall characterize land intended for outdoor recreation and the provision of open space for the purpose of facilitating healthy communities and the community's enjoyment of the natural setting of the County, including commercial recreation, County, state and federal parks, campgrounds, recreational vehicle parks, preserves and biotic research stations. O-R is appropriate for:

- Active recreation uses, such as golf courses, stables, swimming pools, sports courts, athletic fields, camping, picnicking areas, community centers, outdoor entertainment and historically themed parks that are compatible with rural and mountain settings and that provide expanded recreation opportunities to the public, provided that they are compatible with environmental resources.
- Low-intensity passive uses that are compatible with the scenic values and natural setting of the County for open space lands.

PPF-1.2.2 (LCP) Intensity of Use. Recognize an intensity of use as shown in Table 7-1 for existing public and private parks and recreational uses. The building intensities shown reflect the range of low and high intensity recreational uses allowed in the O-R designation. Permit new development or increases in intensity of uses where consistent with infrastructure constraints, scenic, natural and agricultural resource protection.

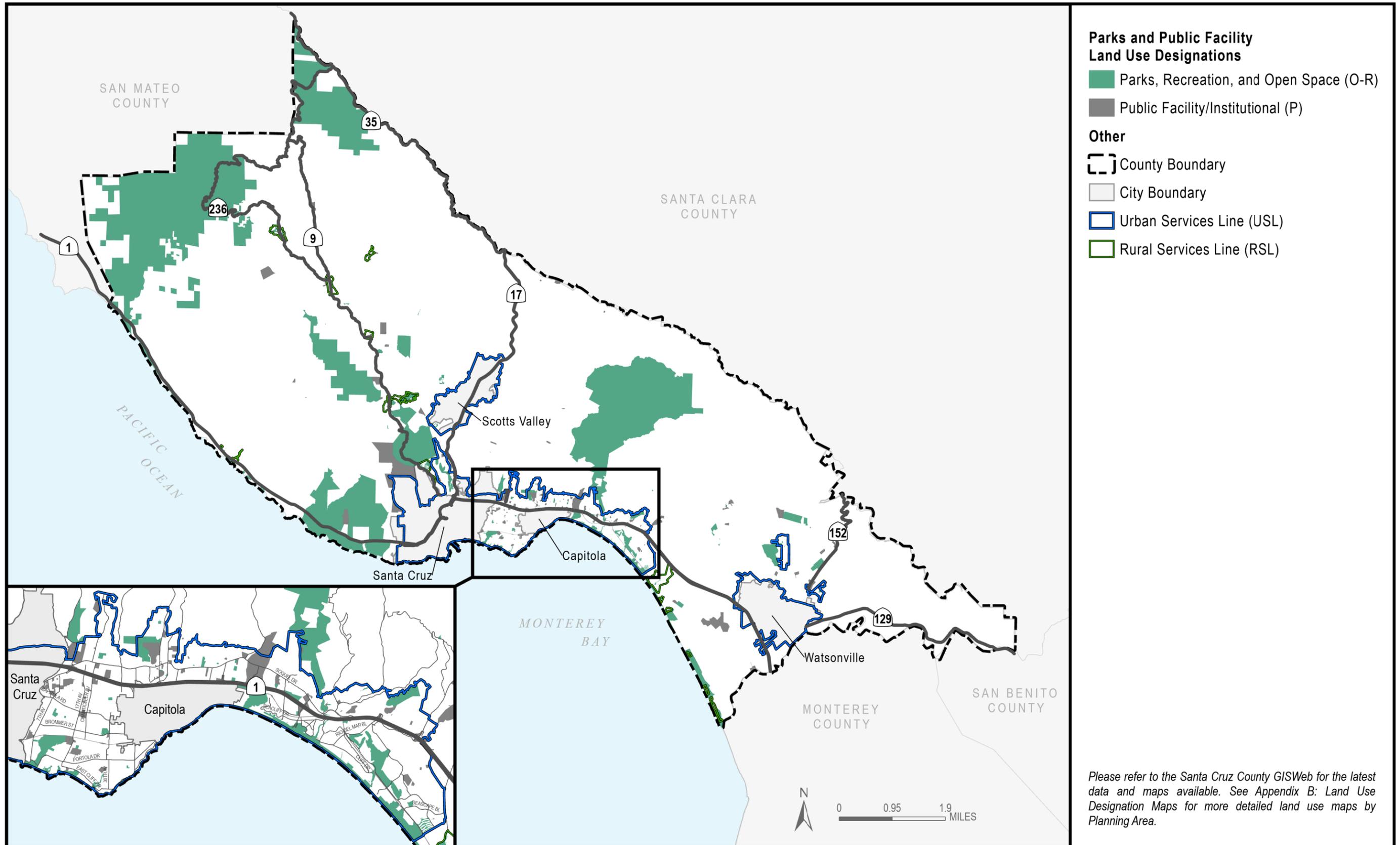
PPF-1.2.3 (LCP) Proposed Parks and Recreation Overlay Designations. Designate specific parcels proposed to be acquired in whole or in part for future public park sites as well as general areas in the County where parkland acquisition is needed for future park provision.

See Appendix M - Public Parks and Recreation Facilities.



Quail Hollow County Park in Felton

Figure 7-2: Parks and Public Facility Land Use Map



Source: Santa Cruz County.



PPF-1.2.4 (LCP) Complementary Overnight Visitor Accommodations. Allow development of appurtenant overnight visitor accommodations at appropriate commercial recreation facilities where such use is consistent with maintaining the recreation use and with other General Plan and LCP Built Environment Element policies. Permit new development or increases in intensity of uses at the building intensities shown in Table 7-3.

See also Policy BE-3.5.8: Visitor Accommodations at Commercial Recreation Facilities.

PPF-1.2.5 (LCP) Environmental Considerations for Commercial Recreational Development Proposals. Regulate commercial recreational development through development permit controls to evaluate each development proposal on the basis of its particular site requirements, environmental impact, and appropriateness of the location for the proposed use. Encourage recreational uses in urban areas.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-1.2a Implement the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space designation through the zone districts as shown in Table 7-1 and in SCCC section 13.10.170. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-1.2b Implement Proposed Parks and Recreation Overlay Designations through the “D” Designated Park Site Combining District. (Responsibility: CDID and Parks Departments)

PPF-1.2c Identify opportunity sites for parks, designate sites as Proposed Parks, and update Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities for consistency with zoning as “D” Designated Park Site Combining District. (Responsibility: CDID and Parks Departments, Parks and Recreation Commission)



Table 7-3: Commercial Recreation Building Intensities¹

Type of Commercial Recreation ²	Land Use Designation	Building Intensity ³	
		Within USL/RSL	Outside USL/RSL ⁴
Organized Camps and Conference Centers and Other Visitor Accommodations at Commercial Recreation Facilities	All Commercial Designations	See SCCC Table 13.10.689-1	Equivalent to Suburban Residential (R-S) 1 unit/1–5 acres
	All Urban Residential Designations		
	R-S		
	R-R, R-MT, O-C, O-R		Equivalent to Rural Residential (R-R) 1 unit/2.5–20 acres

¹ See SCCC section 13.10.689 for maximum densities for all commercial visitor accommodations by zone district.
² These specific types of visitor accommodation uses are included in this chapter due to their recreational nature. For more information on other visitor accommodations not specified here, see Chapter 2: Built Environment, Objective BE -3.5: Visitor Accommodation and Table 2-3: Commercial + Industrial Land Use Designations.
³ On sites with mapped natural resources and hazard risks, overriding minimum site area and building intensity rules may apply (see *Appendix F*).
⁴ Outside the USL/RSL, units/acre is in terms of net developable parcel area and subject to Rural Density Matrix. Use applicable density range shown to calculate rural matrix units per SCCC 13.14, then calculate maximum density per SCCC Table 13.10.689-2: Commercial Visitor Accommodations Maximum Density Outside the USL/RSL,



OBJECTIVE PPF-1.3 ORGANIZED CAMPS + CONFERENCE CENTERS

To allow for a full range of educational, religious, and recreational facilities operated by organized groups to utilize the varied scenic and natural settings of the County's rural and mountain areas while providing proper management and protection of local natural resources.

See also Objective BE-3.4: Tourism + and Consumer Commercial Vitality and Policy BE-3.1.5: Visitor Accommodations (C-V) and Objective BE-3.5: Visitor Accommodation .

Policies

PPF-1.3.1 (LCP) Rural and Mountain Residential Locations. Allow lower intensity organized camps and conference centers with recreational and education facilities to locate in Rural and Mountain residential areas, consistent with infrastructure capacity, natural and visual resource protection, protection of agriculture, and other LCP policies.

PPF-1.3.2 (LCP) Building Intensity and Development of Organized Camps and Conference Centers. Administer uniform densities for all organized camps and conference centers outside of the Visitor Accommodations (C-V) land use designation by applying residential intensity standards as shown in Table 7-3. This may differ from the building intensity allowed by the underlying land use designation indicated on the General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Maps; however, it is intended to reflect the specialized service requirements and lesser development impacts of these facilities. If the use of the property is changed from organized camp or conference center, any other residential uses shall conform to the building intensity of the underlying land use shown on the General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Maps.

PPF-1.3.3 Master and Resource Management Plan. Require each development proposal for organized camps and conference centers to include a master development plan and resource management program for the property involved.

PPF-1.3.4 (LCP) Less Than Year-Round Operation. Allow the intensity of temporary or seasonal organized camp uses to be greater than year-round operations where compatible with the social and natural environment and the available supporting infrastructure, and consistent with the appropriate development standards and only when such temporary uses do not cumulatively exceed the impacts of a year-round operation.

PPF-1.3.4 (LCP) Residential and Day School Use. Allow facilities for both residential and day schools at organized camps and conference centers only at intensities that reflect their impact on access, services, and the environment. Assess impacts and establish appropriate overall densities through environmental assessment of individual projects.



Implementation Strategies

PPF-1.3a Maintain the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Zone District and require a Development Permit and Master Development Plan as well as maintain review procedures and appropriate density factors for organized camps and conference centers. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)



*Mesa Village County Park in Watsonville
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*



PARKS + RECREATION

GOAL PPF-2.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Provide opportunities for people of all ages, income groups, and abilities to recreate in active park spaces and to enjoy passive natural open spaces.

OBJECTIVE PPF-2.1 PARKS + RECREATION ACCESS

To provide a full range of public and private opportunities for access to, and enjoyment of, park, recreation, and scenic areas, including the use of active recreation areas and passive natural open spaces by all ages, income groups and people with disabilities, within the economic capabilities of the County.

Policies

PPF-2.1.1 Local Recreation Opportunities. Provide a variety of local recreational facilities, which serve all segments of the population with priority given to facilities that can be utilized for youth recreation programs.

PPF-2.1.2 (EJ) (LCP) Access to Recreation Facilities. Provide physical access to all recreation facilities through provision of public transportation, trail system development, protection of prescriptive rights to beach and coastal access trails, and recreation programs.

See also Access + Mobility Element Objective AM-4.1 Recreational + Coastal Access.

PPF-2.1.3 (LCP) Park Maintenance and Accessibility. Maintain and update parks as well as coastal access to be safe, clean, and accessible facilities using consistent standards in order to encourage users of all abilities, ages, backgrounds and financial resources to use park facilities and programs.

PPF-2.1.4 (LCP) Park Financing. Include park site acquisition and development in the Capital Improvements Program. Where appropriate, use private concessionaires at County facilities to offset maintenance costs.

See also Policy PPF-3.1.3: Capital Improvement Program.

PPF-2.1.5 Sustained Park Funding Source. Develop dedicated and sustained funding source for park acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, and enhanced park and recreational services.

PPF-2.1.6 Sharing Parks and Recreation Facilities. Recognize the use of existing recreational facilities owned and/or operated by other agencies including the cities, recreation districts, and the school districts as serving the recreational needs of the community and partially meeting standards for community parks acreage. Cooperate in funding and sharing recreation



facilities, and seek to maximize the availability of all such facilities for general public use commensurate with the needs and priorities of the other agencies through joint powers agreements addressing development, maintenance and operating programs, as allowed by budget constraints.

PPF-2.1.7 (EJ) Priorities for Park Development. Acquire, develop, and improve County parks according to the following priorities:

- (1) Creation of and investment in parks and open space in unincorporated areas that are underserved by parks.
- (2) Proposed parks that lie in the unincorporated area of the County and are outside the established sphere of influence of any incorporated city.
- (3) Proposed parks that lie in the unincorporated area of the County, but are within the sphere of influence of an incorporated city.

See also Objective BE-5.3 Disadvantaged Communities and related policies and implementation strategies and Appendix G: Coastal Priority Sites Use and Development Standards.

PPF-2.1.8 Technical Assistance. Provide advice and technical assistance, to the degree possible, to independent recreation and park districts in their efforts to acquire, develop, maintain, and/or operate parks in the unincorporated areas of the County, within the boundaries of the special districts.

PPF-2.1.9 Joint Park Development with School Districts. Within the priority system established above, cooperate and coordinate with the area school districts to the maximum degree possible, in acquiring and/or developing new, joint school/park facilities, where sufficient property is available for both purposes.

PPF-2.1.10 Private Local Parks. Encourage continued use of private recreation facilities that have traditionally served local communities. *See also Policy BE-1.4.6: Access to Nature.*

PPF-2.1.11 Parks Strategic Plan. Reference the Parks Strategic Plan as a guiding document for parks projects, programs, and program development.

PPF-2.1.12 Residential Open Space. Ensure that new development provides adequate public and private open space and recreational facilities to serve new residents.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.1a (EJ) Commit adequate resources (funds and personnel) to the Parks and Recreation Program and allocate a greater proportion of the parks and recreation budget for parks and programs that serve the population most in need. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks Department)



PPF-2.1b Proceed with a budget for adequately developing, renovating, operating, maintaining and programming each of the neighborhood, rural and community recreation sites so that adequate funds are available for land acquisition, site design, construction, and maintenance. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, County Administrative Office, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.1c Seek assistance from tax exempt foundations and corporations, businesses, and community and civic groups in the County's efforts to provide, maintain and operate parks. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission)

PPF-2.1d (LCP) Maintain an ordinance requiring countywide parkland dedication and/or in-lieu and impact fees in connection with new development, including provisions for a yearly review and update of fees and/or annual increases keyed to inflation rates. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.1e Update and implement the Parks Master Plan and Parks Strategic Plan to ensure adequate parkland to meet community need and the General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan standards for parks. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Commission)

PPF-2.1f Update park classification types in the General Plan based on the Strategic Plan and Master Plan process.

PPF-2.1g (EJ) Establish a priority list by park type (i.e., neighborhood, rural, community, regional) based on a public participation process, for park site acquisitions and improvements, and allocate funds to develop park facilities in accordance with priorities based on needs and underserved populations. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.1h Review designated park sites for potential acquisition when appropriate and through the permit review process per SCCC 15.01. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID, Board of Supervisors) *(Revised by Res.328-2004)*

See also Policy PPF-1.2.3: Proposed Parks and Recreation Overlay Designations.

PPF-2.1i (LCP) Continue participation in agreements between state/County/incorporated cities/recreation districts/school districts and private recreational facilities to optimize recreational opportunities for all County residents. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.1j Maintain a parks planning process for the development of specific park sites. A key feature of this process should be early consultation between Parks Department staff, CDID staff, and other agencies charged with reviewing development proposals to identify development



requirements, resources and constraints, which may affect park design and construction. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID)

PPF-2.1k Ensure ongoing compliance with applicable law regarding parks in-lieu and impact fees, and update analysis and fee schedules as appropriate. (Responsibility: CDID and Parks Department, County Administrative Office)



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.2 PARK DISTRIBUTION

To establish and maintain, within the economic capabilities of the County, a geographical distribution of neighborhood, community, rural, and regional park and recreational facilities throughout the County based on the standards for acreage and population ratios contained in this plan (see Table 7-4); and to preserve unique features of the natural landscape for public use and enjoyment.

Policies

PPF-2.2.1 (LCP) Neighborhood Park Standard Acreage. Provide neighborhood parks, at a standard of three net usable acres per 1000 population, consisting of conveniently located, easily accessible parks serving local residential neighborhoods in the urban portion of the County. A park standard of four to six acres is considered adequate for a neighborhood park. Or, when a neighborhood park is combined with school grounds, two to three acres is sufficient. It should be recognized that park acreage standards are set as long-term goals rather than set objectives to be met.

PPF-2.2.2 (LCP) Neighborhood Park Locations. Locate neighborhood parks based on the general standard that most urban residences should be within one-half mile of a neighborhood park serving a population of 1,500 to 2,000 people.



*Aptos Village County Park
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*



Table 7-4: County Park Classifications

Park Facility Classification	Description	Standards			
		Park Size	Service Population	Service Standard	Service Location
Regional Park	Parks with the most attractive and unique recreation features, providing a maximum variety of recreational environments	Unique by resource, typically 50-500 acres	Entire County	N/A	N/A
Community Park	Parks, cultural centers, and community complexes serving as the focus for community social, organizational, cultural and/or recreational activities	10-25 acres	Population within 3-5 miles	2-3 net usable acres per 1,000 population	Within USL
Neighborhood Park	Conveniently located, easily accessible parks serving local neighborhoods	4-6 acres ¹	Population within one-half mile	3 net usable acres per 1,000 population	Within unincorporated USL
Rural Park	Parks, cultural centers and community complexes serving as the focus for community, social, organization, cultural, and/or recreational activities for extended rural areas	N/A	Population within 4-5 miles	5-6 net usable acres per 1,000 population	Unincorporated areas outside USL
Trail	Pathways connecting parks, recreational areas, urban and scenic areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	Within unincorporated areas
Coastal Access	Facilities providing shoreline access to the coast with improvements to serve the general public and the coastal neighborhoods	N/A	N/A	N/A	Within unincorporated coastline

¹2-3 acres if combined with school grounds

PPF-2.2.3 Mini-Park Sites. Consider the development of mini-park sites as an alternative to meet minimum park acreage requirements in the event that designated neighborhood park sites cannot be acquired.

See also Policy BE-1.4.6: Access to Nature and Implementation Strategy BE-1.4d.

PPF-2.2.4 Neighborhood Park Siting Criteria. Provide neighborhood park and playground facilities developed, where possible, in conjunction with residential development or as improvements to school grounds.



PPF-2.2.5 Community Parks. Provide community recreation facilities as a standard of 2-3 net usable acres per 1,000 population consisting of 10-25 acres of land, including parks, cultural centers, and community complexes, in central locations in the urban areas, which will serve as focuses for community social, organizational, cultural and/or recreational activities. Recognize that park acreage standards are set as long-term goals rather than set objectives.

PPF-2.2.6 (LCP) Community Park Locations. Locate community parks using a general distribution standard of one park for every 10,000 people located within three to five miles or 15 minutes of most urban concentrations. Facilities could include a swimming pool, gymnasium, sports courts, athletic and multi-use fields, picnicking and equestrian areas, restrooms, a building for community meetings and recreational programs, and neighborhood-serving facilities where appropriate.

PPF-2.2.7 (LCP) Priority for Community Parks. Assign high priority to the acquisition and development of Mid-County and South County community parks for local residents, including large athletic complexes. Recognize that acquisition of large acreage sites will be difficult.

PPF-2.2.8 (LCP) Community Park Siting Criteria. Select community park sites based on the following criteria: accessibility, land availability, geographic relationship to the particular community, attractive natural features on the site, ease of development, potential for natural resource conservation, and association with existing or proposed roads or trails and other city or state parks, and/or open space and beaches.

See also Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities.

PPF-2.2.9 Establishing and Maintaining Community Centers. Establish and maintain community centers to include facilities for meeting halls, craft centers, day care centers, recreation facilities, senior activity centers, as well as educational and cultural programs, as a small-scale alternative to the community complex.

PPF-2.2.10 Rural Parks. Provide recreational facilities at a standard of 5-6 net usable acres per 1,000 persons consisting of varying sizes depending on the recreational opportunities and resources available: includes parks, cultural centers, and community complexes, in the unincorporated rural areas of the County. These facilities serve as the focus for community, social, organization, cultural, and/or recreational activities for extended rural areas.

PPF-2.2.11 (LCP) Rural Park Standards. Establish local rural parks in the rural portions of the County, typically servicing an area within a four-to-five mile radius. Facilities could include open turf, sport fields, sports courts, basketball courts, picnic areas, parking, restrooms, tot lots, equestrian facilities, and a building for community meetings and recreational programs.

PPF-2.2.12 (LCP) Rural Park Siting Criteria. Select rural park sites based on the following criteria: adjacent or close to existing complementary facilities such as schools, nature reserves,



ball fields or playgrounds; accessibility, lands availability, geographical relationship to a particular community, attractive natural features on site, ease of development, potential for natural resource conservation, and association with existing or proposed roads or trails. New facilities should supplement existing facilities already in a planning area.

PPF-2.2.13 (LCP) Regional Parks. Establish a system of regional parks that encompasses the most attractive and unique recreation features, provides a maximum variety of recreational environments, focuses on activities and natural features, and is not included in State Parks.

PPF-2.2.14 (LCP) Regional Park Siting and Standards. Select park sites based on the unique resource opportunity and the suitability of the environmental characteristics for recreational use, rather than their relationship to population centers or acreage standards. Typical regional parks serve the entire County and are in the range of 50-500 acres, but larger or smaller sites based on the specific recreational opportunity and the potential for natural resource conservation should be considered.

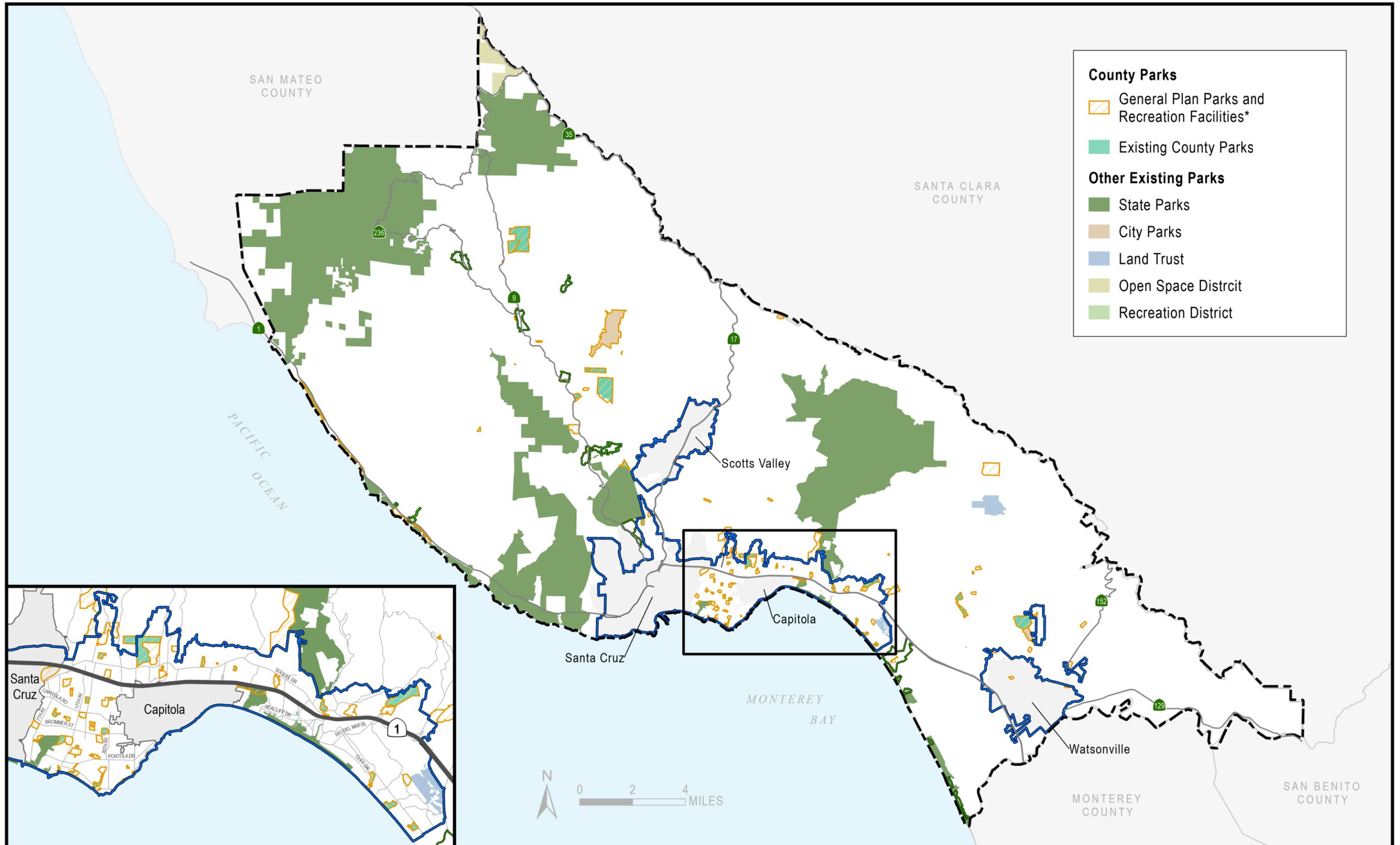
PPF-2.2.15 Uses Within Regional Parks. Provide facilities that include either resource-oriented improvements, such as trails, interpretive centers, streamside picnic areas, swimming facilities, and boat launching areas; or, in appropriate areas, high intensity facilities, such as equestrian centers, sports fields, game courts, restrooms, and camping units. Where appropriate, provide neighborhood and community recreation facilities to serve the local residents.

PPF-2.2.16 Recreation Within Converted Quarries and Landfills. Develop abandoned quarries and closed sanitary landfill sites for recreational uses where appropriate.

PPF-2.2.17 Recreation Within Watershed Reserves. Provide public opportunities for wilderness recreation experiences by allowing public access to major publicly owned domestic watershed reserves, where such use can be accomplished without harm to the watershed function of the areas. Develop trail systems, interpretive signing, and camping sites where feasible.

PPF-2.2.18 Access to Major Inland Water Bodies. Provide for public access around the margins of all major natural inland water bodies sufficient to allow the development, where appropriate, of a safe equestrian, walking, and/or bicycle trail without major disturbance to the shoreline

Figure 7-3: Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Facilities Map



*Includes existing and proposed parks; see Appendix M for more detail on General Plan Parks and Recreation Facilities. Source: Santa Cruz County. Please refer to the Santa Cruz County GISWeb for the latest data and maps available.



PPF-2.2.19 (LCP) Beaches as Parks. Support the continued availability and use of beach areas to serve as neighborhood and community recreational facilities for County residents, but do not credit beach areas toward satisfying neighborhood park acreage goals due to the seasonal availability of the resource, and the extensive regional demands placed on this limited coastal area. Recognize that the use of beach areas provide recreational opportunities and improve access where appropriate.



*The Hook County Park at Pleasure Point
Photo Credit: Alyssa Johnson*

Implementation Strategy

PPF-2.2a Conduct a master planning process to reassess existing facilities, identify opportunities and constraints, and prioritize park development. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Recreation Districts)

PPF-2.2b Regularly update Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities with new park site opportunities as development occurs and new parcels are identified. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID)

PPF-2.2c Review new development applications for consistency with Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities and ensure that designated parks sites remain available for recreation opportunities. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.2d Develop park sites as listed in Appendix M: Public Parks and Recreation Facilities assigning the highest priority to parks where critical needs exist. (Responsibility: Parks



Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Recreation Districts)

PPF-2.2e (LCP) Ensure that public beach closures/curfews do not apply to an area of Coastal Commission original jurisdiction (state tidelands, submerged lands and public trust lands), including but not necessarily limited to the area seaward of the mean high tide line. Public access to the water's edge and at least 20 feet inland of the wet sand of all beaches shall be permitted at all times. Closure to public use of any portion of the beach inland of the mean high tide line is not encouraged and requires a coastal development permit, which must maintain the public's right to gain access to state tidelands. Measures that limit public use of the beach shall be limited to those necessary to address documented public safety events that cause a risk or hazard to the general public and shall be the minimum necessary to address the potential risk or hazard to the general public. The need for continuation of safety measures that limit public access shall be reassessed on a periodic basis to assure maximum public access is provided. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID, Coastal Commission)

PPF-2.2f Work with regional organizations, sports organizations, and State Parks to explore the need and potential for establishing a new regional sports facility. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID)

See also Implementation Strategy BE-3.4h.



*Felton Discovery County Park
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*



Table 7-5: Summary of Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreational Facilities

Planning Area	Park Type ¹	Existing Parks ²	Proposed New Parks ³	Gross Acreage ⁴	
				Existing	Proposed ³
APTOS	Neighborhood	3	1	15.6	11.4
	Neighborhood / School Facility	4		19.3	
	Neighborhood / Community	1	1	11.8	15.0
	Regional	3		74.6	
APTOS HILLS	Local Rural	1	1	4.2	6.0
	Local Rural / School or Other Facility	2		7.6	
	Regional	1		34.6	
BONNY DOON	Local Rural		1		5.0
	Local Rural / School Facility	1		3.0	
CARBONERA	Local Rural	1		3.8	
	Neighborhood / Local Rural / School Facility	2		7.5	
	Regional	1		19.3	
EUREKA CANYON	Local Rural	2		35.2	
	Local Rural / School or Other Facility	2		9.0	
	Regional		1		N/A
LA SELVA BEACH	Local Rural	5		5.7	6.3
LIVE OAK	Neighborhood	13	7	41.6	43.7
	Neighborhood / Community / School Facility	7		36.5	0.5
	Community	1	3	10.2	92.4
	Neighborhood / Regional	5	2	17.0	8.9
NORTH COAST	Local Rural / School Facility	1		1.0	
	Regional	2	1	115.0	N/A
PAJARO VALLEY	Neighborhood	1		2.1	
	Neighborhood / Local Rural / School Facility	6		29.0	
	Local Rural / Community / Regional	2	1	248.9	N/A
SALSIPUEDES	Regional		1		N/A
SAN ANDREAS	Regional	1		N/A	
SAN LORENZO VALLEY	Local Rural	10	1	39.3	17.7
	Local Rural / School Facility	3		11.0	
	Local Rural / Regional	4		729.5	
SKYLINE	Local Rural		1		N/A
SOQUEL	Neighborhood	3		3.4	
	Neighborhood / Community / School Facility	3		19.0	
	Neighborhood / Community / Regional	3		103.3	
SUMMIT	Local Rural / School Facility	2		8.0	
	Regional		2		N/A

See Appendix M for complete list of Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Facilities.

¹This table includes parks and facilities that may be owned and/or managed by the County, cities, school districts, or recreation districts.

²Existing parks may include properties that have been acquired for a future park site.

³Indicates site/acreage identified for proposed acquisition. N/A indicates proposed park acquisitions that have not yet been defined.

⁴The acreages associated with school sites are expressed in net usable acreage. All other acreage is expressed in gross acres.



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.3 EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP

To steward and protect open spaces and natural, cultural, and historic resources in the parks system for the enjoyment of current and future generations through partnerships, conservation, education, and volunteerism.

Policies

PPF-2.3.1 Partnership. Partner with agencies, organizations, and landowners to provide an integrated regional approach to natural resource management.

PPF-2.3.2 Cultural and Historical Resources. Protect cultural and historical resources throughout the parks system.

PPF-2.3.3 Interpretive Programs. Provide interpretive programs and opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of natural, cultural, and historical resources.

PPF-2.3.4 Volunteering. Provide opportunities for volunteers in parks, facilities, and recreational programs.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.3a Establish a natural resources and open space management unit within the Parks Department with staff dedicated to resource management and open space planning, grant writing, partnership, and open space project delivery (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission).



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.4 SAFE, CLEAN + ACCESSIBLE PARK FACILITIES

To maintain and enhance the quality and accessibility of park facilities to maximize the visitor experience.

Policies

PPF-2.4.1 Parks Facilities Maintenance. Maintain and update parks facilities and amenities to a consistent standard.

PPF-2.4.2 Accessibility. Make parks accessible to the populations most in need by reducing physical, economic, language, and cultural barriers to accessibility of parks facilities; providing the types of park amenities and programs that are most appropriate for the populations that they serve, and working to improve walking and bicycling routes to parks.

PPF-2.4.3 Safe and Clean Parks. Ensure safety and cleanliness of parks facilities.

PPF-2.4.4 Park Amenities. Upgrade parks and add park facilities, with priority to underserved areas.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.4a Develop standards for park maintenance, and develop maintenance programs that adhere to those standards (Responsibility: Parks Department, Board of Supervisors).

PPF-2.4b Identify, pursue, and secure financial resources to upgrade parks with priority to underserved areas (Responsibility: Parks Department, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.6c (LCP) Develop a program in conjunction with County departments, including CDID and Parks Department, the County Sheriff, State Highway Patrol, State Parks, and other appropriate public and private agencies, to ensure provision of adequate maintenance, law enforcement and supervision in parks and recreational facilities, including beaches. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Board of Supervisors)



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.5 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PARK PROVIDERS

To support the provision of valuable parks and recreation facilities and programs by other agencies complementing those of the County, including city parks departments, State Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, independent recreation and park districts, and others.

Policies

PPF-2.5.1 Open Space and Trail Easements. Encourage park agencies to acquire open space and trail easements that further the regional trail and open space networks in the County.

PPF-2.5.2 (LCP) Development Priorities. Encourage partnering with park agencies to prioritize acquisitions and projects that are consistent with the needs of the regional park system.

PPF-2.5.3 (LCP) Maintenance and Management Programs. Encourage provision of adequate maintenance and management programs concurrent with all partnering park development projects.

PPF-2.5.4 Working Lands. Support public and private land owners and partnerships in use of working lands, such as the Soquel Demonstration Forest, for research, education, recreation and demonstration of innovative timber harvesting, forestry techniques, and rangeland management while at the same time conserving and protecting the wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, soil, watershed and aesthetic values.

PPF-2.5.5 (LCP) Day Use Facilities Enhancement. Where appropriate, request the provision of additional day use facilities at publicly owned beaches and bluff tops such as picnicking, viewpoints, restrooms, parking areas, and other day use facilities.

PPF-2.5.6 (LCP) Tourist Commercial Concession. Encourage the provision of tourist commercial concessions at appropriate destinations.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.5a (LCP) Where appropriate, request State Parks and other appropriate public agencies to retain and expand appropriate park and recreational uses such as picnic facilities, camping sites, RV facilities, trails, parking areas, and shoreline access. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5b (LCP) Where appropriate, support State Parks and other public park agencies' budget requests for expanded development, management (including adequate law enforcement and maintenance), and use of Santa Cruz County facilities. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5c (EJ) (LCP) Encourage the provision of additional free facilities. Where user fees must be charged, encourage provision of season passes and a discounted fee schedule for economically disadvantaged groups. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)



See also Implementation Strategy BE-5.3a.

PPF-2.5d (LCP) Encourage and seek grant funding for the replacement of damaged or destroyed public beach recreation facilities. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5e (LCP) Request parks agencies develop high demand facilities (such as parking, recreation facilities, and picnic areas) within three years of land acquisition. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5f (LCP) Request the State Parks Department to give highest possible priority to continuing and substantially improving maintenance, improvement, and management programs for its existing state park facilities. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5g (LCP) Encourage and support management of wetlands of the Pajaro River Lagoon, Aptos Creek, Wilder Creek, and other wildlife habitat in State Parks. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.5h Support continued use of the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds for its recreational and educational purposes.



*Trail in Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.6 COASTAL RECREATION

To maximize public use and enjoyment of coastal recreation resources for all people, including those with disabilities, while protecting those resources from the adverse impacts of overuse.

Policies

PPF-2.6.1 (LCP) Shoreline Access. Provide a system of shoreline access to the coast with adequate improvements to serve the general public and the coastal neighborhoods, which is consistent with the California Coastal Act, meets public safety needs, protects natural resource areas from overuse, protects public rights and the rights of private property owners, minimizes conflicts with adjacent land uses, and does not adversely affect agriculture. Maintain or provide access, including visual access, to every beach to which a granted access exists or to which the public has acquired a right of access through use, as established through judicial determination of prescriptive rights, and acquisition through appropriate legal proceedings, in order to ensure one access to every pocket beach and convenient, well distributed access to long sandy beaches.

See also Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements; Objective AM-3.1: Recreational and Coastal Access and Related Policies; and Appendix G: Coastal Priority Sites Use and Development Standards.

PPF-2.6.2 (LCP) Coastal Zone Acquisition Priorities. Set each of the following as acquisition objectives in the Coastal Zone: (1) Purchase for consolidation of existing holdings. (2) Purchase to protect threatened fragile resources. (3) Purchase to provide additional sites for high demand facilities including heavily used beaches where an excessive burden of maintenance and supervision is placed on private owners.

PPF-2.6.3 (LCP) Recreational Boating. Encourage increased recreational boating opportunities for County residents by cooperating with the Port District and the cities of Capitola and Santa Cruz to provide dry storage facilities for small boats, and other uses and facilities supportive of the Port District's mission.

PPF-2.6.4 (LCP) Provision of Open Water Moorings. Request the regulating agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers to permit open water moorings off suitable locations along the County's coastline taking into consideration the following factors: public safety concerns; disturbance to the marine environment; individual and cumulative visual impacts; other communities' experiences with open water moorings; and interference with other water-related uses.

PPF-2.6.5 (LCP) Coastal Access Maintenance Responsibility and Liability. Open coastal access ways only after a public agency or private association agrees to installation and maintenance of directional signage and to accept responsibility for maintenance and liability of the access way, including regular garbage collection and recycling at the trailhead, along the



trail, and at the beach destination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is the policy of Santa Cruz County to assist other public agencies or private non-profit groups to accept offers to dedicate coastal access, and to complete, open and maintain coastal access ways between the first public road and the shoreline as soon as it is feasible.

PPF-2.6.6 (LCP) Access to Environmentally Sensitive Habitats. Obtain managed and controlled public access to environmentally sensitive habitats through master plans, grants, dedications of easements, or other means, including as a condition of new development approval, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements.

PPF-2.6.7 (LCP) Shoreline Management Plans and Master Permits. To avoid having to apply for or issue multiple permits and to address sometimes competing policy guidance, as part of future Shoreline Management Plans and Master Permits, address issues concerning beach access, recreation, and wildlife preservation. Measures might include temporary closures for snowy plovers, limits on beach grooming, seasonal restrictions on sandbar breaching, and rules for various recreational events.

See also Policy PS-6.4.37: Shoreline Management Plan(s) and Implementation Strategies PS-6.4I.

PPF-2.6.8 (LCP) Off-Road Vehicle Use. Prohibit off-road vehicle use of shoreline accesses and beaches.

PPF-2.6.9 (EJ) (LCP) South County Beach Access. Identify and pursue opportunities to increase beach access in South County.



Twin Lakes State Park

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.6a (LCP) Evaluate the potential for a fee program and other mechanisms to generate funding (e.g., County Parks Friends fundraisers, County Parks donation drives, “Adopt-a-Bench/Park” programs, grant opportunities, etc.) to maintain scenic vistas and overlooks in order to address routine maintenance for benches, railings, stairs, landscaping and other amenities. Prioritize funding mechanisms such as grants, donations, and fee programs that do not charge fees for coastal access and use. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID, County Administrative Office)

PPF-2.6b (LCP) Encourage the continued recreational use of Monterey Bay through the development of marine programs and facilities. Work with the Santa Cruz Port District to facilitate recreational access and programs. (Responsibility: Parks Department)

PPF-2.6c (LCP) Maintain the Parks Department Activities Guides to inform the public of primary public access to the shoreline. Establish an implementation schedule for improvements to primary access areas, giving highest priority to the provision of basic improvements. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors and Parks Department)



PPF-2.6d (LCP) Consider and take appropriate actions to address the potential conflicts between human and marine mammal use of the beaches. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission)

PPF-2.6e (LCP) Maintain a program to eliminate off-road vehicle (ORV) use of shoreline accesses and beaches. Specifically:

- (1) Clearly post the destinations being used by ORVs: "ORV Use Prohibited, Chapter 10.50, Santa Cruz County Code."
- (2) Erect barriers, or as appropriate, gate mechanisms, which effectively eliminate ORV access.
- (3) Establish an enforcement program with high fines and ticketing. (Responsibility: County Sheriff, Parks Department)

PPF-2.6f (LCP) Work with State Parks and emergency response services to maintain an action program to secure full-time lifeguard emergency response for public beaches, including on-call lifeguards, vehicles, a boat, and a boat crew. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, State Parks, Parks, Parks Department)

PPF-2.6g (LCP) Encourage interagency communication to foster aquatic and marine shoreline safety information. Develop a program and seek State funding to accomplish the distribution of such aquatic and marine shoreline safety information. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Parks Department)

PPF-2.6h (LCP) Seek funds from the State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other appropriate agencies for acquisition and development of public coastal access. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.6i (LCP) Seek funding to develop beach operations and management plans for high-use beach access areas such as the North Coast, Rio del Mar, Opal Cliffs, Sunny Cove, and Moran Lake and those beach access areas that have State Coastal Conservancy funded accesses. Incorporate the management plans into the LCP. (Responsibility: Parks Department and CDID)

PPF-2.6j (LCP) Prevent access to bluff top observation points likely to cause disturbance to animals, erosion or damage to vegetation. Discourage access to immediately adjacent beach areas where necessary to minimize disturbance by roping off sensitive areas and posting explanatory signs along fence lines and restricted paths. Fence where necessary to prevent marine mammals from crossing Highway One. (Responsibility: Parks Department and CDID)



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.7 TRAILS + RECREATION CORRIDORS

To establish a countywide system of walking, bicycling and equestrian trails that provides access to and connects the various parks, recreation areas, beaches, and urban areas. *See also Policy AM-4.1.3: Trail Network.*

Policies

PPF-2.7.1 (LCP) Trails Master Plan. Support the development of a regional Trails Master Plan that provides recreational opportunities in a variety of natural settings, supports implementation of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail and California Coastal Trail, links County park facilities, connects to trail systems maintained by other agencies within the County and connects to trail systems in neighboring counties.

PPF-2.7.2 (LCP) Trail Easements. Obtain trail easements by encouraging private donation of land, by public purchase, or by the dedication of trail easements, in full compliance with California Government Code Section 65909(a) for development permits and Government Code Sections 66475.4(b) and 66478.1 et seq. for land divisions, provided that state and federal constitutional rights of landowners are not violated.

PPF-2.7.3 (LCP) Use of Existing Easements. Seek to use existing publicly owned lands where possible to implement the trail system, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements.

PPF-2.7.4 (LCP) Greenways and Other Linear Trail Corridors. Seek opportunities to develop greenways as defined in Civil Code Section 816.52 and other trail corridors along linear features, such as creeks, rivers, levees for increased recreational opportunities.

Greenways

Greenways as used in this element are defined by Civil Code Section 816.52 and are a specific type of bicycle and pedestrian corridor. A greenway meets the following requirements: (1) Includes improvements that benefit natural features, or historical, and cultural resources (2) Is separated and protected from shared roadways, is adjacent to an urban waterway, and incorporates both ease of access to nearby communities and an array of amenities within an urbanized area (3) Is located on public lands or private lands, or a combination of public and private lands, where public access to those lands for greenway purposes has been legally authorized (4) Reflects design standards that are applicable for each affected local agency, as documented in the local agency's applicable planning document.



PPF-2.7.5 Coordinate with State and Local Agencies. Cooperate and coordinate with State Parks, local cities, and other partnering entities to develop trails with appropriate and consistent management and limitations for trail uses.

PPF-2.7.6 Trail Funding and Construction. Seek trail funding for construction of trails as specified in a Trails Master Plan or community, town, and area plans.

PPF-2.7.7 (LCP) Environmental Trail Design. Locate, design and develop trails so as to appropriately manage the impact on the habitats, resources, and buffers through which they travel.

PPF-2.7.8 (LCP) Accessible Trails. Design trails to be as accessible as possible to persons of all ages and abilities including people with disabilities, where resources can be protected, and to the extent feasible.

PPF-2.7.9 (LCP) Environmentally Damaging Trails. Plan and maintain trail alignments and access to minimize deterioration of sensitive habitat and to address and avoid serious erosion problems.

PPF-2.7.10 (LCP) Unsafe Trails. Discourage public use of access trails that are hazardous because safety improvements have not been provided or cannot be built due to physical limitations.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.7a Establish a program to develop and implement a public countywide Trails Master Plan. The process for developing the master plan shall include public noticing and encourage extensive public participation. The implementation portion of the plan shall address acquisition of property and easement as well as development priorities, trail design, right-of-way acquisition, trail construction and maintenance and establishment of trail user etiquette and safety guidelines. Designate specific trail routes only after actual on-the-ground analysis and any required environmental review of individual trail routes have been completed, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, CDID, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission; Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.7b Seek funding and staffing for the development of a Trails Master Plan that incorporates a robust public participation process. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.7c (LCP) Implement trail easements by utilizing existing publicly owned land, and by acquisitions by dedication, in full compliance with Government Code Section 65909(a) for developments and Government Code Sections 66475.4(b) and 66748.1 et seq. for land divisions,



provided that state and federal constitutional rights of land owners are not violated. (Responsibility: Parks Department, CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)



The Shore Trail in Aptos

PPF-2.7d When trails are located along public roadways, locate trails out of the vehicular use lanes and separated from traffic by an appropriate distance. Include trail construction in all public road development projects on designated trail routes. (Responsibility: CDID, and Parks Department, Parks Commission)

PPF-2.7e Provide trail crossing protection signing where appropriate on the County road and trail systems. (Responsibility: CDID, and Parks Department)

PPF-2.7f (LCP) Incorporate the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail and California Coastal Trail into a trails system and a future County Trails Master Plan. Seek permission from rail corridor owners to utilize rail right-of-way in the trail system and acquire rail right-of-way in event of abandonment, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements. *See also Implementation Strategies AM-2.1f, AM-4.1c, AM-4.1f and AM-8.1e.* (Responsibility: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.7 g (LCP) Provide trail surfacing and bridge underpasses along levees to provide for public access and use, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements. (Responsibility: Parks Commission, CDID and Parks Departments)



PPF-2.7h (LCP) Support the development of the state trails system linking state beaches with the state mountain parks, such as Nisene Marks, and develop links between the County and state trail systems in coordination with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements. (Responsibility: Parks Commission, Parks Department, and CDID)

PPF-2.7i (LCP) Develop standards for trails within riparian corridors that meet the requirements of the riparian corridor ordinance, State Fish and Wildlife requirements, stormwater, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, subject to maintenance by Parks Department, and subject to Policy PPF-2.7.2: Trail Easements. (Responsibility: Parks Commission, Parks Department, and CDID)

PPF-2.7j (LCP) (EJ) Improve and complete recreational bicycle/pedestrian loops in the South County coastal area. Support City of Watsonville and Land Trust trail plans and trail connections to County parks, beaches, and trails. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors; Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Parks Department)

PPF-2.7k (LCP) Develop a program to relocate or reduce the number of trails or allowed uses where the present use level is causing deterioration to sensitive habitats or serious erosion problems. (Responsibility: Parks Department)



OBJECTIVE PPF-2.8 CULTURAL ARTS

To support performing arts, visual arts, recreational, and cultural facilities and programs to promote access to the arts and provide a variety of art opportunities for the diverse citizenry of the community as well as strengthen and engage the communities.

Policies

PPF-2.8.1 Funding for the Arts. Encourage the funding of arts programs and facilities through public/private partnerships and private non-profit art agencies.

PPF-2.8.2 Performing Arts Facilities. Support performance venues at appropriate locations. *See also Implementation Strategy BE-3.4f.*

PPF-2.8.3 (EJ) Making the Arts Accessible. Broaden access for diverse groups of the community to the performing and visual arts, including the disabled and other traditionally underserved populations. Promote public awareness of the value of the arts and culture; recognize the arts as a fundamental part of education.



Photo credit: Poetry Out Loud 2019 - Santa Cruz County Office of Education (santacruzcoe.org)

PPF-2.8.4 Economic Value of the Arts. Recognize the potential economic value of the arts industry and promote the County's cultural activities as an important economic resource.



Promote Santa Cruz County as an arts destination, expanding inclusion of information on the arts and on arts activities in tourism marketing and promotion.

PPF-2.8.5 Integrating the Arts into Development Projects. Encourage new development to include artists as members of their design teams, or art as part of their development, as appropriate and to include murals, sculptures, and other installations into site design as a form of placemaking.

See also Policy BE-4.3.10: Integrating the Arts and Implementation Strategies BE-4.3f, BE-4.3g and BE-4.3h.



Photo Credit: MIG, Inc.

PPF-2.8.6 Public Arts Programs. Cultivate the arts and strengthen the culture and diversity of the County through public art programs, facilities, and events.

PPF-2.8.7 Recreational Programs and Events. Provide recreational programs and events to meet community needs.

PPF-2.8.8 Youth Programs. Support local families and youth by providing after-school and summer offerings.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-2.8a Maintain the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission (SCCAC), which is charged with the responsibility of supporting needs for educating, encouraging and coordinating artistic endeavors in the County. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.8b Through the Arts Commission, develop partnerships with the non-profit, private sector, and the business community to encourage support for the arts. (Responsibility: Arts Commission)



PPF-2.8c Continue to support the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County for County arts fundraising and the awarding of grants to local artists and arts organizations, as well as the Arts Council Santa Cruz County and the Museum of Arts and History for their education, grant, and artist support programs. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.8d Continue to endorse state and federal grants, such as the State/Local Partner program, to local non-profit arts agencies. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.8e Support performing arts and special events programs in County parks and other appropriate public facilities and comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act to enable physical access to these facilities. (Responsibility: Arts Commission, Parks Department)

PPF-2.8f Maintain and expand art exhibits in the County government facilities, including art available for sale. (Responsibility: Arts Commission)



*Yermo Aranda, Santa Cruz County Artist of the Year in 2021
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*



PPF-2.8g (EJ) Support opportunities for citizens to learn skills in a variety of artistic disciplines through County recreation class offerings.

PPF-2.8h Explore the creation or expansion of cultural centers at existing parks facilities with classes and programming in a variety of disciplines for all ages. Potential sites to include, Quail Hollow Ranch, Cunnison Lane Park, Polo Grounds, Pinto Lake. (Responsibility: Parks Department, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.8i Incorporate public art, funded by the 2 percent Public Art program into the architecture and landscape design of County construction projects, including improvements to the County's infrastructure, as appropriate. (Responsibility: Arts Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-2.8j Maintain an inventory of public art in Santa Cruz County and establish a maintenance program in cooperation with affected agencies for the preservation of these resources. (Responsibility: Arts Commission, Parks Department)

PPF-2.8k Conduct surveys, analyze user data, and facilitate outreach to better understand park customers and how to provide programs that meet community needs.



PUBLIC SERVICES

GOAL PPF-3.0 PUBLIC SERVICES

OBJECTIVE PPF-3.1 PUBLIC SERVICES + FACILITIES

To facilitate improvement of public services and facilities in areas already committed to development, focus new land use development in areas where those services and facilities are available, and spread associated costs equitably among present and future residents and others who benefit.

Policies

PPF-3.1.1 (LCP) Public Infrastructure (Facility and Service) Standards for New Development.

Allow new development or intensification of land use only where public service levels are adequate for the land use designation or zone district, including water supply, sewage treatment, drainage and flood control, and road capacity, where adequate services will be provided concurrent with development, or where appropriate impact and in-lieu fees will be paid prior to development. New development may be allowed if only limited expansion of services is proposed in order to appropriately locate land-extensive uses along the periphery of urbanized areas and to prioritize urban infrastructure for more intensive uses that require urban services.

PPF-3.1.2 Focus Public Services and Facilities Within the Urban and Rural Services Line.

Utilize the USL and RSL as the basis for coordinating the development of public services and facilities among the various jurisdictions and special districts and prioritizing the County's Capital Improvement Program.

PPF-3.1.3 Capital Improvement Program. Maintain a 5-year Capital Improvement Program to schedule and program capital expenditures.

PPF-3.1.4 (LCP) Reservation of Public Works Capacity for Coastal Priority Uses. In the Coastal Zone, reserve capacity in existing or planned public works facilities for Coastal Priority Uses.

See also Objective BE-5.1: Coastal Zone Development and Appendix G: Coastal Priority Sites, Use and Development Standards.

PPF-3.1.5 (EJ) Coordinated Services. Coordinate with the planning efforts of other public agencies providing education, public health and safety services, community centers, library services, justice services, flood protection, energy, and technology and communications services, as appropriate.

See also Policy BE-1.5.5: Public Facility and Service Extensions.



PPF-3.1.6 (EJ) Equitable Public Services. Ensure the equitable provision of public amenities and infrastructure that improve the quality of life for all, including the distribution of funding resources, with priority to underserved and disadvantaged populations.

PPF-3.1.7 Countywide Capital Improvements Program. Encourage and cooperate with the cities and special districts in the development and continued operation of a countywide Capital Improvements Program for regionally significant projects for the purpose of establishing a regional mitigation bank to offset natural resource and transportation impacts.

PPF-3.1.8 (EJ) Community Social Support Services. Provide access to preventative and intervention services as well as food and basic support through integrated health care and social services.

PPF-3.1.9 (EJ) Improve Customer Experience. Provide customers of County government with equitable access to efficient, effective, and culturally responsive services through clear communication and engagement, and simplified processes to improve service delivery and customer satisfaction.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-3.1a Ensure building permits are not issued if a will serve letter has not been obtained from the appropriate water district or fire district. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Water Districts, Fire Districts)

PPF-3.1b Establish a County Capital Improvements Program to project and schedule capital expenditures over a five-year period, based on the adopted population growth rate and development projections; and update the program annually in conjunction with the adoption of the annual County budget. Ensure review by the Planning Commission for consistency with the General Plan and LCP (per State Government Code Section 65402(c)). (Responsibility: s, CDID, County Administrative Office, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

See also Implementation Strategy BE-1.5f.

PPF-3.1c Continue to implement the objectives and policies of Goal PPF-3.0, Public Services, by maintaining the following ordinances: Growth Management, USL and RSL, and Annual Population Growth Goal for Santa Cruz County. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.1d (EJ) Evaluate public facilities for health hazards or major sources of contamination and create a remediation or alternate plan to address any issues identified, including a funding approach. (Responsibility: CDID, Environmental Health Department, Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Office, Water Districts, and Sanitation Districts)



PPF-3.1e (EJ) Maintain interagency coordination agreements or memorandums of understanding with neighboring jurisdictions and partner agencies that provide urban public facilities and services within the County, to ensure effective and efficient service delivery of water, sewer, fire, drainage and flood control, and other essential services to all communities, including fringe and disadvantaged communities. (Responsibility: CDID and Environmental Health Department, Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Office, Water Districts, Sanitation Districts, and Fire Agencies)

See also Objective BE-5.3: Disadvantaged Communities and Policy BE-5.3.3: Target Uses and Development.

PPF-3.1f (EJ) Continue existing programs and pursue new programs that support access to health and wellness services for the County's vulnerable populations. Maintain current maps of disadvantaged and underserved populations. (Responsibility: CDID, County Administrative Office, and Board of Supervisors)

See also Objective BE-5.3: Disadvantaged Communities and Implementation Strategies BE-5.3a and BE-5.3d.

PPF-3.1g Seek funding to implement streamlined services to customers and to increase County responsiveness to customer needs. (Responsibility: CDID and Environmental Health, County Administrative Office, and Board of Supervisors)



OBJECTIVE PPF-3.2 SCHOOL + CHILD CARE FACILITIES

To ensure that adequate school and child care facilities and services are provided as an essential public service as part of new development, which would include school-age or preschool-age children and to alleviate current critical child care and school shortages.

Policies

PPF-3.2.1 Mitigating Child Care Impacts from New Development. Review development proposals with respect to impacts on child care; require, where appropriate, that proposed developments provide for mitigation of the impact of the proposed development on the need for child care facilities or services, as a condition of project approval.

PPF-3.2.2 Mitigating School Impacts from New Development. Prior to issuance of any building permit, require a written statement confirming payment in full of all applicable developer fees and other requirements lawfully imposed by each school district in which the project is located.

Prior to approval of any land division or other discretionary development permit application for a project, which would authorize additional development, consider the impact of such action on each school district in which the project is located. Require feasible mitigation measures permitted by law to reduce any significant impacts on the school system or approve the project on the basis of a statement of overriding considerations.

Prior to approval of any General Plan and/or LCP amendment, rezoning, or other legislative action, which would authorize additional development to occur as a matter of land use policies, consider the impact of such action on each school district within which the land is located. Either require feasible mitigation measures to reduce any significant impacts on each school district to a level of insignificance, deny the project if such mitigation measures are infeasible, or approve the project on the basis of a statement of overriding conditions. Mitigation measures may include, by way of example only, the reduction of residential densities or the controlled phasing of residential development within attendance areas of the school district having inadequate facilities or services.

PPF-3.2.3 Locations of New Schools. Work with school districts and the County Office of Education to plan for additional new school sites to accommodate future population needs.

PPF-3.2.4 School Financing. Work in cooperation with school districts to provide a method for financing school facilities necessitated by new residential developments causing conditions of overcrowding.

PPF-3.2.5 Community Use of School Facilities. Encourage broad community recreational and cultural use of school facilities by taking full advantage of the role and services of the



community schools, the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Cabrillo College as training, recreational, and cultural centers.

PPF-3.2.6 Child Care Facilities with Parks. Consider the development of child care facilities within existing and future County parks.

PPF-3.2.7 Financing Child Care. Maintain a Child Care Fee for new and expanded development to finance child care facilities and services.

PPF-3.2.8 (EJ) Exposure to Toxins. Reduce youth exposure to hazardous materials and pollutants.

PPF-3.2.9 (EJ) Health and Nutrition for Youth. Encourage and support services and programs that promote the healthy development of youth.



Photo Credit: Opportunity to Learn Through Helping: County's CTEP program visits Second Harvest Food Bank - Santa Cruz County Office Of Education (santacruzcoe.org)

Implementation Strategies

PPF-3.2a Develop a review procedure with the school districts to review proposed development projects with regard to school capacity and potential school sites. Utilize the School Facilities Fees justification document, prepared by the school districts, to analyze the impact of



proposed development in comparison to the long-range facilities plan. (Responsibility: CDID, School Districts, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.2b Assist the school districts in long-range planning to assess enrollment and facility needs, and to initiate a site identification and acquisition program as needed. Develop a mechanism to preserve and attain planned school sites. (Responsibility: CDID, School Districts, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.2c Maintain and administer a method by which the payment of fees, the dedication of land, or a combination thereof is required for the approval of all new residential development to mitigate impacts of growth on the school district. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, School Districts, CDID)

PPF-3.2d Coordinate with school districts to share appropriate demographic information to provide a common basis for long-range school and land use planning. (Responsibility: CDID, School Districts)

PPF-3.2e Establish cooperative programs between the school districts, Cabrillo College, UCSC, recreation districts, and the Parks Department to provide facilities and programs for community educational, recreational, and cultural activities. (Responsibility: School Districts, Parks Department, Recreation Districts)

PPF-3.2f (LCP) Develop a program in cooperation with school districts to maintain the accessibility of outdoor recreation areas during non-school hours and, where adequate supervision can be provided, to make indoor recreation facilities available to the public without increased financial burden to the school district. (Responsibility: School Districts, Parks Department, Recreation Districts)

PPF-3.2g Support child care programs and the Childhood Advisory Council in long-range to assess enrollment and facility needs. Develop a mechanism to support and preserve planned childcare sites. (Responsibility: CDID, Human Services Department, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.2h Maintain a method by which the payment of fees, the development of facilities, or a combination thereof is required, as appropriate, to mitigate child care shortages. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Officer, CDID, Human Services Department, County Counsel)

PPF-3.2i (EJ) In collaboration with schools, require the use of safe cleaning products in all day care and educational facilities to improve indoor air quality and minimize the risk of toxic exposure to children, teachers, and cleaning staff. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, School Districts)



PPF-3.2j (EJ) Support school-based programs that integrate gardening and nutrition and make the connection between healthy food choices and locally-grown fresh produce. (Responsibility: Human Services Department, School Districts)



*Mar Vista School
Kinder Enrichment
Program*

*Photo Credit: Santa
Cruz County*



OBJECTIVE PPF-3.3 LIBRARIES

To support a strong countywide library system with libraries distributed throughout the County in a geographically balanced manner to ensure equal access to information without regard to residence or economic status.

Policies

PPF-3.3.1 Siting Libraries. Locate libraries within community centers, adjacent to major commercial centers, or in other areas convenient for public use.



Photo Credit: <https://www.feltonlibraryfriends.org/>

PPF-3.3.2 Support and Expand Libraries. Support adequate library service in all parts of the County and continue to improve and expand services.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-3.3a Implement the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Facilities Master Plan and Strategic Plan, which includes major capital improvements to library facilities countywide and continued investigation of alternative funding sources. (Responsibility: Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Library Joint Powers Authority, Library Facilities Financing Authority, Library Advisory Commission, CDID, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.3b Engage in the regular update of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Facilities Master Plan and Strategic Plan. (Responsibility: Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Library Joint Powers Authority, Library Facilities Financing Authority, Library Advisory Commission, CDID, Board of Supervisors)



OBJECTIVE PPF-3-4 FIRE + POLICE PROTECTION

To provide police and fire protection services to County residents and property in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. In rural areas, provide a level of fire protection service feasible considering the difficult terrain, disperse settlement patterns, limited road and water improvements, and availability of mutual aid.

Policies

PPF-3.4.1 Reviewing New Development for Fire Protection. Require review of new developments, including building permits involving intensification of use on existing parcels of record, by the County Fire Marshal or local fire agency, and require adequate access, water supply, location and mitigations with respect to fire stations, Critical Fire Hazard Areas, and project design requirements in order to ensure adequate fire protection.

PPF-3.4.2 Development to be Consistent with Fire Hazards Policies. Allow development approvals only if adequate water supply, access, and response time for fire protection can be made available in accordance with the Fire Hazards policies found in the Public Safety Element and appropriate design and mitigation strategies are provided.

PPF-3.4.3 Future Fire Station Sites. Coordinate with fire departments to plan for future fire stations or improvements to existing staffing levels, stations, and equipment as well as provide ease of access in and out of all fire stations.

PPF-3.4.4 Annexation to Scotts Valley Fire Protection District. Future development outside of the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District boundaries, but inside of its sphere of influence, should be required, as a condition of project approval, to annex into the district.

PPF-3.4.5 21st Century Policing. Foster strong, collaborative relationships between the Sheriff's Office and the community, maintain trust between citizens and deputies, and promote effective crime prevention through the six pillars of 21st Century Policing as described in the 2016 Final Report of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Task Force on 21st Century Policing:

- Building trust and legitimacy
- Policy and oversight
- Technology and social media
- Community policing and crime reduction
- Training and education
- Officer wellness and safety

PPF-3.4.6 Maintaining Adequate Levels of Policing Services. Provide adequate levels of policing service to protect County residents and businesses.



PPF-3.4.7 Cost Effectiveness. Support all efforts directed at providing the best level of police protection services at the least cost.

PPF-3.4.8 Emergency Response. Work with the Office of Emergency Services to be prepared for and participate in emergency responses to local hazards and natural disasters as outlined in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Management Plan.

See also Objective PS-6.2.1: Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation and Implementation Strategy PS-6.7m.

PPF-3.4.9 Local Justice. Increase public safety through practices, programs, partnerships, and transformative opportunities that respect victims and reduce recidivism.



Central Fire District Station on 17th Avenue

Implementation Strategies

PPF-3.4a Support measures to improve the training and capabilities of fire protection agencies. (Responsibility: Fire Agencies, Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.4b Identify and review on a yearly basis, problem fire protection areas, both urban and rural, caused by limitations of water, roads, equipment, hazardous vegetation, etc., and establish necessary mitigation and improvement programs, density regulations, in-lieu fee programs, and site development standards. (Responsibility: CDID, Fire Agencies, County Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.4c Review the objectives established in the current Santa Cruz County Fire Department Master Plan for consistency with the General Plan and the LCP and develop an integrated planning program for fire protection. (Responsibility: County Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors, CDID)



PPF-3.4d Support the 911 emergency alarm system and response time standards through programs to ensure proper road and address markings. Eliminate duplicate street names and correct inconsistent house numbers for existing and new development. (Responsibility: CDID, Fire Agencies, Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-3.4e Review and update, in coordination with the fire protection agencies, water pressure/volume standards for adequate fire protection for various urban and rural levels of development. (Responsibility: Fire Agencies, Fire Marshal)

PPF-3.4f Investigate funding sources to develop and implement a financing strategy, which the fire districts can use to construct needed fire facilities, increase personnel levels, and incorporate improvements into the service area infrastructure to accommodate existing and future populations. (Responsibility: Fire Districts, Fire Marshal)

PPF-3.4g Establish and maintain cooperative fire protection and fire prevention agreements with other agencies. (Responsibility: Fire Districts, Fire Marshal)

PPF-3.4h Implement recommendations and responses for law enforcement as described in the 2016 Final Report of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. (Responsibility: County Sheriff)

PPF-3.4i Review existing levels of service for patrol deputies as they relate to population increases and changes in areas to be served. (Responsibility: County Sheriff, County Administrative Office)

PPF-3.4j Advance collaborative and innovative programs to promote safety and proven and promising practices that prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and increase successful reintegration. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, County Sheriff, County Administrative Office)



UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL PPF-4.0 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Provide for the health, safety, and welfare of County residents through provision of adequate infrastructure to support the existing and planned levels of development in the County within the limits of the County's finite natural resources and within the constraints of community-wide goals for environmental quality.

OBJECTIVE PPF-4.1 WATER SUPPLY + CONSERVATION

To ensure that the level of development permitted is supportable within the limits of the County's available water supplies, to provide the community a dependable supply of high quality domestic water, and to maximize the County's water conservation potential.

Policies

PPF-4.1.1 (LCP) Linking Growth to Water Supplies. Coordinate with all water agencies and water management agencies to ensure that land use and growth management decisions are linked directly to the availability of adequate, sustainable public and private water supplies.

PPF-4.1.2 (LCP) Written Commitments Confirming Water Service Required for Permits. Concurrent with project application, or prior to issuance of a building permit as authorized by the Planning Director, require a written commitment from the water agency that verifies the capability of the system to serve the development. Projects shall not be approved, or building permits shall not be issued, in areas that do not have a proven, adequate water supply. A written commitment is a letter from the agency guaranteeing that the required level of service for the project will be or is available, prior to the issuance of building permits, or in the case of a subdivision, prior to filing the Final Map or Parcel Map. The County decision making body shall not approve any development project unless it determines that such project has adequate water supply available.

PPF-4.1.3 (LCP) Impacts of New Development on Water Agencies. Review all new development proposals to assess impacts on municipal water systems, County water districts, or small water systems. Require that either adequate service is available or that the proposed development provide mitigation of its impacts as a condition of project approval.

See also Policy BE-4.2.6: Water Conservation.

PPF-4.1.4 (LCP) Improvement of Water Systems. Support water system improvement programs for storage, treatment and distribution facilities to meet necessary water supply and fire suppression requirements.

PPF-4.1.5 (EJ) (LCP) Groundwater Sustainability. Support the completion and implementation of groundwater sustainability plans for the Pajaro Valley, Santa Margarita, and Mid-County



groundwater basins to protect the long-term security of water supplies and to safeguard groundwater quality and maintain stream baseflows.

PPF-4.1.6 (LCP) Water Conservation Requirements. Utilize the best available methods for water conservation in new developments. Work with all water agencies to implement demand management programs and water conservation measures. Require the use of water-saving devices such as ultra low-flow fixtures and native drought-resistant planting in new development projects to promote ongoing water conservation.

PPF-4.1.7 (LCP) Water Reuse. Encourage the reuse and recycling of water where feasible and where reuse will not have a negative impact on public health or the environment, including the use of greywater systems, and recycling of irrigation water for irrigation purposes as acceptable to Environmental Health, Mosquito and Vector Control, State Department of Health Services, and Regional Water Quality Control Board.



*Boulder Creek Treatment Plant
Photo Credit: Santa Cruz County*

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.1a (LCP) Implement a coordinated program with water agencies and water management agencies involving public education, financial incentives to conserve, voluntary and mandatory conservation measures, retrofit programs, run-off management, and water waste regulations and



enforcement. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Water Conservation Coalition of Santa Cruz County, Environmental Health, CDID, Resource Conservation District)

PPF-4.1b (LCP) In accordance with state law, continue to implement the County's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance to maximize the efficiency of outdoor water use in specified development. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.1c (LCP) Continue to monitor the adequacy of available water supplies to support projected development, and review and amend the County General Plan and LCP periodically to ensure available water supply to serve projected levels of development without adverse impacts to groundwater resources or streams. (Responsibility: CDID, Environmental Health Department, Planning Commission, Groundwater Agencies, Board of Supervisors, Water Agencies)

PPF-4.1d Participate in the development of surface and groundwater management programs to ensure the availability of an adequate quantity and quality of domestic water supplies for urban and rural areas. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Groundwater Agencies, Environmental Health)

PPF-4.1e Administer standards for water supply distribution and storage and for urban levels of fire protection in accordance with the County Design Criteria. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Fire Agencies, CDID)

PPF-4.1f (EJ) Administer standards for safe and adequate water supplies for public and individual water systems under County jurisdiction, and coordinate water system and land use approvals. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, CDID)

PPF-4.1g Consider amending the County's well ordinance to require extraction reporting for all medium and large water wells. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Groundwater Agencies, PVWMA, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.1h (LCP) Administer state and local standards for greywater systems for domestic use. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, CDID)

PPF-4.1i (LCP) Evaluate the impacts of allowing additional wells in aquifers where overdraft is occurring. Develop criteria to regulate new well development, if necessary. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Board of Supervisors, Groundwater Agencies)

PPF-4.1j (LCP) Review and evaluate proposals by water agencies to develop supplemental sources of water supply (such as wastewater reclamation, water conservation, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), water transfers or conjunctive use) to reverse overdraft, seawater intrusion and other basin problems wherever they are occurring. The development and use of these sources must be consistent with General Plan and LCP resource protection and development policies. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Board of Supervisors, Environmental Health)



PPF-4.1k (LCP) Continue to monitor seawater intrusion in the Pajaro Valley, Mid-County, and along the North Coast. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Environmental Health)

PPF-4.1l Coordinate monitoring efforts with water agencies to provide comprehensive information on the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater resources. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Environmental Health)

PPF-4.1m (LCP) Provide public education regarding the need for groundwater resource management. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Water Agencies, Groundwater Agencies, Resource Conservation District)

PPF-4.1n (LCP) Continue to work with water agencies to provide for comprehensive and collaborative planning for water supply improvements to meet current and future water demands, provide adequate water for environmental uses, and take into account the projected impacts of climate change. (Responsibility: Water Agencies, Environmental Health, Groundwater Agencies)

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OBJECTIVE PPF-4.2 SANITATION FACILITIES

To provide necessary and adequate sanitation services for sewage collection, treatment and disposal.

Policies

PPF-4.2.1 (EJ) Sewer Service, within the Urban Services Line. Concurrent with project application, require a written commitment from the service district. A written commitment is a letter, with appropriate conditions, from the service district guaranteeing that the required level of service for the project will be available prior to issuance of building permits, or in the case of a subdivision, prior to filing the Final Map or Parcel Map. The County decision making body shall not approve any development project unless it determines that such project has adequate sewage treatment plant capacity.

PPF-4.2.2 Sewage Disposal Systems, within the Rural Services Line. Allow new development to occur at designated urban densities within the RSL where served by a community sewage disposal system operated by a public agency or an operator under contract to a public agency. Community sewage disposal systems should be built in such a way as to allow potential tertiary treatment and reclamation for irrigation and shall be sized to serve only the buildout densities for lands within the RSL. For areas within the RSL that do not have community sewage disposal, new development shall meet individual sewage disposal system standards and densities shall be calculated using the Rural Density Matrix until a community sewage disposal system is provided, except that school employee housing and affordable rental housing in the Public Facility Zone District and farmworker housing projects (all project types defined in SCCC 13.10) in agricultural zones are quasi-public or agricultural land uses and are not subject to the Rural Density Matrix. Such projects, if located on a site with an individual septic system, are subject to approval of the proposed septic system by the Environmental Health Division of the County's Health Services Agency.

See also Policies BE-2.2.6: Residential land Use Designations and Density within the RSL; ARC-1.4.9, ARC-1.4.10, and ARC-1.4.11 regarding farmworker housing; PFF-1.1.4: Affordable Rental Housing; and PPF-1.1.5: School Employee Housing.

PPF-4.2.3 Sewage Disposal Systems, Outside of Urban and Rural Service Lines. Plan for intensities of use and density of development to be limited to those levels supportable by individual sewage disposal systems where public sanitary sewer systems are not available. Allow the use of community sewage disposal systems only under the following conditions:

- (1) To allow for the continued operation of existing systems; and
- (2) To allow new systems in developed areas to correct existing disposal problems where individual sewage disposal systems are not suitable; and



- (3) To allow new systems to serve 100% affordable rental housing projects, Employee Housing Act (EHA) projects and Affordable Rental Farmworker Housing (ARFH) Projects as defined in SCCC 13.10, public facility/institutional uses such as schools, and to serve school employee housing as provided in Policy PPF-1.1.5 on sites owned by a public district or private school.

Allow systems under conditions 1., 2., and 3. only where approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, LAFCO, CDID, Environmental Health; and where operated by a public agency or private contractor to a public agency or a school, or for EHA and ARFH projects where the property owner enters into a recorded agreement with the County to provide for ongoing maintenance of the community sewage disposal system.

Allow sewer service connections from community sewage disposal systems and size line extensions only to serve the following:

- (1) Public facilities/institutional uses such as schools, including school employee rental housing; or
- (2) EHA and ARFH projects permitted pursuant to SCCC 13.10; or
- (3) Existing development that conforms to the General Plan land use designation, and, which have failing septic systems not able to be repaired; or
- (4) One existing dwelling unit per existing parcel of record, which has a failing septic system not able to be repaired.

In no case shall such connections allow for additional density beyond that allowed by (1) through (4) above.

PPF-4.2.4 Minimum Parcel Sizes and Maximum Densities with Individual Sewage Disposal Systems. Where individual sewage disposal systems are used, require a minimum parcel size to be based on the Rural Density Matrix for the land use designation, but in no case smaller than one net acre for parcels created from new land divisions. Allow a maximum density based on the Rural Density Matrix and not to exceed one dwelling unit per net acre for such parcels.

PPF-4.2.5 Development Linkage to Downstream Sewer System Improvements. Require new development to pay its full fair share of downstream sewer system improvements needed. In areas where cumulative sewer capacity is a problem, as indicated by the CDID, require all development to make required downstream improvements or be appropriately limited until downstream improvements are made.

PPF-4.2.6 (EJ) Sizing and Siting Sewer and Sewage Disposal Facilities. Require developers, including public agencies, to locate and size new systems to best serve all areas anticipated to require sewer service.



PPF-4.2.7 Sewage Disposal for Publicly Owned Facilities. Permit installation of sewage disposal systems within an easement on another lot to serve a publicly owned facility where technical or minimum parcel size standards cannot be met for sewage disposal at the site of the facility.

PPF-4.2.8 (LCP) Enhanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. Allow enhanced onsite wastewater treatment systems, which provide an environmentally acceptable level of treatment, as an alternative to conventional individual sewage disposal systems in rural areas. Such alternative systems must be approved by County Environmental Health.

PPF-4.2.9 (LCP) Water and Sewer Lines in Agricultural Areas. Except under certain conditions, as defined in policies ARC-3.1.13 through ARC-1.1.15, prohibit the expansion or placement of new water or sewer lines on commercial agricultural lands.

See Policies ARC-1.1.13: Utility District Expansion, ARC-1.1.14: Water and Sewer Lines in the Coastal Zone, and ARC-1.1.15: Protection for Water and Sewer Lines.

PPF-4.2.10 Wastewater Disposal. Allow land disposal of wastewater after adequate treatment to State wastewater reclamation standards. *See also Policy ARC-4.1.11: Land Disposal of Wastewater.*

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.2a Implement a phased program to upgrade sewer lines and treatment facilities within the USL to serve existing and planned populations. (Responsibility: Santa Cruz County Sanitation District, Freedom Sanitation District, City of Santa Cruz and Watsonville Public Works Departments, CDID, LAFCO)

PPF-4.2b Continue to monitor sanitation facilities and community sewage disposal systems and make needed corrections to minimize odor and mosquito problems. (Responsibility: Sanitation Districts, CDID, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.2c (EJ) Evaluate the feasibility of newly evolving technology to provide small community sewage disposal systems in a manner more environmentally and economically acceptable and more easily maintained than existing systems. (Responsibility: CDID and Environmental Health)

PPF-4.2d (EJ) Consider the use of a sewer extension, small-scale community facilities and/or on-site wastewater disposal zone improvement districts as methods to deal with the soil and water table conditions, which severely hamper the functioning of septic systems in the Amesti Road area. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, CDID, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.2e Consider all lands within the sphere of influence when sizing downstream sewer lines for the Freedom County Sanitation District. (Responsibility: Freedom County Sanitation District)



PPF-4.2f Prepare and implement a detailed-sewer improvement plan for the timely provision of public sewer services to the Buena Vista Road area, west of the Watsonville Airport. (Responsibility: Freedom County Sanitation District, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.2g Utilize County Service Area 12 and other financing mechanisms as appropriate to determine the feasibility of community sewage disposal systems in designated RSL areas of the San Lorenzo Valley to serve existing and projected levels of development so as to prevent environmental degradation and support economic development. (Responsibility: CDID, Board of Supervisors, Environmental Health)

PPF-4.2h (EJ) Maintain the Sewage Disposal ordinance and operate County Service Area 12 to oversee and promote septic system inspection, maintenance, and improvement to prevent environmental degradation. Give first priority to those areas of failing septic systems or high concentration of older development in stream valleys or where lots sizes are predominantly small. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, Board of Supervisors)

See also Objective ARC-4.2: Watershed Protection.



OBJECTIVE PPF-4.3 WASTEWATER RECLAMATION + ENERGY CONSERVATION

To maximize the energy efficiency and potential for energy conversion and resource recovery of sewage treatment in Santa Cruz County.

Policies

PPF-4.3.1 Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse Projects. Promote the reclamation and reuse of energy, water and nutrients in wastewater management, and give funding priority to reclamation and reuse projects in capital expenditures for wastewater management.

PPF-4.3.2 Wastewater Reclamation for Agricultural Use. Support the concept of building and upgrading sewage treatment facilities capable of producing reusable water, and the transporting of wastewater for reclamation and agricultural use within the Pajaro Valley or North Coast, when financially feasible, in order to reserve the limited groundwater primarily for domestic purposes.

PPF-4.3.3 Industrial Wastewater. Encourage private business and industry to initiate reuse of industrial wastewater, require separation of heavy metals and/or toxic pollutants from wastewater before discharge into sewage lines in order to facilitate sewage conversion for energy, nutrients, and water reclamation.

PPF-4.3.4 Reclamation for Energy Recovery. To the extent possible, require sewage treatment and solid waste disposal projects to utilize sewage and solid waste reclamation and conversion techniques that provide resource conservation and net energy benefit to the County.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.3a Develop criteria to facilitate selection of the most energy-efficient and cost-effective sewage treatment systems, including consideration of potential cost-offsets for water supply, soil improvement, and environmental pollution. (Responsibility: Commission on the Environment, CDID, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.3b Develop and implement resource recovery and energy conversion programs where environmentally safe, energy-efficient and cost-effective for existing sewage treatment

Stormwater Management

Stormwater is a resource and an asset and should not be treated as a waste product. Managing stormwater at the source is a more effective and sustainable alternative for augmenting water supply, preventing impacts from flooding and climate change, mitigating stormwater pollution, creating green space, and enhancing habitat.

Other policies relating to water resources can be found in the Agriculture, Natural Resources + Conservation Element.



facilities, or for remodeling and/or expansion of existing treatment facilities, including consideration of such processes as:

- (1) Biological (e.g., aquacells) or hybrid treatment;
- (2) Methane gas recovery for on-site use and/or external markets;
- (3) Nutrient recovery for fertilizer;
- (4) Water reclamation for groundwater recharge, irrigation, or industrial processes; and
- (5) Sludge reclamation by vermiculture.

(Responsibility: Commission on the Environment, State Department of Health Services, Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDID)



OBJECTIVE PPF-4.4 FLOOD CONTROL, DRAINAGE + STORMWATER

To provide necessary flood control facilities to prevent flooding and consequent damage to property and improvements, to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollutants to the maximum extent practicable in order to protect water quality and watersheds and maintain compliance with the Clean Water Act, and to recognize stormwater as an asset and resource.

Policies

PPF-4.4.1 (LCP) New Development and Redevelopment. Require runoff levels to be maintained at predevelopment rates for a minimum design storm as determined by County Design Criteria by requiring projects to provide both on and off-site improvements, including on-site percolation methods. Utilize on-site detention methods only where percolation methods are not feasible. In addition, development and use permits shall comply with any and all relevant stormwater program requirements under the State Water Resources Control Board Agriculture, Cannabis Cultivation, Wastewater, and other regulatory programs.

PPF-4.4.2 (LCP) Dry Weather Run Off. In order to protect water quality, prohibit non stormwater discharge from leaving private property, entering the storm drain system, entering the receiving waters of the County, or percolating into the groundwater.

PPF-4.4.3 (LCP) Minimizing Impervious Surfaces. Require new development and redevelopment to limit coverage of lots by parking areas and other impervious surfaces, in order to minimize the amount of post-development surface runoff and maintain groundwater recharge rates.

See also Policy BE-4.2.5: Stormwater Runoff Reduction.

PPF-4.4.4 (LCP) Downstream Impact Assessments. For any proposed development or redevelopment project within the County, require the applicant to conduct a downstream impact assessment and submit a stormwater management plan. The assessment should analyze the design of any improvements needed to upgrade the storm drain system such that local flooding would be eliminated for the appropriate design rainstorm. Ensure the project is conditioned to make improvements and/or pay fair share of improvement costs.



*Permeable paving and landscaping capture and percolate stormwater runoff
Photo Credit: MIG, Inc.*

PPF-4.4.5 (LCP) Control Surface Runoff. Require new development and redevelopment to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollutants to the maximum extent practicable in order to protect surface and groundwater quality and watersheds. Condition development project approvals to provide ongoing maintenance for the stormwater management facilities associated with their developments. **PPF-4.4.6 (LCP) Integrated Regional Water Management.** Continue to support and participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management and related planning efforts for the Santa Cruz and Pajaro regions.

PPF-4.6.7 (LCP) Stormwater Resource Plan. Support implementation and update of the Santa Cruz Storm Water Resource Plan to promote stormwater recharge projects.

PPF-4.6.8 Mosquito Prevention. Design, inspect, and maintain water basins (wastewater basins, stormwater facilities, and other water facilities) to ensure that water infiltrates into the subsurface completely (recommended infiltration rate of 96 hours or less) and that vegetation is managed to prevent creating mosquito habitats.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.4a (LCP) Provide administrative and engineering drainage services to supervise, maintain, upgrade and replace drainage and flood control facilities. Implement capital improvement projects to improve stormwater drainage and alleviate flooding conditions in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program. (Responsibility: CDID, Flood Control and Water Conservation District)



PPF-4.4b (LCP) In conjunction with responsible federal, state and local agencies, continue to examine flooding problems and potential projects to help reduce the frequency and extent of flood damages along the Pajaro River, Corralitos Creek, Soquel Creek, and the San Lorenzo River between Boulder Creek and Santa Cruz. (Responsibility: CDID, Flood Control Zone 7, City of Watsonville, Monterey County, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.4c (LCP) Develop zoning standards for maximum impervious area coverage to be allowed in projects. (Responsibility: CDID, and Environmental Health)

See also Implementation Strategy PPF-BE-4.2f.

PPF-4.4d (LCP) Develop conditions of approval for development projects to require monitoring and reporting for retention, detention, pervious pavements, and water quality treatment facilities to determine their effectiveness and maintenance requirements. Review and analyze the monitoring and reporting results to update County Design Criteria requirements. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.4e (LCP) Follow recommendations and guidelines in resource management plans to reduce the risk of flooding and improve environmental quality of riparian corridors. (Responsibility: CDID, Flood Control Zone 7, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Watsonville, Board of Supervisors, Monterey County)

PPF-4.4f (LCP) Require all stables and other animal keeping operations to be managed to prevent discharge of sediment, nutrients and contaminants to surface and groundwater. (Responsibility: Environmental Health, CDID.)

PPF-4.4g (LCP) Work collaboratively within County departments and with other public agencies to implement the strategies and best management practices identified in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Responsibility: Santa Cruz Regional Water Management Group, Pajaro Regional Water Management Group, Environmental Health, CDID)

PPF-4.4h (LCP) Implement the Stormwater Management Plan programs and best practices and maintain compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit. (Responsibility: Agricultural Commissioner, Animal Shelter, Environmental Health, General Services, Parks, CDID)

PPF-4.4i (LCP) Educate residents and businesses about stormwater pollution prevention opportunities and efforts being made to improve water quality. (Responsibility: Agricultural Commissioner, Environmental Health, Sanitation Districts, Parks Department, CDID)

PPF-4.4j (LCP) Review existing programs and practices and update these to encourage alternative, innovative, multi-objective solutions to help use and protect stormwater as a valuable



resource, while at the same time controlling pollution due to urban runoff. (Responsibility: Environmental Health and CDID)

PPF-4.4k Investigate potential program for regional stormwater mitigation systems to benefit water quality, groundwater recharge, and/or flood control to support existing and future public and private development. (Responsibility: Environmental Health and CDID)

PPF-4.4l Review and develop updates to the County Code and County Design Criteria to incorporate low impact development stormwater design in public roads and private developments. (Responsibility: CDID)

See also Policy BE-4.3.8: Low Impact Streetscape Landscaping and Implementation Strategy BE-4.3c.



OBJECTIVE 4.5 INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

Policies

PPF-4.5.1 Materials Recovery. Establish, in conformance with state law, materials recovery through recycling, reuse and composting, as the primary and fundamental strategy of solid waste management by the County, with landfill disposal as a secondary and essential component. Designate materials recovery and reuse projects as a funding priority in allocating capital expenditures for solid waste management.

PPF-4.5.2 Zero Waste. Take into account the whole materials management system to achieve a zero waste goal by focusing on reducing and eliminating materials from entering into the waste stream first and foremost; as a secondary strategy focus on reusing materials; and as a tertiary strategy recycling and composting all remaining materials for their highest and best use.

PPF-4.5.3 Materials Acquisition and Handling Practices. Require all County departments to develop materials acquisition and handling practices, which reduce the amount of waste generated in daily operations. Encourage, through education and technical assistance, all private and public developments to establish similar materials handling practices.

PPF-4.5.4 Support Businesses. Recognize and support businesses, which manufacture using recovered materials or deal in reusable discards as important to the local economy and to County landfill diversion goals through the Green Business Program and other mechanisms.

PPF-4.5.5 Product Packaging Reform. Continue to use education programs, and mandatory phase-outs or bans to eliminate products with non-recyclable, non-biodegradable or excessive packaging.

PPF-4.5.6 Economic Viability. Maintain the economic viability of the integrated waste management system through user-based and benefit-related funding.

PPF-4.5.7 Increase Recycling Opportunities. Provide the opportunity for recycling to all residents and businesses in the unincorporated County in a convenient manner to maximize participation, including recycling collection services, curbside dropoff, buyback and source-separated collection through publicly provided service, as well as non-profit and private independent collection businesses.

PPF-4.5.8 Address Illegal Dumping. Create a cooperative interdepartmental program to address illegal dumping, particularly in open spaces and riparian areas.

PPF-4.5.9 Meeting State and Local Landfill Diversion Goals. Consider mandatory recycling or material-specific landfill disposal prohibitions if state and local landfill diversion goals are not met through the use of voluntary programs.



PPF-4.5.10 Storage Requirement for Recyclable Materials. Require all development projects, except single-family dwellings, to provide sufficient and accessible space for the storage and collection of recyclable materials separate from, and in addition to, space for refuse storage and collection. Encourage owners of existing buildings to provide such space, where feasible.

PPF-4.5.11 Small-Scale Recycling Collection Facilities. Recognize small-scale recycling collection facilities as a compatible accessory use in all land use designations, subject to appropriate zoning standards.

PPF-4.5.12 On-Site Yard Waste Composting. Allow properly managed on-site yard waste composting for materials generated on-site in all land use designations. Continue to provide support for on-site composting through education and technical assistance.

PPF-4.5.13 (EJ) Yard Waste Collection. Provide separate collection of yard waste, for off-site composting, from residential and non-residential generators and continue to phase in collection of food waste and other compostable material. Require new development to provide sufficient space for separate storage of yard waste for composting.

PPF-4.5.14 Siting of Recycling and Composting Facilities. Provide publicly owned facilities of sufficient size, location and design to meet the processing requirements for all County-sponsored recycling and composting programs and for local city-sponsored programs choosing to participate. Ensure sufficient capacity and make said facilities available to process materials from local non-profit and private recycling and composting businesses.

PPF-4.5.15 (LCP) Organics Waste Diversion. Adopt strategies and continue to conduct planning efforts to remove all organic wastes from the waste stream.

PPF-4.5.16 Multi-jurisdictional Planning and Operations. Establish multi-jurisdictional and public-private cooperation as a primary principle in planning and operating recycling and composting processing facilities.

PPF-4.5.17 State Coordination. Work with state and regional permitting agencies, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, California Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, and CalRecycle, to approve a composting facility or provide an alternative means for the processing of organic waste.

PPF-4.5.18 Materials Recovery and Processing Programs. Include a public education and information component of materials recovery and processing programs to ensure public awareness and understanding of program participation requirements, program objectives and accomplishments and program costs and benefits.

PPF-4.5.19 Recyclable vs. Refuse Contracts. Ensure that solid waste collection contracts maintain a distinction between recyclable materials and refuse.



PPF-4.5.20 Economic Incentives for Recycling. Establish a solid waste collection rate structure, which provides economic incentives for recycling more and disposing less.

PPF-4.5.21 (EJ) Land Use Compatibility with Waste Disposal. Ensure compatibility of land uses adjacent to County solid waste disposal and transfer facilities through zoning and the land use permit process.

PPF-4.5.22 Landfills and Environmental Protection. Ensure protection of the local environment, including air, groundwater and surface water resources through proper landfill design, construction, operation and on-going environmental monitoring.

PPF-4.5.23 Hazardous Wastes and Environmental Damaging Compounds in Landfills. Prohibit the disposal of radioactive waste, hazardous waste and ozone depleting compounds in County landfills.

PPF-4.5.24 Recyclable Materials in Landfills. Consider adoption of landfill disposal bans for specific recyclable or compostable materials where necessary to achieve County materials recovery and landfill diversion goals.

PPF-4.5.25 Access to Landfills and Materials Recovery Facilities. Continue to provide access to individual self-haul vehicles either at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station, the Buena Vista Landfill or at future Materials Recovery Facilities for refuse disposal, household hazardous waste drop-off and recycling and other materials recovery.

PPF-4.5.26 Gas Capture Systems. Continue and improve systems and programs for the recovery of landfill gases, including methane, as funding becomes available.

PPF-4.5.27 Reuse of Closed Landfill Sites. Provide for rehabilitation and reuse of closed landfill sites consistent with environmental protection requirements, while planning for the future solid waste needs of the County. Rehabilitation shall include mitigation of resource degradation, where possible.

PPF-4.5.28 Refuse Collection Standards. Maintain consistent standards of collection and ensure availability of collection service throughout the unincorporated County.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.5a Develop and implement specific source reduction programs to address purchasing practices, public awareness, source reduction audits, packaging reduction, materials exchange, surplus food redistribution, economic incentives, reusables and on-site composting. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, CDID, General Services, County Administrative Office)



- PPF-4.5b** Continue to advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) through membership in the California Product Stewardship Council and update the SCCC to encourage and achieve EPR. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5c** Implement and update the County's Zero Waste Plan through activities, programs, green practices, education, and behavioral changes. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5d** Maintain an on-going integrated waste management planning process to include long-range planning, program development and administrative oversight, program, technology, legislative monitoring, and public participation. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5e** Review and monitor zoning and other land use regulations to ensure compatibility with integrated waste management programs and facilities. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5f** Support state and federal legislation to provide for energy-efficient and cost-effective reclamation and/or reuse of solid waste materials. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)
- PPF-4.5g (EJ)** Identify publicly owned recycling/composting facilities with a Public Facility land use designation and ensure compatible land uses on adjacent properties. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5h** Develop and implement recycling programs, including residential, commercial, industrial, institutional collection and general public dropoff at County solid waste facilities. (Responsibility: County Administrative Office, CDID)
- PPF-4.5i** Continue the use of the Buena Vista Landfill for landfill disposal and the Ben Lomond Transfer Station for solid waste transfer to Buena Vista or other landfill site. Utilize disposal methods and diversion practices at the Buena Vista Landfill to extend the landfill lifespan as long as possible. Begin planning for closure of the landfill and explore possible uses including converting it to a transfer station to address the County's critical solid waste needs. (Responsibility: CDID, Board of Supervisors)
- PPF-4.5j** Establish a large-scale composting operation to process yard waste initially and subsequently to process food waste and other organic materials when economically feasible. (Responsibility: County Administrative Office, CDID)
- PPF-4.5k** Create a program for organics waste collection that includes educational components and signage.
- PPF-4.5l** Maintain a solid waste contract that requires additional refuse collection sites to be added as needed with enclosures when requested. (Responsibility: CDID)
- PPF-4.5m** Create a program that includes tools such as increasing curbside collection, providing more refuse collection along tourist routes, and addressing waste from encampments to reduce illegal dumping. (Responsibility: CDID)



PPF-4.5n Establish guidelines for applying economic incentives in the form of permit and other fee waivers for development programs, which will result in the manufacture of products made from secondary materials recovered from County-sponsored recycling or composting collection programs. (Responsibility: CDID, County Administrative Office)

PPF-4.5o Maintain and market the Green Business Network program to encourage and support businesses participating in waste reduction practices. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.5p Require County use of products made from recycled materials, such as oil, paper products, glass, metal and plastic products, where feasible and cost-effective. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.5q Continue an ongoing program of public education and information to address specific materials recovery programs, topical issues, and broader issues of costs/benefits and resource conservation, affecting materials recovery and integrated waste management goals and objectives. Continue locally relevant Green Schools program addressing materials recovery, resource an energy conservation, and integrated waste management. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.5r (EJ) Consider disadvantaged communities when assessing locations for increased public refuse and recycling services. (Responsibility: CDID)

See also Objective BE-5.3: Disadvantaged Communities and Policy BE-5.3.3: Target Uses and Development.

PPF-4.5s Support the County's compliance with the statewide trash total maximum daily load. (Responsibility: CDID)



OBJECTIVE PPF-4.6 ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

To improve the reliability and aesthetic quality of the electrical energy distribution system in order to promote public health and safety, environmental protection, and resource conservation in the operation of existing or new energy production or distribution systems.

See also Objective ARC-5.1: Protection of Visual Resources.

Policies

PPF-4.6.1 (LCP) Undergrounding Lines. Require new power line distribution systems and service extensions to new development within the USL to be placed underground.

PPF-4.6.2 (LCP) Protecting Scenic Quality. Discourage new high-voltage overhead transmission line corridors that impinge upon the scenic quality of the County. Work with utility providers to place existing transmission lines underground, as feasible in accordance with County priorities.

PPF-4.6.3 Recreational Use of Utility Rights-of-Way. Encourage the use of utility rights-of-way for bikeways and hiking paths where appropriately located and where shown to be not hazardous to users.

PPF-4.6.4 Location of Public Utility Transmission Facilities. Public utility transmission and distribution facilities, including substations, shall be allowed in all land use districts, provided, however, that the routes or site plans of all proposed gas and electric transmission lines and substations shall be submitted to the CDID for review and recommendations prior to the acquisition of necessary land rights. No discretionary permit shall be required for a proposed land use, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission or the California Energy Commission.

PPF-4.6.5 (LCP) Criteria for LCP Amendments for Energy Facilities. Establish the following criteria for amendments to the General Plan and LCP for permitting the location of energy facilities in addition to stated LCP policies:

- Adequate infrastructure and public services are available including, but not limited to, water, sewer, fire protection, road capacity, law enforcement and medical services.
- The use would provide full protection of sensitive habitat areas, commercial fishing, recreational and agricultural uses.
- The use would be visually compatible with and have minimum disruption of viewsheds.
- Consistency with federal, state, and local air quality regulations.

PPF-4.6.6 (LCP) Maintenance and Repair of Utility Facilities in the Coastal Zone. Allow utility repair or maintenance activities that do not result in an addition, or enlargement or expansion of,



the utility facility. Coastal Development Permits may be required when methods of repair and maintenance involve a risk of substantial adverse environmental impact, and where repair activities take place in wetland areas.

PPF-4.6.7 (LCP) Community Energy Systems. Allow the development of “Community Energy Systems” in locations where compatible with adjacent land use and with adequate mitigation of noise, emissions, and visual impacts.

PPF-4.6.8 (LCP) Reusable Energy Sources. Consider the development of municipal solar utilities and other financing mechanisms, which increase public access to renewable energy sources and provide opportunities for small-scale, decentralized local facilities and controls.

PPF-4.6.9 Energy Efficiency. Support increased energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and public facilities.



Photo Credit: Jeremy Bezanger on Upsplash

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.6a (LCP) Continue implementation of underground utility districts for the rural village centers and urban areas to place utilities underground. (Responsibility: CDID, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.6b Maintain design guidelines, or an ordinance requiring undergrounding of new utilities or utility extensions for new development. (Responsibility: CDID, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.6c Support the Central Coast Community Energy and other large-scale and small-scale renewable energy sources, including publicly owned solar utilities, and promote their



Solar panels cover parking area. Photo Credit: Placeworks, Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan, 2015.



establishment where feasible. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Commission on the Environment)

PPF-4.6d (LCP) Oppose before the California Energy Commission all new electric power plants, which have a generating capacity over 50 megawatts, proposed to be sited in Santa Cruz County's Coastal Zone, based on the California Coastal Commission's designation of the Santa Cruz County coastline as unsuitable for powerplant construction, and on the findings included in, "Designation of Coastal Zone Areas Where Construction of an Electric Power Plant Would Prevent Achievement of the Objectives of the California Coastal Act of 1976" (California Coastal Commission, revised 1/1/80). (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.6e (LCP) Support the State of California's designation of the tidelands and submerged lands in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, including the Monterey Bay, as an oil and gas sanctuary. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.6f (LCP) Actively support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's designation of the Monterey Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary with conditions prohibiting oil and gas development and radioactive waste discharge. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors)

PPF-4.6g (LCP) Encourage and support the development of renewable energy resources and renewable energy production facilities. Increase renewable energy generation at County facilities, as feasible. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, CDID, General Services)

PPF-4.6i Assess the use of wood fuel for its negative impact on air quality and the County's ability to maintain a sustainable level of fuel wood harvest. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Monterey Bay Air Resources District, CDID)

PPF-4.6i Continue the Green Government Certification program for County facilities and enhance the program by expanding it to all County facilities and strengthening the standards for recertification. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, General Services, CDID)

PPF-4.6j Continue the program of upgrading to use low emitting diode (LED) lighting, heating and cooling systems, appliances, equipment and control systems by seeking funding sources to complete projects at County facilities. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, General Services)

PPF-4.6k Amend County street lighting standards to require LED streetlights as feasible, in coordination with PG&E. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, CDID)

PPF-4.6m Support the Santa Cruz County solar energy project to install photovoltaic panels and associated equipment at the former Ben Lomond Landfill. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, CDID)



OBJECTIVE PPF-4.7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS + BROADBAND

To support the provision of state-of-the-art telecommunication and broadband services for households, businesses, schools, institutions, and public agencies throughout the County to foster fiscal sustainability, access to education, an innovative economy, support environmental leadership, and advance other General Plan goals.

Policies

PPF-4.7.1 Communications Infrastructure. Support and facilitate the provision of communications infrastructure needed by high-tech, knowledge-based industries, and education facilities.

PPF-4.7.2 (EJ) Universal Telecommunications. Promote universal and competitive services to residences, businesses, and schools.

Broadband

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as: Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable, Fiber, Wireless and Satellite.

DSL is a wireline transmission technology that transmits data faster over traditional copper telephone lines already installed to homes and businesses. Cable modem service enables cable operators to provide broadband using the same coaxial cables that deliver pictures and sound to your TV set. Fiber optic technology converts electrical signals carrying data to light and sends the light through transparent glass fibers about the diameter of a human hair. Fiber transmits data at speeds far exceeding current DSL or cable modem speeds. Wireless broadband connects a home or business to the Internet using a radio link between the customer's location and the service provider's facility. Wireless broadband can be mobile or fixed. Just as satellites orbiting the earth provide necessary links for telephone and television service, they can also provide links for broadband. Satellite broadband is another form of wireless broadband and is also useful for serving remote or sparsely populated areas.

"Last mile" refers to the final leg of a network that provides service to the home or business. "Middle mile" refers to the physical mid-section of the infrastructure, made up of high-capacity fiber lines carrying data between global internet networks and local networks, which is required to enable the "last mile."



PPF-4.7.3 (EJ) Improving Access. Work with utility companies to retrofit areas that are not served by current telecommunication technologies and provide strategic long-range planning of telecommunication facilities for newly developing areas, as feasible.

PPF-4.7.4 Local Innovation. Encourage local industries, higher educational institutions, and other entities to support innovation in the design and implementation of state-of-the-art telecommunication technologies and facilities.

PPF-4.7.5 Collocation. Encourage compatible collocation of telecommunication facilities. Work with utility companies to provide opportunities for siting telecommunications facilities on County-owned property and public right-of-way.

PPF-4.7.6 Dig Once. Research and establish a dig once approach for utilities to install conduit for broadband in order to reduce the cost of deployment and reduce the impact on public infrastructure.

PPF-4.7.7 Improve Last Mile Service. Develop a roadmap plan with objectives and goals for addressing last mile gaps or poor last mile service.

Implementation Strategies

PPF-4.7a Leverage high-tech infrastructure/dark fiber at UCSC and other local educational institutions and promote innovative partnerships to broaden access to that infrastructure to other parts of the County. (Responsibility: CDID, Board of Supervisors)



*Cruzio Office, local internet provider in Santa Cruz
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PPF-4.7b Establish requirements for the installation of state-of-the-art internal telecommunications technologies in new large-scale planned communities and office and commercial developments. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.7c Improve visitor services with real-time technology. Examples are traffic cameras, parking availability, online reservations, rapidly updatable information signs, and GPS-based information systems. (Responsibility: CDID)

PPF-4.7d Coordinate with the Central Coast Broadband Consortium and nearby jurisdictions such as the City of Santa Cruz to develop and adopt a dig once ordinance. (Responsibility: CDID)



PPF-4.7e Work with non-profits and other agencies to develop a list of community resources, creating an actionable plan with targeted projects, identified funding resources, and community partners to attract companies capable of providing last mile services. (Responsibility: CDID, Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Office)