

DATE: March 12, 2025

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Kristine Crosby, Assistant Community Services Director
John R. Marchant, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: **Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan—Park Land Level of Service**

RECOMMENDATION

Review and provide comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan’s Park Land Level of Service, specifically how school sites and Shoreline at Mountain View are recommended to be calculated.

BACKGROUND

The City of Mountain View has a rich history of providing the community with quality recreation programs, services, events, facilities, and open space.

The City’s first Recreation Plan was adopted in 2008 as a companion document to the Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP), which was originally adopted in 1992. The purpose of the Recreation Plan was to provide a review and assessment of recreation programs, services, and facilities and prepare a long-term, recreation-focused vision for the community. The Recreation Plan included 23 recommendations for programs and services, three priorities for recreation facilities, and three options for meeting the demand for athletic fields. It was a 10-year plan with a sunset in 2018.

The POSP has gone through six iterations since 1992, with the most recent update adopted by the City Council in 2014. The POSP provides a review of open space resources within the City, calculating total open space and amenities available in the community by planning area. The POSP offers a long-range vision to guide decisions to advance park and open space resources and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in Mountain View. The POSP was anticipated to be updated in 2019.

Both the Recreation Plan and the POSP have previously reached their intended planning horizon. In June 2021, the City Council confirmed its commitment to providing quality recreation programming and open space with the adoption of the Council’s Strategic Priorities, which included “Livability and Quality of Life.” Development of the City’s Parks and Recreation Strategic

Plan (Strategic Plan or Plan) is one of the identified projects for this priority. As a result, Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, Project 22-37, was adopted as a Fiscal Year 2021-22 capital improvement project. The City Council once again confirmed the Plan as a Category A project, the highest-priority category, with the Fiscal Year 2023-25 Council Strategic Priorities and Work Plan on June 13, 2023.

In addition, the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element outlines a two-step approach to reviewing the City's Park Land Dedication Ordinance, which includes completing a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. The Housing Element states that the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan should be adopted by December 31, 2024 to address anticipated open space needs and long-term funding strategies.

The process embarked with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) and the City Council providing input on the proposed scope of work in [September 2022](#). Following this process, an RFP process took place, and Next Practice Partners, LLC, was selected as a qualified consultant for this project. On [April 25, 2023](#), the City Council authorized the City Manager or designee to execute a professional services agreement with Next Practice Partners, LLC, to provide professional services for Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, Project 22-37, in an amount not to exceed \$649,771.

A Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan is a community values-driven plan that will serve as a road map for the future and guide decision-making and resource allocation to best serve the community. Developed through community input, the Plan intends to reflect trends, Best Practices, and the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the residents. This document is intended to be a living, actionable Plan that can adapt to changing circumstances, allowing for continual improvement and innovation while staying true to the Community Services Department's mission.

Key components of the Plan will include:

- Executive Summary—a high-level summary of the contents of the Plan.
- Community Profile—a summary of Mountain View's demographic, geographic, economic, and social characteristics as well as emerging trends in recreation.
- Community Needs Assessment—a summary of the public input from residents, stakeholders, key leaders, and staff to understand current and future needs and priorities.
- Inventory and Analysis—a review of existing parks, facilities, and recreation programs, identifying gaps, overlaps, strengths, and areas for improvement.

- Vision and Mission—defining the overarching purpose and long-term vision for parks and recreation offerings.
- Goals and Objectives—clear, measurable goals related to parks and recreation facilities and programs and internal operations, including staffing levels.
- Funding and Budget Considerations—identifies existing and potential funding sources to support the acquisition, improvement, and construction of parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Action Plan—a living document that outlines specific projects, policies, and initiatives to achieve strategic goals with a timeline of priorities and performance metrics to measure progress.

Public Input Process

The City kicked off a robust public input process to ensure the Strategic Plan reflects the community's interests, needs, and priorities, starting in August 2023 and concluding in July 2024. Over the 11-month period, the City conducted a variety of public input activities, including:

- Launching a project website to share information and solicit feedback, achieving 854 engagements on the website's Idea Board;
- Six public input meetings;
- Eight focus group meetings with stakeholders, including two meetings in Spanish and Mandarin;
- 12 Key Leaders interviews;
- Four Community Services Department All-Hands staff meetings;
- Three PRC meetings;
- Three pop-ups at Celebrate Shoreline (October 2024), Monster Bash (October 2024);
- Community Tree Lighting Celebration (December 2024) with over 150 engagements per event; and
- A statistically reliable survey and companion community survey with over 1,800 responses.

Through this input process, residents shared their thoughts on the City's strengths and opportunities for parks and recreation offerings and top-priority outcomes that they would like the Plan to address. These findings, including a summary of program and site assessments, were presented to the PRC on July 1, 2024.

Project Delays

When the Plan development began, staff anticipated the process would take 18 months from the start to plan adoption with an anticipated completion date of December 2024. However, there have been delays in the Plan development process, including additional PRC meetings during the public input phase and additional time spent conducting the complete public input phase. For example, the timing of conducting the community surveys was delayed by two months to take place after the holiday season and the start of the new year in early 2024. This delay in launching the survey then delayed other community meetings and public input tasks. Lastly, the process of reviewing the existing park acreage and recalculating the City's parks and open space took significant staff time from multiple departments. This process was integral to developing the Level of Service for Park Land, and the information generated will be utilized to develop analysis and recommendations for the Plan. Some of the information requested by the project team was not previously available. Therefore, staff had to analyze new sites, add them to the City's inventory, and create GIS maps for identified locations. This process is further detailed in this report.

As this Plan is a priority project on the Fiscal Year 2023-25 Council Strategic Work Plan and a Program identified within the Housing Element, staff has developed a meeting cadence to bring the Plan to the PRC and the City Council for review and adoption by the end of 2025. Staff anticipates presenting the draft Plan to the PRC in June 2025 for a first review and again in September 2025 with a recommendation to forward to the City Council. Staff aim to bring the Plan to the City Council in November 2025 for the first review and again in December 2025 for Plan adoption.

Level of Service

With the public input process concluded, the project team is focused on synthesizing the public input, existing conditions, assessments, community data, and trends to develop a draft Plan to present to the PRC later this year. One significant area of focus has been reviewing the City's existing parks and open space inventory and developing a Level of Service.

The Level of Service (LOS) refers to the measurable standards used to evaluate the quantity and service levels of park and recreation facilities in the community. The LOS helps determine whether the current park system meets the needs of the residents and guides future planning for improvements and expansions. This aspect of the Plan also helps identify gaps and overlaps in service and areas needing investment, ensure equitable access to parks and recreation,

support funding and grant applications, and align planning with growth projections and community needs.

Historically, the City has reported park acreage through the POSP and regular updates to the PRC and City Council. The document typically shared provides a listing of traditional parks by planning area, the acreage associated with those parks, and how the City is meeting the standard of 3.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, Citywide and by planning area. The Plan intends to modernize the calculation and reporting mechanism through an updated LOS to provide a more holistic review of park land available in Mountain View.

ANALYSIS

The project team began discussing park land and the LOS in late spring 2024. The LOS development process included inventorying all parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities the City maintains, inventorying park amenities, verifying and calculating the acreage of parks and open spaces and square footage of recreation facilities, confirming park classifications, and determining recommended standards for each park type and amenity. Based on public input received through the community outreach process, staff also had in-depth conversations on how to calculate park acreage of school sites and Shoreline at Mountain View. The entire LOS process required collaboration among staff from multiple City departments, including Community Services, Public Works, and Information Technology.

Staff took a comprehensive approach to developing the LOS, ensuring that it reflected the community's needs and aligned with recommended practices. This process involved numerous meetings and in-depth discussions, allowing staff to explore various perspectives, addressing challenges, and refining the methodology. A review of the Park Land Dedication Ordinance was also conducted to ensure consistency with policy and planning objectives. Multiple revisions were made to the LOS framework with each iteration improving clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness. Given the level of detail involved, the process took longer than initially anticipated. However, this extended timeline was necessary to produce a high-quality document to serve as a strong foundation for future planning and decision-making.

As the Plan moves on a path to future adoption by City Council, staff will be working on two items that will be working on a parallel path. The first is to develop a nexus study, which is a technical analysis that establishes the need for new park land and recreational facilities as a result of new development. The nexus study will provide analysis of potential options for updating the City's Park Land Dedication Ordinance, such as applying it to commercial property development in addition to residential development. The completion of the nexus study will require an update to the Park Land Dedication Ordinance and City Council adoption to establish any new development fees.

The following sections will discuss the various aspects of the LOS related to inventory of parks and open spaces, park classifications, calculating school sites and Shoreline at Mountain View, and the recommended standards for Mountain View's LOS.

Parks and Open Space Inventory

Developing the LOS began with inventorying all parks and recreation facilities maintained by the City. This inventory included the acreage or square footage of the site, amenities available at the site such as the number of picnic tables or playgrounds, categorizing each site by the updated park classifications, and reviewing public access for each site. The previous POSP document was a starting point for developing the LOS. The list, which included the City's parks and school sites, has been expanded to include all recreation facilities and all land within the Community Services Department's maintenance responsibilities such as passive open space and landscaped sites.

The City has 45 parks within its inventory including mini, neighborhood, and community parks, and one regional park. Of these 45 parks, 34 are City-owned, nine are Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD or District) school sites subject to a joint-use agreement, and two are City and MVWSD parcels combined to make a park (Cooper and Whisman Parks). In addition to these sites, the City has recreation facilities, special-use parks, trails within parks, two trail corridors, and passive open space (previously referred to as landscaped and/or environmentally sensitive sites). This expansive list includes a total of 75 properties which the City reviewed, calculated acreage/square footage, and inventoried the amenities available at each site through this LOS process.

To verify acreage data for the LOS, staff from the Community Services Department worked with Information Technology and Public Works Department staff to review and update all park-site acreage using the City's geographic information system (GIS). To measure sites, staff used information from the County's Assessor's Office and a tool to measure the acreage of a defined space. For most sites, the acreage was the same or similar to what was previously reported for acreage. For example, Dana Park was previously reported as 0.42 acre, and when remeasured, the park calculation decreased to 0.41 acre. Alternatively, Sierra Vista Park was previously reported as 0.80 acre, and when remeasured, the park calculation increased to 0.81 acre. Through this process, staff also discovered there were some sites whose acreage differed significantly from what was previously reported. Examples of this included parks or open spaces that have changed based on amenities or changes to the site, some sites included multiple park classifications in one lump-acreage sum instead of reporting them out separately, some of the school sites had the school campus included in the acreage count instead of just the recreational areas, and some school sites had changes to the size of the recreational areas over the years. For example, the City previously counted 3.39 acres of park land at the old Slater School Field. This site was reconstructed to develop the new Vargas Elementary School, and the recreation area is now 1.58 acres.

While reconfirming acreage and park sites through GIS, staff and IT developed an internal Parks Collective GIS map. This map has served as a spatial analysis tool for staff while recording all relevant park and facility information for staff to reference, such as acreage, property owners (i.e., school district parcel or City parcel), site amenities, and more. Staff has used this map throughout this LOS process to reconfirm acreage, to understand the multiple parcels/property owners for one park site, and to discuss how to represent acreage within the LOS. In time, staff will explore the opportunity to make a publicly accessible version to include on the City’s website.

The process of confirming park acreage and reviewing what should be counted within the LOS has taken a significant amount of staff time. This LOS final product is now a document that staff can update as parks and recreation facilities are added to the park system and/or if amenities available change. Staff also intends to use this document moving forward to guide in the planning and development of future parks and recreation amenities.

Park Classifications

Park Classifications categorize parks based on their size, function, amenities, and the type of service they provide to the community. These classifications also help guide park planning, development, maintenance, and resource allocation. Table 1 includes the existing park classifications outlined in Chapter 41 of the Mountain View City Code, Park Land Dedication or Fees in Lieu Thereof.

Table 1: Current Park Classifications

Park Type	Service Area	Desirable Size
Mini Park	1 Mile	Up to 1.0 Acre
Neighborhood Park	1 Mile	1.0 to 5.0 Acres
Community Park and/or Recreational Facility	Entire City	5.0 Acres or more
Stevens Creek Trail	Entire City	N/A

Through the LOS process, staff evaluated the existing park classifications to ensure the classifications remain relevant and aligned with community needs. Various factors were included in this review, such as equity and accessibility, park size and amenities, service area and population growth, maintenance and operational requirements, benchmarking against industry standards, and more. Table 2 includes the proposed Park Classifications to use with the LOS.

Table 2: Proposed Park Classifications

Park Type	Service Area	Desirable Size
Mini Park	1 Mile	Up to 1.0 Acre
Neighborhood Park	1 Mile	1.0 to 5.0 Acres
Community Park	Entire City	5.0 to 40 Acres
Regional Park	Entire City	40 Acres or more
Trails	Entire City	N/A
Passive Open Space	N/A	N/A
Special Use Parks	Entire City	N/A
Recreation Facilities	Entire City	N/A

This expanded list fully encompasses each park, open space, and recreation facility type the City maintains and is further defined below:

- Mini Parks—Small parks (less than 1.0 acre) that provide limited recreational opportunities, such as seating areas, playgrounds, or small green spaces, usually serving a localized area of one mile.
- Neighborhood Parks—Parks ranging from 1.0 to 5.0 acres in size that serve nearby residents and often include playgrounds, open spaces, picnic areas, and sports courts.
- Community Parks—Larger parks ranging from 5.0 to 40 acres that serve multiple neighborhoods and offer a broader range of recreational facilities, such as sports fields, community buildings, playgrounds, and various amenities.
- Regional Parks—A large park that attracts visitors from across the City and region, often featuring natural areas, trails, water access, and unique amenities like wildlife and habitat features.
- Trails—Trails include paved and unpaved pathways within City parks and corridors, which provide inter- and multi-jurisdictional connectivity.
- Passive Open Space—Natural or landscaped areas that are primarily intended for low-impact, environmental protection, scenic enjoyment, and observing nature.
- Special-Use Parks—Parks designed for a specific function, such as City plazas, community gardens, etc.
- Recreation Facilities—Buildings or designated spaces designed to support recreation activities, fitness, and leisure pursuits, such as the Community Center, swimming pool, etc.

As part of the LOS process, staff categorized each park, open space, and recreation facility based on the categories above. Staff expanded from the original list stated in Table 1 to better categorize and define the existing spaces maintained by the City for park and recreation functions. While Passive Open Space and Special-Use Parks are not calculated within the City's total parks and open space acreage, these categories capture all of the different types of land maintained by City staff.

Calculating School Sites

As part of the City's park land inventory, the City has historically counted school sites towards the Quimby Act goal of 3.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Schools historically included in this calculation were school sites associated with the Joint Use Agreement with the MVWSD and additional school property not associated with a Joint Use Agreement, such as Springer Elementary School and Mountain View High School. Through the scope development process and the public input process for the Plan itself, the project team received input that school sites should not be counted at 100% of park land as they are not available to the public 100% of the time due to school hours and use. During the development of the LOS, the project team reviewed this feedback and discussed a variety of ways the City could recalculate how and which school sites should be counted.

The first step was discussing which school sites should be included in the LOS. As noted above, the City previously counted Springer Elementary School and Mountain View High School in the park land inventory. However, the City does not have a Joint Use Agreement with the Los Altos School District for Springer Elementary School or with the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District for Mountain View High School. To simplify and truly focus on land that the City maintains and programs, the project team removed Springer Elementary School and Mountain View High School from the City's park acreage count and focused on including school sites associated with a Joint Use Agreement with the City.

The City has had a long-standing partnership with the MVWSD for shared use of the school fields for recreational purposes. In February 2024, the City entered into a new 10-year Joint Use Agreement for Recreational Use of School Sites (JUA) with the MVWSD. This JUA includes 11 school sites:

- Benjamin Bubb Elementary School (Bubb School Field)
- Mariana Castro Elementary School and Gabriela Mistral Elementary School (Castro School Field)
- O. J. Cooper Elementary School (Cooper Park)
- Amy Imai Elementary School (Imai School Field)

- Edith Landels Elementary School (Landels School Field)
- Monta Loma Elementary School (Monta Loma School Field)
- Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary School (Vargas School Field)
- Stevenson/Theuerkauf Elementary School (Stevenson School Field)
- Crittenden Middle School (Crittenden Athletic Sports Complex)
- Graham Middle School (Graham Athletic Sports Complex)
- Whisman School site (Whisman Park)

The fields at these school sites are maintained by the City, and the City is responsible for managing and overseeing the use of the recreational areas on these campuses during nonschool hours through field reservations, City programs, and general public access. According to the JUA, the City's Use Period is defined by school type and day of the week. For the District's middle school sites, the City Use Period shall begin no earlier than 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for the District's elementary school sites, the City Use Period shall begin no earlier than 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The City's Use Period also includes holidays, weekends, and any other school breaks or recess and, on these days, shall begin at 6:00 a.m. and end one-half (1/2) hour after sunset, except fields with lights may be used until 10:00 p.m. In addition to the traditional school sites, Cooper Park and Whisman Park consist of a City parcel and an MVWSD parcel that form one large park. Cooper and Whisman Parks are available to the public during the traditional park hours of 6:00 a.m. to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

As noted, these school fields have historically been counted at 100% towards the City's park land goals. For example, 1.0 acre of school field was counted as 1.0 acre of park land. Based on the feedback received during the public input process, the project team reviewed options for recalculating these sites, including continuing to count school sites as 100%, developing a percentage to apply to all school sites (i.e., 60%), or developing a percentage for each school site based on the amount of public access. The project team determined that the most effective way to count the school sites is by considering the public's general access to each location. This access varies based on factors such as the type of school (i.e., elementary versus middle school), whether the field has lights, and whether the field is available to the public during regular park hours, such as Whisman and Cooper Parks.

Staff calculated the number of hours the different park types are open to the public. Table 3 notes the average number of hours each park type is available to the public annually:

Table 3: Average Park Hours

Park	Open to the Public	Average Hours per Year
Park with No Lights	6:00 a.m. to one-half hour past sunset	4,746 hours
Park with Lights	6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	5,840 hours

Examples of City parks with lights are McKelvey Ball Park's big field and Shoreline Athletic Fields.

Staff then calculated the number of hours each school site is available to the public based on the average City Use Period noted above. Table 4 includes the hours by school site.

Table 4: Average School Site Hours

School Site	Open to the Public	Average Hours per Year
Grass Fields with No Lights: Bubb, Castro, Imai, Landels, Monta Loma, Vargas, and Stevenson	4:00 p.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset on weekdays; 6:00 a.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset on weekends, holidays, school breaks	2,906 hours
Synthetic Field with No Lights: Graham Athletic Field Complex	5:00 p.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset on weekdays; 6:00 a.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset on weekends, holidays, school breaks	2,722 hours
Synthetic Field with Lights: Crittenden Athletic Field Complex	5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays; 6:00 a.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset on weekends, holidays, school breaks	3,816 hours
Cooper and Whisman Parks	6:00 a.m. to 1/2 hour past sunset	4,746 hours

When calculating hours for both City parks and school sites, staff took into consideration Daylight Savings Time and changes in available daylight each quarter of the year as the parks/fields are available more during the spring and summer than during the late fall and winter.

To come up with percentages that each school site is available to the public, staff compared its access to the access of a typical park, with and without lights, and grass versus synthetic field. Table 5 represents the percentage of the school site hours that are available to the public compared to the traditional park hours/access.

Table 5: Proposed School Acreage Percentage

School Site	Average Hours Available	Total Hours Based on Park Hours	Proposed Percentage
Grass Fields with no Lights: Bubb, Castro, Imai, Landels, Monta Loma, Vargas, and Stevenson	2,906 hours	4,746 hours	61%
Synthetic Field without Lights: Graham Athletic Field Complex	2,722 hours	4,746 hours	57%
Synthetic Field with Lights: Crittenden Athletic Field Complex	3,816 hours	5,840 hours	65%
Cooper and Whisman Parks	4,746 hours	4,746 hours	100%

Staff proposes using the above percentages for applicable school sites when counting the acreage of the recreational area toward park land goals. This provides a more accurate portrayal of school site access for the general public and recreation programs and, in turn, reduces the acreage number previously counted for most school sites. For example, using the percentages in Table 5, 1.0 acre of the Bubb School Field would be recorded as 0.61 acres while 1.0 acre of Cooper Park would continue to be recorded as 1.0 acre. This approach provides a more realistic and justifiable acreage count for these sites.

Although the main focus of the LOS is park land, the LOS also includes Recreation Facilities, such as the Mountain View Sports Pavilion at Graham Middle School and Whisman Sports Center at Crittenden Middle School. The City has separate agreements with MVWSD for the Whisman Sports Center and the Mountain View Sports Pavilion that are unique from the school fields in

that both the City and the MVWSD have joint ownership of each gymnasium and associated real property. The gymnasiums are available for school use during school hours while the City's use begins at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekends, holidays, and any other school breaks. Staff took the same approach with the gymnasiums that was applied to the school fields. Based on an 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily use, MVWSD has access to the gymnasiums for an average of 1,748 hours annually, and the City has access to an average of 3,362 hours for an average total use of 5,110 hours with the City having an average access of 66% of the year. The City utilizes the gyms for recreation classes and camps, gym reservations, and drop-in sports programs.

The JUA with the MVWSD is a 10-year agreement. Any future adjustments to the school site acreage or hours of access would be reviewed again if/when the JUA is renewed. This would also include any recalculations of acreage if any of the recreational areas are modified based on school construction or site changes. Staff will update the LOS at that time to ensure an accurate depiction of public access to these sites. If the City and the MVWSD do not renew the JUA, and/or if the JUA is terminated before the 10-year mark, the LOS will be updated. A similar approach would be taken with the gymnasiums if there were any changes to those agreements between the City and MVWSD.

Calculating Shoreline at Mountain View

Shoreline at Mountain View regional park (Shoreline at Mountain View) is a part of a regional open space with over 750 acres of wildlife refuge and recreation area with the majority of that acreage being located over a closed landfill. Shoreline at Mountain View is the home to Shoreline Golf Links and Michaels at Shoreline restaurant, Shoreline Sailing Lake, and Shoreline Lake American Bistro, wildlife and habitat areas, the Historic Rengstorff House, Kite Flying Area, a dog park, Shoreline Athletic Fields, walking trails on Vista Slope and Crittenden Hill, access to Stevens Creek Trail, Permanente Creek Trail, and the Bay Trail, Shoreline Amphitheatre, parking lots, and general active and passive open space areas.

Historically, the City has calculated the open space using two calculations. The total City acreage has totaled to include Shoreline at Mountain View acreage and separately without Shoreline at Mountain View acreage. Through the public input process for the Plan, staff heard feedback that Shoreline at Mountain View is an asset to the City and should be considered as a contribution toward the City's park land goals. Shoreline at Mountain View is easily accessible to local residents as well as those in different parts of the City. The Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek Trail systems provide interconnectivity to residents on the other side of the U.S. 101 freeway. In addition to hearing these sentiments, staff also heard through public input that not all areas of Shoreline at Mountain View are accessible to the general public due to wildlife and habitat preservation areas, passive open space, and/or there are amenities that require associated fees, such as Shoreline Golf Links or Shoreline Lake, and that these areas should not be counted towards the City's park land goal.

Staff is proposing to standardize counting Shoreline at Mountain View’s acreage when reporting park land acreage. With the understanding that not all areas of Shoreline at Mountain View are accessible to the general public, staff identified a more compartmentalized approach to counting Shoreline at Mountain View acreage by splitting the total acreage up into three park classifications: Regional Park (active areas with general public access), Special-Use Park (such as Shoreline Golf Links), and Passive Open Space (wildlife and habitat preservation areas and general open space the public cannot access). Figure 1 illustrates how staff segmented Shoreline at Mountain View into these three park classifications.

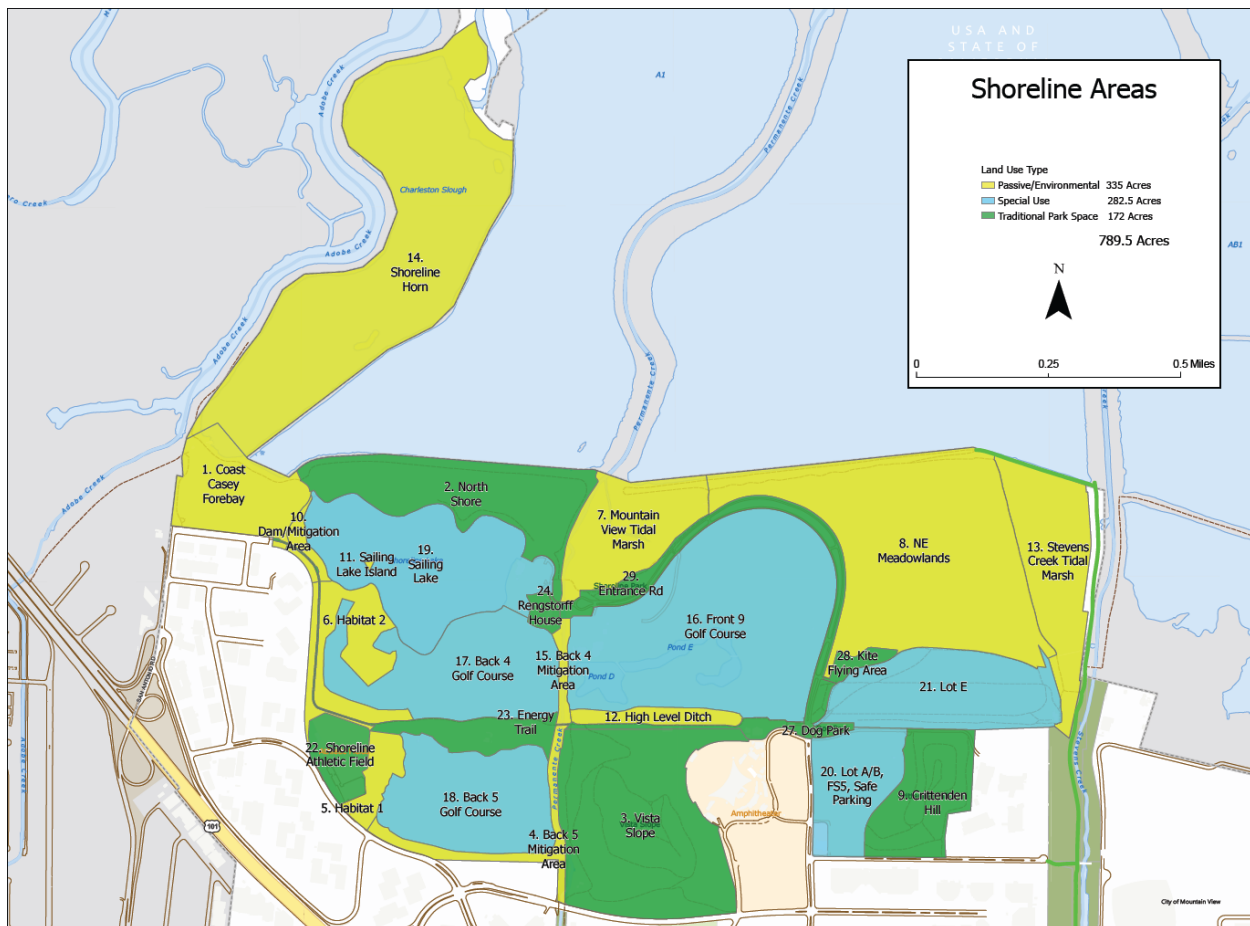


Figure 1: Shoreline at Mountain View by Park Classification

With the proposed approach, Shoreline at Mountain View would be split into three park classifications (Regional Park, Special-Use Park, and Passive Open Space) with the Regional Park acreage counting towards the City’s developed park and park land goals. Table 6 depicts how Shoreline at Mountain View’s acreage would be calculated.

Table 6: Proposed Shoreline at Mountain View Acreage by Park Classification

Park Classification	Areas	Acreage
Regional Park	Shoreline Athletic Fields, Dog Park, Rengstorff House, North Shore, Crittenden Hill, Vista Slope, Kite Flying Area	172.00 acres
Special Use Park	Shoreline Golf Links and Michaels Restaurant, Shoreline Sailing Lake, and Shoreline Lake American Bistro, Parking Lots	282.50 acres
Passive Open Space	Wildlife and Habitat Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Sites, Coast-Casey Forebay, and Northeast Meadowland	335.00 acres
TOTAL		789.50 acres

By taking this approach, 172.00 acres of the total 789.50 acres of Shoreline at Mountain View would be counted towards the City’s park land goal. This equates to 22% of Shoreline at Mountain View’s total acreage.

Recommended Service Levels

Recommended service levels in parks and recreation establish measurable benchmarks to guide the planning, development, and maintenance of park land, recreation facilities, and amenities. These standards help ensure the City has adequate recreational opportunities based on population needs, land availability, and recommended practices. These standards serve as a planning tool and should be applied considering the City’s specific circumstances and needs, guiding future development and enhancements in park and facility offerings.

Maintaining a recommended service level for parks and recreation ensures all residents have convenient access to quality outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities. A well-balanced park system enhances equity and accessibility, making sure that neighborhoods are not underserved. It also supports long-term growth planning, helping the City allocate resources efficiently as the population expands. Additionally, parks and recreation facilities significantly contribute to the quality of life, promoting physical and mental well-being, fostering social connections, and providing safe spaces for play and relaxation. Establishing clear service levels also strengthens funding justifications, providing data-driven support for securing grants, budgeting for improvements, and setting appropriate park land dedication requirements. By setting and maintaining these standards, the City can create a sustainable, well-planned park system that meets both current and future community needs.

As no two cities or communities are exactly alike, the recommended standards within the LOS are specific and customized to Mountain View. The recommendations for the LOS are based on guidelines from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), data on recreation activity participation rates provided by the Sports and Facility Industry Association's 2024 study on participation rates in sports and leisure activities within the U.S., and community input from Mountain View residents, staff, and stakeholders, including insights from the statistically valid survey and program assessments.

The City's 2014 Parks and Open Space Plan states the City's standard for park land is 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Establishing the new LOS as part of the development of a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan is the starting point to creating standards for park land acreage. It will provide opportunities to evaluate and make improvements if needed. Attachment 1 includes the draft LOS with recommended standards. This draft LOS incorporates how staff intend to calculate the school sites and Shoreline Park as noted earlier within the report.

NEXT STEPS

The project team will continue to work on the draft of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, which includes developing equity maps and a draft recommendation for capital improvement projects using data from the Level of Service. The full draft plan is anticipated to be presented to the PRC on June 25, 2025. The project team will take feedback on the draft plan at that meeting and will present an updated draft to the PRC for final review, tentatively scheduled for September 4, 2025. Following the PRC review process, the draft plan will then be forwarded to the City Council for review and adoption in Quarter 4 of 2025.

Once the Plan has been adopted, staff can use the Level of Service to update the City's inventory as new parks, facilities, or amenities are available to the public. As the Level of Service is updated, the future Facility Standards will adjust to note if a need still exists or if the standard is met for each park type, trails, and amenities. The Level of Service will also be reviewed through the Plan update process every five years to verify the recommended service levels and make modifications as necessary to reflect the City's current needs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, Project 22-37, is funded with a total of \$750,000: \$150,000 from the Shoreline Regional Park Community Fund and \$600,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund. No additional appropriation is being requested at this time.

CONCLUSION

The City of Mountain View has a history of providing the community with quality recreation programs, services, events, facilities, and open space.

The City has previously used both the Recreation Plan and Parks and Open Space Plan as guiding documents to meet and plan for current and future community needs. The development of the new Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan will serve as a road map for the future and guide decision-making and resource allocation to best serve the community. This document is intended to be a living, actionable Plan that can adapt to changing circumstances, allowing for continual improvement and innovation.

The PRC is being asked to review the proposed Level of Service, specifically the updated recommendations to calculate school sites and Shoreline at Mountain View in the future. The level of service refers to the measurable standards used to evaluate the quantity, quality, and accessibility of park and recreation facilities in the community. The Level of Service is a foundation of data to complete the rest of the Draft Recreation Plan which is scheduled to be reviewed by the PRC in June.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the standard agenda posting, the notice for this meeting was posted to the City website and project website, ImagineMVParks.com. Staff sent a notice to all neighborhood associations and registrants from recreation programs from 2020 to the present. Notice has been provided to City stakeholders, including, but not limited to, City-recognized youth sports organizations, Mountain View Masters, Los Altos Mountain View Aquatics Club, Mountain View Tennis Academy, Mountain View Tennis Club, Mountain View Pickleball Club, Community Services Agency, Mountain View Whisman School District, Los Altos School District, Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, Soil + Water, Friends of Mountain View Parks, Greenspaces MV, Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, Canopy, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

KC-JRM/1/CSD
205-03-12-25M

Attachment: 1. Draft Recommended Level of Service Standards