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*City of Monterey Parks & Recreation Master Plan*
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On behalf of the City of Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City of Monterey Community Services Department, we are delighted to present a new vision for the future of Monterey’s parks and recreation facilities – the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Monterey.

Mayor Clyde Roberson reminds us “Monterey is a special place to live, work and visit.” Our beautiful parks and playgrounds, world-famous Recreation Trail, well-used community centers, ball fields and Sports Center all contribute to that greatness. Much of what we enjoy today was envisioned by civic leaders over 30 years ago, with the 1986 Master Plan as their framework and legacy.

The 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan you are about to read provides a new and vibrant road map for parks and recreation development and activities until 2030, and beyond. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed from a year-long process that included community input from surveys, focus groups, stakeholder interviews and comments from people of all ages. We estimate over 1,000 participants – online and in-person!

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is built on important guiding principles for future priority-setting. Our parks and recreation system is essential to our quality of life and to the economic strength of our City. Our parks and recreation facilities are for everyone, regardless of income, background, age or abilities. Our community values welcoming, friendly, safe, and well-maintained facilities, parks and programs. We are encouraged to foster community, be bold and activate parks, create and strengthen connections between places and people, and collaborate with community partners.

Guidance provided by the vision, principles, goals and criteria of this Plan will ensure that our parks and recreation system is maintained, sustained, thoughtfully grown and well-enjoyed into the future. This Plan will be the basis for setting priorities, formulating resource allocation recommendations, effective planning and prudent development, and assessing how we are meeting our community’s needs.

We are grateful for the time and effort that everyone gave to the planning process, and we thank you. We look forward to working with residents, community members and staff to carry this 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan forward. We want it to be said that “Monterey is a great place to live, work, visit – and play.” We can’t wait to begin!

Sincerely,

Ellen McEwen, Chair
Kim Bui-Burton, Director

Parks and Recreation Commission
Community Services
The City of Monterey initiated the development of a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) in August 2015 to replace the 1986 Plan. The new PRMP builds on the success and lessons of the 1986 Plan, balancing the identification of projects and opportunities with a framework for decision-making that will allow the City to more effectively adapt and evolve with the community’s interests and needs.

The PRMP was developed over a year with broad input from the community, including neighborhood groups, City staff, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The PRMP incorporates information from the community’s demographics, assessment of the availability, accessibility and quality of current parks and recreation facilities, national and regional trends, and community input to develop a needs assessment, vision, and goals. In addition, the PRMP incorporates elements of other City Plans such as the Waterfront Master Plan, Multi-Modal Mobility Plan, and the Downtown Specific Plan.

**VISION AND GOALS**

The community provided valuable input into the process to help shape and focus the effort and to develop a guiding vision and goals for the PRMP. The goals are key organizing elements for the guidelines and proposed projects. In addition, the goals serve as key criteria for identifying priorities and will help the City focus its resources, priorities and time as it implements the projects within the PRMP.

**Vision**

*The City of Monterey’s parks and recreation system is essential to the quality of life and economic strength of the City, providing beautiful natural and developed resources for recreation, fitness, wellness, relaxation, and play for the community and visitors alike.*

**Goals**

1. **Unique Sense of Place**

   Enhance and celebrate Monterey’s unique sense of place through excellent park and facility design, and integration of art, history and community.

2. **Diverse Community**

   Design, build and maintain facilities that support Monterey’s diverse community.

3. **Economic and Environmental Sustainability**

   Ensure that the parks and recreation system is economically and environmentally sustainable.

4. **Accessibility**

   Ensure adequate safety and accessibility for all users.

**PRIMARY FINDINGS**

City of Monterey population has been fairly stable since the adoption of the 1986 Plan was developed and is not anticipated to grow much in the future. However, the City attracts large numbers of visitors, with 1.8 million going to the Monterey Bay Aquarium alone. Balancing this very high, intense use from tourists and business visitors with the needs of the community members is a major challenge and need for the City to address.
Parks and recreation facilities are a substantial resource for visitors and add to their experience and the reputation of the City of Monterey. For the residents, parks and recreation are an essential part of the quality of life and are valued by those living in Monterey.

This understanding, paired with the overall needs assessment, indicates that the City does not have a need to develop more general purpose parks. Overall, the City is well served with a robust and well-designed system of parks and recreation facilities and an excellent staff of parks and recreation professionals.

However, nearly all of the parks and facilities have been over-loved and need to be upgraded, refreshed and enhanced to serve the broad needs of Monterey, maintain its reputation for natural beauty, and ensure that the parks support economic development. In support of this concept, the community indicated that they would prefer to invest in the enhancement of existing parks rather than develop new parks.

GUIDELINES & PROJECTS

The PRMP provides detailed, yet adaptable, guidelines to help the City implement a wide range of projects and policies to support the PRMP vision and goals. In addition, the PRMP identifies a number of projects for the enhancement, operation and maintenance of the system, for example:

- Securing and maintaining appropriate funding for operations and maintenance of the parks and facilities
- Implementing enhancements to the Recreation Trail to support the high demand and to ease congestion
- Renovating Dennis the Menace Park to restore as a unique, destination playground
- Strengthening connections within and between parks, history and the culture of Monterey
- Creating a stronger sense of place and art in the parks
- Activating Monterey Bay Park

In addition, several new projects were identified, including, but not limited to:

- New Teen Center
- Sports Fields/Sports Fields Complex
- Ocean Aquatics Center
- Outdoor Lap/Competitive Swimming Pool

IMPLEMENTATION

The final chapter of the PRMP is dedicated to implementation and includes criteria for prioritization and order-of-magnitude costs for major projects, as well as rule of thumb costs for typical park improvements. Implementation priorities and costs will need to be updated routinely and will be managed through a new database developed for this PRMP.
01 introduction
In August 2015, the City of Monterey began the process of completing a comprehensive update of the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The current Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed in 1986 and partially updated in 1995, 2000, 2006 and 2011. These interim updates primarily focused on specific projects and improvements needed to grow and maintain the City’s parks and recreation system.

The new Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) will guide the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff in allocating resources over the next 15 years and to adapt to changing conditions and population needs. To that end, the PRMP has been informed by substantial community input, demographics and trends analysis, assessment of parks, recreation and facilities, and existing programs and policies. Further, the PRMP is consistent with other City adopted plans to ensure continuity and alignment.

**PRMP ORGANIZATION**

The PRMP is organized into the following sections:

1. **Introduction**
   Process overview, relevant City policies and plans

2. **Vision and Goals**
   Guiding vision and goals for the PRMP and implementation

3. **PRMP Context**
   Regional and community context, history, and demographics and trends

4. **Needs Assessment**
   Methodology, existing facility assessment, park access

5. **Guidelines and Projects**
   Major citywide guidelines and specific park and facility related projects

6. **Implementation**
   Phasing and priority projects and order of magnitude of costs

7. **Appendices**
   Includes Specific Projects Detail, Existing Conditions and Needs Analysis, Inventory and Lower Presidio Historic Park Master Plan
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING PROCESS

The PRMP was informed by a robust community process to ensure that the residents’, and, to the extent feasible, visitors’ voices were integral to the development of the PRMP. Community involvement was integrated into the overall planning process and the City’s Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) and City Council review of the PRMP. City staff from the Parks and Recreation Divisions, Planning Office, and Neighborhood Improvement Program were actively involved in the development of the PRMP as well. All of the public outreach activities were announced on the City’s website, at recreation centers, through social media sites, newspaper, and in other media.

A range of activities were conducted to reach as many individuals as possible. The graphic below illustrates the various community inputs and activities, and the key PRMP milestones, including:

- Two community-wide surveys distributed online and in print form to City email lists, at recreation centers and advertised on website and newspaper.
- Four small group meetings including art and history groups, City businesses, teens, and sports groups.
- Stakeholder interviews with community members who have a deep knowledge of the City, community and parks and recreation.
- Two open house/workshops open to the community to learn about the plan and to provide detailed input.
- Community outreach toolkits for City staff and other stakeholders to share information with their local groups for additional input.
01 introduction

- Joint PRC/Neighborhood Improvement Program Committee public meeting
- Joint PRC and City Council meeting
- Two videos describing potential needs and issues to be addressed

The PRMP itself was developed in three phases. The first phase included the greatest level of public involvement and included the development of the needs assessment, existing conditions analysis, park inventory, and analysis of best practices and trends.

The second phase built on the needs assessment to determine project goals, potential projects and opportunities and to identify priorities.

The final phase was the development of the PRMP, including policy development, recommendations and implementation.

POLICY CONTEXT

“Public Space is the stage upon which the drama of communal life unfolds. The streets, squares and parks of a city give form to the ebb and flow of human exchange.”

- Public Spaces, Carr, Francis, Rivlin, Stone

Parks and recreation are an essential part of the fabric of a city and community. A well designed system connects and weaves through each part of the community - in residential areas, commercial districts and all the spaces in between. Due to this interconnectivity, a parks and recreation plan needs to align and connect to nearly every aspect of a City’s planning work, coordinate with new projects and be considered in broad City policies. This PRMP update provides new policies and recommendations for operations and design of plazas, parks, recreation centers, trails, and open spaces to enhance the existing system, benefiting residents and visitors alike, and celebrating the unique character and history of the City of Monterey.

Since the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed in 1986, the City has adopted a number of plans to be considered throughout the current parks and recreation planning effort.

The main plans that require close coordination with the PRMP include:

- Multi-modal Mobility Plan
- Waterfront Master Plan
- Downtown Specific Plan
- Lower Presidio Historic Park Master Plan

In addition, as various City departments (e.g. Planning, Engineering, Traffic, Urban Forestry) implement routine or previously planned projects, particularly as they relate to pedestrian improvements, areas surrounding or touching the Recreation Trail and other major community parks, coordination between the various departments is essential to ensure that projects are in line with the goals of this plan and do not inadvertently conflict.

The following two pages provide an overview of other key plans that should be considered and coordinated with the PRMP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Potential Impacts to the PRMP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Plan</td>
<td>Adopted 2005, amended several times up to 2013</td>
<td>Provides overall City land use patterns and needs. Includes separate Open Space Element with specific goals that inform the PRMP and ensure protection of the critical assets of the natural areas and viewsheds. In addition, the Urban Design Element provides some guidance for parks and open space. These goals will be primary in consideration of any new development or changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Element</td>
<td>Update currently being done</td>
<td>The Housing Element is part of the General Plan and indicates where future residential growth is anticipated to occur, which directly impacts the need and location for future parks. According to the Housing Element, future growth is anticipated in the Lighthouse, Downtown, and North Fremont neighborhoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Specific Plan</td>
<td>October 2013, amended in October 2015</td>
<td>Throughout the City’s downtown a number of historic areas, plazas, green areas and pedestrian zones are linked together. All of these are related to the provision of a complete parks and recreation system. Several recommendations in the plan directly impact the PRMP including the plans for the Transit Plaza (Simoneau Plaza), Alvarado Mall, and Custom House Plaza and circulation changes and increased pedestrian friendly elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fremont Specific Plan</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Provides guidance on future development of this mixed use neighborhood area. Impacts and considerations to buffering new development and creating additional open space and park area incorporated as are better bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This area is also identified for future growth and will likely require additional parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfront Master Plan</td>
<td>Adopted February 16, 2016</td>
<td>The Waterfront Master Plan covers a large area of the City’s waterfront from San Carlos Beach to Monterey Bay Park. There are substantial parks and recreation facilities along the waterfront that are considered for enhancement and further development in the new PRMP. These two plans must be tightly aligned and coordinated to ensure there are not unintended conflicts or separate ideas for use. Of particular importance are the updates to the Recreation Trail, green space near the marina and changes to the existing kayak center, boat storage and Beach House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Presidio Master Plan</td>
<td>December 2002</td>
<td>The Lower Presidio Historic Park, under a 50 year lease from the U.S. Army, is considered one of the City’s parks. The Lower Presidio Historic Park Master Plan lays out a comprehensive vision and plan for the area and will continue to direct future projects for the area as an appendix to the PRMP. The plan requires an amendment to allow bicycles in the area. There are a number of circulation and access considerations that must be addressed to achieve the vision identified in the Lower Presidio Historic Park Master Plan and to meet the goals of the new PRMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Name</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Potential Impacts to the PRMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey on the Move – Multi-modal Mobility</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>This plan focuses on transportation and circulation improvements for bicycles and pedestrians and overall connectivity for the City. Aspects have been incorporated into the PRMP, especially as it relates to management of bike traffic on the Recreation Trail, connections to and from parks and schools, and safer crossings on the Recreation Trail from the Sports Center to Jacks Park and across to the waterfront.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Master Plan</td>
<td>June 1992</td>
<td>The Beach Master Plan is old and will be replaced by the PRMP. However, some aspects have been incorporated into the final PRMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Transition Plan</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>The City completed an ADA Self Evaluation effort in 2013. The ADA Plan identifies a number of required improvements and accessibility concerns to be addressed throughout the parks and recreation system and a comprehensive assessment of parks and facilities. The ADA Transition Plan will serve as the precedent for future planning and improvements as it relates to the PRMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Coastal Program Land Use Plans: Cannery</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>The Local Coastal Plans (LCPs) regulate and place specific conditions on land uses within areas under the Coastal Commission's jurisdiction. A number of sites discussed in the PRMP, including parks, beaches, Recreation Trail, and open space areas both along the coast and on Skyline Ridge, are within the areas covered by the LCPs. The City’s LCPs are in the process of being updated into a single LCP that addresses the entire coastal zone and will be submitted to the Coastal Commission for certification in 2017. Some policies relating to sea-level rise will have longer impacts than the length of the PRMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach, Monterey Harbor, and Skyline</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Many of the neighborhoods have adopted Area Plans, as required by the General Plan. However, these plans are outdated relative to existing parks and recreation facilities that serve the neighborhoods. Therefore, the PRMP will serve as the guiding document Citywide for these facilities. Where appropriate NIP projects have been referenced in the recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Wayfinding Plan</td>
<td>Under development</td>
<td>The City of Monterey is beginning the development of a new wayfinding plan, which will be important to coordinate with the vision and goals of the PRMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse Area Specific Plan</td>
<td>Under development</td>
<td>The Lighthouse Area Specific Plan will provide guidance for the development of transit-oriented, mixed-use development along the Lighthouse Avenue and Foam Street corridors. Access to park facilities and the consideration of new parks should be coordinated with the PRMP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
02 vision and goals
The community members, City staff and City leaders on the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and Neighborhood Improvement Program, provided insights and input into what is important to the City of Monterey and how they envision the future of their parks and recreation system. The vision and goals will guide future planning and decisions about resource allocation, in concert with the implementation criteria presented in Section 6.

**VISION**

*The City of Monterey’s parks and recreation system is essential to the quality of life and economic strength of the City, providing beautiful natural and developed resources for recreation, fitness, wellness, relaxation, and play for the community and visitors alike.*

The community identified the following principles in support of the Vision.

- Parks are for everyone
- Foster community
- Be bold and activate parks
- Create and strengthen connections
- Collaborate with other partners
- Be welcoming, safe, well maintained and friendly

**GOALS**

1. **Unique Sense of Place**

*Enhance and celebrate Monterey’s unique sense of place through excellent park and facility design, and integration of art, history and community.*

- Celebrate the City’s natural beauty and cultural diversity.
- Work with the City’s art community to develop a plan to integrate more art and artful elements into the parks and facilities.
- Ensure that the history and culture of the City is reflected in the City’s Parks and Recreation system.


2. Diverse Community

*Design, build and maintain facilities that support Monterey’s diverse community.*

- Support the health and wellness of the entire community with facilities and programs that inspire and encourage use by all ages and abilities.
- Develop and maintain facilities that will serve the community’s demographics, especially older adults and teens, while considering the evolutionary aspect and multiple stages of people’s lives.
- Provide opportunities for both inter-generational interactions and quiet environments.

- Create a dedicated parks and recreation operations and maintenance fund that ensures adequate operations and maintenance of all facilities to a high level of excellence.
- Ensure that every new park or facility has an identified fund for ongoing operations and maintenance.
- Establish sustainability guidelines to direct landscape practices, efficient management of facilities and resource use in the park system.
- Seek and utilize a variety of funding sources for capital and operational expenses.

3. Economic and Environmental Sustainability

*Ensure that the Parks and Recreation system is economically and environmentally sustainable.*

- Recognize and support the role of parks and recreation in the City’s economic development, real estate values and visitor trade.
- Leverage and solidify partnerships with other parks and recreation providers, the school district, businesses and organizations to increase service and manage resources.
- Coordinate with other City and County agencies to improve safety and sense of welcome in the City’s parks and facilities.
- Seek a balance and appropriate use for technology in parks and recreation facilities and programs.

4. Accessible Parks and Facilities

*Ensure adequate safety and accessibility for all users.*

- Create and strengthen connections to and around parks and recreation facilities and community destinations.
- Continue to make improvements that increase access to all parks and facilities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Continue to provide a diversity of programs and facilities that are available and open to serve the community.
03 plan context
REGION

The City of Monterey is located on Monterey Bay surrounded by a diverse group of cities and communities and influenced by the larger region, which includes Salinas, Watsonville and Gilroy. (Map 1) The immediate neighbors of Monterey include Del Rey Oaks, Pacific Grove and Carmel to the North West and Sand City, Seaside and Marina to the North East.

The cities to the North East have the highest level of growth in the area and are frequent users of the City of Monterey parks facilities and programs. Carmel, Pacific Grove and Carmel Valley have smaller more consistent sized populations, but have substantial tourism draws.

PLANNING AREA

Map 2 illustrates the planning area for the PRMP. The planning area centers on the City of Monterey and the facilities and parks owned or operated by the City.

The unincorporated area surrounding the City is included as it relates to residents who will be served by City parks. Its location and excellent parks and recreation facilities draw these neighbors to Monterey on a regular basis.
MAP 2. PLANNING AREA
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Unique Characteristics of Monterey

The City of Monterey is located on California’s central coast, built beside Monterey Bay and on the surrounding hills. The City is nearly completely built out with very little space for additional growth. As of 2010, there were just over 27,000 residents living in an even mix of multifamily and single family houses. Monterey is a unique City with characteristics that make it a long-term home for residents and an attractive draw for visitors. These special characteristics also influence the community’s needs and how the community engages with recreation, parks and programs.

History

The City offers a rich historic experience, with sites, artifacts and museums reaching back beyond the 1800’s including Native American, Spanish missionary, early settlers, and Civil War eras. The City’s cultural treasures include the Lower Presidio Historic Park, considered one of the most significant historic locations in California, Colton Hall where the first California Constitution was written, the Path of History, numerous historic houses (now museums) and plazas, as well as more mainstream attractions such as Cannery Row and the celebration of the life and literature of John Steinbeck. This rich history can be a dynamic and connecting element of the parks and recreation experience.

Natural Beauty

Monterey Bay is one of California’s most important marine ecological resources – the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary - and it offers amazing beauty, enjoyment of nature, and recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. People from the region and around the state come to Monterey Bay for scuba diving, kayaking, skin diving and other ocean recreation activities, as well as to the beaches for gatherings, picnics, and more active sports.

Military Population

The City is home to a large military population with two major installations within the City boundaries: the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, and the Naval Postgraduate School, as well as a Naval Housing development. In the past the City has been able to benefit from strong partnerships and use of military facilities for parks and recreation. Since 9/11 and continuing concerns regarding terrorism, security measures have made most of those facilities infeasible to access on a regular basis. The Naval Housing area is open to the public and has a wide range of parks and recreation facilities, which may be available for joint use.

Neighborhood Improvement Program

In 1985, the City of Monterey adopted a Charter Amendment to establish the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) to effectively distribute tourist generated funds back into the neighborhoods. The NIP receives 16% of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for capital development of community projects, many for parks and recreation facilities. Projects are required
to be capital improvements as opposed to operational in nature.

There are 14 different NIP neighborhoods, encompassing nearly the entire City. Each neighborhood has a representative on the NIP Committee to evaluate community nominated projects and to consider which projects to fund that will benefit the community.

The NIP program is an important element to the success and high quality of facilities for parks and recreation in the City. The PRMP should be a resource for future NIP planning.

**Education Community**

The City of Monterey is home to a large number of higher education institutions, including, Monterey Peninsula College (MPC), Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS), Chapman College, Defense Language Institute (DLI), and Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). In addition, the City is located near California State University Monterey Bay. This large, somewhat transient population adds additional impacts to the City’s parks and recreation facilities. Most of these campuses offer additional recreational and athletic facilities, which provide added benefits to the City and serve multiple needs. However, the Recreation Trail, beaches and similar facilities serve these additional short-term residents.

**Large Visitor Population**

Monterey is home to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which draws 1.8 million visitors annually (2013). In addition, the City and region draws over 8 million visitors annually. The City is a major draw for pleasure and business travellers. Improvements to the City’s conference center are poised to increase the number of potential visitors. These visitors provide both benefits and challenges to the City. The City receives significant revenue from the hotel tax fees, as mentioned. At the same time, the major visitor impacts make it more difficult for residents to enjoy some of the facilities, and it takes a large amount of staff time to maintain the facilities in these high-visitor areas. Currently there are no visitor fees dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the parks and recreation facilities.
The City has grown only minimally since the last plan was done in 1986 and it is unlikely that it will experience substantial growth in the future due to the lack of affordable housing and availability of land and water. However, there are some areas of the City that will see increased densification along with the continued growth in visitor population. The City itself has a population of 27,810 with the total plan area population of 30,605 people.

Demographics
The City has grown only minimally since the last plan was done in 1986 and it is unlikely that it will experience substantial growth in the future due to the lack of affordable housing and availability of land and water. However, there are some areas of the City that will see increased densification along with the continued growth in visitor population. The City itself has a population of 27,810 with the total plan area population of 30,605 people.

The median age in the City is 36.9, but varies considerably by neighborhood (see graph). Overall, Monterey has a well-educated population and relatively high median household income of $63,072. Over the past years, the number of single-family housing units has been reduced and the average household size has dropped from 2.27 to 2.08 per household. Visitor levels are high. The City has a large young military population, which includes a substantial number of college and graduate students who are semi-permanent residents.

Monterey County
Monterey County has experienced moderate growth of 3.13 percent since 2000, with the largest growth occurring in neighboring cities of Sand City and Marina. Overall the County has a population of approximately 415,000 and a median age of 32.9. According to the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the county has approximately 8.4 million visitors annually. This information is important as many of the County’s residents and its visitors enjoy the parks and recreation facilities and programs of the City of Monterey.

People
The City of Monterey’s median age of 36.9 is only somewhat older than the State median age. However, it varies greatly from one part of the City to another, with areas with a median age of over 50 and the Military areas being much lower – with median ages in the 20s.

It is likely that the population will continue to evolve with cycles of younger families becoming older and then repeating. The PRMP needs to have flexibility and the ability to change with these shifting demographics.

The number of people under the age of 19 (19%) is slightly higher than those over the age of 65 (16%), with the largest cohort in the age group of 35 to 64 (37% of the population). There are slightly more men than women in the City with the higher percent of men than women likely due to the Military presence in the community.
The City of Monterey is predominately white. However, the surrounding region is very diverse with over 50% of the County Population identifying as Hispanic.

**Housing and Households**

The PRMP needs to address changes in household composition, size and location to ensure equitable access to parks, facilities and programs. In 1986, the average household size was 2.27. It has fallen to 2.08, likely reflecting fewer children. The City has had more growth in multifamily units than in single family household units, with the highest number of multifamily units in the Del Monte and Central Area Census Tracks. While the increase in multifamily housing units is likely to continue, Monterey is becoming less dense than in 1986 overall. In 1986, housing density was at 3.80 units per acre and that has decreased to 3.09 units per acre. Current plans indicate that new density may be added in the Downtown area, North Fremont area and Lighthouse area.

**Education and Income**

Overall, Monterey community members are well off and well educated with nearly 50% of those 25 and older holding a college degree. Income levels throughout the City differ somewhat with the Naval Housing, Flats, and Unincorporated Census Tracks having the highest median income.
HISTORY

Recreation Division

The first Park Commission began on July 1, 1929, with P.J. Dougherty as Chairman, and Commissioners Harry A. Greene, Mary C. Black, Allen Griffin, Margaret Jacks, Francis Lester, and Katherine Sandholdt. Known as Monterey’s “Parks and Playgrounds Commission,” the Commission was concerned mainly with the development and acquisition of park facilities. In 1932, the Commission’s interest began to include recreational play activities at the park and school sites. Jointly with the School Board, the Commission developed a supervised play program at Monterey High School.

In 1938, the Park Commission appointed James Parsons as the first Recreation Director for the City. Working with the school district, Parsons formalized the Monterey High School play activity into the City’s first recreation program, known as the Playgrounds Program. The Playgrounds Program ran its first successful year in 1938 during the summer months and afterschool. Programmed activities included baseball, kickball, marbles, jackstones (jacks), tetherball, soap carving, pet shows, roller skating and top spinning. Supervised at Bay View, Walter Colton and Oak Grove schools, these play activities entertained an average of 335 children each day. In 1986, this program encompassed ten school playgrounds with an average of 1,300 children per day, participating in some of the original and traditional playground activities, highlighted by field trips to the Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk, Marine World in Palo Alto, and the Bolado Park swimming facility in San Benito County. The Playgrounds Program is still one of over 400 programs offered by the City of Monterey today.

The year 1938 was significant for recreation in Monterey. In addition to the Playgrounds Program, new activities began and were supervised by the Recreation Department. The City received assistance from the Work Projects Administration (WPA), a nationwide program, which provided eight million jobs and $11 billion in Federal funding during the Roosevelt administration from 1935 to 1943. The WPA was responsible for the construction of hundreds of thousands of public buildings and facilities throughout the United States. Locally, in 1936, the WPA financed the development of the Lagunita Mirada Pond, once a swampy area near El Estero, and in 1938 funded the first supervised Playgrounds Program at Dennis the Menace Playground.
recreational beach activities at Monterey Beach with a full-time lifeguard.

Although baseball had long been established in Monterey, formal league play did not begin until the 1930s. The El Toro Softball League for men began when the Monterey Municipal Ball Park had secured night-time lighting equipment in 1931. This park is now known as Jacks Ball Park. A boys’ hardball league for the evenings began in 1938, and two divisions of softball leagues for boys (12 years of age and under, and a 13 years of age and older league) were established. Today, Socko (slow pitch softball) is the popular ballgame. Originating in the 1950s, Socko is designed for two-pitch play to speed up the game. The sport has increased in popularity with 95 Coed teams and 40 Men’s teams in Monterey alone, totaling 2,400+ Socko team players annually.

Other activities beginning the year of 1938 included a model boat regatta at El Estero due to the doubling of interest in the activity that year, and the City-wide Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, which began in Jacks Ball Park. On Friday evenings, roller skating at the El Estero Street “rink” began. Camino El Estero was blocked off from Franklin to Del Monte.

The first annual Monterey Peninsula Soap Box Derby was held on July 1, 1938. A local boy from Del Monte Grove won the first place prize of a trip to the Derby at Akron, Ohio, and the chance at a four-year college scholarship in the 1938 national finals in August. Locally, citizens to this day vividly remember the enthusiastic hard work that went into the building of the soap box cars, and the thrill of the race.

In June of 1938, Peter Hay, for whom a golf course in Pebble Beach has been named established the first annual Junior Open Golf Tournament at Del Monte Golf Course, paying for the trophies himself and waiving the green fees.

The City’s first Halloween party was held in 1938 at one of the school playgrounds. Notable activities at the party included a grease pole climb, apple bobbing and medicine ball races (weight training tool for boxers). During this year, boxing also became popular and was a sponsored activity by the City of Monterey.

Tennis became popular in the late 1930s, and Monterey was graced by the famous Charlie Chaplin and Jimmy Durante, both of Hollywood, who participated in the 1938 City Tennis Tournament, held at the Monterey High School courts (Monterey Peninsula Herald article, dated May 21, 1938). The State Fairgrounds had its debut in 1936, with the first Monterey County Fair at the new facility, run by volunteers. Prior to this, fair activities had been occurring annually at Jacks Ball Park.
Monterey’s first full-time recreation director, J.A. (Duke) Thayer of Santa Rosa, began on August 23, 1950. Although appointed by the combined Monterey school boards, known as the newly formed Advisory Commission, he became a full-time employee on the City’s payroll. In October of 1950, the Advisory Commission announced that the Vasquez Adobe was to be remodeled and used as the Recreation Department office.

In 1950, the Parks and Playgrounds Commission changed its title to the Recreation Commission due to the increasing emphasis and interest in the recreation programs being developed by the City. By 1966, the responsibilities of the Recreation Commission were expanded to bring about its present status as the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Recreation Department was offering its program within 16 City parks, for a total of 145 acres, with a staff of seven full-time employees.

The Recreation Department grew exponentially over the next few years under the direction of Duke Thayer, who strongly emphasized responsiveness to the people’s desires for recreation with the following philosophy: “A recreation department is like a service similar to a police department or fire department, but with, of course, a different task. Recreation departments should cover social, cultural, and athletic programs, and if there are any people who want help in planning or setting up a program, we will be glad to offer our aid.” — J.A. (Duke) Thayer, 1950.

In 1955, Peter J. Aldrete was hired as the Recreation Director and in 1970 he became the Parks and Recreation Director. At that time, the Parks Division and Recreation Department became one department. Peter brought distinction to not only himself but to the City of Monterey through his innovative and concerned approach to providing the highest level of parks and recreation services to the community. His goal was to build a park in virtually every neighborhood. He successfully achieved that with 22 parks within the City. Dennis the Menace Park, Tawse Pool, Tennis Center, Veteran’s Memorial Park, Camp Quien Sabe, Whispering Pines Park, the ball fields and community centers in Monterey stand as a testimony to his endeavors along with beginning the process for Monterey’s very own swim/gym complex.

In 1988, Peter Aldrete retired and Kay Russo was appointed as the Recreation and Community Services Director. Once again, the Parks Division merged with the Public Works Department. Kay began her tenure with many projects on her plate. She was devoted to making the lives of local
families better by providing outstanding and quality park and recreation programs and facilities. The development of the swim/gym complex began along with the park and community center in the Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood. Kay also spearheaded the acquisition and renovation of Hilltop Park Center and the renovation of Scholze Park Center, Dennis the Menace Park, Tennis Center, Peter J. Ferrante Park, Peter J. Aldrete Ball Field, Monterey Bay Park, construction of City’s first Skate Park plus many more projects and programs like the 4th of July Celebration before her retirement in 2011.

In 1993, Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center and park opened providing services and programs for all ages for the Casanova Oak Knoll neighborhood area and all residents of Monterey.

Kay’s proudest achievement is the Monterey Sports Center. Citizens of Monterey voted on this “swim/gym” complex and overwhelmingly approved the project. It opened its doors in June of 1992. The 56,000 square foot facility featured a multi-sport gymnasium, a 1,400 square foot aerobics and multi-purpose room, a 1,400 square foot weight fitness center, a tot activity room and a two pool natatorium featuring a 30-meter lap swimming pool, a 92-degree therapeutic pool, a 180-foot corkscrew waterslide and sun deck. Shortly after opening, Kay began working with staff on an expansion project due to the growing popularity of the center and growing need for more fitness programs and space. In December 2002, the newly expanded Sports Center opened and had grown to 72,000 square feet. The expanded facility included a 3,360 square foot cardio fitness center featuring 24 treadmills and dozens of additional fitness equipment (ellipticals, cross trainers, cycles, rowing machines, step mills and more). The new weight training center features some of the top weight lifting equipment and multiple televisions featuring cardio theatre allowing users to plug into their fitness equipment to enjoy television broadcasts, local news and music. Other areas of the Sports Center have grown in size over the years to include additional aerobics rooms, cycling room, Pro Shop/Sports Café and expanded Tot Activity Room. The Sports Center has grown significantly since those early days of the concept of building a “swim/gym.” Services and programs continue to expand and change to continue to serve the diverse recreational and fitness needs of families and all age groups in the community.

In 2011, Kim Bui-Burton was appointed Community Services and Library Director. Kim works with staff to uphold the mission of the Recreation Division to continue to make the community better now and in the future by providing recreational programs and facilities that promote healthy lifestyles, strong families and positive youth development while striving to increase the social, cultural and physical well being for all ages. She has been instrumental in the development of the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the renovation of the Skate Park, increasing public-non-profit partnerships, and working with staff to upgrade existing facilities and maintain quality programs and events for all ages in the community.

Beginning with a budget of $2,141.34 for the Fiscal Year 1937-1938, the Recreation Division, today operates with a budget of $8,516,785 (Fiscal Year 2015-2016) offering over 400 different recreational programs and services yearly. The Division includes
four (4) community centers, Sports Center, Field Sports, Special Events, Summer Camps and Playground Program, and after school and holiday programs. The Division now employs 36 full-time employees, 17 Regular Part-time employees and some 325 part-time recreation leaders and specialists.

**Parks Division**

Known as the Building and Grounds Department until 1955, the Parks Division used to be combined with the Building Maintenance Division maintaining the park grounds, public restrooms and community centers within the City parks. In 1956, the Parks Division became known as the Public Grounds Department, separate from the Building Maintenance Division, when maintenance responsibilities focused solely on the park grounds. Facility maintenance (restrooms and community centers) then became the responsibility of the Building Maintenance Division.

**Parks And Recreation Department**

The Parks and Recreation Department evolved in 1970 when the Public Grounds Department and the Recreation Department merged due to the dependency park and recreation activities had upon each other. Most recreation functions had pulled away from the school playgrounds by this time and were occurring within the vastly expanding City parks system. Maintenance of the parks system began to occur in response to many of these recreation functions, such as baseball park maintenance, Dennis the Menace Playground maintenance, and El Estero Park picnic grounds maintenance.

Today’s Parks Division of the Plans and Public Works Department employs 27 full-time employees and three part-time maintenance employees. The operating budget for the Parks Division is $4,669,296 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The budget includes Parks, Forestry and Cemetery.

**Park Acquisition And Development**

In 1986, of the 335+ acres of developed park land and greenbelt areas in the City of Monterey, approximately 76% is the result of land grants (41%) and land dedications as a result of residential development (35%), dating back to the early 1900s. The remaining acreage comprising 24% of the City’s park system has been purchased throughout the years.

Currently the Parks Division maintains and oversees 256 acres of parks, 37 acres of beaches, 10 acres of cemetery, 21 acres of public grounds, and 289 acres of greenbelts.
PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS

The City of Monterey has a well established and mature park system. There is an opportunity to better serve the community, enhance the experience, and create a more modern parks system by considering and incorporating current trends.

The Outdoor Lifestyle

Today, the active outdoor lifestyle has gone mainstream, characterized by wellness and quality time with family and friends. To meet this new and changing demand, people are looking for ways to be outdoors in urban areas. Due to time demands of family and jobs, convenience and accessibility is critical. The opportunity and challenge for parks and recreation professionals is to provide meaningful outdoor activity near to home.

According to the 2012 "The Outdoor Recreation Economy" report by the Outdoor Industry Association, 140 million Americans over the age of 16 participate in outdoor activities. Americans spend approximately $646 million dollars annually on outdoor recreation – twice as much as we spend on automobiles, gas or utilities. These activities are characterized by a sense of wellness, promotion of social interaction and a connection to the outdoors. The need for flexibility in recreation programs as adults find less and less time to participate is critical, as is the need to provide opportunities for stress release.

For youth ages 6-24, the highest participation in outdoor activities is in running/jogging and bicycling. The favorite activities (how frequently they participate) are also running/jogging and bicycling with the addition of skateboarding. Running is also popular with adults, but fishing has the second highest participation, followed by bicycling. Adults’ favorite activities are running, bicycling, and birdwatching.

The Outdoor Industry survey on participation identified a number of trends as illustrated in the chart below. These 3-year and 1-year trends are particularly important to Monterey as many of the activities are part of the bay/ocean front lifestyle. In the last three years, stand-up paddling has gone up 24%, kayak fishing 20%, and kayaking in general 8%. In the last year these trends are even stronger and included...
increased activities in snorkeling and scuba diving, as well as all types of kayaking.

Recreation Oriented Development is the new term for the aligning of parks, recreation and open space to drive new investment and focus development in established communities.

In order to effectively assess and develop a successful City park system, we need to understand the nature and extent of the new outdoor lifestyle generating demand for parks and recreation. We need to understand how outdoor amenities provide opportunities to activate cities in new ways, including aligning park development with new housing and with visitor services; land development; business development; and community development.

While the social benefits of parks and recreation has long been clear, many do not realize the economic impact of parks and recreation facilities on a community. A 2009 Open Space San Francisco Study found that “Parks can significantly increase property values, attract and retain businesses, attract and retain a talented workforce, boost the tourism industry, create jobs and increase tax revenues.” A 2013 study by the National Recreation and Park Association, “The Economic Impact of Local Parks,” quantified the economic contribution of parks and recreation on spending, tourism and property values.

Integrated Park and Open Space System

A City’s park and open space system must offer a hierarchy of spaces ranging from small pocket parks and plazas to pedestrian boulevards and destination parks, all connected by pathways, trails, bikeways and green streets. Each space plays a distinct and key role in the system. Some may become vital urban plazas linked to transit, restaurants and retail, while others may offer small green respites from the urban environment. Looking to other cities...
in the United States as well as Europe and beyond, we can think beyond the traditional concept of open space and explore how the spaces between buildings or certain streets may play a role in creating a green infrastructure.

**Health, Wellness and Walkability**

Although California is a relatively healthy state, with just over 76% of the population reporting they are physically active, 24% of the population is obese. Diagnoses of diabetes have increased 15% in the last 2 years, and physical inactivity has increased for seniors (65+) by 29%\(^1\). In September 2015, the US Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, launched a new initiative: “Step it Up! Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities.” The initiative calls for walking as a daily activity and inspires professionals from health care to parks and recreation to support the development and creation of more walkable communities to encourage people to get out and walk.

Parks and recreation services, programs and facilities are being seen more and more as the “prescription” for prevention of poor health, and support of wellness for communities. The State of Oregon and Washington DC both have programs in place that have health professionals issue parks prescriptions. Ensuring tobacco free parks, encouraging community walking programs, and creating health focused pedestrian and bike plans are all part of the solution that parks and recreation can serve.\(^2\)

**Climate Change, Resiliency and Sustainability**

Climate change mitigation, resiliency planning and sustainability efforts are some of the most critical issues that cities will be addressing today and into the future. Parks play a central role in the ability to assist and address some of the issues related to climate change. This includes water conservation through smart irrigation technologies, sustainable planting approaches for parks, and overall maintenance practices. In addition, the provision and stewardship of open space offers a “carbon sink,” an important element to help mitigate emissions. Recreation programs and facilities that focus on walkability and bikeability are critical to reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), a key statewide goal to reduce greenhouse gases. Open space and parks also can be important buffers for potential flood zones resulting from increased severe weather patterns, especially on the coast. Finally, energy conservation efforts and the use of solar panels for recreation facilities can help reduce the City’s carbon footprint.

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\(^1\) American Health Ranking.org

act as a model for businesses and residents, and save money in operations.

The Child in the City

One of the greatest challenges cities nationwide are facing, is how to retain and support families in the urban environment. This challenge includes creating an appropriate park system for child development – physical, social and cognitive – creating the opportunity to enjoy and experience nature, as well as provide safe streets and accessible schools. More than the development of tot lots, considering children in the city means looking at the entire network, from streets and plazas to trail and parks, as an interconnected support system. Each element of the system must consider children of all ages and their families.

To effectively understand this demographic, we will need to consider a number of age groups: 0 - 5 year olds; 5 - 12 year olds; 13 – 18 year olds; young adults, and families as a whole. Each group presents particular demands that need to be weighed in the programming of the parks and open space system. Teenagers and young adults are perhaps the most challenging of this group. As a whole, they do not want to be categorized with children, may not want to be part of an organized group, and are often more interested in exploring a larger realm. Evaluating how to provide safe and interesting experiences for this group will be paramount to serving the full needs of residents.

Aging Population

One of the strongest trends throughout the United States, California and the region is the aging of our population. The City of Monterey has an older, aging population and must consider and develop facilities and programs that will serve older adults with a variety of needs and interests. Seniors can no longer be lumped into a single category and be effectively served. With healthier lifestyles, people live longer and have more active lives than ever before. Parks and recreation providers need to consider multiple stages and interests of seniors’ diverse lives. Facilities and programs must provide for seniors interested in developing new skills and learning new activities; for those with some health issues and access concerns; for passive and more contemplative activities; for seniors looking for inter-generational interactions; and for those who want more quiet environments.
Technology

Technology is offering parks and recreation providers with broad new opportunities as well as new challenges. Baby boomers tend to be more educated and more technology dependent, desiring more high tech and “amenity” rich experiences. Technology can simultaneously provide a mass communication tool while improving affordability and accessibility to community members. Opportunities for tech-aided recreation are growing while a conflicting trend for technology-free parks and environments is emerging. Finding the right balance and appropriate use for technology in parks and recreation facilities and programming will be an evolving effort.

Economics and Financing

Parks and recreation professionals have often had to fight for resources to build and maintain a high quality system of parks. This pressure continues with the trend towards higher cost-recovery requirements and higher user fees for new facilities. The need for new sources of revenue generation is encouraging parks and recreation professionals to become more entrepreneurial. Expanding opportunities for sponsorships, as well as looking to new potential partners for funding programs and facilities is becoming a priority. Additionally, identifying and securing long-term funding sources for maintaining and renovating existing parks is an ongoing challenge.

Arts, History and Culture

Increasingly, people are recognizing the value of and seeking out a more immersive and experiential type of recreation and travel. This is a move away from a more consumer oriented approach and benefits Monterey’s extensive and intriguing history that includes the impressive range of adobe structures. Connecting history, art and culture within the parks is an opportunity to leverage this trend for both visitors and community members.
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METHODOLOGY

To effectively determine the City of Monterey’s needs for parks and recreation, a number of inputs are required to have a complete understanding of what the community needs in terms of parks and recreation facilities. The following are the areas evaluated and considered in determining need for the City of Monterey:

- **Community input**: Listening to the community voices through a variety of channels at multiple points.
- **Quality of existing parks and facilities**: Assessing how well parks and facilities are currently meeting their intended purpose and current needs.
- **Community profile and demographics**: Understanding about the community and audiences for the parks and recreation facilities and how they may change over time.
- **Trends analysis**: Evaluating regional and national recreation and park trends and determining what Monterey can learn from others.
- **Accessibility to the parks and facilities**: Determining how easily community members can reach parks and recreation facilities from their home.
- **Acres of parks per resident**: Conducting an order-of-magnitude check about what gross number of facilities are available per resident.

No single element can direct the City about needs. Instead, they must be taken together as a whole and evaluated for a complete picture.

**SERVICE LEVELS: ACRES PER RESIDENT**

Monterey currently provides approximately 7 acres of neighborhood and pocket parks, community parks and special parks per 1,000 residents. When public open space and regional parks are included, the total rises to 22.8 acres per 1,000 residents. Monterey’s parks are distributed throughout the City, providing a park, trail or open space within a quarter mile (a 5-minute walk) of most residents.

Overall, the level of service, accessibility to parks, quality of facilities and type of facilities available are excellent. While it is unlikely that the City will need substantial new parkland, there are areas for improvements and the need to revisit the existing park facilities and amenities to better serve the community. Section 6 goes into depth about the needs and opportunities for the City.
QUALITY OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

Monterey has a wide variety of parks and open spaces distributed throughout the City, from pocket parks to large community parks and open spaces. The City owns, operates and maintains the majority of park and recreation sites, but also enters into joint use arrangements with various other jurisdictional entities. Additionally, the City maintains or jointly maintains a number of urban plazas, as well as open spaces and greenbelts that are primarily passive use or serve as visual amenities. The Inventory section covers primarily active use parks, beaches, open spaces with trails, and special purpose parks such as the Lower Presidio Historic Park or Recreation Trail that are maintained and operated by the City.

Neighborhood & Pocket Parks

Neighborhood and pocket parks serve the neighborhoods in which they are located. Neighborhood parks typically include amenities for active recreation such as play equipment, sports courts, and multi-use turf. They also include amenities for passive relaxation, such as benches, tables, and landscaped areas. Pocket parks may contain small play structures, turf areas, and amenities for passive recreation.

Monterey’s parks include 11 neighborhood parks, ranging in size from less than one acre to almost 3 acres, totaling almost 18 acres. These parks include:
- Hilltop Park
- Oak Newton Park
- Archer Park and Hoffman Park
- Cypress Park
- Larkin Park
- Montecito Park
- Peter J. Ferrante Park
- Casanova Oak Knoll Park
- Fisherman’s Flats Park
- Deer Flats Park
- Laguna Grande Park

The City’s 12 pocket parks and plazas include tot lots such as Spray Avenue Tot Lot and Laguna Grande Court Park, as well as small plazas and gardens such as the Sensory Garden, Spanish Plaza and Griffin Plaza, and plazas along the Recreation Trail such as Bruce Ariss Way Park and Cannery Row Park Plaza.

Community Parks

Community parks serve multiple neighborhoods or provide features that draw users from the entire City. They may be large parks with multiple features such as sports fields, community centers, or destination playgrounds. They may also be smaller parks that due to their special features or location attract users from a wider area, such as Monterey’s shoreline and beach parks.

Monterey’s community parks range in size from less than one to 52.4 acres, totaling over 82 acres. These parks include:
- Scholze Park
- San Carlos Beach Park
- Via Paraiso Park
- Whispering Pines Park
- Jacks Ball Park
- El Estero Park Complex
- Monterey Bay Park
- Veteran’s Memorial Park
- Friendly Plaza and Colton Hall Lawn
MAP 3. CITY OWNED AND OPERATED PARKS & FACILITIES

See Map 4 on next page
04 needs assessment

MAP 4. CITY OWNED AND OPERATED PARKS & FACILITIES: WATERFRONT
Open Space

Open space areas include small passive parks, large greenbelts, and natural areas. These areas often include trails and benches, but in some cases are purely visual amenities. A little over 300 acres of open space is managed by the City, and includes:

- Lagunita Mirada
- Don Dahvee Greenbelt
- Huckleberry Hill Nature Preserve
- Iris Canyon Greenbelt
- Quarry Park
- Various other greenbelts

Special Use Parks

The City has a number of parks that do not fit into a typical category and so are identified here as “Special” use. This includes several of the beaches that do not provide typical recreation amenities. Special Use Parks include Del Monte and McAbee Beach, the Lower Presidio Historic Park, Veterans Memorial Park, Frances Elkins Park, Fisherman’s Shoreline Park, Monterey Tennis Center, and Simoneau Plaza among others.

The 4.75 mile Monterey Bay Coastal Recreational Trail is a portion of an 18 mile regional trail along the Monterey Coast. It is a central element of the City’s park system and could also be considered a community park.

Recreation Centers

The City owns and operates five Recreation Centers. The Monterey Sports Center is the jewel of the system with approximately 70,000 square feet of space dedicated to community recreation, including a natatorium, gymnasium, fitness and weight rooms, exercise studios and support space.

In addition, the City has an adult and senior center - Scholze Park Center, a youth center - Monterey Youth Center, and two neighborhood centers - Hilltop Park Center in New Monterey and Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center in the Casanova Oak Knoll neighborhood.

Joint Use and Other Community Facilities

In order to better serve its residents’ recreation needs, the City has entered into joint use agreements with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD). Most school sites remain open and accessible for neighborhood use of play equipment and youth sports fields. The City has also worked with the Presidio of Monterey in a joint use agreement whereby the City maintains Soldier Field and City youth leagues play on those sports fields.

Joint use has its benefits and difficulties, including increased security and restrictions on use of the military facilities, and variable costs, maintenance, operations and scheduling conflicts with MPUSD properties. Although some facilities such as Monterey Peninsula College are made available for limited use, fees and access are at the discretion of the proprietary jurisdiction. (See Map 5 on page 32 for locations of these other facilities)
Please note this map does not include City owned small plazas or pocket parks.
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Summary Inventory

Beginning on page 35, there is a summary of the City parks by type, size, and by how well they meet their intended function. This is arranged by type of park and described previously. For each park type, a summary of the acres per thousand is provided.

An important element of this table is the column that indicates how well each park or center fulfills intended use. Each City-owned site has been assigned one of three ranks: below expectations, meets expectations or exceeds expectations. Non-City owned facilities in general, were not evaluated but included for information only. “Expectation” is a subjective term that indicates the general consensus of how a park or center should meet needs. An example of this subjectivity may be applied to the Sports Center. The Sports Center was designed and intended for recreation purposes only, and as such exceeds expectations. However, some community members feel that there should be competitive activities, particularly swimming, and in their opinion the Center is below expectations. For purposes of this analysis, the planning team has based its assessment on the intended use of the facility, park or center and not what some might wish it did.

These determinations were made through several inputs: community input at the workshops and surveys; the planning team’s on-site analysis of the park or center; and input from the City’s Recreation and Park staff. Together these three inputs provide the ability to indicate how well a park meets expectations.

A complete Inventory database provides a detailed listing of all the parks and the features found in each one.

ACCESS TO PARKS

It is generally considered important for a community member to be able to walk to a park within 1/4 mile (about 5 minutes) of his or her residence. On the following page is a map of the City of Monterey with all of the City facilities with a quarter mile walking radius from each park. Barriers to walking such as topography, major road crossings or freeways, and access barriers such as the military facilities are identified and are considered limits to access. The map clearly illustrates that for the broad majority of residents in the City there is access to some kind of park or open space. The areas that do not indicate access are actually military owned locations with ample facilities for their constituents.
MAP 6. 1/4 MILE WALKING ACCESS TO PARKS
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center</td>
<td>5,110 sf</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Park Center</td>
<td>18,400 sf</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Sports Center</td>
<td>71,255 sf</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Youth Center</td>
<td>14,000 sf</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholze Park Center</td>
<td>9,437 sf</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Pocket Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Ariss Way Park/Cannery Row Worker’s Memorial Park</td>
<td>.12 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannery Row Park Plaza</td>
<td>.18 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Ricketts Park</td>
<td>.03 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin Plaza</td>
<td>.16 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartnell Gulch Park</td>
<td>0.6 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Court Park</td>
<td>0.07 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagunita Mirada</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portola Plaza</td>
<td>.66 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensory Garden</td>
<td>.41 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Plaza</td>
<td>.43 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray Avenue Tot Lot</td>
<td>0.1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Pocket Park</strong></td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>0.1 Acres/Thousand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Neighborhood Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer Park &amp; Hoffman Park</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casanova Oak Knoll Park</td>
<td>1.3 acres</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Park</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Flats Park</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Flats Park</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Park</td>
<td>2.6 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 04 needs assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larkin Park</td>
<td>1.3 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montecito Park</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Newton Park</td>
<td>2.5 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Ferrante Park</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Neighborhood Park 14.8 0.5 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colton Hall Lawn</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Estero Park Complex</td>
<td>45 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Shoreline Park</td>
<td>3.17 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Plaza</td>
<td>.78 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Park</td>
<td>2.8 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacks Ball Park</td>
<td>3.7 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Park</td>
<td>4.8 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Carlos Beach Park</td>
<td>2.87 Acres</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholze Park</td>
<td>1.2 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via Paraiso Park</td>
<td>10.6 acres</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whispering Pines Park</td>
<td>3.1 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Community Park 79.02 2.8 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Del Monte Beach</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Elkins Park</td>
<td>.12 acre</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Park</td>
<td>.49 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Presidio Historic Park</td>
<td>26 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAbee Beach City Park</td>
<td>0.14 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Coastal/Recreational Trail</td>
<td>3.87 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Municipal Beach</td>
<td>.75 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Tennis Center</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Division Corporation Yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 04 needs assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simoneau Plaza</td>
<td>0.2 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister City Park</td>
<td>.29 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran's Memorial Park</td>
<td>50 acres</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Special 97.86 3.5 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. Regional</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Regional Park</td>
<td>34.8 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Regional 34.8 1.2 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. Open Space</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clara Wooden Grove</td>
<td>0.5 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Flats Greenbelt</td>
<td>40 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descanso Greenbelt</td>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Dahvee Park</td>
<td>35.8 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Flats Greenbelt</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huckleberry Hill Nature Preserve</td>
<td>81 acres</td>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Canyon Greenbelt</td>
<td>32.1 acre</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Salinas Hwy (Minealas) Greenbelt</td>
<td>5.22</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarry Park</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Ranch Park</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyline Drive Greenbelt</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washerwoman's Pond</td>
<td>1.8 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodridge Acres Greenbelt</td>
<td>3.8 acres</td>
<td>Meets Intended Use</td>
</tr>
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</table>

7. Open Space 407.17 14.5 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8. Joint Use</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay View Elementary</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay View Charter School/Del Monte Elementary</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothill Elementary School</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Mesa Elementary School</td>
<td>6.5 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 04 needs assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La Mesa Park Sites (3)</td>
<td>5.5 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay View Charter School / Larkin Elementary</td>
<td>.5 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Vista Elementary School</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey High School</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Peninsula College</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier Field</td>
<td>9.5 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Colton Middle School</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
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8. Joint Use 44 1.6 Acres/Thousand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Park Size</th>
<th>Fulfills Intended Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom House Plaza</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Pines Golf and RV (US NAVY)</td>
<td>102.64 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey State Beach</td>
<td>63.41 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Navy Beachfront</td>
<td>66.55 acres</td>
<td>Not Evaluated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Community Resource 234.6 8.4 Acres/Thousand

* Does not include Joint Use or Community Resource Categories

** Based on Plan Area population of 30,605
GENERAL NEEDS

The following represent the major needs identified through community input, the facility assessment and inventory, community profile, and City input that will be further explored in the PRMP. Less significant, specific improvements and enhancements to neighborhood and community parks are incorporated into the Inventory.

Future Growth

The City population is not anticipated to grow much, if at all, over the coming years, with the exception of some densification in the Lighthouse Area, North Fremont Street and Downtown. This lack of growth is due in large part to the lack of suitable buildable sites. The previous Plan anticipated growth that never occurred, in particular in the unincorporated areas. For the areas that are likely to experience growth, new parks may not be required, but the existing parks that serve those areas may need to be redesigned or upgraded to better suit the populations. Equally, it will be important to implement key recommendations in the Downtown Plan, North Fremont Plan, Lighthouse Plan and Multi-Modal Mobility Plan that improve connections and improve access to existing parks and amenities.

In contrast to the low residential growth, the City’s visitor and tourist population has soared since 1986 and is likely to continue to grow as the Conference Center is remodeled to attract more meetings and the overall attraction of Monterey increases for tourists. This imbalance in growth presents a challenge to the City. The City needs to make sure that there are ample facilities to serve the needs of the community, maintaining the unique character of the coastal town, while also supporting the economic benefits of tourism. The waterfront, State park areas and Recreation Trail are the central locations where this challenge is focused. Another, but less challenging issue is that Monterey Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are attractive and used by residents in the surrounding communities, increasing maintenance and operations demands on staff and budgets.

Connections

With limited additional land available for more green space, the City needs to optimize its existing system and better link the parks and areas together. This should be done primarily through walking paths, bike lanes, transit and visual cues that encourage and illustrate a connection between locations. Increasing car connectivity is not a priority. Further there is an opportunity to “take back” some of the street areas for people by creating “parklets,” as has been done along Alvarado Street, as well as creating much safer and better street crossings that prioritize pedestrians over vehicles.

Up-to-date technology, including wi-fi and internet access, audio, presentation and video systems is a different kind of connection that is lacking, particularly in the Centers. The City should consider, at a minimum, installation of free, high speed wi-fi in all of the Centers, as well as upgrading their audio-visual systems in spaces used for rentals and meetings.

Operations and Maintenance

Continuing to maintain and improve the parks and facilities at the expected high level for these three user groups – residents, surrounding communities and tourists – is costly. Currently there is no reliable

Greek Festival at Custom House Plaza
source of funding to pay for it. The NIP provides substantial funding to parks and recreation. However, the ballot measure that enabled the creation of the NIP restricts use to capital improvements only. This results in funding for new facilities, parks and amenities without dedicated funds for maintenance and operations. In practice, the NIP Committee votes for some upkeep and capital repairs every year, but not in a regular manner that supports effective and consistent planning.

One of the greatest needs identified by the community was the need for cleaner and better maintained parks and facilities, especially bathrooms. Safety issues, particularly with homeless and transients, are connected to this maintenance issue as the better maintained and well used parks and facilities are less likely to be havens for these populations. Additionally, the need for additional operating hours for centers was identified. Without adequate staffing and funding these needs cannot be met.

Finally, the City has a large number of parks and centers that are aging and need not just regular maintenance, but replacement and improvements to overall amenities and park elements. Some of the work may be able to be funded through capital funding, but many of the smaller items like replacement of water fountains, new garbage and recycling cans, benches, and such are not.

**Artful and Sense of Place**

The City has a robust system of parks. However, most of the parks have little to distinguish them from one another. There is an opportunity to create many more distinctive parks by incorporating art, history and whimsy. This can be done on a phased basis but should be done thoughtfully and with good planning. Management and maintenance of art work needs to be considered as well as the potential higher costs of these artful elements.

**Teens**

The City has several “centers” for Teens – the Monterey Youth Center, the Hilltop Center and the Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center. While they generally can serve younger pre-teens and afterschool programs, they have not been successful in attracting actual teens on a regular basis. When asked in a focus group, the Teens did not know where the Youth Center was, however they did request all of the elements that are provided in the Center. The location for this driverless and convenience oriented group is critical. Many of the teens go downtown and to the Monterey Public Library in particular. The Library is relatively close, safe and central to where they can purchase food and easily hang out.
The City should repurpose the existing Teen Center areas for pre-teens, afterschool programs and other special, scheduled teen programs or other needed activities and consider developing a different and better located teen center utilizing the furnishings from a repurposed Youth Center. While not presented as an option, the Library would be an ideal location with access to the outdoors.

**Adults and Seniors**

Overall, most adults and seniors feel that their needs are being met by current programs and facilities. The one area that was mentioned is the need for more adult dance classes and to improve the floors and amenities for these classes. Many are currently held at Hilltop Park or Scholze Park Centers and neither have floors or mirrors designed for dance.

**Children’s Play Areas**

Overall, the City has ample play areas for children, although there may be need for some additional play areas in conjunction with new housing in the Downtown, Lighthouse and Fremont Areas. The greatest need is to enhance the existing playgrounds, neighborhood parks and tot lots to be more interesting and engaging. The play equipment is typically prefabricated and does not offer much variety or sense of place and feels very generic. The City has an opportunity to phase over the next 10 years more artful, playful and thoughtfully designed play elements in each park. Water play may also be a desirable element. Themes connected to the history of the City or particular area of the community can be inspiration for the new elements.

**Dogs**

The City has one dog park that is underperforming. There is a need for additional dog parks throughout the City and within the various neighborhoods. The development of dog parks can be done within underused areas within existing parks allowing for ease of access for the community. There is substantial support for improving access and availability of off-leash dog park areas. There may be ideal locations along the Del Monte section of the Recreation Trail that can be designed as a dog run. The Lower Presidio may also offer an ideal location for a dog park.

The dog policy overall should be evaluated to determine if dogs can be allowed in most parks on-leash, some parks off-leash or restricted to only a few parks.

**Ocean Aquatics**

The City offers boaters – kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, sail boats and the like – a
world class location for recreation and competitions. However, the current facilities are not in keeping with the potential. The City has the opportunity to create a new Ocean Aquatic Center to attract events and other competitions to the City. The extent to which the City can and wants to create this kind of center will impact what kind of attraction it will be. At a minimum, the City should add amenities such as picnic benches and water stations near the current kayak store. For a competitive center, a building that includes storage, fitness spaces, offices and similar spaces would be needed. There is a strong possibility for joint development with the private sector for this effort. The East Catellus properties are potential opportunity areas to improve and enhance the facilities. There is also potential to reconfigure the entire property to better site the boat storage as conceptualized in the Waterfront Master Plan.

**Swimming Pools**

The City manages the swimming pool at the Monterey Sports Center, and otherwise relies on use of private or public school facilities for competitive swimming and programs. The Sports Center is dedicated to serve recreation swimmers first and competitive teams second. This results in very few opportunities for teams to use a City pool.

The Monterey High School pool is out-of-date and not configured for competitive swimming. There is potential to develop a joint use facility at the high school, if the City is provided ample pool time, or a stand-alone center elsewhere on its own. A new outdoor pool could be part of a larger sports complex with fields (also see Sports Field).
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

A number of sites have been identified throughout the community that provide potential opportunities to meet needs identified in this PRMP. Map 7 on page 45 illustrates the primary opportunity sites. Some of the sites are already owned by the City, while some are owned by different organizations. Following is a brief overview of those sites and their potential for future development.

Reservoir Site
Located on the far side of town on the border of New Monterey and Pacific Grove, this undeveloped reservoir is currently planned for stormwater storage, but has potential for joint development for walking trails and some additional park amenities.

500 Cannery Row
This is a large site on the Bayfront along Cannery Row that is currently permitted for mixed-use development, parking, a museum, “coastal/community” use and a desalinization plant. If this site were developed and transferred to the City, it could become a major destination park and create a strong reason for pedestrians to walk along Cannery Row rather than using a very congested segment of the Recreation Trail.

Improvements to the sidewalk and site will vastly improve views and enjoyment of this area, which could be a substantial economic development opportunity.

Catellus East
These two adjacent properties, owned by the City and located near Wharf II and Monterey Beach, currently house a kayak retail operation, boat storage and unpaved parking. The Waterfront Master Plan requires an upgrade of the dry boat storage yard and improvements to the unpaved area for truck staging for Wharf II deliveries. Several additional uses of this area are considered on the following pages, including additional sand volleyball courts, and a new ocean aquatics center.

Adjacent Properties to the Recreation Trail
There are a number of adjacent properties along the Recreation Trail that provide opportunities for additional facilities. Some are owned by the Navy, some by private owners and others by the City. A deeper evaluation of needed spaces should be done to determine which parcels are most valuable to the community as recreation/park space.
La Mesa Sites 1 & 2
There are two existing sports fields within the La Mesa Housing area owned by the Navy. There is potential for joint use opportunities.

Garden Court Park
This is a City-owned small lot near the airport that has a water storage tank and could be a space for a small park.

Tarpy Flats Site
The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District owns 50 acres at Tarpy Flats. Originally the property was identified as a site for a future high school, but due to restrictions created by airport flight patterns, it is infeasible to construct a school at this location. There may be willingness to discuss potential joint development of the site for recreation. A preliminary evaluation for a community scale sports complex indicates it may be feasible.

Corporation Yard
The City’s Corporation Yard near Ryan Ranch appears to be oversized for the City’s needs and may have some space for other park/recreation uses. The site offers beautiful views, a flat building site and water supply access. The adjacent RV storage facility operated by the City is also a potential opportunity site to be considered. This is a tentative opportunity site that will be addressed in coming phases.

Ryan Ranch Open Space Site
The City owns two open space parcels adjacent to the Ryan Ranch Business Park: a 25 acre site located on the former Fort Ord that has access to water and is relatively flat; and a second parcel that is 75 acres and is currently used for disc golf, hiking, and occasional fire department training area. The second parcel does not currently have a water allocation.

Laguna Grande Natural Area
This is a small privately owned parcel adjacent to North Fremont Street and contiguous with Laguna Grande Regional Park that is being considered by the City for purchase. The space is currently undeveloped and could become a small natural open space or a dog park.
MAP 7. OPPORTUNITY SITES

- 500 Cannery Row
- Laguna Grande Natural Area
- Adjacent Properties to the Recreation Trail
- Garden Court Park
- Corporation Yard
- Ryan Ranch Open Space Site
- Tarpy Flats Site
- La Mesa Site 1
- La Mesa Site 2
- Catullus East
- Reservoir Site
- East La Mesa Site

Legend:
- CITY BOUNDARY
- OPPORTUNITY SITES
- ACTIVE PARKS
- PASSIVE SPACES
05 guidelines & projects
The following chapter has two main elements: guidelines and specific projects. The guidelines section is designed to enable the Parks and Recreation Commission, staff and other City representatives to make good decisions about the enhancement and development of parks and recreation facilities, be adaptable and innovative, and respond to needs and wants that may not be foreseen today. These guidelines are informed by the PRMP’s vision, goals and the community input.

The projects section provides more specific direction for individual parks and facilities based on current conditions and needs. The first part is focused on detailed proposals for community-wide parks, followed by new additions to existing parks, new projects and finally, a page dedicated to every park and facility in the system.

GUIDELINES

The following provides guidelines to support, direct and ensure that the City maintains and continues to enhance the City of Monterey’s Parks and Recreation System. The guidelines are organized around the PRMP’s four goals and are important tools to assist the City in achieving the full potential of the PRMP’s Vision.

GOAL 1. UNIQUE SENSE OF PLACE

G.1.1 Sensitive and Place Based Design

Design each park as a unique and identifiable place, integrating the environmental qualities and the culture, history, and identity of its surrounding community. Each park should be designed so that the physical context of the site and the relationship of facilities and elements programmed in the park are carefully coordinated to offer a selection of meaningful physical, social, and cultural experiences for the users.

1.1.1 Celebrate Monterey’s distinct natural beauty by emphasizing views of the bay and surrounding hills, and by integrating native flora such as Monterey pines, Coast live oaks and dune plant communities.

1.1.2 Incorporate art in parks and open spaces as focal and functional elements. Consider integration of art in paving, wall surfaces, site furnishings, (seating, bike racks, etc.), as play elements in lieu of manufactured play equipment, and as a focal element. Provide elements that appeal to the users’ imaginations and invite creative, interactive recreation activities.

1.1.3 Embrace and incorporate history and culture to create stimulating and engaging parks that are not all alike, that educate visitors and foster community identity and pride. Ensure that art and history are part of the design process for new and refurbished parks.

1.1.4 When designing a new park or a significant renovation of an existing park, arrange activities and elements to accommodate all of the intended uses in optimal
1.1.5 When planning a new park or a significant renovation of an existing park, uses within each individual park should contribute to satisfying the overall comprehensive recreation needs of the community. Thus, the final program for the park should reflect an understanding of recreation resources available in close proximity to the individual park.

G.1.2 Recreation Trail

The Monterey segment of the Recreation Trail should be maintained and managed to accommodate and serve as many users as possible, while ensuring that users are safe and able to enjoy the Trail and its amenities as intended.

1.2.1 Where feasible, enlarge the width of the Recreation Trail to reduce congestion and maintain shared use for pedestrians and other recreation users.

1.2.2 Where possible, particularly in Cannery Row, encourage commuter and fast recreation cyclists to utilize on-street bike paths instead of the Recreation Trail, by making alternative routes convenient, visible and attractive.

1.2.3 To activate and better serve users, encourage retail businesses to provide access and services directly onto the Trail, as long as there is room for potential patrons to move out of the flow of Trail traffic.

1.2.4 Improve the equitable distribution and quality of amenities for Trail users including, but not limited to drinking fountains, trash receptacles, dog waste stations, benches, view pull outs and the like.

1.2.5 All road crossings at the Recreation Trail should give priority to the Recreation Trail users, to slow vehicle traffic and to provide clear visual indications of the crossing and the need to reduce the speed and proceed with caution.

1.2.6 Trail amenities, including lighting, plantings, curbs, bike racks and benches, should not impede user flow from strollers, surreys or other allowed users.
GOAL 2. DIVERSE COMMUNITY

G2.1 Community Engagement

Ensure that the community is actively invited to participate and provide input into new projects, renovations and updates to Monterey parks and recreation facilities.

2.1.1 Incorporate in person and online opportunities for engagement.

2.1.2 Provide timely information and broadly broadcast announcements for all community engagement opportunities.

2.1.3 Utilize community input and project tracking tools to capture ideas and monitor project status.

G2.2 Health and Wellness

Parks and recreation facilities and programs directly impact the health and wellness of the community and should be maintained and managed to support the quality of life of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

2.2.1 Parks and centers should be designed to be adaptable to changing demographics, trends and needs, and operations should be flexible enough to respond to changing needs in a streamlined and cost-effective manner.

2.2.2 Provide excellent amenities that enhance and promote use of the City’s parks and facilities.

2.2.3 When possible, parks and recreation facilities should encourage inter-generational activities, programs and interactions.

2.2.4 Maintain a balanced selection and range of program offerings that serve and include participants of all ages, abilities and interests.

G2.3 Dogs

Dogs are an integral part of the Monterey community and should be provided reasonable access to City parks, including on-leash areas and off-leash areas, throughout the City.

2.3.1 Allow dogs on-leash in picnic areas, walking paths and other open community areas where their presence is not in conflict with other activities such as sports or special events and playgrounds.

2.3.2 Find opportunities for off-leash dog areas throughout the City.

2.3.3 Ensure that adequate pup mitt stations and trash receptacles are provided.
**05 guidelines & projects**

**G2.4 Build Community**

Parks and facilities should foster community gathering, conversations and a sense of belonging and welcome.

2.4.1 Enhance community gathering areas within recreation centers to provide welcoming environment including information, comfortable seating and non-fee areas.

2.4.2 Park amenities should encourage people to linger, enjoy, spend time together and feel safe. This means design needs to be thoughtfully considered and developed to encourage welcomed behaviors.

2.4.3 Continue to provide affordable programs and activities, events and programs to residents to encourage gatherings and community.

**GOAL 3. ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**G3.1 Maintain and Enhance Existing Parks and Facilities**

The City’s primary priority should be to serve community needs through maintenance and enhancement of existing parks and facilities rather than investment in the development of new parks.

3.1.1 Create a process to evaluate and plan existing park upgrades in a holistic manner, allowing for thoughtful and cohesive design and phased implementation.

3.1.2 Develop and regularly update a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) including capital replacement, and an operations and maintenance plan to effectively direct and manage resources.

3.1.3 If it is necessary to develop new parks or recreation facilities, adequate maintenance and operation funds must be identified and incorporated into the project planning.

3.1.4 Minimize the development of small pocket parks, which are expensive to maintain and can be attractive to transients.

3.1.5 Lighting should be at levels sufficient to enable appropriate recreational activities and enhance safety and security along paths, parks, centers and other outdoor spaces. At the same time, lighting should respect residents, historic district guidelines and protect the dark night sky.

**G3.2 Support Economic Health, Development, and Visitors**

The parks and recreation system is an important asset that supports the City’s economic development, tourism and business visitors and must be maintained and
operated at a high level, reflecting expectations of a high quality destination.

3.2.1 Ensure that new projects stemming from the Downtown Specific Plan, Waterfront Master Plan, or other business district projects coordinate with and leverage parks and recreation to support multiple objectives for quality of life and economic development.

3.2.2 Incorporate and fund high value visitor amenities such as bathrooms, food service, and information services with the improvement and ongoing management of parks, trails and centers.

3.2.3 Coordinate communications and marketing with major visitor serving organizations to leverage funds, improve visitor experience and increase awareness of the City’s community parks and facilities.

3.2.4 Determine appropriate cost recovery goals for recreation facilities and programs that allow for affordable access and effective management, and for maintenance and operation of the facility at a high level.

G3.3 Encourage and Manage Partnerships

Where feasible and beneficial to the City of Monterey, the City should advance partnerships with other providers or organizations to help meet community needs.

3.3.1 Any new partnership must have a clear and mutually agreed upon memorandum of understanding to guide use, maintenance and upkeep of shared facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, determining the specific times and days of the week each group will be able to use the recreation facilities and sports fields. The agreement should specify the waiver of rental fees and identify each group’s responsibility for the costs for maintenance, improvements and operations including security, utilities and replacement costs.

3.3.2 Engage existing partners to reassess and improve existing partnerships and establish more formal agreements for the ongoing joint use of facilities.

3.3.3 Identify and address problematic issues associated with existing joint use agreements. These issues may include scheduling, maintenance and operation, usage conflicts, shared maintenance costs, etc.

3.3.4 Encourage City and joint use partners’ staff to meet as needed, and at least annually, to discuss maintenance and operations issues.
G3.4 Sustainable Landscapes, Parks and Facilities

City parks and facilities maintenance and design practices should continue to achieve the highest level of sustainability feasible, to increase water conservation, energy efficiency, and habitat values, to educate about the environment, and to decrease maintenance and operations costs.

3.4.1 Conserve water in parks and facilities by updating irrigation systems, installing water-saving elements in buildings, and replacing high water use landscaping such as decorative turf with drought tolerant and low water-use planting.

3.4.2 Improve water quality by incorporating pervious surfaces, such as pervious paving, and bioretention features, such as rain gardens, to cleanse stormwater and recharge groundwater.

3.4.3 Incorporate energy efficient features in parks and facilities, such as energy efficient lighting (e.g. motion activated lighting, dual level fixtures, self-powered lighting with integrated solar panels, and energy efficient technology such as LED), solar panels on roofs or covered parking areas, and wind turbines.

3.4.4 Use sustainable landscape design and maintenance practices, including use of climate appropriate planting to improve habitat, reduce waste, conserve water and energy, protect water and air quality, and reduce maintenance.

3.4.5 Use creative signage and displays to describe sustainable features such as native habitat, stormwater treatment, water conservation measures, and alternative energy sources. Provide amenities that support sustainable behaviors, such as recycling receptacles and bicycle racks, at all parks.

3.4.6 Monitor and treat invasive plant species that would otherwise compromise natural habitat values. Continue to remove invasives and revegetate with native species.

3.4.7 Continue vegetation management for fire prevention and to maintain safety and visual access to and around parks.

3.4.8 Update a municipal parks tree inventory and assessment as a management tool to maintain the diversity and health of the City’s trees, especially as mature trees reach end of life and require replacement.

G3.5 Recreation and Program Fees

The City of Monterey will develop a parks, programs and recreation facility affordable fee policy that allows for equal access to all amenities while ensuring that general fees...
are in line with maintenance and operational needs, market and community expectations.

3.5.1 Develop a scholarship program to allow community members who are unable to afford current fees to participate equally in all programs.

3.5.2 Update fee schedule per municipal ordinance, informed by operational costs, other similar communities’ fee structures and the particular needs and expectations of the City of Monterey.

GOAL 4. ACCESSIBILITY

G4.1 Strengthen Connections

Parks and recreation are a part of life in Monterey and should be connected effectively via paths, trails, sidewalks and signage to destinations and major City assets, especially as it applies to history, culture and art.

4.1.1 When possible, install bike paths that provide a high level of safety and encourage users of all abilities.

4.1.2 Connect the City’s mobility planning to the parks and recreation planning efforts to ensure that transit and other alternative methods of travel are supported and encouraged.

4.1.3 Encourage Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) to locate transit stops proximate to all recreation centers and major community parks.

4.1.4 Look for opportunities to integrate existing open space areas into a comprehensive trail network. Improve wayfinding signage throughout the network.

4.1.5 Strive to provide future trail construction and other improvements that enhance and connect natural ecological areas and avoid and minimize adverse impacts to native ecosystems.

G4.2 Improve Access for People of All Abilities, Ages and Cultures

Encourage Universal Design (UD) practices that reduce the physical and attitudinal barriers between people with and without disabilities by developing a design and operational guideline that allows for the full range of human diversity, including physical, perceptual and cognitive abilities, as well as different body sizes and shapes, and ages.

4.2.1 Provide recreation and park information, signage and education materials, in print, in facilities and parks, and online, in accessible formats, recognizing persons with visual, hearing, or cognitive impairments, as well as accommodating persons who use English as a second language.
4.2.2 Provide periodic training programs for Division staff and volunteers regarding universal design concepts, accessible and inclusive concepts and practices for people with disabilities.

4.2.3 Incorporate funding for the purchase of adapted equipment, services, and/or accessibility improvement projects in the budgeting process.

4.2.4 Establish targets for recreation programs that include and incorporate people of all abilities.

4.2.5 Ensure that parks meet and when possible exceed the Americans with Disability Act guidelines for park and facility construction and improvements.

G4.3 Balance Access and Use of Technology

Judicious use of technology tools and capabilities should be incorporated into the City’s parks and recreation facilities, ensuring that these tools do not take away from the primary purpose of the facility or park, create potential distractions for others, or otherwise limit the ability of individuals to enjoy recreational and natural amenities of the parks.

4.3.1 Ensure that all recreation centers have robust wi-fi capabilities and adequate technology infrastructure (audio and visual) to support meeting rentals, program staff and events.

4.3.2 Incorporate technology and electric (or solar/battery) infrastructure into event locations in the parks or plazas to enable innovative and flexible use of spaces.
The City of Monterey’s existing parks and recreation system is an incredible asset for the community and overall, serves the community well. The focus of most of the PRMP’s proposed projects is to improve, enhance and maintain the existing facilities, so that they can continue to meet the demands of residents and visitors. In addition, there are some new facilities and parks identified based on community needs and opportunities to develop new assets for the City.

The projects are described in the following manner:

**Community-wide projects**: Summary of recommended projects for community-wide facilities

**New Parks and Facilities**: Recommended new facilities and parks

**Other Program and Facility Spaces**: New spaces or activities identified that can be accommodated in existing parks or facilities

**Specific Projects by Existing Park and Facility**: Small, medium and large projects identified for each existing park or facility
COMMUNITY-WIDE PROJECTS

RECREATION TRAIL

The Recreation Trail is the most widely and frequently used park and recreation facility in the City. It is used for exercise, for commuting, and for enjoying the views along the waterfront. Due to this broad success, it is very overcrowded in certain areas and has multiple challenges up and down the path. One single solution will not work due to the variety of conditions on the Trail, so the following are a menu of options to address these issues. The following addresses the Trail in four segments for consideration:

- Trail-wide
- Cannery Row
- Custom House Plaza to Waterfront
- Monterey Bay Park to Seaside

Trail-wide

Crossings: Substantial modifications to improve Trail user visibility and enhance traffic calming approaches need to be employed to mitigate conflicts and make the transitions more comfortable for users. Increased use of colored painting/pavers, street pavement textures, bulb outs and similar concepts should be used.

Bicyclists: Implement bike path projects identified in the MMMP, especially in the Cannery Row Area. Construct safe and attractive facilities that will encourage use by fast commuter and recreational bikers as an alternative to the Trail. In addition, very good signage should be developed.

Families: Create a more interesting, better equipped (amenities) and convenient access to the Del Monte section of the Trail (also in the MMMP) to offer an attractive alternative to the more congested sections of the Trail.

View Areas: Develop view pull out areas, especially in prime viewsheds to engage people and to encourage flow of traffic, rather than blocking the Trail.

Physical Barriers: Remove, where possible, physical barriers to surreys and strollers (i.e. some existing lights, concrete curbs and the like).

Activate: Attractively incorporate retail and service establishments along the Trail to serve refreshments, and to offer recreation services and information. This can be done with small, pre-designed retail kiosks, or by allowing businesses to open onto the Trail and better engage the Trail.

Bathrooms: Provide public bathrooms at strategic points along the Trail with more in heavily traveled areas.
New Class 3 (or 2 if possible) Bike Lane

Potential Improvement to Turnaround

Improve crossings; Design to prioritize pedestrians and use design to nudge traffic elsewhere

Design to prioritize pedestrians; major traffic calming

Improve Pedestrian walkways; Create design elements to nudge pedestrians to this path; consider removing 1 side of parking on weekends

Cannery Row Section

The Cannery Row section of the Trail is the most congested area of the Trail and has the fewest views to the waterfront. Due to current Recreation Trail guidelines, many of the buildings have their backs to the Trail, creating dead spaces along those sections with a somewhat desolate environment in off peak times.

Encourage Separate Paths for Different Users – Create attractive alternatives for users to reduce congestion on the Trail.

Alternative Routes for Bikes: Install new bike lanes on Wave Street and Laine Street through the Lower Presidio Historic Park for commuters and fast recreation cyclists.

Pedestrian Enhancements: Improve and/or expand the sidewalks along Cannery Row, especially near the “500 Cannery Row” site and encourage pedestrians to use that route (address in Wayfinding Plan).

Consider time-specific (i.e. weekends) limitations of parking along one side of Cannery Row to allow pedestrians a wider, less congested and more enjoyable route through the business area.

Family Friendly: Optimize the Trail for families with small children on bikes, surreys and more slow moving vehicles.
Enhance the connections to and thru Custom House Plaza up to Alvarado Street and into Downtown. Provide for activation, views and large crowds (MMMP, Waterfront and Downtown Plans).

Develop pedestrian connection to Lower Presidio, utilizing existing bridge or new. (Waterfront Master Plan)

Increase wayfinding and attraction to move from Cannery Row to Custom House Plaza and Back. (Wayfinding Plan)

Enhance the connections along water as indicated in Waterfront Master Plan. Add Event/Amphitheater space

Realign crossing of Del Monte through Spanish Plaza, connect to Sports Center and Parking (Waterfront Master Plan)

Create Pedestrian Crossing from Parking Lot to the Beach

Custom House Plaza/Waterfront

This section of the Trail has the opportunity to connect some of the most important historic sites in Monterey and to create a rich experience for visitors and residents alike.

History Connection: The new Wayfinding Plan should improve signage, historic markers and destination indicators. Implement the pedestrian and bike link to the Lower Presidio Historic Park, as indicated in the Waterfront Master Plan and MMMP.

Widen Trail: Expand the Trail, providing separate pedestrian areas where feasible.

Connect Waterfront to Downtown: Create strong connections to major City destinations through wayfinding, strong visual cues and removal of barriers: Downtown and Historic Sites through Custom House Plaza; the Presidio; the Wharfs and Waterfront; Sports Center and Jacks Ball Park; and parking lots. These connections need to be both physically accessible and easy as well as very visible, attractive and obvious. (Also addressed in the MMMP and Downtown and Waterfront Plans.)

Activate: Create community gathering area site along boat docks (See page 66 for more details) and create circulation and
plaza space to allow vendors into area (Waterfront Master Plan).

**Monterey Bay Park to Seaside**

This section of the Trail is the least used and has the most opportunities for improvements to better serve the community, particularly those east of Monterey Bay Park.

**Activate:** Add activity nodes such as outdoor gym equipment, distinctive children’s play elements using natural materials such as large rocks, wood forts and water play, and interactive art elements to make the history of the railroad come alive. There are a few picnic areas that could be further enhanced.

**Amenities** - Add at least one new bathroom and appropriate amenities along this section.

**Lighting and Tree Management** - Improve lighting along this section and manage trees and vegetation to improve sense of safety and visual access to surrounding areas.

**Connections** - Integrate this section of the Trail more effectively into the East part of Monterey Bay Park, Beach House Replacement, and into any new development of the proposed parking lot (Waterfront Master Plan).

**MAP 10. RECREATION TRAIL: MONTEREY BAY PARK TO SEASIDE**

- Proposed New Parking Lot
- Potential New Bathrooms & Beach House replacement
- Strengthen and enhance connections, gathering areas and activities in this section
- Identify potential locations for enhanced facilities, natural play features, dog parks and improved safety
EL ESTERO PARK COMPLEX

El Estero Park is a jewel for the community and draws a large number of visitors (up to 800,000) for the iconic Dennis the Menace Park, the Sollecito Ball Park, Youth Center and other facilities as well. El Estero is 45 acres and offers a broad spectrum of activities for all ages and abilities.

There are a number of strong elements in the park that need to be enhanced and much better connected. Below are the proposed projects for this park.

Connections

Improve the internal pedestrian connections within the park: Consider reducing size of outfield of Sollecito Ball Park and create a well marked walkway to enable people to walk from the Youth Center around Dennis the Menace Park to the Skate Park and picnic area and back.

Incorporate internal wayfinding to make it easy for visitors and residents to move through and around the park.

Improve pathway surrounding park: Currently the path around the park is a mix of concrete and dirt. This could be improved to make a more comfortable running and walking path.
Parking

Parking is very limited and is impacted during the weekends and when there are multiple events at the facilities. There are few opportunities to expand parking easily. An idea is to look at creating additional parking near the existing dog park area. Possible grading and tree locations may need to be considered.

The City should work with Monterey Salinas Transit to reestablish regular transit service to the park. In addition, the City could consider shuttle services for event days. Finally, parking across Del Monte Avenue may be available when the proposed lot is built in the future.

Dennis the Menace Playground

Dennis the Menace is a central destination park that is well loved by the community as well as visitors. It is in need of a major renovation that reestablishes its historic charm and vibrancy and reduces its reliance on prefabricated play equipment and short-term fixes.

A new comprehensive design and renovation should be completed that responds to how children and families use it today, to be accessible to all ages and abilities and to reflect its history and destination status. A main element of the park is the train, which has been decommissioned for safety.
reasons. This should be considered as part of the overall redesign.

**Monterey Youth Center**

Rebrand the Youth Center to embrace all ages; remove the Teen Room and relocate to a new dedicated Teen Center; repurpose Teen Room for rentals and meetings. If feasible remodel and update buildings, taking better advantage of lake views and potential increase in revenues from rentals.

**Group Picnic Site**

The largest picnic area in the City (up to 200 people) is located on the east side of El Estero Park. It is underutilized and should be better connected to other activities and made more attractive. A covered picnic area should be provided to address bird issues. This could be a location for food trucks and community events.

**Skate Park**

The Skate Park was recently enlarged to serve more users in February 2016. The Skate Park is accessed from the east side of the park and is not directly accessible to the Youth Center or Dennis the Menace Playground. As part of improving connections, this element should be connected via the pathway mentioned on the previous page.

**Dog Park**

Consider relocating the dog park to another larger area and using the space for parking, or make a convertible space that can be used for dogs most of the time and then used for parking for weekends and events.

**Lake El Estero**

Limited boating - paddle boats and “Swan boats” - is allowed on Lake El Estero and is managed by a third party vendor out of a boat house off of Del Monte Avenue. It is recommended that the City explore expanding the type of boats allowed.

The lake has two fishing piers and is stocked with rainbow trout, perch, and blackfish. Fishing is allowed with a valid fishing license.

There is an island in the middle of the lake - Henry Greene Island - that is inaccessible and is a bird habitat.

**Exercise Course**

There is a 1.2 mile par course around the park with 18 stations. The course should be updated to current standards and connect to additional activities across Del Monte Avenue and in Monterey Bay Park to extend the experience and connect the two areas more effectively.
MONTEREY BAY PARK

Monterey Bay Park is a beautiful park that has not reached its full potential. It is under-utilized, even on the busiest days of the year. The following projects are intended to balance maintaining its visual beauty, while providing new facilities to make the park more popular.

Beach House

Relocate the Beach House (currently on the beach) to the east side of the park, with a new bathroom and added parking to the east. Relocating here would benefit from easy parking away from the busy wharf, views and access to the beach.

Active space

Establish a more active area within park for informal sports and play, such as bocce ball or informal sports field. Create a bermed seating area to act as a barrier and buffer to the street, as illustrated above.

Bathrooms

In addition to adding bathrooms to the east side of the park, bathrooms on the west side near the kayak facility are also needed. These bathrooms should be able to serve beach users, boaters, Recreation Trail users and community activities at the park.
LOWER PRESIDIO HISTORIC PARK

The City of Monterey has a 50-year lease with the Army for the lower part of the Monterey Presidio, approximately 26 acres. The lease began in 1996 and will expire unless extended in 2046. The park has been called the most “historically significant site on the west coast.”

A Master Plan was completed for the park in 2002 and remains the guiding document for its future improvements and preservation. The site has archeological elements that are a consideration and potential limitation to many uses. These issues need to be resolved before most of the planned improvements can occur.

In the interim, there are several key items that should be implemented for the Lower Presidio:

- Increase visibility and awareness of the Park, its history, and natural beauty
- Create/improve connections and accessibility through the site and from the Recreation Trail for bikes and pedestrians
- Host programs at the site that encourage use and awareness
- Provide amenities for users including trash receptacles, water fountains, and restrooms if possible
HILLTOP PARK CENTER

Hilltop Park Center is the second largest center in the City with 18,000 sf of useable space, however, it is underutilized. There is an opportunity to transform this Center from a neighborhood centric facility into a destination for the entire community, increasing potential audiences and use of the space.

A building upgrade and redesign would help to improve its “brand” and make it feel more like a community hub. The Center already has a strong arts and music program and could be made into a Center for the Arts with specialized spaces for ceramics, painting, music, drama, dance and movement.

These changes would not preclude the Center from continuing its popular preschool and afterschool programs, but may improve them. The ample parking can be a plus and with a remodel, it can become a more exciting location to visit.
NEW PARK AND FACILITY PROJECTS

While the majority of recommendations are for the existing parks and facilities, there are a number of new facilities that have been identified. Some of these facilities would logically be developed and managed by the City, while others may be more appropriate and feasible as private enterprises or as joint development with the City and a partner.

MULTI-FIELD SPORTS COMPLEX

The City should develop, potentially in partnership with other agencies or organizations, a multi-field sports complex that serves, primarily, the community’s needs for soccer, lacrosse and other similar field sports, as well as baseball and softball. While there may be tournaments and similar regional uses, the complex would be designed and operated with the community as the primary user. Ideally the complex would incorporate a walking track around the fields, a children’s play area and concessions.

A feasibility study that determines the right mix of fields and location should be completed, including an understanding of the costs to operate and maintain this type of a facility.

COMPETITIVE SWIMMING POOL

Explore potential partnerships to develop an outdoor competitive swimming pool. The pool could be located at the Monterey High School, in conjunction with the multi-field sports complex or at another location. It is critical that the City sign a binding Memorandum of Understanding about the use, scheduling, and maintenance of any joint use facility to ensure that there is adequate time and the right time for community members.

TEEN CENTER

The City should develop a new Teen Center near the high school. The space should include indoor and outdoor spaces, allow for food to be eaten, and for noisy teens. Location is critical to allow students to walk to it after school and to feel strong ownership of the space and program. Ideally, the City would provide staff to program the space, potentially including mentoring and tutoring.
WATERFRONT

The Waterfront Master Plan identifies several potential new projects and opportunity areas for open space and park spaces. In addition, there are a number of circulation, parking and pedestrian improvements identified that need to be coordinated and aligned with parks and recreation uses and the guidelines presented in this PRMP.

The PRMP provides additional input and direction for those spaces.

Connections

This section of the waterfront is an important hub of activity and potential connectivity that has been impacted by large parking lots, busy intersections at Del Monte Avenue and commercial wharf activity.

The Waterfront Master Plan recommendations for uniting and connecting this area should be implemented, taking special care to do the following:

Custom House Plaza: Connect Custom House Plaza to the new Community Gathering Area, Downtown and Cannery Row.

Sports Center: The crossing from the Sports Center to the parking area/wharf requires a pedestrian to cross too many lanes, has poor visibility, and very fast moving cars. Improve pedestrian access from Monterey Sports Center and nearby parking lots by rerouting pedestrians over Spanish Plaza and via a new pedestrian
bridge. In the meantime, the City should investigate ways of making the crossing better for pedestrians through traffic calming, rerouting the crosswalks or other strategies.

**Wharf II:** Improve the Wharf II crossing to make it safer for beach goers.

**Ocean Aquatics**

The City, in partnership with private entities, has the opportunity to create a new Ocean Aquatic Center to attract kayaking and other ocean boating events and competitions to the City.

At a minimum, the City should add amenities such as picnic tables and benches with shade and water stations near the current kayak store to support events and daily activities.

For a competitive center, a building that includes storage, fitness spaces, offices and similar spaces would be needed. The East Catellus properties are potential opportunity areas to improve and enhance the facilities. There is also potential to reconfigure the entire property to better site the boat storage as conceptualized in the Waterfront Master Plan.

Coordinate access to kayak area and proposed ocean aquatics with the needs for truck parking and boat storage.

**Beach House**

Relocate Beach House currently on the City beach to the east side of Monterey Bay Park (See Page 63). This relocation will provide additional space and access for ocean aquatics, beach volleyball events and other similar activities.

**Waterfront Gathering Area**

In line with the Waterfront Master Plan, transform the parking area closest to the boat dock into a casual open air community gathering area for picnics, events and other uses on the Waterfront. The area should be designed to welcome people to use it when not reserved for events and to capture views to the water. Considerations for shade, water, technology, audio and electronics should be made. The gathering area should allow easy integration of a pedestrian promenade/pathway.

**Passenger Depot**

The currently leased Passenger Depot is a City-owned historic property that could be a good location for a future visitor and recreation activity center. This use is encouraged in the Waterfront Master Plan as an additional element at that site. It may be as simple as kiosks, or include rental items such as bikes, beach items and the like.
OTHER PROGRAM SPACES

The following are other program spaces that the community identified as needed. There are a number of opportunities to integrate them into existing facilities or park spaces.

PICKLEBALL

A large contingent of community members have advocated for the development of pickleball courts in the City. While not typically identified as a “need” the addition of a pickleball court (or more) would meet demand in the community and add additional variety to the City’s offerings. The sport is easy to play for all ages. Existing tennis courts could be repurposed for this activity. A typical pickleball court (34’ x 64’ in total) can fit on one standard tennis court. An alternative is to build a new set of courts.

Community members identified a number of possible sites that need to be evaluated further for feasibility (e.g., Veterans, Via Parasio, Deer Flats and Fisherman Flats Parks).

BOCCE BALL

The bocce ball courts managed by the State in Custom House Plaza should be updated. A partnership agreement with the State could enable the City to maintain and manage this popular amenity. In addition, other locations such as the outdoor space at Scholze Park Center, Monterey Bay Park, Veterans Memorial Park or other City parks should be identified to provide additional bocce space.

DANCE CENTER OR DANCE ROOM

The City does not operate any facilities with adequate wood dance floors for dance instruction or dance events. The Hilltop Park Center and/or Scholze Park Center could be upgraded to meet the demand and to provide facilities for the community. This kind of space would also be useful for rentals and other events.
SPECIFIC PROJECTS
BY EXISTING PARK OR FACILITY

Appendix A provides more detailed recommendations for every City owned and operated park or facility. Each page includes a brief description of the park, key recommendations, and whether there are other plans that should be coordinated with in implementing the improvements. There is some overlap with the discussion of community-wide parks in the previous pages. Projects are recommended based on the type of facility, as defined here.

Recreation Centers
Monterey has five primary recreation centers ranging from the state-of-the-art Sports Center to the more neighborhood serving center Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center. All of the Centers are City operated and maintained.

Parks
Monterey has a wide range of parks that serve most of the recreational needs of the community. The park system reflects the special identity of the Monterey community at large, and the unique character of the individual park sites. The parks should continue to support and expand the opportunities for active living and for socializing, to support health and wellness, and to allow for passive relaxation and enjoyment of the natural surroundings. Currently most residents are within a five-minute (1/4 mile) walking distance of a park, open space, or joint use facility. Park types include:

- Pocket Parks (and Plazas)
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks

Open Space
These lands are most often used for passive recreation activities, such as walking or hiking. Improvements are generally minimal. Monterey’s system of hillside greenbelts are valued amenities.

“Parcel B” is the 13 or so acres that connect Quarry Park and Veteran’s Park. The City acquired the property through historic use and the public has the right to use the entire parcel (not just the one connecting trail). The City can improve hiking trails from Herrmann Drive up to the main path and elsewhere.

Please refer to Appendix A for this detail.
06 implementation
The following section provides direction and guidance to the City to prioritize and implement projects identified in the previous section and other future projects. There are several key projects that have emerged that should be implemented sooner than others. However, a majority of the projects will be implemented over time based on how they meet overall plan goals and the criteria provided below. Future projects will need to be considered on individual merits and alignment with the PRMP’s goals and criteria.

PRIORITIZATION

Capital and Maintenance Projects

Within the overall park system, prioritization of individual projects is critical to achieving an integrated, high quality park system. Resources, expenditures and benefits must be carefully weighed, and the overall value of each project must be analyzed within the context of the City’s vision. Potential projects must also be evaluated based upon available funding and/or collaborative efforts. Prioritization should consider need, return on investment, and implications for maintenance and operations budgets.

Establishing weighted criteria for evaluating potential projects will create a systematic approach to prioritization.

The PRMP Goals provide the basis for prioritization and include the following:

1. Unique Sense of Place
   - Improves the aesthetic and/or environmental quality of the City or neighborhood
   - Preserves, improves or enhances cultural, historical or natural resources
   - Creates a strong sense of place and community

2. Diverse Community
   - Contributes to the health and wellness of all ages and abilities
   - Improves or expands facilities for an underserved neighborhood or audience (e.g., at-risk teens, seniors)
   - Provides a specialized facility or element that is desired by the City-wide community (e.g. additional dog park, renovations to Dennis the Menace Playground)
   - Has demonstrated community support

3. Economic & Environmental Sustainability
   - Protects infrastructure and improves maintenance efficiencies
   - Supports economic development and tourism
   - Preserves the integrity of the City’s existing infrastructure

4. Accessibility
   - Extends access and availability of services in the community
   - Corrects conditions that are safety hazards or code violations (e.g. unsafe equipment, ADA, seismic upgrade)
   - Provides safety and security for the users and property (e.g. visibility, lighting, gate, etc.)
   - Improves park access in an underserved community
   - Improves connectivity to other parks or destinations

- Provides needed repairs/renovations to an existing facility
- Reduces ongoing maintenance or operational costs
- Generates increased revenues
- Implements measures to support environmental sustainability
- Demonstrates community value (ROI) when compared to costs for development and maintenance
- Collaborative use and funding is available from the City and/or with private or public entity
- Secures operational and maintenance funding
## PRIORITY PROJECTS

During the PRMP update process, the following projects emerged, in no specific order, as the top priorities for the City. Many of these require preliminary design or feasibility studies before they can be constructed or implemented. The costs below are order-of-magnitude for planning purposes only. They will likely be different based on the scope of a particular study, who is completing the study and when the study is being done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Order of Magnitude</th>
<th>Goal Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation and Maintenance</td>
<td>Secure long-term operation and maintenance funding for all existing parks.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Trail Renovation</td>
<td>Initiate a trail-wide renovation project that implements recommendations of this plan, segment by segment.</td>
<td>Construction: $1 million +</td>
<td>Accessibility; Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artful Parks Monterey</td>
<td>Launch a community-based design process, utilizing standard templates to allow neighborhoods to re-envision their parks, integrate art, identify key improvements and enhance the sense of place.</td>
<td>Planning $250,000</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, Culture and Dance Center (Hilltop Park Center)</td>
<td>Determine the feasibility for Hilltop Park Center to become a new destination Center for the entire community that provides classes, events and other programs related to arts, dance and culture.</td>
<td>Feasibility Study $50,000</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place, Diverse Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center</td>
<td>Initiate a planning and design process to site and develop a new Teen Center near the existing high school.</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Concept Design $300,000+</td>
<td>Diverse Community; Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Sports Field Complex</td>
<td>Complete a feasibility and siting study to determine the ability for the City to develop a multi-field sports complex and to find a location that can accommodate the facility.</td>
<td>Feasibility Study $75,000</td>
<td>Diverse Community, Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Youth Center</td>
<td>Repurpose the Teen Room as a Community Meeting Room for rentals. Rebrand the Center as a Community Center. Update and renovate the lobby and entrance areas.</td>
<td>Construction: $500,000</td>
<td>Sustainability, Diverse Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis the Menace Playground</td>
<td>Initiate a design and construction process to renovate Dennis the Menace Playground.</td>
<td>Project Cost: up to $1 million</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place, Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Estero Park-Wide Improvements</td>
<td>Implement improved connections and pathways, dog park upgrade/conversion, covered picnic area, updated par course, and signage.</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Order of Magnitude</th>
<th>Goal Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waterfront Community Gathering Area</strong></td>
<td>Design and construct a new community gathering area adjacent to the marina in coordination with the Waterfront Master Plan.</td>
<td>$750,000 (1 acre)</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place, Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monterey Sports Center Expansion</strong></td>
<td>Conduct a feasibility study for a third phase of expansion. (May be done by staff with assistance from 3rd party)</td>
<td>Feasibility Study $25,000 - $50,000</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Presidio Historic Park</strong></td>
<td>Implement circulation and access improvements to the park in line with Lower Presidio Historic Park Master Plan and Waterfront Master Plan.</td>
<td>TBD, coordinate with MMMP</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dogs Monterey</strong></td>
<td>Working with community members, identify locations to integrate and develop dog-oriented park facilities throughout the City, including on-leash and off-leash facilities.</td>
<td>$100,000 + depending on number &amp; locations</td>
<td>Diverse Community, Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monterey Bay Park</strong></td>
<td>Initiate park renovation and design for Monterey Bay Park to site and implement improvements identified in the PRMP.</td>
<td>Design Concept $75,000 - 150,000</td>
<td>Unique Sense of Place, Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Del Monte Beach</strong></td>
<td>Replace portable restrooms with permanent structures, and improve amenities.</td>
<td>$300,000 (not including water or sewer hookups)</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ocean Aquatic Center</strong></td>
<td>Work with community groups to identify a partner and potential path to development of a private/nonprofit aquatic center.</td>
<td>Staff time</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor Competitive Swimming Pool</strong></td>
<td>Conduct a feasibility study (perhaps as part of the Sports Center study) to determine the program, need, partners and site for a competitive pool in Monterey.</td>
<td>Feasibility Study $25,000 - $50,000</td>
<td>Accessibility, Diverse Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preventative and Deferred Maintenance System-wide</strong></td>
<td>Systematically complete preventative and deferred maintenance programs throughout the City, including Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, restroom upgrades, storage and park amenities. This would allow maintenance of parks at high level, with approximately a quarter dedicated preventative maintenance and the balance for deferred maintenance.</td>
<td>Estimated $400,000 annually</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

The following pages provide a summary of the implementation needs for all of the parks and centers in Monterey and provide a general priority level and characterization of the magnitude of the project. Together these items should help the City create annual capital improvement plans, coordinate with the Neighborhood Improvement Program, and understand where resources and time should be spent.

Parks are grouped by type:

- Community Center
- Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Purpose Parks
- Regional Parks
- Open Space

Estimated, order of magnitude costs for individual park element enhancements have been included beginning on page 80.

Estimated Level of Effort

The level of effort or magnitude for each project is based on the following categories:

**Major Projects – Existing** – Requires community engagement and a relatively high level of funding and time to implement.

**Enhance/Add Amenities** – Requires improvements to existing parks and facilities that will improve service and quality of the park, a lesser level of funding and will not require community engagement.

**Maintenance/Repair** – Requires increased level of maintenance and repair of existing amenities and facilities.

**Operations/Policy** – No physical changes but a change in a policy or operation practice to improve service and meet needs.

**No Changes Required** – No required changes were identified at this time.

Priority Level

Priority level is a broad concept to help focus resources based on the following assumptions:

**Low** - Should be done, but not time sensitive.

**Medium** - Important project, but not required immediately.

**High** - Represents an immediate need, safety improvement, or opportunity that should be acted upon.
# SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Est. Level of Effort</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Park Center</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing, Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Remodel Center and transform into a Community Art, Dance and Culture Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholze Park Center</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities, Operation/Policy</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Center Upgrade: signage, lobby layout and indoor/outdoor integration; Increase hours of operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Sports Center</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing, Operation/Policy</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Feasibility Study to expand Center and determine the right mix of spaces and program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Youth Center</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing, Operation/Policy</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Remove Teen Room and repurpose to Meeting Space; Remodel Lobby and entrance area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Feasibility to expand Center by approximately 1,000 sf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Pocket Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Plaza</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Implement Waterfront Master Plan project to improve circulation; Improve visibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Ricketts Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Improve Wayfinding as part of City Wayfinding Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Court Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Enhance Park over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensory Garden</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagunita Mirada</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray Avenue Tot Lot</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannery Row Park Plaza</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair, Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartnell Gulch Park</td>
<td>New Potential Project/Park</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Ariss Way Park / Cannery Row Worker's Memorial Park</td>
<td>Operation/Policy, Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Connect to citywide wayfinding and history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portola Plaza</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td>Project underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin Plaza</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAbee Plaza</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Est. Level of Effort</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Neighborhood Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer Park &amp; Hoffman Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Park rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casanova Oak Knoll Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Establish off-leash dog park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>ADA improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montecito Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Park Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Park</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>General upkeep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Newton Park</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Ferrante Park</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Maintenance and park enhancements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Flats Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Park Refresh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Flats Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Park Refresh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkin Park</td>
<td>Operation/Policy</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Routine upkeep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Community Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Park</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Initiate Design process for new bathrooms and development of new amenities in park to activate it and implement Waterfront Master Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Estero Park Complex</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Multiple Projects: See details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholze Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Enhance outdoor park to improve use and reduce homeless activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Plaza</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Safety enhancements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Shoreline Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Wayfinding and water access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacks Ball Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via Paraiso Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Carlos Beach Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colton Hall Lawn</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operation/Policy</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 06 Implementation

## Summary of Implementation Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Est. Level of Effort</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whispering Pines Park</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Park</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Special</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Coastal/Recreational Trail</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Upgrades, added amenities and crossing enhancements Trail-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Elkins Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Municipal Beach</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Access, signage enhancements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Monte Beach</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Bathroom replacement and repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Presidio Historic Park</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Improved access and addition of amenities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operation/Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Tennis Center</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Bike racks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister City Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>NIP project for art enhancements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran's Memorial Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Circulation improvements, and added amenities and campsite for the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Park</td>
<td>History Connection</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simoneau Plaza</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Transition into a City Park in line with Downtown Specific Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Division Corporation Yard</td>
<td>New Potential Project/Park</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAbee Beach City Park</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Grande Regional Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>ADA Accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Open Space</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Ranch Park</td>
<td>Major Project - Existing</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Feasibility study for a Community Sports Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Dahvee Greenbelt</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Vegetation Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara Wooden Grove</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Wayfinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman's Flats Greenbelt</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 06 Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Est. Level of Effort</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarry Park</td>
<td>Enhance/Add Amenities</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Wayfinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huckleberry Hill Nature Preserve</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Canyon Greenbelt</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washerwoman's Pond</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyline Drive Greenbelt</td>
<td>Maintenance/Repair</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Vegetation Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Flats Greenbelt</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descanso Greenbelt</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Salinas Hwy (Minealas) Greenbelt</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodridge Acres Greenbelt</td>
<td>No Changes Required</td>
<td>No Action</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 06 Implementation

### Project Costs

The following provides general guidelines to help the City determine costs for individual park elements for community, neighborhood and pocket park improvements, replacement and maintenance. Prices are in 2016 dollars and will need to be updated to reflect changes in the economy, the season, and the kind of project and required regulatory elements (e.g. Coastal Conservancy, etc).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Description / Assumptions</th>
<th>Approx. Construction Costs</th>
<th>Construction + Contingency (20%)</th>
<th>Construction + Contingency + Soft Costs (30%)</th>
<th>Approx. Area / Facility</th>
<th>Approx. Replacement Cost (annual)</th>
<th>Approx. Maintenance Cost (annual)</th>
<th>Approx. Total Annual Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Park Improvements (per acre) - Small Parks</td>
<td>Grading, drainage, utility connections, concrete walks, turf, trees, irrigation, lighting, benches, trash receptacle, bike rack</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$480,000</td>
<td>$624,000</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Park Improvements (per acre) - Large Parks</td>
<td>Grading, drainage, utility connections, concrete walks, turf, trees, irrigation, lighting, benches, trash receptacle, bike rack</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>$585,000</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Park/Trail (per acre)</td>
<td>Grading, soil prep, hydroseed, decomposed granite paths, bench, trash receptacle, trees</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
<td>$312,000</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field - Adult - Lighted</td>
<td>Grading, field drainage, turf, backstop, outfield fencing, chain link dugouts, infield, electronic scoreboard, bleacher seating, shade, lighting for night play</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$1,680,000</td>
<td>$2,184,000</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field - Little League - Unlighted</td>
<td>Grading, turf, backstop, outfield fencing, chain link dugout, infield, electronic scoreboard, bleacher seating, shade</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$1,170,000</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Field - Girls - Unlighted</td>
<td>Grading, turf, backstop, outfield fencing, chain link dugout, infield, electronic scoreboard, bleacher seating, shade</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$780,000</td>
<td>$1,014,000</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>$32,500</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$52,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field - Regulation - Synthetic Turf - Lighted</td>
<td>Grading, synthetic turf, field drainage, lighting for night play, goal posts, field markers, bleacher seating</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$1,800,000</td>
<td>$2,340,000</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field - Regulation - Natural Turf - Unlighted</td>
<td>Grading, turf, field drainage, goal posts, field markers, bleacher seating</td>
<td>$975,000</td>
<td>$1,170,000</td>
<td>$1,521,000</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>$77,000</td>
<td>$116,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field - Bantam</td>
<td>Grading, turf, goal posts, field markers, players bench</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$780,000</td>
<td>$1,014,000</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Court - Lighted</td>
<td>Grading, berm, concrete seatwalls, benches, court paving, court surface and striping, basketball standards, trash receptacles, misc concrete paving, court lighting</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$780,000</td>
<td>.4 acres</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>Skate structure with concrete bowls, lighting for night use, perimeter rail fence, shade structure, planting, seatwalls, bike racks</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>$1,440,000</td>
<td>$1,872,000</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 06 Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Description / Assumptions</th>
<th>Approx. Construction Costs</th>
<th>Construction + Contingency (20%)</th>
<th>Construction + &quot;Soft Costs&quot; (30%)</th>
<th>Approx. Area / Facility</th>
<th>Approx. Replacement Cost (annual)</th>
<th>Approx. Maintenance Cost (annual)</th>
<th>Approx. Total Annual Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skate/BMX Sports</td>
<td>Set of skate features such as grind rail, grind boxes, flat ledges, trash receptacles</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$156,000</td>
<td>4,500 sf</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>$6,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>Perimeter fencing for 1.5 acre park, water faucet, decomposed granite area, lawn area, trash/doggy station, shade, signage</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$840,000</td>
<td>$1,092,000</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Area</td>
<td>Grading, play equipment (2-5 years and 5-12 years), synthetic safety surfacing, seating, shade, trash receptacles</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$420,000</td>
<td>$546,000</td>
<td>5,000 sf</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms - Small</td>
<td>Prefabricated ADA restroom with one toilet and sink each gender, concrete foundation, storage, photosensor locks, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, planting</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
<td>$429,000</td>
<td>500 sf</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom/Concession</td>
<td>1,700 sf ADA restroom/concession/office, concrete foundation, 3 toilets each gender, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, planting</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$1,080,000</td>
<td>$1,404,000</td>
<td>2,000 sf</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Turf - Small</td>
<td>Grading, natural turf, drainage, goals</td>
<td>$475,000</td>
<td>$570,000</td>
<td>$741,000</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Turf - Large</td>
<td>Grading, natural turf, drainage, goals</td>
<td>$950,000</td>
<td>$1,140,000</td>
<td>$1,482,000</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$57,000</td>
<td>$82,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area - Small</td>
<td>Picnic tables (2), BBQ grills, 800 sf concrete paving, drinking fountain with spigot, trash receptacle, trees or structure for shade</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
<td>$140,400</td>
<td>3,000 sf</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Picnic - Medium</td>
<td>Picnic tables (6), BBQ grills, 1,600 sf concrete paving, drinking fountain with spigot, trash receptacle, trees or structure for shade</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
<td>$168,000</td>
<td>$218,400</td>
<td>6,000 sf</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Gathering Place</td>
<td>Entry feature/signage, 4,000 sf gathering plaza, shade structure, enhanced planting</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$273,000</td>
<td>6,000 sf</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Gathering Place</td>
<td>Entry feature/signage, 10,000 sf gathering plaza, shade structure, enhanced planting, water feature</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$780,000</td>
<td>$1,014,000</td>
<td>40,000 sf</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$43,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>