



## **SECTION 5.12**

### **Parks and Recreation**

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## 5.12 PARKS AND RECREATION

This section summarizes current parks and recreational facilities in the City of Santa Clarita and surrounding area, evaluates the impacts of the proposed project on such parks and recreational facilities. Information in this section is based on information provided by the City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Website, data and maps included in the *Santa Clarita General Plan* (adopted June 14, 2011), the Draft and Final *Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's Proposed One Valley One Vision General Plan* (certified June 14, 2011), as well as County, State, and Federal recreation facility records.

### 5.12.1 REGULATORY SETTING

#### QUIMBY ACT

Originally passed in 1975, the Quimby Act (*California Government Code* Section 66477) allows cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. This Act allows local agencies to establish ordinances requiring developers of residential subdivisions to provide impact fees for land and/or recreational facilities. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. In 1982, the Act was substantially amended, further defining acceptable uses of or restrictions on Quimby funds, provided acreage/population standards and formulas for determining the exaction, and indicated that the exactions must be closely tied to a project's impacts.

The Quimby Act requires that every city provide a minimum of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The *General Plan* exceeds the Quimby Act minimum and encourages that 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents be provided. This is the highest standard allowed under the Quimby Act. The Quimby Act and *General Plan* standards have been incorporated into the City's *Municipal Code*.

#### CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

##### GENERAL PLAN

Applicable goals, objectives, and policies from the *General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element* are listed below.



## Park, Recreation, and Trail Facilities

**Goal CO 9:** Equitable distribution of park, recreational, and trail facilities to serve all areas and demographic needs of existing and future residents.

**Objective CO 9.1:** Develop new parkland throughout the Santa Clarita Valley, with priority given to locations that are not now adequately served, and encompassing a diversity of park types and functions (including passive and active areas) in consideration of the recreational needs of residents to be served by each park, based on the following guidelines:

**Policy CO 9.1.1:** Common park standards shall be developed and applied throughout the Santa Clarita Valley, consistent with community character objectives, with a goal of five acres of parkland per 1,000 population.

**Policy CO 9.1.2:** A range of parkland types, sizes, and uses shall be provided to accommodate recreational and leisure activities.

**Policy CO 9.1.3:** Provide local and community parks within a reasonable distance of residential neighborhoods.

**Policy CO 9.1.7:** Establish appropriate segments of the Santa Clara River as a recreational focal point, encouraging a beneficial mix of passive and active recreational uses with natural ecosystems by providing buffers for sensitive habitat.

**Policy CO 9.1.9:** Ensure that new development projects provide a fair share towards parks and recreational facilities, phased to meet needs of residents as dwelling units become occupied, pursuant to the Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) and local ordinances as applicable.

**Policy CO 9.1.10:** Where appropriate, use flexible planning and zoning tools to obtain adequate park and open space land, including but not limited to specific plans, development agreements, clustering, and transfer of development rights.

**Policy CO 9.1.11:** Locate and design parks to address potential adverse impacts on adjacent development from noise, lights, flying balls, traffic, special events, and other operational activities and uses.

**Policy CO 9.1.13:** Provide passive areas for natural habitat, mediation, bird-watching, and similar activities in parks, where feasible and appropriate, including mediation gardens, wildflower and butterfly gardens, botanic gardens, and similar features.

**Objective CO 9.2:** Recognize that trails are an important recreational asset that, when integrated with transportation systems, contribute to mobility throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.



**Policy CO 9.2.1:** Plan for a continuous and unified multi-use trail network for a variety of users, to be developed with common standards, in order to unify Santa Clarita Valley communities and connect with regional and state trails such as the Pacific Crest Trail.

**Policy CO 9.2.3:** Use the Santa Clara River as a major recreational focal point for development of an integrated system of bikeways and trails, while protecting sensitive ecological areas.

**Policy CO 9.2.4:** Ensure that new development projects provide trail connections to local and regional trail systems, where appropriate.

**Policy CO 9.2.6:** Provide trails to scenic vistas and viewpoints.

**Policy CO 9.2.8:** Ensure that trails are designed to protect habitat, ecosystems, and water quality.

**Policy CO 9.2.9:** Pursue funding for trail maintenance and encourage volunteer participation in trail maintenance programs, where appropriate.

### Open Space

**Goal CO 10:** Preservation of open space to meet the community's multiple objectives for resource preservation.

**Objective CO 10.1:** Identify areas throughout the Santa Clarita Valley which should be preserved as open space in order to conserve significant resources for long-term community benefit.

**Policy CO 10.1.5:** Maintain open space corridors along canyons and ridgelines as a way of delineating and defining communities and neighborhoods, providing residents with access to natural areas, and preserving scenic beauty.

**Policy CO 10.1.7:** Acquire adequate open space for recreational uses, coordinating location and type of open space with master plans for trails and parks.

**Policy CO 10.1.13:** Provide reasonable accommodation to ensure that residents throughout the Santa Clarita Valley have equal access to open space areas, in consideration of the health benefits to residents from access to nature.

**Objective 10.2:** Ensure the inclusion of adequate open space within development projects.

**Policy CO 10.2.1:** Encourage provision of vegetated open space on a development project's site, which may include shallow wetland and ponds, drought tolerant landscaping, and pedestrian hardscape that includes vegetated areas.



**Policy CO 10.2.2:** Encourage that open space provided within development projects be usable and accessible, rather than configured in unusable strips and left-over remnants, and that open space areas are designed to connect to each other and to adjacent open spaces, to the extent reasonable and practical.

**Policy CO 10.2.3:** Where feasible, integrate open space areas with neighboring uses and parcels, to create shared amenities and green spaces.

**Policy CO 10.2.4:** Seek opportunities to incorporate site features into the open space of a project design, which may include significant trees, vegetation, terrain, or water features, to provide thermal, acoustic, and aesthetic benefits.

## PARK STANDARDS

California Government Code Section 66477 allows cities and counties to require, as a condition of approval of a subdivision, the dedication of land or the payment of a fee in lieu of dedication, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes at a minimum of three acres per 1,000 population. This legislation is commonly known as the "Quimby Act." As allowed under the Quimby Act, the City's *Unified Development Code (UDC)* requires a minimum of three acres per 1,000 persons using the latest State Department of Finance population figures. *UDC* Section 16.15, Parks Fees or Dedication Requirements, provides details regarding private development's requirements to meet the standard. The *UDC* identifies the following park and recreation facilities that may be eligible for Quimby credit: publicly or privately owned playgrounds, tennis, basketball or other similar game court areas, swimming pools, athletic fields, picnic areas, and other types of natural or scenic areas that comply with established criteria and as recommended by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for passive or active recreation.<sup>1</sup> Partial credit may be permitted for private parkland usable for active recreational purposes. The amount of the credit may be based on the commitment of the developer to install within the private open space any of the local park basic elements listed below, or a combination of such and other recreation improvements that would meet the specific recreation needs of future residents of the area:

- Recreational open spaces, which are generally defined as parks areas for active recreation pursuits, such as soccer, golf, baseball, softball, and football, and have at least three acres of maintained turf with less than three percent slope.
- Recreation buildings and facilities designed and primarily used for the recreational needs of residents of the development.
- Court areas, which are generally defined as tennis courts, badminton courts, shuffleboard courts, or similar hard-surfaced areas especially designed and exclusively used for court games.
- Recreational swimming areas, which are defined generally as fenced areas devoted primarily to swimming, diving, or both. They must also include decks, lawned area, bathhouses, or other facilities developed and used exclusively for swimming and diving and consisting of not less than fifteen (15) square feet of water surface area for each three (3) percent of the population of the subdivision with a minimum of eight hundred (800) square feet of water surface area per pool together with an adjacent deck and/or lawn area twice that of the pool.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Santa Clarita *Unified Development Code*, Chapter 16.15.



Quimby credit is given for active parkland and not open space. The City also requires parallel and adjacent Class I bike trails along all new major and secondary highways.

In selected areas along the Santa Clara River, the City of Santa Clarita also requires parallel and adjacent Class I bike trails along all new major and secondary highways and, when a project is located adjacent to the Santa Clara River, along the River Corridor.

## 5.12.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

There is no developed or undeveloped parkland existing on the project site. However, there are a variety of public park and private recreation areas located within the vicinity of the project site. The City Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has determined that there is a citywide shortage of local parkland. Using the minimum *UDC* standard of 3 acres per 1,000 residents, the City is short 285 acres of parkland. Using the *General Plan*, and *Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, the City is short 639 acres of local (neighborhood and/or community) parkland.

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARKS

#### CITY OF SANTA CLARITA PARKS

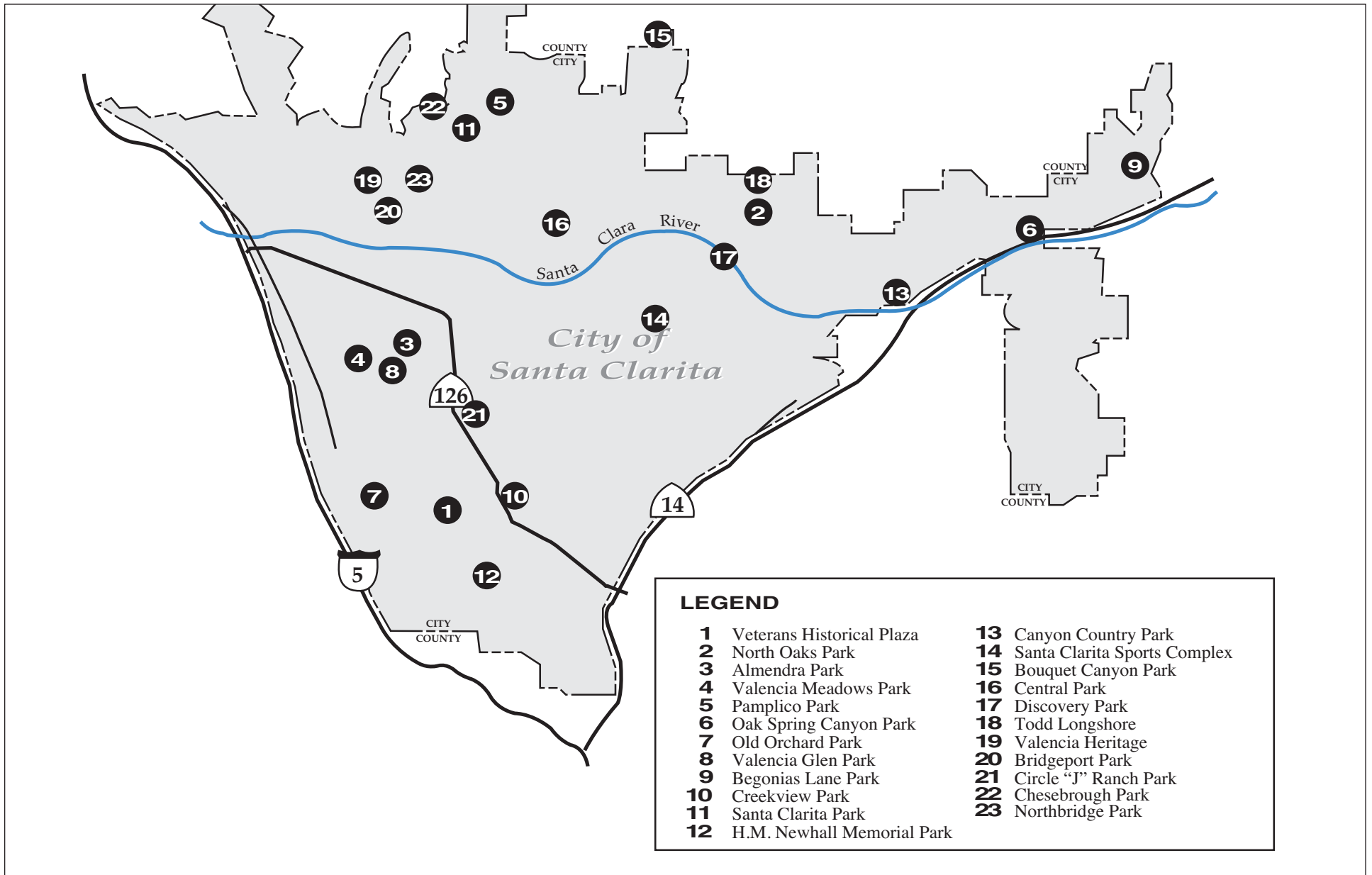
The City Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services currently maintains 20 City parks totaling approximately 306.2 acres. The parks range in size from slightly more than 0.5 acres to 80 acres, and include numerous recreational facilities. The City's parks are categorized into four common types, as derived from the National Parks and Recreation Association standards: Neighborhood, community, special use facilities, and regional. City and regional parklands are illustrated on *Exhibit 5.12-1, City of Santa Clarita Parks* and summarized in *Table 5.12-1 City Parks*.

#### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks typically provide active recreational areas along with fields, courts, and/or some passive areas (e.g., picnic areas). This park type varies in size from 5 to 10 acres, and is intended to serve a population up to 5,000 within a 0.5 mile radius. Generally, neighborhood parks are located within the residential areas that are served by the park. The City has 12 neighborhood parks, the closest of which is the Oak Spring Canyon Park.

#### Community Parks

Community parks are at least 10 to 40 acres in size and are located to serve several neighborhoods of approximately 20,000 people within a 2-mile radius. This park can include both passive and active areas, and may contain features such as gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, and offices for recreation staff. Other facilities often found at community parks might include sports fields and courts, amphitheaters, group picnic areas, and off-street parking. Large special events, such as festivals and concerts, might also be held in community parks. The City has five community parks with the Canyon Country Park the closest to the project site.



Source: City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, October 2011.

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# City of Santa Clarita Parks

Exhibit 5.12-1



**Table 5.12-1  
City Parks**

Parks	Acreage	Type	Location
Almendra	4.3	Neighborhood	23420 Alta Madera Drive
Begonias Lane	4.2	Neighborhood	14911 Begonias Lane
Bouquet Canyon	10.5	Community	28127 Wellston Drive
Bridgeport	16.0	Community	23520 Bridgeport Lane
Canyon Country	19.3	Community	17615 Soledad Canyon Road
Central Park/Bark	106.1	Regional	27150 Bouquet Canyon Road
Chesebrough	6.7	Neighborhood	23505 Sunset Hills Drive
Circle J. Ranch	5.3	Neighborhood	22651 Via Princesa
Creekview	5.0	Neighborhood	22200 Park Street
Discovery	5.0	Neighborhood	27555 Canyon View Drive
Newhall Memorial	14.3	Community	24923 Newhall Avenue
North Oaks	2.3	Neighborhood	27824 N. Camp Plenty Road
Northbridge	8.6	Neighborhood	2700 N. Grandview Drive
Oak Spring Canyon	5.7	Neighborhood	28920 Oak Spring Canyon Road
Old Orchard	5.4	Neighborhood	25023 Avenida Rotella
Pamplico Drive	7.6	Neighborhood	22444 Pamplico Drive
Santa Clarita Park	7.3	Neighborhood	27285 Seco Canyon Road
Santa Clarita Sports Complex	36.0	Regional	20840-20880 Centre Pointe Parkway
Todd Longshore	5.5	Neighborhood	Whites Canyon Road
Valencia Glen	7.3	Neighborhood	23750 Via Gavola
Valencia Heritage	17.2	Community	24155 Newhall Ranch Road
Valencia Meadows	6.1	Neighborhood	25671 Fedala Road
Veterans Historic Plaza	0.5	Special Use Facility	24275 Walnut Avenue
<b>Total</b>	<b>306.2</b>		
Source: City of Santa Clarita Website, Parks of Santa Clarita, <a href="http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343">http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343</a> , accessed November 2010.			
Source: <i>Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's One Valley One Vision General Plan</i> , certified June 14, 2011.			





## Special Use Facilities

Special Use Facilities generally possess a unique character or function focused on a single type of activity. Vista points, greenbelts, rest areas, or community buildings might be considered Special Use Facilities. Special Use Facilities are not usually included in the service area analysis for neighborhood parks.

## Natural Open Space Parks

Natural Open Space Park is a new category of park facility identified in the *General Plan*, but was previously encompassed by the Special Use Facilities designation. Natural Open Space Parks are increasing in the City in terms of quantities, size, and importance, thereby warranting the creation of a new category.

Natural Open Space Parks are those in which most of the park is undeveloped; the undeveloped portions contain vegetation, topography, or features that are important in their natural state. Developed areas should be 10 percent or less of the gross area, not including trails. Physical public access to natural areas from trails should be encouraged where feasible and appropriate. For purposes of defining this park type, "natural" refers to vegetation and land forms indigenous to the area. Turf, detention basins, weedy disturbed areas, irrigated manufactured slopes, and areas landscaped with ornamental vegetation would be considered part of the developed portion of a Natural Open Space Park.

The Natural Open Space Park designation is also intended to identify and reserve land for both natural and active open space uses, including: public and private parks, conservancy lands, nature preserves, wildlife habitats, water bodies and adjacent riparian habitat, wetland areas dedicated to open space use, drainage easements, cemeteries, golf courses, and other open space areas dedicated for public or private use.

Typical uses may include recreation, horticulture, limited agriculture, animal grazing, and habitat preservation. Accessory uses incidental to the primary use, such as restrooms, visitor centers, paved parking, clubhouses, manager's offices, and maintenance structures are allowed provided that such structures do not cover more than 10 percent of the site area, except as otherwise permitted by the reviewing authority pursuant to discretionary review.

The City began planning for preservation of open space following its incorporation in 1987, and since has acquired more than 3,000 acres of land for the purpose of preservation of natural habitat and open space. Approximately 50 percent of an open space greenbelt around the City's incorporated boundaries was completed in 2007. Nature preserves and other prominent open space areas located within the City include the Santa Clara River, Golden Valley Ranch, and Whitney Canyon.

The City partnered with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) in the 2002 joint acquisition of Whitney Canyon. The SMMC is primarily responsible for funding acquisition of land with statewide and regional significance.



## School Recreational Facilities

Schools provide additional land and facilities for recreational use on a limited basis through joint-use agreements between the City and school districts. Formal agreements for general public use of school facilities have been entered into by several school districts for additional usable acres. Generally, school recreational facilities are open to public during non-school hours. Elementary schools provide adjunct recreation opportunities to surrounding neighborhoods during non-education hours, whereas junior high schools and high schools provide adjunct community-wide facilities for public use.

Joint use agreements describe the general responsibilities of and benefits to each party regarding the use of both City and school district facilities. With that said, the school districts are responsible for maintaining schools and their associated fields and courts. The agreements and state law allow the school districts and the City to cooperate with each other in order to improve facilities and organize, promote, and conduct recreation and education programs for children and adults.

There are 33 public school campuses within the City, belonging to four different school districts. Many campuses have outdoor play areas and sports fields that are used by the City, sports organizations, and Santa Clarita residents. The City has executed joint use agreements with the various school districts in order to utilize facilities on 14 school campuses:

- Arroyo Seco Junior High School
- Bridgeport Elementary School
- Golden Valley High School
- James Foster Elementary School
- La Mesa Junior High School
- Placerita Junior High School
- Rancho Pico Junior High School
- Rio Norte Junior High School
- Saugus High School
- Sierra Vista Junior High School
- Valencia High School
- West Ranch High School
- Canyon High School
- William S. Hart High School

Of the above listed schools, Rancho Pico Junior High School and West Ranch High School are not located within the City's planning area.

## Regional Parks

Acreage for a regional park usually exceeds 40 acres. As described in the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, regional parks provide for organized or league sports complexes, individual sports, cultural enrichment, large passive areas, and historical protection and interpretation. The parks are accessible to large community populations living within a radius distance of approximately 1 hour's drive. The City's two regional parks are Central Park and the Santa Clarita Sports Complex.



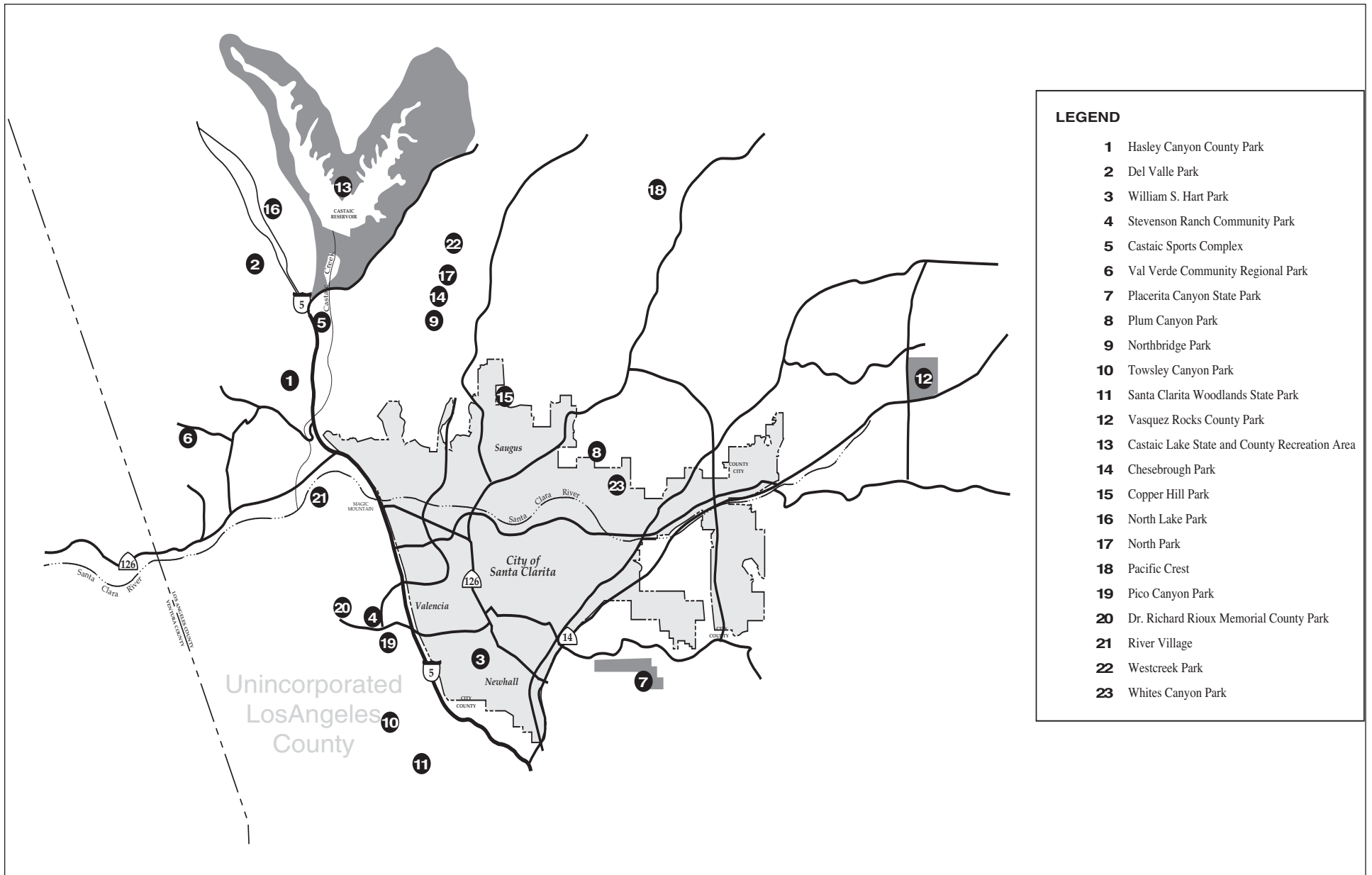
## STATE AND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS WITHIN THE CITY'S PLANNING AREA

State and County parks located within the City of Santa Clarita planning area are summarized in Table 5.12-2, State and County Parks and Recreational Facilities, and illustrated in Exhibit 5.12-2, County and State Parks and Recreational Facilities Locations. Most of the County's parks are community-oriented and regional in nature, having parkland in excess of ten acres in area. Of the 23 existing and proposed State and County parks in the City's planning area, eight are 50 acres or larger in size.

The largest of these parks is the 8,700-acre Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area. This multi-use park is located north of the project site in the unincorporated area of Castaic and includes 2,600 surface acres of water contained in an upper and lower reservoir system. Castaic Lake reservoir and surrounding land is owned by the State; however, the County has a lease on the land and operates the upper lake, Castaic Lake Reservoir, and the lower lake, Castaic Lagoon. Facilities at the upper lake include major boat ramps and supporting facilities with fishing, boating, water and jet skiing, and parking for boats and trailers. Development around the 180-acre Castaic Lagoon includes major picnic areas for groups and families, swimming beaches, parking areas, non-motorized boat facilities, and general day-use recreation facilities, such as comfort stations.

**Table 5.12-2  
State and County Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Parks
Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area
Castaic Sports Complex
Copper Hill Park
Del Valle Park
Dr. Richard Rioux Memorial County Park
Hasley Canyon County Park
North Lake Park
North Park*
Pacific Crest
Pico Canyon Park
Placerita Canyon State Park
Plum Canyon Park
River Village
Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park
Stevenson Ranch Community Park
Towsley Canyon Park
Val Verde Community Regional Park
Vasquez Rocks County Park
Westcreek Park
Whites Canyon Park
William S. Hart Park
Note: Source: City of Santa Clarita Website, Parks of Santa Clarita, <a href="http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343">http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343</a> , accessed November 2010. Source: <i>Vista Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Report</i> , Impact Sciences, Inc., October 2010.



Source: Santa Clarita General Plan; Impact Sciences, April 2003.

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## State and County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Exhibit 5.12-2



## STATE PARKS

The two California State parks within the City's planning area are the Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park and the Placerita Canyon State Park, which are described below.

### SANTA CLARITA WOODLANDS STATE PARK

This 3,000-plus-acre State park is located west of Interstate 5, adjacent to the Ed Davis Park, and may be accessed via either the Lyons Avenue or the Calgrove/The Old Road interchanges. The creation of this park involved a land transaction that included the City of Santa Clarita, Chevron, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as the primary participants.<sup>2</sup> The transaction involved the donation of 851 acres of land historically owned by Chevron, with the Conservancy purchasing another 2,184 acres.

The Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park includes the 145-acre Ed Davis/Towsley Canyon Park at 24255 The Old Road in Newhall, the three-mile Pico Canyon Trail, the 2.4-mile Rice Canyon Trail, and the 3.8-mile East Canyon Trail. The facilities at Towsley Canyon Park include trails for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian uses, picnic areas, the Sonia Thompson Nature Center, the Towsley Canyon Lodge (available for daily or overnight use), and restroom facilities with a drinking fountain.

### PLACERITA CANYON NATURAL AREA

Placerita Canyon Natural Area is located east of the Antelope Valley Freeway and is accessible from Placerita Canyon Road. It is a State park that is operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, which includes a nature center, picnic areas, overnight and day camping facilities, a children's play area, hiking trails, and an equestrian campground.

## COUNTY PARKS

### VASQUEZ ROCKS

Vasquez Rocks County Park located in the community of Agua Dulce west and north of SR-14 is an area of unique geologic formations that have been the site of hundreds of films shoots. Sculpted by earthquake activity along the Elkhorn fault, the rock formations were compressed, folded, and tilted up to a height of nearly 150 feet. Erosion has shaped the coarse-grained yellow sandstone into jutting and sweeping formations intersperses with shale and basalt layers. The Vasquez Rocks are both a visual and historical landmark in the community.

### VAL VERDE PARK

Originally built in the 1920s, Val Verde Park provides a focal point for many community activities. The Country has recently undertaken an expansion of Val Verde Park by purchasing a lot near the park entrance, and providing new football fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, restrooms, and landscaping.

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<sup>2</sup> The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State agency created in 1980 under the auspices of the Resources Agency. It was initially established to preserve land and to provide opportunities for recreation in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The Conservancy is primarily responsible for funding the acquisition of land with statewide and regional significance.



## **WILLIAM S. HART PARK**

William S. Hart Park is the former home and ranch of William S. Hart, silent film cowboy star and director. The park, which is located within the City, includes a museum within a Spanish Colonial Revival style mansion, which contains original furnishings, a collection of western art, mementos of early Hollywood, and Native American artifacts. Additionally, there is a furnished 1910 ranch house which is open for unguided tours.

## **FEDERAL PARKS**

The City's planning area encompasses a portion of the Angeles National Forest and is adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest. Each of these Federal parks is described below.

### **ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST**

A small portion of the City's planning area (approximately 100 acres) is located within a portion of the 693,000-acre Angeles National Forest, which offers a wide range of camping (with fees) and picnicking facilities. A segment of the Federal dual-use (equestrian and hiking) Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail extends for 160 miles through the forest, providing views of the Antelope Valley, varied terrain, vegetation, wilderness, and the San Gabriel Mountains. In addition, there are hundreds of miles of trails in the Angeles National Forest. The operators of the water reservoirs charge entrance fees, as well as boat launching, boat rental, and overnight camping fees. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, the forest provides a home for an array of wildlife.

### **LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST**

The 311,294-acre Ojai Ranger District of the nearly two million-acre Los Padres National Forest is located primarily in the northern section of Ventura County; however, a portion of the Los Padres National Forest crosses the Los Angeles/Ventura County line and is adjacent to the City's northwestern planning area boundary.

Various recreation facilities are provided in the Los Padres National Forest, including hiking, equestrian and off-road vehicle trails, and camping areas (with fees) accessible by road and trail.

## **OPEN SPACE AREAS**

In addition to developed parks, the City has 6112.7 acres of undeveloped lands that are or will be preserved as open space recreation areas, as shown in *Table 5.12-3, Open Space Areas in City of Santa Clarita*. Many of these areas include amenities such as hiking trails, horse trails, nature preserves, natural watercourses, and wildlife corridors. Currently, the largest open space area in Santa Clarita is the 1,154-acre Golden Valley Ranch open space area approved in 2002.



**Table 5.12-3  
Open Space Areas in the City of Santa Clarita**

Open Space Area	Acres
<b>City-Owned Open Space</b>	
Bouquet Canyon	3.6
Civic Center	224.6
Colmer Open Space	38.3
East Walker Ranch	140.0
Elsmere Canyon	842.0
Gates-King	124.6
Golden Valley Ranch	1,154.0
Haskell Canyon	526.0
Mint Canyon	17.3
Norland Open Space	58.0
North Valencia 1 Wetland/Riparian	296.0
North Valencia 2 Wetland/Riparian	97.3
Oak Park	2.6
Penlon	3.4
Quigley Canyon (Beazer)	168.0
Ridgedale Circle J	53.0
Rodda/Agua Dulce	243.0
Round Mountain	136.4
Sand Canyon River Park (Sand Canyon Storage Site)	22.7
Santa Clara River Southfork Open Space (at Oak Spring) adjacent to project site	136.5
Sierra Highway	4.6
Todd Longshore Park Open Space	26.5
TMC Site	449.6
Wagoner Open Space	412.7
<b>Total City-Owned</b>	<b>5,270.7</b>
Wildwood Canyon	90.0
<b>Other Open Space</b>	
Whitney Canyon (City of Santa Clarita, Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy)	442.0
Elsmere Canyon Open Space (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority)	400.0
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>842.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,112.7</b>
Source: Tom Reilly, Parks Development Administrator, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, Parks Division, October 11, 2011, based upon August 2011 inventory. Source: City of Santa Clarita Website, Parks of Santa Clarita, <a href="http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343">http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343</a> , accessed November 2010. Source: <i>Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's One Valley One Vision General Plan</i> , certified June 14, 2011.	



## UNDEVELOPED PARK SPACE

Planned parklands are summarized in *Table 5.12-4, Planned Parks*. Undeveloped park space sites either are owned by the City or within approved developments. Privately and publicly owned sites are subject to a master planning and environmental process that will determine the amount of developable acreage.

**Table 5.12-4  
Planned Parks**

Undeveloped Park Sites	Parcel Size/Acreage		Classification
Bridgeport Market Place	4.8		
Central Park (Phase III)	28.0	28.0	Regional
Chevron Pioneer Oil Site	4.6		?
Discovery Park	24.0		Community
Lost Canyon Park	41.2		?
Norland Avenue Property	10.0		Neighborhood
Rivendale	60.0		
Summerhill	3.5		Neighborhood
Santa Clarita Complex (Phase IV)	24.0		Regional
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195.8</b>		

Source: Tom Reilly, Parks Development Administrator, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, Parks Division, October 11, 2011.  
Source: *Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's One Valley One Vision General Plan, certified June 14, 2011.*

### BRIDGEPORT MARKET PLACE

This site would be dedicated to the City in conjunction with buildout of the adjacent development. The five-acre site is located at the intersection of Grandview and Newhall Ranch Road. It has been used in the past as parking for special events at Bridgeport Park and as a special event staging area.

### DISCOVERY PARK

This is a City-owned, 24-acre site along the Santa Clara River. A master design plan, construction plans, and CEQA documentation have been completed for approximately 10 acres of the passive river park improvements. Phase 1 has been completed and consists of a trail connection to Camp Plenty Trailhead. The park is currently in final phase of construction.

### RIVENDALE

This is a City-owned property of 60 acres located at the mouth of Towsley Canyon. Historically, the site was used for equestrian boarding. Currently, it is used as a trailhead for access to the Towsley property. A floodplain, Significant Ecological Area designation, and steep topography are major constraints. Freeway visibility, access, and noise constraints are also associated with this park site.





## SOUTH FORK CORRIDOR

Dedication of this open space park site to the City has been completed. The dedication was required by the River Village project approval. An adjacent 10-acre property located along Wiley Canyon Road also would be dedicated to the City as part of the Newhall Land and Farming Company's Soledad Village project. Dedication of the ten-acre parcel would likely occur in 2011.

## COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Privately owned, commercial recreational facilities in the City include the Valencia Country Club and golf courses, such as Vista Valencia Golf Course, Robinson Ranch Golf Course, and the TPC Golf Course. Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park, Mountasia, and two paintball facilities are also located in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area. Other facilities such as equestrian ranches and riding facilities are also located in the Planning Area.

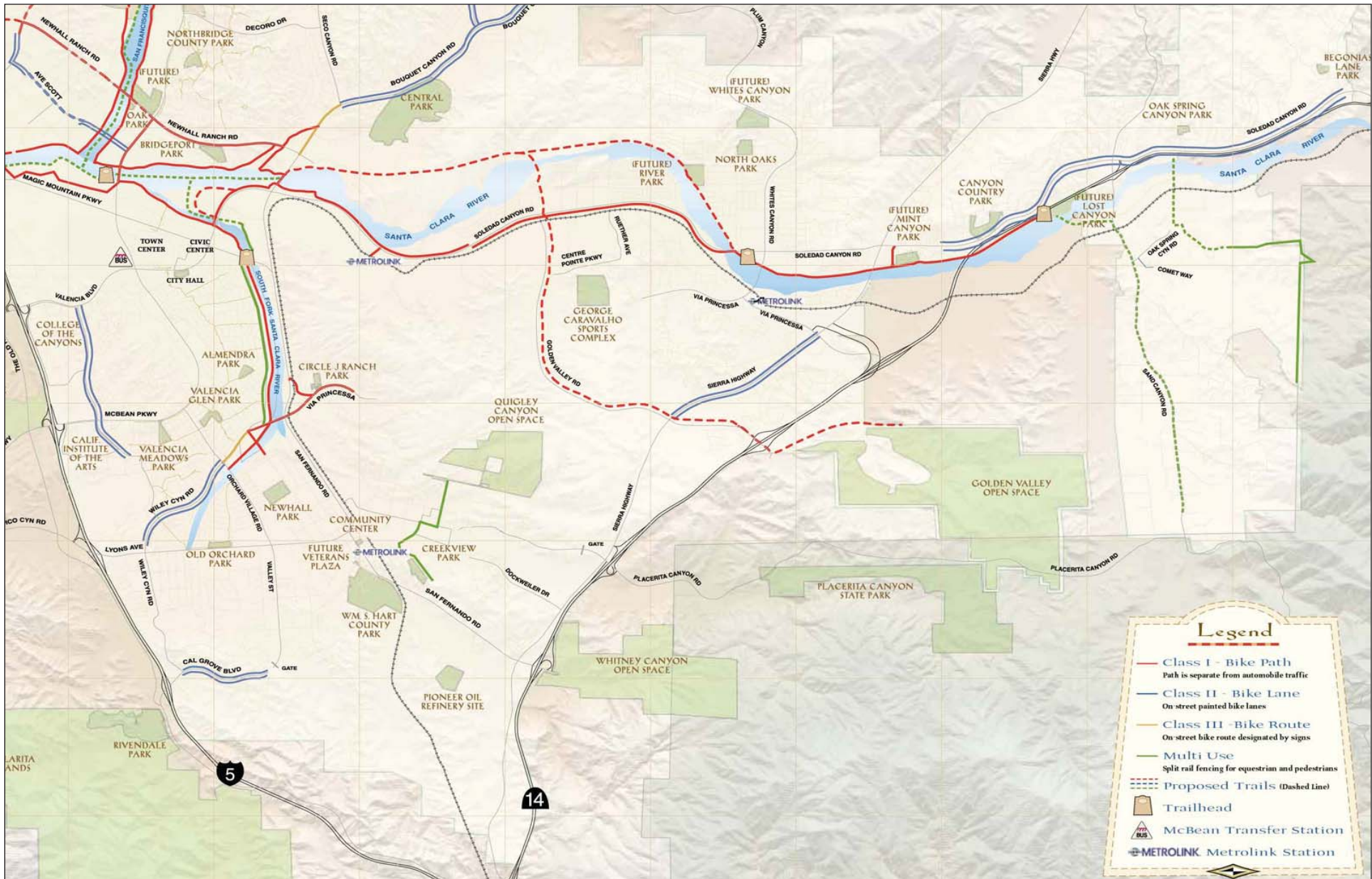
## TRAILS

### CITY OF SANTA CLARITA TRAIL SYSTEM

The City of Santa Clarita has adopted a system of trails to provide pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian connections to residential communities within the City of Santa Clarita and to the regional trail system as well. Approximately 52.1 miles of trails currently exist within the City limits, with other trails under construction as part of other developments. The Santa Clara River trail abuts the southern and northern property lines of the project site and a multi-trail is proposed along the western boundary of the project site. This direct access allows pedestrians and bicycle riders to access areas throughout the City without traveling on regular roadways. There are two main types of trails discussed in this section: Class I trails where the path is paved for bicycles and pedestrians and separate from automobile traffic; and multi-use trails where the path is unpaved for pedestrians and horses and separate from automobile traffic. City trails are listed below in Table 5.12-5, City of Santa Clarita Trails and Table 5.12-6, City of Santa Clarita Multi-Use Trails. The Backbone Trails within the City are briefly described below and illustrated in Exhibit 5.12-3, City of Santa Clarita Trail System.

**Table 5.12-5  
City of Santa Clarita Trails**

Trail Name	Existing Developed (miles)
Bouquet Creek Channel	0.9
Golden Valley Trail	3.5
McBean Parkway Trail	0.5
Newhall Ranch Road Trail	6.8
Newhall Creek Trail	0.3
Santa Clara River Trails	14.8
South Fork Trails	3.8
San Francisquito Trails	4.8
<b>Total Trail Class 1</b>	<b>34.8</b>



Source: City of Santa Clarita.

NOT TO SCALE



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

# City of Santa Clarita Trail System

Exhibit 5.12-3



**Table 5.12-6  
City of Santa Clarita Multi-Use Trails**

Trail Name	Existing Developed (miles)
Golden Valley Open Space Trail	3.2
Placerita Canyon Trail	1.5
Quigley Canyon Open Space Trail Loop	4.1
Robinson Ranch Trail	1.8
San Fransquito Trail	0.7
Sand Canyon Trail	1.1
Santa Clara River Trails	2.5
South Fork Trail	2.4
<b>Total Multi-Use Trails</b>	<b>17.3</b>
Source: Tom Reilly, Parks Development Administrator, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, Parks Division, October 11, 2011.	

### **Bouquet Creek Channel Trail**

Bouquet Creek Channel Trail is a 0.9-mile Class I developed trail along Bouquet Canyon Road behind Bouquet Plaza and Lowes Shopping Center.

### **Golden Valley Trails**

The Golden Valley trails include a series of existing and proposed Class I and multi-use trails. A 3.0-mile Class I trail has already been completed along Golden Valley Road from Green Mountain Road to Soledad Bridge. Another 1.5 miles of Class I trails are under construction from SR-14 to the Golden Valley Ranch development. 3.5 miles of multi-use trails are also under construction to connect the Golden Valley Ranch development to the Angeles National Forest. Finally, a 1.0 mile Class I extension is proposed along Golden Valley Road from Centerpoint to the Riverpark development.

### **Newhall Ranch Road Trail**

The Newhall Ranch Road trails include two developed segments totaling 1.7 miles of Class I trails along Newhall Ranch Road between Copper Hill Drive to Bouquet Canyon Road. An additional 2.5 miles of extensions are proposed to fill existing gaps and connect the trail to the I-5 freeway.

### **Placerita Canyon Trail**

The Placerita Canyon Trail includes a 1.2 mile multi-use developed trail from Quigley Canyon to Creek.



### **Robinson Ranch Trail**

The Robinson Ranch Trail is a 1.8-mile multi-use developed trail that extends along the eastern boundary of Robinson Ranch (adjacent to the Angeles National Forest), the northern boundary of Robinson Ranch, and connects to Oak Spring Canyon Road along the northwest boundary of Robinson Ranch. This trail is an equestrian trail system and is located 0.2 miles from the southern boundary of the project site.<sup>3</sup>

### **Sand Canyon Trails**

The Sand Canyon trails include a series of multi-use trails totaling 3.0 miles, of which 2.5 miles is undeveloped and the remaining 0.5 miles is developed. The developed segment of the trail runs along Valley Ranch Road about 1,500 feet south. This trail system is located 0.2 miles from the project site.<sup>4</sup>

A 3.8-mile of multi-use trail is proposed to extend the length of Sand Canyon Road from Soledad Canyon Road to Placerita Canyon Road and to connect Robinson Ranch to Soledad Canyon Road.

### **Santa Clara River Trail**

The Santa Clara River has been primarily preserved as a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) and as open space to provide flood protection. The State of California recently adopted the Santa Clara River as a State Recreation Trail Corridor. Its preservation has allowed for the development of a 14-mile long dual-use (equestrian and pedestrian) trail following the river's banks from Valencia to Canyon Country, which is the backbone to the Valley's larger trail system. Los Angeles County has adopted the estimated 7-mile long multi-use (equestrian, bicycle, and hiking) segment of the Santa Clara River Trail alignment from Interstate 5 due west of the Los Angeles County/Ventura County border.

### **Santa Clara River North Trails**

The Santa Clara River North trails include a series of Class I and multi-use trails, of which 2.0 miles are developed and 5.8 miles are proposed, and 0.3-mile of multi-use developed trails along the northern bank of the Santa Clara River. The 2.0-mile developed segment of the Class I trail traverses from McBean Parkway to Bouquet Canyon Road to Canyon View Access, which connects to the developed 0.3-mile multi-use trail that terminates at Auto Center Trailhead. The proposed Class I North trails series include a 1.0-mile segment from Discovery Park to Soledad Canyon Road, a 4.1-mile segment from Discovery Park to Bouquet Canyon Road, and a 0.7-mile segment from North Valencia to I-5. An additional 4.0 miles of proposed Class I trails are currently under construction as part of the Riverpark development on the north side of the river east of from Discovery Park to Bouquet Canyon Road. Finally, a 1.5-mile Class I trail is proposed to connect the trails currently under construction.

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<sup>3</sup> Per written communication with Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita on June 7, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Per written communication with Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita on June 7, 2006.



### Santa Clara River Trail/East

The Santa Clara River East trail is a Class I developed trail totaling 7.2 miles along Soledad Canyon Road and the Santa Clara River from the Auto Center Trailhead to Lost Canyon Road. This trail system is located 3.2 miles west from the project site and would serve the proposed project.<sup>5</sup> A 0.5-mile multi-use extension is proposed to connect the trails to Sand Canyon Road.

### Santa Clara River Trail/West

The Santa Clara River West trail is a 2.0-mile Class I developed trail along the Santa Clara River from Auto Center Trailhead to Valencia Boulevard.

### **San Francisquito Trails**

The San Francisquito Trails includes 4.8 miles of developed Class I trails along both sides of the San Francisquito Creek from the north side of the Santa Clara River to Copper Hill Drive. A 1.7-mile extension of one of the Class I trails is proposed on the west side of the creek north of Decoro Drive. In addition, a 0.7-mile extension is proposed to connect the southern point of the trail to the I-5 freeway.

### **South Fork Trails**

The South Fork Trails include 3.8 miles of developed Class I trails along the west side of the South Fork Santa Clara River from Valencia Boulevard to Orchard Village Road and Via Princessa to South Fork Connector. In addition, a 2.4-mile multi-use trail also extends along a portion of the river from Magic Mountain Parkway to Newhall Creek.

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRAILS WITHIN THE CITY'S PLANNING AREA**

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation plans and maintains an extensive system of regional riding and hiking trails within the County, many of which extend to and within the City of Santa Clarita planning area. County trails located in the City's planning area are listed in Table 5.12-7, Existing County Trails, and are described below.

**Table 5.12-7  
Existing County Trails**

Trail Name	Length (Miles)	Condition
Los Pinetos Trail	7.0	Developed
Wilson Canyon Channel Trail	2.0	Developed
William S. Hart Park Trail	2.5	Developed
Pico Canyon Trail	9.0	Developed
Hasley Canyon Trail	3.4	Developed
Castaic Creek Trail	5.0	Developed
Mint Canyon Trail	3.7	Developed
Gavin Canyon Trail	8.0	Developed
<b>Total Trail Miles</b>	<b>40.6</b>	

Source: James McCarthy, Trails Coordinator, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

<sup>5</sup> Per written communication with Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita on June 7, 2006.



### **Los Pinetos Trail**

Los Pinetos Trail is an equestrian trail with camping facilities available by reservation. The trail is intended to link the City of Santa Clarita trail system to the partially-built Rim of the Valley State trail (discussed below) via the City's Placerita Canyon Trail. The trail follows a flood control channel through seven miles of natural area, including Placerita Canyon State Park.

### **Wilson Canyon Channel Trail**

Wilson Canyon Channel Trail provides two miles of moderately difficult hiking in the Angeles National Forest and provides views of the San Fernando Valley and Placerita Canyon. This trail is a link to the partially built Rim of the Valley Trail via the Los Pinetos Trail.

### **William S. Hart Park Trail**

This 2.5-mile nature trail winds through the William S. Hart Park past the William S. Hart Museum and designated points of interest, and provides views of the Santa Clarita Valley. Separate access is provided for equestrian use.

### **Pico Canyon Trail**

Pico Canyon Trail is approximately nine miles in length beginning at the intersection of Potrero Canyon and the Santa Clara River just east of the Los Angeles/Ventura County line. Moving in an easterly direction, the trail generally follows Potrero Canyon, and then connects to Pico Canyon ending at the mouth of the canyon just west of Interstate 5. At this juncture, the trail would connect to another County trail (Gavin Canyon Trail) that would connect to the partially built Rim of the Valley Trail.

### **Hasley Canyon Trail**

The Hasley Canyon Trail follows Hasley Canyon for 3.4 miles in a westerly direction from Castaic Creek. A portion of this trail alignment runs through, and is adjacent to, the Valencia Commerce Center, and is partially built.

### **Castaic Creek Trail**

The Castaic Creek Trail links with the Santa Clara River Trail at the intersection of Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River. The trail follows Castaic Creek north for five miles to the Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area, ultimately intersecting with the other County trails located further north.

### **Mint Canyon Trail**

This 3.7-mile trail links the Mint Canyon Equestrian Trail to the Bouquet Canyon Equestrian Trail. The trail runs through Vasquez Canyon.

### **Gavin Canyon Trail**

This approximately eight-mile trail links Pico Canyon to Rim of the Valley Trail. The Rim of the Valley/Corridor Trail is discussed immediately below.



### **Trails Closest to Project Site**

The Santa Clara River Trail East, Robinson Ranch Trail, and Sand Canyon Trail serve the project site. The Santa Clara River Trail East is 3.2 miles from the project site; the Sand Canyon Trail is 0.5 miles from the project site; and the Robinson Ranch trail is 0.2-mile from the project site.

## **REGIONAL TRAILS IN THE CITY'S PLANNING AREA**

### **Rim of the Valley Corridor/Trail**

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Rim of the Valley Corridor includes land in the mountains that surround the San Fernando, Simi, Conejo, and La Crescenta Valleys (i.e., the San Rafael and Simi Hills, and the Verdugo, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains). It is actually an overlay on private property and the Corridor is a proposal envisioning an approximately 200-mile State trail. At the present time, only ten miles have been acquired in the Santa Susana Mountains. Located on both public and private land within the Rim of the Valley Corridor, it would connect to many of the regional trails that, in turn, connect to the local trails within the City of Santa Clarita.

### **Pacific Crest Trail**

A segment of the Pacific Crest Trail extends for 160 miles through the Angeles National Forest, providing views of the Antelope Valley, varied terrain, vegetation, wilderness, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Campgrounds, picnic areas, and staging areas are available along the trail. In all, the Pacific Crest Trail traverses 2,650 miles from Canada to Mexico. The trail was established under the National Trails System Act of 1968 and is part of the National System of Recreation and Scenic Trails. Only foot and equestrian travel is permitted on the trail; motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles are prohibited. Other trails that connect to the Pacific Crest National Trail include Fish Canyon Trail, Bear Canyon Trail, and Gillette Mine Trail. All of these trails are located within the Angeles National Forest and are north of Castaic Lake. The County Castaic Creek Trail connects to these trails.

## **5.12.3 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA**

The *City of Santa Clarita Local CEQA Guidelines* (Resolution 05-38) adopted on April 26, 2005 and the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form in *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G serve as the thresholds for determining the significance of impacts relating to parks and recreation facilities. As such, a project would be considered to have a significant environmental impact if it would result in the following:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; and
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.



Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

Additionally, the State of California (*California Government Code*, Section 66477 [Quimby Act]), and the City’s *UDC* Chapter 16.15 have established a minimum standard of three acres per 1,000 population as the proportionate amount of land necessary to satisfy the park requirement for new subdivisions. If it is determined by the City that land dedication is not required, the applicant may pay fees in-lieu of the dedicated parkland or construct amenities on dedicated parkland that are of equal dollar value to the park fee, or a combination of the two alternatives to satisfy the requirement. Therefore, the project would be required to satisfy the park requirements through the provision of on-site park facilities and/or payment of fees for any parkland deficiency.

## **5.12.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **PROJECT AMENITIES**

#### **RECREATIONAL/OPEN SPACE/PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION**

##### **Active Recreational Facilities**

The proposed project includes a 5-acre active neighborhood park (Lot 101), as well as an equestrian area, which would serve to at least partially meet the demands for active recreation created by the proposed project.

In addition, pedestrian trails would extend along Soledad Canyon Road, and along the northern boundary of the project site as part of the Santa Clara River trail system. Secondary trails would also be provided throughout the project site, which would be accessible from each residential lot to on-site open space areas and regional trails. The on-site trail network would connect to the regional trail system, and would include a 30-foot-wide public segment along the south side of the existing railroad right-of-way. All on-site trails would be accessible to homeowners, as well as the public.

##### **Passive Recreational Facilities**

An approximately 37.2-acre open space area along the northern project boundary would be preserved (Lot 103), which would include the 5-acre neighborhood active park discussed above (acreage not included in the open space acreage) and an equestrian area, including an equestrian trailhead (Lot 102). The open space (golf course) lot (Lot 104) at the southern project boundary is located immediately adjacent to the Robinson Ranch Golf Club. The two open space lots (Lots 100 and 103) would provide for adequate passive recreational areas to serve the proposed residential uses.





## Pedestrian Circulation

As previously noted, the site is bounded by the Santa Clara River along the northern property boundary. The trail network for the proposed site would provide pedestrian access throughout the site. Each residential lot would have access to the trail network.

## NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD INCREASE USAGE OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS.**

**Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** The proposed project includes a range of parks, recreation, and open space areas on-site. The majority of these uses would occur within the northern portion of the site, with a small portion of open space proposed along the southern boundary of the site. Within the northern portion of the project site, a total of approximately 43.6 acres would be dedicated to City Park, equestrian, and open space uses. Specifically, Lot 101 would be utilized as a five-acre City neighborhood park facility equipped with a restroom/maintenance structure, playgrounds, picnic areas with shade structures, and playfield/turf areas. Lot 102 would be utilized for a five-acre equestrian area, which would include an equestrian trailhead. Lots 100 and 103, located within the Santa Clara River floodplain, would be utilized for open space purposes. Lot 104, located along the southern boundary of the project site, is located adjacent to Robinson Ranch Golf Club. Lot 104 would be deeded to the Robinson Ranch Golf Club for continued use for recreation/golf activities.

The City has adopted park dedication requirements for new subdivisions that are applicable to the proposed project. These requirements are set forth in Chapter 16.15 of the City's *UDC*. The *UDC* requires that land be dedicated, or equivalent fees be paid, for neighborhood and community park or recreational purposes at the rate of a minimum of three acres per 1,000 persons residing within the project. Based on 3.089 persons per household, the development of 99 single-family residential units would result in a population increase of 306 persons, which would require a minimum of one acre of parkland.<sup>6</sup>

According to the City, the addition of 105 parcels would create a need for a minimum 5-acre local park.<sup>7</sup> The proposed project would satisfy this requirement with the development of a 5-acre neighborhood park. Therefore, impacts in this regard are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

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<sup>6</sup> Based on an estimate of 3.089 persons per household obtained from the State of California, Department of Finance, *City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 2010, Revised 2001-2004, with 2000 DRU Benchmark*, Sacramento, California, May 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services. Written Communication. June 7, 2006.



## REGIONAL PARKS

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD INCREASE USAGE OF REGIONAL PARKS.**

**Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** While it is possible that project residents would use Los Angeles County Regional Facilities, such as Castaic Lake, no significant regional parkland impacts are expected. With project implementation, the proposed project would satisfy local park demands. Therefore, it is not expected that the project residents would on a regular basis, need to use regional parks. This is not to say project residents would not use regional parks, but that more than adequate park and recreational facilities would be provided on site which would serve future project residents as well as residents from surrounding neighborhoods.

The proposed project would create new opportunities for passive recreation. The proposed 5-acre neighborhood park would partially meet active parks and recreational facilities demands. However, City and County regional park and recreational facilities are in place or programmed to adequately serve user needs generated by the proposed project. Therefore, impacts in this regard are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

## STATE AND FEDERAL RECREATION AREAS AND NATIONAL FORESTS

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD INCREASE USAGE OF STATE AND FEDERAL RECREATION FACILITIES AND/OR NATIONAL FORESTS.**

**Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** It is anticipated that new residents of the proposed project would use the State and Federal recreation areas and forests. As such, increased usage would be considered a potentially adverse impact. However, the State and National Forest facilities charge user fees for water sports and overnight camping at the reservoirs and camping areas. Additionally, State and Federal taxes, which would be paid by residents and businesses located within the project site, would be available for maintenance of these facilities. Therefore, less than significant State or Federal parkland impacts would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.



## LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAILS

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD INCREASE USAGE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAILS.**

**Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** The Santa Clara River Trail East, Robinson Ranch Trail, and Sand Canyon Trail serve the project site. The Santa Clara River Trail East is 3.2 miles from the project site; the Sand Canyon Trail is 0.5 miles from the project site; and the Robinson Ranch trail is 0.2-mile from the project site.

The proposed project includes a network of on-site trails that provides access to the Santa Clarita regional trail system along the Santa Clara River, open areas, as well as trails in the Angeles National Forest. This feature is considered to be an important local and regional recreational and scenic amenity of the proposed project.

Although the majority of the on-site trails would be owned and operated by the Homeowners' Association, there would be several City-owned trails and all trails would be accessible to non-residents and homeowners. All residential lots of the proposed project would connect to the network of on-site trails, which would provide access to the proposed 5-acre neighborhood park, equestrian area, and open space area adjacent to the Santa Clara River.

According to the City, the addition of 105 parcels would create a need for connections to existing trails.<sup>8</sup> The proposed project would satisfy this requirement with the development of a trail network on-site that would connect to City and County regional trail system. Therefore, impacts in this regard are less than significant.

New residents of the proposed project are expected to use the City's and County's existing and proposed trail systems in the Santa Clarita Valley area as they are constructed. Anticipated use of the surrounding trails would increase the density of users on such trails once they are constructed. Once the proposed project is completed, the trails would connect to those local and regional trails that would be in place at that time. The proposed trail network is considered to have a beneficial impact on the local and regional trail system because it would provide linkages to local and regional trails.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation:** Beneficial Impact.

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<sup>8</sup> Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services. Written Communication. June 7, 2006.



## 5.12.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND RELATED CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD INCREASE DEMANDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.**

**Level of Significance Before Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** The City of Santa Clarita's park dedication requirements for new subdivisions are applicable to the proposed project and related projects in the City that include residential development. Per the Quimby Act, the City requires that land be dedicated, or equivalent fees be paid, for neighborhood and community park or recreational purposes at the rate of three acres per 1,000 persons residing within the project. The expected cumulative population growth associated with the proposed project and related cumulative projects of 49,244 persons (refer to Appendix C, Cumulative Growth Calculations) would create a need for an additional 148 acres of parkland, regardless of whether this growth occurs within the City of Santa Clarita or unincorporated areas. The growth in population and related parkland needs have been planned for in the *General Plan*. The proposed project includes private recreational areas and five acres of open space, some or all of which would count toward park dedication requirements, as applicable. As previously discussed, fees may also be used to satisfy parkland requirements in-lieu of the dedicated parkland. The actual park dedication calculations and credit determinations would be based on the subdivision maps submitted for each residential development among the cumulative projects. Given compliance with park dedication requirements and/or fees, as applicable, cumulative parks and recreation impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures are required.

**Level of Significance After Analysis and Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

## 5.12.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

All impacts related to parks and recreational facilities are at less than significant levels. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not result in any significant unavoidable parks and recreational facilities impacts.

## 5.12.7 SOURCES CITED

*Santa Clarita General Plan*, adopted June 14, 2011.

*Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's Proposed One Valley One Vision General Plan*, Impact Sciences, Inc., September 2010.

*Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Santa Clarita's Proposed One Valley One Vision General Plan*, Impact Sciences, Inc., dated May 2011, certified June 14, 2011.



*Santa Clarita Unified Development Code, Chapter 16.15*

City of Santa Clarita Website, Parks of Santa Clarita, <http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=343>, accessed November 2010.

Communication with Linda Kunishige, Project Technician, City of Santa Clarita Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, Parks Division, August 14, 2006.

Written correspondence with Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita, June 7, 2006.

*Vista Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Report*, Impact Sciences, Inc., October 2010.