

General Plan: Open Space Element

Policy OS 4: Trails and Bikeways

Objective: To designate, preserve, and expand a public trail system that will provide recreation opportunities for multiple types of users in diverse and attractive environmental settings and that will connect various parks and neighborhoods with the regional trail network and to Los Padres National Forest.

OS 4.3: California Coastal Trail. The California Coastal Trail segment within Goleta, as shown on the maps in Figures 3-1 and 3-3, shall be planned as a part of a continuous lateral shoreline trail system traversing the entire length of the state's coastline, connecting with contiguous California Coastal Trail segments within the jurisdictions of the County and UCSB. The following criteria and standards shall apply to the California Coastal Trail:

- a. The trail shall be sited as close to the ocean as possible, while maintaining an appropriate setback for safety purposes from the edge of the coastal bluff.
- b. The trail shall be connected at appropriate intervals to existing and proposed local trail systems and to vertical access facilities.
- c. The trail shall be sited to maximize ocean views and scenic coastal vistas.
- d. The trail shall be planned primarily as a pedestrian trail, although certain segments, particularly within the City-owned Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area, may be planned to accommodate the needs of bicyclists and/or equestrians.
- e. Segments of the trail located along the beach and shoreline that may not be passable at all times shall, where feasible, have an alternate landward or bluff-top route that will allow continuous passage during all seasons and tide conditions.
- f. The trail shall be sited and designed to minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas to the extent feasible. The trail surface shall generally be limited to groomed and/or compacted native soil or sand material, except that segments intended for handicapped access or to beach overlooks (vista points) may be improved to a higher standard.
- g. Trail easement dedication and installation of trail improvements shall be required as a condition of approval of all coastal development permits on properties located on the California Coastal Trail corridor, when dedication will mitigate impacts by the project on public access and/or recreation.

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Policy OS 4: Trails and Bikeways (Cont'd)

OS 4.4: Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The following criteria and standards apply to future improvements to the Anza Trail segment within Goleta:

- a. The planned corridor for the Anza Trail is shown on the maps in Figures 3-1 and 3-3.
- b. Within the City-owned Sperling Preserve and Santa Barbara Shores Park, the Anza Trail shall be planned for multiple user types, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, as shown on the map in Figure 3-3.
- c. Within the City-owned open space property the Anza Trail shall generally be designed as follows:
 - 1) The equestrian path or tread may be separate from or combined with the main trail tread for pedestrians and bicyclists. The trail shall be designed to have the minimum width necessary to accommodate the multiple users.
 - 2) The surface may be native soil materials or imported compacted fines (such as decomposed granite) without stabilizer or binder.
- d. As it exits the public open space area, the future Anza Trail corridor extends along Hollister Avenue to the Bacara access road and along that road to the city's western boundary. Standards for improvements of this segment of the Anza Trail shall be flexible to respond to the amount of available space for trail improvements. Dedication of a public access easement for the trail shall be required as a condition of approval of all coastal development permits for properties located along the Anza Trail corridor.
- e. Connectivity of the Anza Trail in Goleta with segments within the jurisdictions of the County and UCSB shall be provided as indicated in the multi-jurisdictional Ellwood-Devereux OSHMP.

OS 4.5: Creekside Trails. Trails shall be sited to minimize damage to riparian areas while allowing some public access. To the extent feasible, trail corridors should be located outside riparian areas but provide occasional contact to streams to allow public access and enjoyment of the resources. Where feasible, public trail easements should be located within the boundaries of flood control easements. All trail construction should minimize removal of riparian vegetation and utilize natural features and/or lateral fencing to discourage public access to streamside areas not directly within the trail alignment. Any fences constructed along trail corridors should allow for wildlife movement. Where necessary to prevent disturbance of nesting birds, sections of trails may be closed on a seasonal basis. At such times, alternative trail segments should be provided, where feasible. In order to protect riparian resources, the number of creek crossings should be limited and maintenance should be conducted to minimize introduction and spread of invasive plants.

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Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area

Objective: The portion of the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area within Goleta, which includes the City-owned Sperling Preserve and Santa Barbara Shores Park units, shall be managed to provide coastal access and passive, coastal-dependent recreational opportunities consistent with protection and enhancement of the site's environmentally sensitive habitat areas and other environmental and scenic resources.

OS 5.3: Public Access and Recreation. The Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area shall be managed to maintain the site's historical public access and recreation uses while managing accessways to protect natural resources such as the monarch butterfly groves, vernal pools, native grasslands, beaches, coastal bluffs, and other environmentally sensitive habitat areas. The planned trail and beach access system, shown on the map in Figure 3-3, is based on the locations of existing informal trails created by repeated public use, with some trail segments being closed to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas, to eliminate hazardous segments, and/or to eliminate parallel redundant trail segments. Although some trail closures are proposed, the planned trail system will not reduce overall access or trail experiences in the public open space area, but will redirect users to alternate routes located in close proximity. The following standards shall apply to public access and recreation in the open space area:

- a. The Anza Trail is one of two major planned east-west trails across the Ellwood Mesa. This trail extends from the eastern boundary with UCSB to the public access parking lot at Santa Barbara Shores Park adjacent to Hollister Avenue (see related OS 4.4).
- b. The California Coastal Trail segment within the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area, the other major east-west trail, is planned to have a bluff-top alignment (see related OS 4.3).
- c. The locations of additional planned trails are also shown on Figure 3-3. Although the trail system shall be planned primarily as footpaths for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or equestrians may also be accommodated on certain trail segments as shown in Figure 3-3. At least one trail from the Hollister parking lot to the bluff-top shall be designated for exclusive use by pedestrians.
- d. Except for the Anza Trail, trails shall generally be designed to utilize native soil materials with appropriate grooming and maintenance to provide for slightly crowned cross sections, defined trail edges, and proper drainage. Trail improvements shall be designed to maintain natural drainage patterns in order to avoid potential impacts to Devereux Creek and the associated eucalyptus groves that comprise the monarch butterfly aggregation sites. Trail improvements may include boardwalks and/or bridges across Devereux Creek in wet or eroded areas in the vicinity of the Ellwood Main grove
- e. Two accessways from the bluff top to Ellwood Beach (identified as accessways E and F) are planned, as shown on Figure 3-3. These beach accessways shall be planned to accommodate pedestrians only.
 - 1) Improvements to accessway E, which is a steeply sloped former roadway with a badly eroded asphalt surface, are limited to repairs to improve the surface for the safety of users and to reduce further erosion of the bluff face and pathway.
 - 2) Improvements to accessway F, which is a steep pathway down the face of the bluff, shall be designed to smooth the surface, improve drainage, and reduce erosion of the path and bluff face and are generally limited to minor grading and placement of landscape ties or a similar material to stabilize the pathway.

f. A public access parking lot consisting of not less than 40 parking spaces shall be provided adjacent to Hollister Avenue, as shown in Figure 3-3. The following standards shall apply to public parking serving the open space area:

- 1) The Hollister Avenue lot shall be paved with permeable materials to reduce stormwater runoff and prevent pollution of surface waters.
- 2) Landscaping of the parking lot and Hollister Avenue street frontage shall maintain a natural appearance and shall be limited to drought-tolerant species. Landscaping shall not impair views of the coastal bluff-top, ocean, and Channel Islands from Hollister Avenue.
- 3) Onstreet parking on streets within the Ellwood neighborhood shall be available as needed for public coastal access, subject to appropriate restrictions on the hours of availability and duration of such parking.

g. A limited amount of facilities or amenities may be provided within the open space area to better accommodate users and manage accessways to protect natural resources. These may include the following:

- 1) A potential public restroom facility to be located between the public parking lot and Hollister Avenue, which shall be designed to avoid impairing views of the ocean and the Channel Islands from Hollister Avenue.
- 2) Low-profile signs to identify permitted uses, guide pedestrians, interpret resources, and advise users on resource protection regulations.
- 3) Temporary or permanent barriers to establish protection for sensitive plants and animals and habitat restoration areas that are compatible with the natural appearance of the surroundings.
- 4) Benches at a limited number of selected scenic locations.
- 5) Trash receptacles, mutt-mitt dispensers, and other similar low-impact facilities.

h. A signage program shall be prepared for the open space area. The overall intent or purposes of the sign program shall be to assist and inform visitors as to open space regulations, directions, and information. Signs shall be designed and located in a manner that is protective of environmental and visual resources and may include the following:

- 1) A donor recognition sign.
- 2) Trail markers identifying names, directions, and distances.
- 3) Trail head signs.
- 4) Interpretative signs.
- 5) Regulatory signs, including trail and open space rules, closures, and hazardous areas.
- 6) Habitat protection signs.

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Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area (Cont'd)

OS 5.4: Protection and Enhancement of Habitat Areas. Within its boundaries, the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area encompasses a diverse array of sensitive aquatic and upland habitats, as shown on Figure 3-3. These habitats include beach and shoreline areas, dunes, rocky intertidal areas, coastal bluffs, monarch butterfly aggregation sites and associated eucalyptus groves, vernal pools, riparian areas along Devereux Creek and its tributaries, coastal sage and scrub areas, native grasslands, and raptor nesting and roosting areas. All environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be managed and protected consistent with the policies and standards described in the Conservation Element of this plan. In addition, the following criteria and standards shall apply to the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area:

- a. Habitat management on City owned lands shall be implemented within a broad ecosystem context in which habitat management priorities will consider the role of the targeted habitats and the interrelationships with other habitats in the open space area. In addition to protection of existing habitats, management actions may include interventions to enhance or restore degraded habitat conditions. All management activities shall use an adaptive approach that includes monitoring and adjustments to ensure that self-sustaining habitats will be created that are not reliant on long-term human intervention.
- b. Priority habitat management activities include ensuring the long-term vitality of the eucalyptus groves and stability in the monarch butterfly population; restoration of native grasslands; enhancement of vernal pools and riparian habitats; and protection of special status species, including various raptors and the western snowy plover. Some examples of habitat management action areas are shown on Figure 3-4.
- c. Habitat management activities shall be designed to accommodate public access and use in or adjacent to habitat areas, where practicable, in a manner consistent with protection of the resource.
- d. In all habitat enhancement or restoration projects, genetic stock for seeds and plants from the Devereux Creek watershed shall be used, unless such use has been determined to be infeasible.

General Plan: Safety Element

Policy SE 2: Bluff Erosion and Retreat

Objective: To ensure safe siting of bluff-top buildings and other development and to avoid the need for shoreline erosion-control structures.

SE 2.2: Coastal Bluff Setbacks for Other Structures. Structures other than buildings may be permitted within the 130-foot bluff setback area, but in no case shall any new structure be located less than 30 feet from the top of the coastal bluff. All such structures should be moveable or replaceable such that coastal armoring or coastal bluff retaining walls are not permitted should these structures be threatened by bluff retreat. This setback prohibition does not apply to minor structures associated with passive recreational uses such as signs and benches. *(Amended by Reso. 08-30, 6/17/08)*

SE 2.6: Prohibition of Structures on Bluff Faces. [GP/CP] No permanent structures shall be permitted on a bluff face, except for engineered public beach accessways. Such structures shall be designed and constructed to prevent any further erosion of the bluff face and to be visually compatible with the surrounding area.

Policy SE 3: Beach Erosion and Shoreline Hazards

Objective: To minimize or eliminate the need for shoreline protection structures while siting development safely, maintaining shoreline sand supply, and providing safe lateral and vertical shoreline access.

SE 3.1: Permanent Structures. New permanent structures shall be prohibited seaward of the top of the coastal bluff. The exceptions to this prohibition include:

- 1) wooden stairs and other lightly constructed structures that provide public beach access, and
- 2) improvements necessary to provide access to the beach for emergency responders, if such access is appropriate and no other methods of access are feasible.