**INTRODUCTION**

In a survey of California City Mayors, State Legislators, County Supervisors and Executives there was agreement that parks played a vital role in any community. Some of the benefits of adequate park and open space cited were a stronger community image and sense of place, protection of valuable environmental, cultural and historic resources and the ability to provide recreational programs and opportunities for elderly, disabled and low income residents at a reduced cost.

Since many comments from two sets of General Plan workshops highlighted the importance of maintaining and increasing park and open spaces, beach and trail access and other passive and active recreational venues for Goleta, ample open space and various recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities appears to be a high priority for citizens of Goleta.

This draft report will give a detailed inventory and categorize all open spaces transferred from the County of Santa Barbara to the City of Goleta. It will also list other public and private recreational opportunities in or near the city of Goleta that are utilized by both residents and area employees.

The final report will conclude with a current assessment of the operations and maintenance of the city’s parks and open spaces and plans for future projects. Although opportunities for bicycling are a pertinent component of any recreational plan, they are also an important alternative transportation option. As such, the city’s existing and proposed bike lanes will be discussed in the background report on traffic and circulation issues.
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Photos taken by City of Goleta staff except for Goleta Beach (County of Santa Barbara), El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches (State of California) and Girsh Park.
DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this report, the following definitions are used:

Regional Open Space or Preserve – an area which, because of its unique characteristics or amenities, is used by citizens throughout the Southcoast area, as well as those living within the city of Goleta.

Community Park or Open Space – an area which, because of the particular amenities it offers, is used by Goleta citizens who live in the surrounding area, as well as the adjacent neighborhood. This category includes parks that provide most of the public active recreational facilities that serve the community.

Neighborhood Park or Open Space – an area used primarily by residents of the adjacent neighborhood. Parks are developed with at least some amenities, open spaces are not.

Trail – an earthen or decomposed granite path through an open space area.

Walkway – a concrete path for pedestrians through a developed area. May also be used by cyclists and skaters.

Bikepath – an off–street, striped, paved path for cyclists through either an open space or developed area. May also be used by pedestrians and skaters.

BACKGROUND

The 1993 Goleta Community Plan outlined an existing deficit in both passive and active recreational opportunities, with the need for more active recreational venues considered much more acute. There was also a projected increase in the deficit which would be caused by future population growth from build-out of the Plan.

The Plan lists two Class I (significant and unmitigable) impacts to Parks, Recreation and Trails/Open Space. The first impact was due to an anticipated lack of funds to acquire additional property and trail easements, as well as fund operations and maintenance for increases in parks, open space and other recreational opportunities. The second impact was caused by the combination of Plan build-out and projected future growth from UCSB which, cumulatively, would have significant impacts on the availability of recreational opportunities.
There were a number of policies listed as mitigation measures to ameliorate these anticipated impacts, including encouraging diverse outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities, pursuing all opportunities to acquire and preserve public multi-use trails and land for neighborhood and community parks, entering into a joint use agreement with the school districts and establishing an Open Space and Park District. Since that time there has been no progress in obtaining a trail access from any Goleta streets into the Los Padres National Forest. Also, the joint use agreement and the park district policies were not implemented. Several Class 1 and 2 bikeways have been constructed and various amenities, like play structures, have been added or replaced.

In 1999 the County of Santa Barbara hired David Taussig and Associates to prepare an AB 1600 Fee Justification Study for Park Facilities for the Goleta Planning Area. The report used the County’s existing facility requirement of 4.7 acres of public parklands per 1,000 persons as its basis and examined both the supply of parks relative to the resident population and an equivalent demand from industrial and commercial uses. The Study calculated an existing deficit totaling 90.45 acres (74.94 active/19.78 passive) at a cost of $49,725,354 and the increased need for future residents at 24.73 acres costing $13,532,896. While the higher mitigation fees were anticipated to cover the increase for future residents, the $49,725,354 needed to build park facilities for existing residents could not be covered by the new fees and remained an existing deficiency to be met through other revenue sources.¹

Upon Goleta’s incorporation in 2002, Santa Barbara County transferred a number of properties to the City. Definitions have been applied to each property in this report to identify Regional Open Space Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood Open Spaces as shown on the map on page 6.

The inventory of Parks herein shows that the City has a total of 365 acres in parks (390 acres if Girsh Park is included) which equates to approximately 12.6 acres per thousand population, (13.4 acres per thousand counting the Girsh facility.)² 256 acres are located in the two regional open space preserves, Santa Barbara Shores and Los Carneros, with all passive recreational acreage totaling 293.6 acres when all the small undeveloped open space areas in various neighborhoods are included with the regional preserves. 96.7 acres are in parks

¹ The Board of Supervisors approved fees of $7,004 for each new single family home, $5,179 for each new multi-family unit, $2,223 and $3,135 per 1,000 square feet for new retail and non-retail commercial development. However, subsequently the Board substantially reduced fees for any housing projects providing affordable or special needs units on site. In addition, the County Parks Commission credited park fees for any onsite recreational amenities provided.
² There are discrepancies in various sources regarding the acreages in park land. All acreage figures in this report are computed by the City from a Geographical Information System. While this may not have survey accuracy these figures should be close to accurate.
classified here as community or neighborhood parks that include at least some developed recreational areas. These active parks provide 2 or 3 acres of land per thousand population depending upon whether Girsh Park is included in the calculation or not.

**MAP OF CITY PARKS**
REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

The Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve

The Lake Los Carneros Open Space Preserve at 139.8 acres, including the adjacent Stow House historic site, constitutes the single largest open space area in the city of Goleta at the current time. A Master Plan assessment of the property in 1987 stated that “because of its natural beauty and resource value, its large size and its historical associations, Lake Los Carneros Preserve is one of the most important natural and cultural resources in the region.”

The property is located between La Patera Lane on the east and Los Carneros Road on the west, with the northern boundary at Covington Way and the southern boundary at Calle Real. The property is highly visible from Highway 101 and all adjacent roadways and sweeping vistas of both the mountains and the ocean can be seen from various locations on the site.

Originally a portion of the Stow family’s “La Patera Rancho” from 1844 to 1960, the property was proposed for a large golf course and housing development in 1966. However, public opposition to the project slowed the development process. In 1967 the County was successful in purchasing the property.


City of Goleta, California
containing the Stow House and associated buildings and by 1974 had assembled state park monies and other funds to acquire the rest of the property. Although some early plans included more active recreation, a “preserve” designation, rather than a “park” designation for the area was ultimately chosen. Both members of the public and County decisionmakers wanted to emphasize the importance of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty and habitat areas, as well as historic value, already existing on the site.

The “preserve” designation and passive recreational use of the area has been maintained to the present through the adoption of a master plan for the property by the County Board of Supervisors in 1987. Amenities include hiking paths, an elevated boardwalk over the lake, three benches and two portable toilets. The George Adams picnic area has three tables and one bench. The 22 acre freshwater lake has an earthen dam and contains several varieties of fish. Fishing in the lake is allowed, but not swimming.

The preserve contains a wide variety of vegetation including open grassland, riparian, scrub disturbed land, windrows and mature grove plantings, fresh water marsh, vernal pools and exotic plant specimens in the arboretum surrounding Stow House. This vegetation provides important habitat for a large number of bird, reptile, amphibian and small mammal species. As many as 220 different bird species have been sighted there, with 50 of those species occasionally nesting in the preserve. The eucalyptus windrows throughout the site provide habitat for monarch butterflies, with at least three separate overwintering sites identified.

The preserve contains areas of both prehistoric and historic importance. A Native American presence in the area can be traced back at least 9,000 years through four known archaeological sites found on the property. Of more recent

historic interest, Stow House was built in 1872 as the family home for the Stow family and the hub of the ranching and farming activities for the large La Patera Rancho. Among other accomplishments, the Stow Ranch was the location of one of the first commercial lemon groves in California. In 1967 Stow House was designated one of the county’s first official historical landmarks. That portion of the preserve is currently leased to the Goleta Valley Historical Society which operates and maintains the property. Stow House and the associated ranch buildings, including a historical museum, are open to the public and tours and special events are held on a regular basis. The Historical Society also occasionally rents the house and grounds for weddings.

The Stow House site also contains the historic Goleta railroad depot. The Goleta depot was built by Southern Pacific Railroad Company in 1901 when the rail line connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco was completed. The depot served the area continually until it was boarded up in 1973. Community non-profit organizations were responsible for saving it and arranging for it to be moved from its original location on Kellogg Avenue to the Los Carneros property in November of 1981. The depot has also been designated a County Historic Landmark. It is operated and maintained as the South Coast Railroad Museum with regular hours of operation and some special events throughout the year. There is also a small gauge railroad track and train which loops around the depot and is open to the public on weekends.

Just to the south of the depot is a one acre parcel entitled the Optimist Grove. Goleta Valley Beautiful has planted 90 honor oak trees there and assists in their ongoing maintenance.
Santa Barbara Shores Park

The 116.2 acre Santa Barbara Shores Park is located in the 7600 block of Hollister Avenue. It is bounded on the east by the Santa Barbara Shores housing development and on the west by the Sandpiper Golf Course. The northern boundary is Hollister Avenue and the southern boundary is the Pacific Ocean. The eastern, western and northern boundaries are also defined by windrows of eucalyptus trees. From Hollister Avenue there is a long unobstructed view of the property and of the ocean, providing one of the few coastal view corridors in Goleta from a major public road.

The property is currently undeveloped except for a 25 space gravel parking lot in the northwest corner. Several dirt trails cross the site, connecting to other trails on the adjacent Ellwood Mesa and UCSB property. Both hikers and equestrians access the property and the informal trail system from Hollister. Devereux Creek and two smaller tributaries flow through the property. There are also several wetland areas and patches of native grasslands.

The eucalyptus windrows are the home of at least two Monarch butterfly overwintering sites which are part of a related grouping of eight overwintering sites associated with the Devereux Creek area. This Monarch habitat area is considered to be the most important in the County and of statewide importance. The property also provides habitat for various species of birds and other wildlife.
The original intention to make Santa Barbara Shores Park an active use park has changed. The property is now part of the “Joint Proposal for the Ellwood-Devereux Coast”. The proposal calls for 36 acres at the north end of the park adjacent to Hollister to be used for housing in order to extinguish existing development potential on the Ellwood Mesa property owned by the Santa Barbara Development Partnership. Once the “land swap” and additional necessary funding have been achieved, the remaining 218 acres of park and mesa property would both be owned by the City of Goleta and used only for passive recreational use and resource preservation purposes. An Open Space and Habitat Management Plan is currently being refined which will describe allowable uses, trail and coastal access locations and other amenities for both City owned property, as well as adjacent UCSB and County properties which are also part of the Joint Proposal.
COMMUNITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

Stow Grove Park

Stow Grove Park is an 11.8 acre site bordered by La Patera Lane and La Patera Elementary School on the west, Cathedral Oaks Road on the north and Covington Way on the south. To the east is a row of single family homes which back up to the park property. The park was originally part of the La Patera Rancho owned by the Stow family who planted the grove of California coast redwood trees in 1876. The towering redwood trees are now the park’s most distinctive feature. There are also many other types of trees on site, as well as expansive grassy areas. The park is home to many different species of roosting and migratory birds, as well as some small mammals.

Stow Grove Park is a multi-use active park with numerous amenities. It is the only location in the city where group picnic areas can be reserved for all day use. Area #1 will accommodate up to 210 people with 24 dining tables, 3 serving tables and one large double BBQ pit at a cost of $155. Area #2 will accommodate 75 people and contains one single large BBQ pit, two serving and nine dining tables for a fee of $80. Area #3 contains one single large BBQ pit, two serving tables and eight dining tables for up to 50 people at a charge of $55. Group areas may be reserved in advance by signing an agreement form stipulating the allowable uses and paying the appropriate fee. The city of Goleta’s Community Services department handles the reservation requests for these areas. In addition there are fourteen single
picnic tables with small BBqs, seven double picnic tables with double BBqs and seven “Kiddy” picnic tables that need no reservation.

There are ample opportunities for active recreation with two horseshoe pits, two volleyball courts, one softball/soccer field and one large and two small children’s swing areas. The park also contains a number of benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash and recycle bins, a public telephone and a vending machine. There is a cottage which provides housing for a park ranger and a large parking lot on the site. Park hours are from 8:00 a.m. until sunset.

**Emerald Terrace Tennis Courts**

The Emerald Terrace Tennis Courts are located adjacent to the west side of the Kellogg School property in the northeast section of the city of Goleta. They can be accessed from either the rear of the school site, or through walkways on Arundel Drive and Berkeley Road located between existing single family residences which surround the property on the other three sides. There is no onsite parking. Park users must park on the school site (only allowed after 4:00 p.m. on weekdays but all day on weekends), or adjacent streets and walk onto the property.

The site is 2.4 acres and contains two tennis courts, (which are
handicap accessible), swings, two picnic tables, four benches and one drinking fountain. The balance of the property is covered in lawn with interconnected concrete walkways meandering through it. The property is quite flat and open with a few trees scattered throughout. The tennis courts are located in the southwest corner of the site, approximately ten feet from the property lines. Hours of use are 8:00 a.m. to sunset. The property's location immediately adjacent to a public elementary school, as well as the two tennis courts, classify this site as a community park.

**Stow Tennis Courts**

The Stow Tennis Courts are in the 6200 block of Stow Canyon Road in the north-central area of the city. It is a 2.6 acre site with two tennis courts, one bench and a large lawn area. It can be accessed on foot from both Stow Canyon Road and Muirfield Drive. Parking is also along those streets. The site is contiguous with San Pedro Creek which has a wide, fenced flood control easement immediately adjacent to the property on the east side. The tennis courts are in the southeast corner of the property and abut the creek on one side. The site is large and flat and covered in lawn. The tennis courts classify this site as a community park.
Evergreen Acres

Evergreen Acres is a very large, multi-use park and open space site located in the northwest El Encanto Heights area of the city. The park can be accessed from Brandon Drive, Evergreen Drive, and Padova Drive. Parking is along those same streets and a small cul de sac off of Padova.

The property is 28.6 acres with both flat and sloping areas. There are two tennis courts, a playing field and softball backstop, a 18 hole disc or “Frisbee” golf course, three foot bridges, two picnic tables, a playground and a portable restroom, two drinking fountains and extensive concrete walkways that interconnect throughout the site.

Evergreen Acres also connects with the large North Fork of the Devereux Creek drainage area that begins just north of Cathedral Oaks at Northgate and extends to about San Milano Drive on the south. A paved, striped bike path crosses this drainage which connects El Rancho Elementary School to the east side of the park. Brandon Elementary School is just across Brandon Drive on the west end of the park. The park’s large size and location between the two school sites and the Devereux drainage area, as well as the multiple amenities offered, qualifies it as a community facility.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Andamar

Andamar is 2.4 acre park site at the end of the 600 block of Andamar off of Dara Drive and Cathedral Oaks in the northeastern section of the city. It is surrounded on all sides by single family residential development and has pedestrian access points from Cathedral Oaks and Andamar. Parking is on adjacent residential streets. The park is minimally developed with play equipment and one picnic table. There are a few scattered trees and extensive lawns covering the primarily flat site.
Bella Vista

Bella Vista Park is located along the 100 block of Placer Drive off of Cathedral Oaks in the northwestern section of the city. It encompasses 4.4 acres of both flat and rolling terrain divided into three parcels by Mirano drive. There are two foot bridges which cross the drainage area which bisects the park, as well as a playground, bench, eight picnic tables and a concrete walkway which extends throughout the park and connects with the footbridges. Extensive grassy areas are also found throughout the property. The park is near, but not next to, El Rancho Elementary School. Parking is along adjacent residential streets.
Winchester I

This area is comprised of 3.3 acres of mainly open space with about .20 acre of lawn area with a swing set and two benches. The property extends along and behind the single family homes, freeway and mobile home park between the 7500 and 7600 block of Calle Real. The small park area is accessed from Calle Real just west of St. Charles Place.

Winchester II

Winchester II is a 1.2 acre site in the 7000 block of Calle Real in the northwestern section of the city, just a few blocks west of Winchester I. This neighborhood park contains a swing set, softball backstop, two picnic tables and a large lawn/play field area. It can be accessed from either Calle Real or Manchester Place with parking along those same streets.


San Miguel

San Miguel neighborhood park is located in the 7900 block of Winchester Canyon Road. It can also be accessed from Rio Vista Drive via a footbridge which crosses Winchester Canyon Creek. The site is 5.8 acres and extends along the Creek. It contains a playground, two picnic tables, a drinking fountain and a large lawn/playfield area with several trees. Parking is along Rio Vista Drive and a small parking pocket between Winchester Canyon Road and the park.

Santa Barbara Shores (small)

There is a smaller park in the Santa Barbara Shores subdivision also named Santa Barbara Shores Park. It is located in the 300 block of Santa Barbara Shores Drive and totals 6.1 acres. There are both undeveloped areas with eucalyptus trees and drainage areas as well as a developed portion with a small lawn area, playground and one picnic table. Parking is along the frontage street.
Mathilda neighborhood park is located at 311 Mathilda Drive off of Hollister Avenue in the southwestern section of the city. At .2 acres in size, it is the second smallest park space. It is developed with a picnic table and some play equipment placed on an uneven, somewhat degraded, lawn area. Although the property slopes up from the street, there are no stairs or ramps to easily access the site. The park is in a lot sandwiched between two story apartment complexes, which also line the length of Mathilda and Ellwood Beach Drive. Parking is on the street, although overflow from the apartments/condos in the area can make it difficult to find a space near the park. The property abuts a neighboring mobile home park which is unscreened by vegetation.

University Village is located at the end of several streets, including Georgetown, which are off of Pacific Oaks Road near Girsh Park and the Camino Real Marketplace. The property is 3.1 acres and follows a fenced drainage area. The area is developed with a long narrow lawn area and concrete walkways that connect to a footbridge over the drainage. On street parking is available in the surrounding residential neighborhood.
Armstrong

Armstrong park is off of Pacific Oaks Road and Armstrong in the southwestern section of the city near Girsh Park. It is .5 acres and is accessed by pedestrian walkways from Armstrong and Marymount Way that go between single family residences. The park is not visible from either street, but is a “pocket” of property behind the surrounding homes. The site is developed with a lawn, swing set, one toddler and one adult picnic tables, two benches and a concrete walkway. Parking is along either Armstrong or Marymount Way.

Nectarine

At .1 acres, Nectarine park in Old Town is Goleta’s smallest park and serves the area of the city with the greatest population density. It is also the only park in the southeastern section of the city. It is surrounded by single family homes, although other locations on Nectarine and adjacent streets are also developed with duplexes, triplexes and large and small apartment complexes. The property is one block north of Hollister Avenue. Both parking and access are from Nectarine Avenue, although finding a space can be difficult due to the overflow parking from the nearby residences. The entire site is covered with sand and is developed with play equipment and a bench. As there is no sidewalk, the site is separated from the street edge by a metal and chain link fence approximately 3-4 feet high.
NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN SPACE AREAS

Oro Verde

Located on the corner of Cambridge Drive and Via Salerno in the northeastern section of the city, the Oro Verde Open Space area is 7 acres. The property has a number of trees of different varieties, rolling terrain and is part of a drainage swale area.

San Jose Creek

San Jose Creek open space area is 5 acres of riparian creek corridor along the west side of San Jose Creek. The site is accessed via Berkeley Drive and the pedestrian/bike bridge over the creek at that location. Parking is along Berkeley Drive on both sides of the creek.
Stonebridge

Stonebridge is an open space area in the north central part of the city, on the north side of Stow Canyon Road across from the Stow Tennis Courts area. The 2.6 acre property parallels San Pedro Creek and is undeveloped except for a worn dirt trail which traverses the property from Stow Canyon Road to Cathedral Oaks. The site can be accessed from either street and there is on street parking in both locations. The site is heavily wooded on the Stow Canyon end and more open along Cathedral Oaks.
La Goleta

La Goleta open space area is also in the north central section of the city and parallels Las Vegas Creek north of Cathedral Oaks. The site can be accessed from La Goleta Road, Paseo Palmilla and Manzanilla Drive and there is parking on all of those streets. The site is located in a single family residential area and totals 6 acres of flat open space, road shoulder and creek riparian areas.

Glen Annie at Del Norte

Two lots totaling almost one acre are located along the west side of Glen Annie Road, just north of its intersection with Del Norte drive. The property is between the road shoulder and Glen Annie Creek and is undeveloped. Similar unused property immediately to the north extends between the Creek and road all the way up to the intersection of Glen Annie and Cathedral Oaks and is part of the Dos Pueblos High School site.
Brandon

At the intersection of Brandon and Calle Real there is a 2 acre undeveloped parcel made up primarily of a large drainage swale area with numerous eucalyptus trees. There is also a small piece that is flat and open with a dirt trail connecting Brandon Drive with San Cassino Way on the opposite side.
Koarts Apartments

This 7 acre site is made up of three parcels located at the end of Brandon Drive, one block north of Cathedral Oaks. The two largest parcels can be accessed from the end of Brandon or from Paseo del Pinon. The property slopes back and stretches behind the existing condominium developments which front along Cathedral Oaks. The site is mainly rolling, with some flatter areas, and offers beautiful ocean and mountain views from various locations. The third, and smaller, piece stretches between Northgate Drive and the North Devereux drainage area on the north side of Cathedral Oaks. This piece is separated from the other two by the existing condominium project.
Campus Glen

Campus Glen is located in the southwestern part of the city between Coronado Drive and Newport Drive. The open space site is 6.2 acres in size and has a dirt trail traversing it through a grove of eucalyptus trees. It is immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the Coronado Butterfly Preserve area and interconnected with that site and the Ellwood Mesa. Parking is along adjacent residential streets.

Other

There are city three properties which were listed as open space, but do not qualify as such and should be redesignated. Saint Charles Place and the Koarts Teardrop are both traffic islands in residential streets. The Covington Walkway is just that – a concrete walkway which connects Covington with La Patera School. These properties have no park or open space value for the general public and should be added to the list of sidewalk and street median areas maintained by the city.
BEACH ACCESS

City of Goleta

Haskell’s Beach

There are a number of beach locations in the Goleta area. One of them, Haskell’s Beach, is within the Goleta city limits. Haskell’s Beach is located at the mouth of Tecolote Creek, between the Venoco Oil Processing Facility and the Bacara Resort. Access and parking are from the Bacara property located at the far western end of Hollister Avenue. As part of the approval for the Bacara project, the resort had to keep public access open and improve the area with restrooms and snack bar facilities. There is a decomposed granite (DG) path between the tennis courts from the parking lot to the snack bar/restroom facility. There is also a small lawn area around the building, just above the sand beach. The beach is very heavily used by people of all ages, particularly in the warmer months. There is no lifeguard on duty. The beach area is also within the hazard footprint for the Venoco Facility.

In addition to Haskell’s Beach, there are three informal beach access points on the Santa Barbara Shores Park and Ellwood Mesa properties. Two of them, Ellwood West and Ellwood Central, are narrow, rough trails down the bluffs to reach the sandy beach area. The third, Ellwood East, is an old paved road. All three points are proposed to remain as coastal access points in the Ellwood-
Devereux Joint Proposal with improvements to increase ease and safety of access. These beach areas have no amenities.

Outside City Limits

Goleta Beach

Goleta Beach County Park is 29 acres and is the most popular beach in the area. It contains a number of amenities and recreational opportunities. It has group picnic areas with BBQ’s which can be reserved, benches, picnic tables, horseshoes, volleyball courts, a playground, restrooms, a restaurant and snack bar/bait shop and a long fishing pier with a boat hoist all maintained by the County of Santa Barbara. It is located at the terminus of the Atascadero and Maria Ygnacio Creek bike paths, and also has free and ample parking.

In the past few years the park has experienced serious problems with beach erosion due to wave action from winter storms which have jeopardized some of the facilities. The County of Santa Barbara is looking at various long term solutions to the problem. In the interim, large berms of imported sand are placed on the beach during the winter months to protect the park and slow the erosion process.

Isla Vista and Sands Beaches

Isla Vista Beach (West Campus Beach) can be reached from Isla Vista streets, including Camino Majorca and Camino Del Sur. Parking is along residential streets in the vicinity, but is constrained due to the high density housing in the area. The beach is accessed via stairways down the bluffs. Sands Beach is located adjacent to the Coal Oil Point Reserve area owned and operated by the
University Reserve System. Access is via Devereux Road and then a trail to the beach. Parking is limited and there is no lifeguard.

**Campus (Goleta) Point**

Campus (Goleta) Point is reached through the eastern entrance to the UCSB campus with parking near the Marine Sciences building. There is no lifeguard and there is a fee for parking.

**OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION**

**School Facilities**

The Goleta Union School District owns and operates ten elementary school campuses in the Goleta area. Five of them are within the Goleta city limits. All contain large playgrounds and basketball courts as well as extensive grassy field space. These areas are utilized informally after school and on weekends by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Field space is also frequently used after school, on weekends and during vacation times by other organizations such as AYSO and Boys and Girls Club for team sports such as soccer, softball and baseball. In addition, a non-profit group of parent volunteers organizes and administers an after school creative arts program which is held at the elementary school sites. However, the GUSD is not otherwise involved in this program.

The Santa Barbara School District owns and operates both the Goleta Valley Junior High and Dos Pueblos High School campuses. Both schools have basketball, volleyball and tennis courts as well as large field space for various types of sports. Dos Pueblos also has a small swimming pool. A parent volunteer group is currently raising funds to rebuild the pool to Olympic size and increase opportunities for both school and community use of the facility.
the academic year both schools are fully occupied every day after school and some evenings with their own activities and those of local sports organizations. Vacation times can also be quite busy due to a full schedule of school sports practices, games and competitions.

City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation

The City of Santa Barbara has a large Parks and Recreation department which offers a multitude of facilities, events, classes and programs for all ages. Santa Barbara city residents receive a 20% discount on all programs.

University of California, Santa Barbara

UCSB has extensive sports and recreation facilities which are utilized year round. Programs offered to the general public include an after school program for grades K-6 and summer day camps, an aquatics program, recreation classes and programs, gymnastics school and recreation center family memberships during the summer.

County Parks and Open Spaces

Besides the beaches and coastal access points already mentioned, the County owns and operates other park and open space sites near the Goleta city limits. The largest is Tucker’s Grove and San Antonio Canyon Park at the intersection of Turnpike and Cathedral Oaks Roads. The park is estimated at 160 acres and has large areas covered with live oak, sycamore and bay laurel trees. The park provides both large and small group picnic areas which can be reserved, as well as playground equipment, volleyball court, horseshoe pits and a large, level lawn area. The upper portion of the park has a trail that connects to San Marcos Pass Road.

There are also several County owned open space areas that are minimally developed which are either immediately adjacent or very close to the eastern Goleta city boundary. The University Circle open space is on the east side of San Jose Creek at the Berkeley footbridge and totals 6.69 acres. It is just across the creek from the city owned San Jose Creek open space parcel. University Circle is developed with a large lawn area and backstop, play equipment and picnic tables. It is in the proposed alignment for the San Jose Creek bikepath which would cross both City of Goleta and County owned property. Lassen open space is 2.17 acres adjacent to the city/county boundary at Maria Ygnacio Creek in the southeastern section of the city just south of Highway 101. A portion of the
Maria Ygnacio Bike Path. a bike bridge and a bench are on the site. The site is accessed via Hollister Avenue to Lassen Drive and then to San Simeon Drive.

There are a number of undeveloped or minimally developed open space areas in the residential neighborhoods between Patterson and Turnpike. The Town and Country open space is almost nine acres along San Jose Creek north of Cathedral Oaks. It is primarily a riparian area, but is developed with about one acre of lawn. Walnut Park (4.04 acres), Patterson (4.62 acres) and Calle Barquero (3.80 acres) are adjacent to Maria Ygnacio Creek. Tabano Hollow (6.73 acres), the Racquet Club (2.31 acres) and Old San Marcos (2 acres) are all open space areas along San Antonio Creek. Except for those portions which are part of the Maria Ygnacio and Ribera bike paths which are used by residents throughout the area, these spaces primarily provide passive recreation space for the surrounding neighborhoods.

State Recreational Facilities

El Capitan State Beach and Refugio State Beach are both located on the Gaviota Coast, approximately a 10 to 15 minute drive from western Goleta. The beaches are connected by a 2.5 mile paved bike/pedestrian path and both offer facilities for camping, hiking, fishing and swimming at their beaches. They also contain day use picnic sites and small stores to purchase food and supplies. Reservations for camping or group sites must be made through the state parks system. There is also a fee to enter and park.
PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Private Non-Profit Recreational Opportunities

Girsh Park

The largest increase in active recreation space in Goleta in the past ten years came from the building of Girsh Park and the associated ball fields. Although the County required the donation of park land as part of the approval for the Camino Real Marketplace, it did not have the funds to build, operate or maintain the park. Instead, Girsh Park became a private, non-profit park managed by an appointed board of directors and supported through use fees and donations. A separate plan to build and operate an ice skating rink, which was also part of the Specific Plan for the shopping center, has not yet occurred, although a local group has organized to raise funds for the project.

Girsh Park is a 12 acre active recreational park with softball, soccer and basketball facilities. It also contains grassy open space, a community meeting room, a children’s play area, a group BBQ-picnic area, and several individual family BBQ picnic areas. A wetland area provides habitat for birds, mammals and indigenous plants. It also serves as a bioswale which removes pollution from runoff before it reaches the ocean. Girsh Park also manages the use of 13 acres of baseball fields and open space adjacent to the park, including a varsity baseball field and three little league fields.
**Coronado Butterfly Preserve**

The Coronado Butterfly Preserve is a 9.3 acre site which contains both woodland and meadow areas, including coastal sage scrub habitat and eucalyptus groves, which provide a home for numerous birds and other wildlife. Devereux Creek runs through the property. In addition there are trails and an outdoor gathering area and classroom. The Preserve is best known as “the gateway to the Ellwood Main Monarch Grove.” The city owned Santa Barbara Shores park (small) and the Stonebridge trail connect with this parcel.

**The Goleta Community Center**

The Goleta Community Center is located on Hollister Avenue in Old Town Goleta and was formerly the Goleta Elementary School. Built in 1927, the buildings have been remodeled a number of times and now contain various meeting rooms. The Center is continually busy with a wide variety of meetings, classes and events, including exercise and recreational programs. There are also a number of programs for seniors. Space is also leased to the Headstart Program, Rainbow Preschool and the Goleta Boys and Girls Club.
The George “Ben” Page Youth Center

The Page Youth Center is located at 4540 Hollister Avenue. It contains a large gym for various sports and special events and a number of smaller rooms. The Center offers youth sports programs throughout the year for elementary and junior high children.

Goleta Boys and Girls Club

The Goleta Boys and Girls Club is located behind the Goleta Community Center at the very back of the property. They have a newly enlarged and remodeled building containing a gymnasium and rooms of various sizes for other recreational activities. Outside there are a number of basketball and tennis courts and some grassy field space. The Club offers after school and vacation programs for youth and organizes team competitions throughout the year for a variety of sports.

Girls Incorporated

Girls Incorporated recently purchased property at 4973 Hollister and intends to build a large facility which will include a gymnasium, library, a theater and multipurpose room, a kitchen and bakery, as well as rooms for art, dance, science and computers. Surrounding the building will be a soccer field, garden, greenhouse and picnic area. The new facilities will provide services to 300-400 girls daily. Currently, Girls Inc. has about 100 girls in their program which is located in two permanent and two temporary buildings already on the property.

YMCA

The YMCA does not have a facility in Goleta, but has indicated a strong interest in locating a site in the near future to build one. Currently, the closest facility is in the city of Santa Barbara which houses a swimming pool and all types of exercise equipment. The “Y” offers a full schedule of programs and classes and, periodically, they also have events for teens.

The Living Room

The Living Room is a local, non-profit volunteer group which formed to provide alcohol and drug free music and dance events for area teenagers. Formerly housed in space in the Fairview Corporate Center, the group was forced to find another venue when the building was demolished as part of the Center’s remodeling plan. The group has yet to find another suitable location and adequate funding.
Private “For Profit” Recreational Opportunities

There are a number of additional opportunities for various types of recreation in the Goleta area operated by private businesses. The area contains four golf courses – Sandpiper, Glen Annie, Twin Lakes and Ocean Meadows – each offering a different type of golf experience. The Sandpiper Golf Course is within the city of Goleta and located at the west end of Hollister Avenue on the coast. Glen Annie, near the intersection of Glen Annie Road and Cathedral Oaks, and Ocean Meadows Golf Course off of Storke Avenue, are both located in the County of Santa Barbara. Twin Lakes, which offers golf lessons for both children and adults, is near the intersection of Hollister and Fairview Avenues and is located on property owned by the Santa Barbara City Airport.

Horseback riding is available at the Circle Bar B Ranch on the Gaviota Coast near Refugio State Beach. Arriba Adventures offers a trail/beach ride through the Ellwood-Deveraux property to both residents and guests of area hotels. UCSB contains horse stables and riding in the West Campus area which are available to students, staff, faculty and alumni.

There is only one bowling alley now on the South Coast and it is in Goleta. Zodo’s Bowling and Beyond on Calle Real has recently been remodeled and offers day and night time bowling, bowling leagues, and a restaurant and bar facility which has live music and dancing on weekends.

Goleta has several private gyms and clubs which offer a range of activities including swimming, tennis, rock climbing and all types of exercise equipment and classes. Currently within the Goleta city limits are the Cathedral Oaks Tennis and Swim Club, the Goleta Valley Athletic Center, Gold’s Gym and Curves for Women. Blue Star Rising offers yoga and pilates classes in a studio on Calle Real.

Recreational Opportunities in Private Developments

Almost all discretionary single family and multi-family housing developments in the Goleta area over the past twenty years were built with some type of recreational amenity for the project’s residents. They include any one, or combination of, facilities such as swimming pools, saunas, play structures, lawn areas, tennis courts, exercise rooms, basketball or volleyball courts, walking paths and community recreation rooms. Use is restricted to the residents and their guests.
PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The City of Goleta has many beautiful and varied park and open space areas. However, they are not evenly distributed throughout the city. The areas with the least density have the most park space. And, as population density increases, there is a marked decrease in recreational opportunities. The southeastern section of the city, including Old Town, has the highest population density, but the least amount of park space. In fact, there is only one very small park for all the area’s residents south of the freeway between Fairview and Patterson. This problem is compounded by the fact that the population of that area also tends to be lower income and unable to afford to pay for recreational opportunities. Providing enough park space for the citizens of this area has already been established as a priority by the City Council and would fulfill a real need.

While City neighborhood parks provide some recreational facilities for toddlers and elementary school children, there seems to be a dearth of recreational opportunities for youth and teens. Activities such as miniature golf, a skateboard park, dirt bike course, water park and music/dance events are nonexistent. The area is also lacking a public community swimming pool\(^5\) and a performing arts center which would be of great benefit to citizens of all ages.

A number of city owned active parks could be better utilized. All of the community parks and some of the neighborhood parks have room for additional amenities such as ballfields and basketball and volleyball courts. In addition, the city has opportunities to plan a comprehensive trail system throughout the city using many of the developed and undeveloped open space areas, particularly those along creek corridors and road shoulders. For example, a trail which looped through the El Encanto neighborhood could go through the Koarts Apartments site and then connect with the Bella Vista and Evergreen Acres park and open space areas. Such a system would have the added benefit of interconnecting neighborhoods in a new way. The City should also work with the County to forge a trail connection from somewhere in Goleta to the Los Padres National Forest.

To better utilize existing facilities, the City could consider the establishing its own parks and recreation department which would not just care for the city parks property, but also provide recreation programs to area residents. In addition the city could open discussions with the school districts regarding a joint use agreement for after school and summer programs on school property. These facilities could provide venues for city league team sports, teen dances, youth and senior activities and other types of organized recreation.

\(^5\) There are several private pools in the community that offer swimming opportunities on a membership basis.