

4.9 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section analyzes potential impacts to the following public services of the proposed Parks Master Plan (Project).

- Fire Protection Services
- Police Protection Services
- Parks and Recreation

This section is based on a review of existing City plans and studies and also draws from the City of Santa Cruz *General Plan 2030* EIR (SCH#2009032007), which was certified on June 26, 2012, regarding background information on regulatory setting. The General Plan EIR is incorporated by reference in accordance with section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Relevant discussions are summarized in subsection 4.9.1. The General Plan EIR is available for review at the City of Santa Cruz Planning and Community Development Department (809 Center Street, Room 101, Santa Cruz, California) during business hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:30 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 3 PM. The General Plan EIR is also available online on the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/Home/Components/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory/102/1775>.

Public and agency comments related to public services were received during the public scoping period in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP). Issues raised in these comments include:

- Request to take into account individual Parks Management Plans and address all impacts to parks cumulatively.
- Address the anticipated increased usage of parks and open space.
- Concern was expressed that there is no enforcement of City regulations contained in the City's Municipal Code regarding dogs, on or off leash.

To the extent that issues identified in public comments involve potentially significant effects on the environment according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or are raised by responsible agencies, they are identified and addressed within this EIR. Public comments received during the public scoping period are included in Appendix A.

4.9.1 Environmental Setting

Regulatory Setting

There are a number of state laws and regulations governing the provision of specified services. These are discussed in the General Plan 2030 EIR (DEIR volume) on pages 4.6-1-4.6-2 and 4.6-5-4.6-6, which is incorporated by reference. Key applicable regulations are summarized for each service in the following sections.

Fire Protection Services

The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department is an all hazard emergency response and fire protection agency that serves the City, the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), and participates in mutual aid responses within the County and State. The Fire Department also provides various contract services within the County. Agreements include a long-term contract for full fire protection services with UCSC, specialized arrangements for seasonal lifeguards with the City of Capitola and the Santa Cruz Port District, and an automatic aid agreement with County Fire/CalFire into Paradise Park. The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department maintains mutual aid agreements with all surrounding fire agencies to provide, and receive, aid on an as needed basis. The department is also a participant in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) which allows for statewide mutual aid.

The Fire Department provides a variety of services which include fire protection, marine rescue, technical rope/cliff rescue, advanced life support/paramedic, and hazardous materials emergency response. In addition, the department serves the community through a wide array of non-emergency interactions by providing fire prevention, community risk reduction, public education, disaster preparedness training, and ongoing emergency management preparation.

Existing Facilities and Operations

The City of Santa Cruz Fire Department operates out of four fire stations, including a station at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and houses its administrative functions at a separate office downtown. The Department also maintains a Marine Rescue Headquarters (Station Five) on the Municipal Wharf. The Department has seven fire engines, two fire trucks, and other related vehicles.

The Fire Department has 66 staff, including a Fire Chief, 2 Division Chiefs, 21 firefighters/paramedics, 15 fire engineers, 15 fire captains, 3 battalion chiefs, 1 training chief, 1 marine safety officer, 1 marine safety captain, 1 fire prevention technician, 1 fire inspector, 1 deputy fire marshal, 1 PMA/OES manager, and 2 administrative staff. Additionally, the Fire Department utilizes 70 seasonal and 20 year-round part-time staff within the Marine Safety Division. Each shift has 18 assigned personnel. The Fire Department has a minimum staffing standard of 15 firefighters and one battalion chief on duty per day.

The number of service calls received by the fire department in 2019 **was** approximately 9,000 calls. The majority of the calls are for non-fire emergencies, with about 65% of the calls being for medical assistance. Average response times from each of the four fire stations is approximately 5 minutes. The Department's goal is to respond to emergency medical calls in less than five minutes 90% of the time and to fire emergency calls within eight minutes 90% of the time (City of Santa Cruz, October 2017).

The Department does not have a Training Facility, the construction of which was included as a recommendation in the Department's "Three Year Strategic Plan, 2009-2011." The Plan also

recommends improvements to apparatus bays at Stations One and Three to accommodate new equipment, and investigation of constructing a new fire station at the present Station Two location and relocation of Station Four (Marine Rescue Headquarters) (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume).

Police Protection Services

The City of Santa Cruz Police Department provides crime protection and prevention activities throughout the City, including patrols, response to calls, education and community outreach. Its range of services include patrol, investigations, traffic, parks unit, neighborhood enforcement team, gang unit, dive team, hostage negotiation team, tactical team and School Resource officer. The Department recently initiated an application for mobile phones/IPADs that allows citizens to download Crime Alerts and crime tips. The City has mutual aid agreements with county law enforcement (Sheriff's Office, Capitola, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, California Highway Patrol, State Parks and UCSC Police Departments).

The Police Department operates out of one police station/headquarters, located in downtown Santa Cruz. The Department's existing facility and vehicles are adequate for the existing population, although additional storage space is needed (City of Santa Cruz, October 2017). The Department is currently staffed by 94 authorized sworn officer positions and 28 non-sworn (civilian) positions, including four community service officers and three administrative staff (City of Santa Cruz Police Department, 2015). The Department plans to begin a study on staffing levels, starting in the summer of 2017 (Ibid.).

With a finite amount of resources, the city is divided into five patrol beats that are designed to maximize coverage and provide efficient response to calls for service: West, East, Beach, Central, and Downtown. Approximately 40% of the annual calls are for service in the Downtown area 2017 (City of Santa Cruz, October 2017). The average response time is four minutes, 22 seconds, which is under the Department's target of four minutes, 30 seconds. Dispatching services are provided through the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center.

Parks and Recreation

The City manages, maintains and operates more than 1,700 acres of parks and open space lands, including various community/recreational facilities. In addition to maintaining the existing park system, the City must develop new parks or add amenities within existing parks to meet community recreational needs. The City also manages the Heritage Tree Program, Urban Forest Program, as well as maintains street and median landscaping within public rights-of-way. Within the City limits, open space and beaches are also provided on State-owned lands, including three State Park units and the University of California campus.

Existing Facilities and Operations

Santa Cruz offers residents and visitors a wide range of parks, open space, beaches, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City operates and maintains a range of neighborhood parks,

community/regional parks, community facilities, and recreational programs. Most of these parks, facilities and programs are operated and maintained by the City Parks and Recreation Department. Some facilities and programs are operated and organized in partnership with community organizations.

The City's parks system covers more than 1,700 acres of parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. The park system is comprised of neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities. The parks system offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Many recreational facilities are located within individual parks and open spaces and some stand alone. Existing City parks, open spaces, beaches, and recreational facilities are identified in Table 4.9-1 and shown on Figure 2-1 in Chapter 3, Project Description, and together include:

- 32 Neighborhood Parks (49 acres);
- 6 Community Parks (181 acres);
- 1 Regional Park – DeLaveaga Golf Course;
- 7 Open Space Lands (1,315 acres); and
- 4 Beaches (33 acres).

Neighborhood parks serve the recreational needs of those living or working within a service radius of 0.5 miles and provide recreational facilities such as children's play areas, picnic areas, athletic fields, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The City does not currently differentiate neighborhood parks from mini parks.

Community parks are designed to serve the entire community and are generally larger than neighborhood parks and offer unique facilities such as larger picnic areas, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, and recreation centers. They also host larger community events and recreation facilities. The City's standard for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people, with a service radius of 1.5 miles.

Regional parks serve the recreational needs of a regional population and are 150 acres in size or larger and offer active and passive recreation with activities and amenities not found in neighborhood and community parks, such as large areas of open space, large picnic facilities, golf courses, lake boating, ball fields, and multi-use trails. An accepted national standard for regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 people. DeLaveaga Park could be categorized as a regional park because it is greater than 150 acres in size and includes active and passive recreation activities that serve the region. However, many of the activities that are provided can also be described under Community Parks because they serve the entire community and are similar in scale to other community park uses. Therefore, DeLaveaga Park has multiple functions that are reflected in the inventory in different categories.

TABLE 4.9-1: Existing City Parks, Open Space Lands and Beaches

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
Neighborhood Parks	Beach Flats Park	0.22
	Bethany Curve Greenbelt – Delaware to West Cliff	3.40
	Branciforte Dog Park	0.22
	Central Park	0.16
	Chestnut Park	0.28
	El Portal Park	0.21
	Frederick Street Park	3.97
	Garfield Park	1.78
	Grant Park	2.36
	John Franks Park	0.48
	La Barranta Park	2.26
	Laurel Park – 301 Center Street	1.77
	Lighthouse Avenue Park	0.35
	Mimi de Marta Dog Park	0.50
	Mission Plaza	0.94
	Moore Creek Overlook	0.12
	Neary Lagoon Park	1.27
	Ocean View Park	3.06
	Pacheco Dog Park	0.45
	Poets Park	0.13
	Rincon Park	0.06
	Riverside Gardens Park	0.52
	Round Tree Park	0.28
	Scope Park	0.1
	Sgt. Derby Park	3.65
	Star of the Sea	2.10
Town Clock	0.19	
Trescony	2.00	
Tyrrell Park	1.20	
University Terrace	8.70	
Westlake Park	6.03	
Westside Pump Track (Leased)		
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	49
Community Parks	DeLaveaga Park- Lower DeLaveaga Park, George Washington Park, Audrey Stanley Grove, DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course, DeLaveaga Archery Range	100
	Depot Park	9.00
	Harvey West Park	44.77
		<i>CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE</i>

TABLE 4.9-1: Existing City Parks, Open Space Lands and Beaches

TYPE	FACILITY	SIZE (in acres)
Community Parks	Ken Wormhoudt Skate Park at Mike Fox Park	1.25
	San Lorenzo Park – 137 Dakota Street	11.12
	West Cliff	14.64
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>181</i>
Regional Parks	DeLaveaga Golf Course	151.00
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>151</i>
Open Space	Arana Gulch	67.7
	Arroyo Seco Canyon	33.94
	DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area	269
	Jessie Street Marsh	3.2
	Moore Creek Preserve	263.75
	Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge	37
	Pogonip	640.0
<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>1,315</i>	
Beaches	Its Beach (City-owned portion)	1.5
	Cowell Beach	5.0
	Main Beach	26.0
	Mitchell’s Cove	0.4
	<i>TOTAL ACRES (rounded)</i>	<i>33</i>
TOTAL ACRES (rounded)		1,730

The City’s parks system includes seven open space properties, totaling about 1,315 acres that include Arana Gulch Open Space, Arroyo Seco Canyon, DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area, Jessie Street Marsh, Moore Creek Preserve, Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, and Pogonip Open space. The system also includes four beaches (Main, Cowell, Its, and Mitchell’s Cove).

Additionally, there are a variety of community facilities, such as the Civic Auditorium, Loudon Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz Wharf, and Surfing Museum located inside the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse on Lighthouse Point. There are also joint-use agreements with the Santa Cruz City School District and Diocese of Monterey County that provide access to some school playgrounds during off-school hours.

The General Plan 2030 established per capita goals for neighborhood and community parks to ensure adequate parks throughout the City. The City’s standard is to provide neighborhood parks at a ratio of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people with a service radius of ½ mile. The City’s goal for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people with a service radius of 1.5 miles. According to the Parks Master Plan, the City is currently underserved for neighborhood and community park space. To meet existing goals, a

total of 67 acres of parks would need to be created to meet the forecasted population growth associated with the City of *Santa Cruz General Plan 2030* growth estimates.

The City also provides nearly 35 miles of trails throughout the City, which not only allow for a variety of forms of recreation, but also serve as important links between parks, recreation facilities, and natural and urban areas in some areas. The existing trail system allows for hiking, biking, dog walking, and horseback riding. Many trails provide access through designated open spaces or along the coastline, and others provide linkages across the City to a regional network. According to the Parks Master Plan, significant trails in the City include the Santa Cruz Riverwalk, an important north-south connector along the San Lorenzo River and the Monterey Bay Scenic Rail Trail, which will provide a multi-use trail through the City, and ultimately connect Davenport to Monterey. Multi-use trails also provide mountain biking and horseback riding opportunities in DeLaveaga Park Wilderness Area and Pogonip Open Space, and a paved multi-use path enables bicyclists to access and pass through Arana Gulch Open Space.

The City has adopted master or management plans for some facilities that help guide future uses and corresponding management. Facilities with previously adopted master or management plans include the following:

- Arana Gulch Master Plan (2006)
- Cowell and Main Beach Management Plan (2014)
- DeLaveaga Park Master Plan (1960)
- DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan (2002)
- Depot Park Master Plan (2001)
- Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan (1998)
- Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan (2002)
- Neary Lagoon Management Plan (1992)
- Pogonip Clubhouse Rehabilitation Plan (2002)
- Pogonip Master Plan (1998)
- San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (2003)

The City imposes a “Parks and Recreation Facilities Tax” (pursuant to Chapter 5.72 of the Municipal Code) on new residential development (including mobile homes) within the City, payable at the time of issuance of a building permit. The collected taxes are placed into a special fund, and “shall be used and expended solely for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public park, playground and recreational facilities in the city” (section 5.72.100). Projects that have dedicated land or fees in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 23.28 requirements for subdivisions are exempt from this tax.

Existing Setting at Major Parks, Open Space Areas, and Recreational Areas

Most of the City's parks are located within developed areas of the City. A brief overview of some of the City's larger community parks and open space properties is provided as follows.

Arana Gulch Open Space features coastal prairie, riparian and oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, and the lower reaches of Arana Gulch Creek. Arana Gulch Open Space supports three sensitive habitat areas: (1) areas of Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*), a state-listed endangered species and a federally listed threatened species; (2) riparian habitat; and (3) seasonal wetlands.

The property has a recently developed ADA compliant, multi-use path that connects Brommer Street, Broadway, and Agnes Street, and also includes approximately one mile of trails on grasslands overlooking the Santa Cruz Harbor. Grazing is conducted onsite to help restore the Santa Cruz tarplant and coastal prairie habitat. A City-adopted Habitat Management Plan is being implemented in association with a Technical Advisory Group to help guide restoration efforts.

Arroyo Seco Canyon is a natural ravine with an approximately one mile long multi-use path (bike-pedestrian)/maintenance road connecting University Terrace Park to Grandview Street. The top section is paved. The Meder Creek Management Plan was developed by Public Works and provides recommendations for maintenance and restoration activities.

DeLaveaga Park Wilderness area contains the undeveloped portions of DeLaveaga Park and supports multi-use trails that connect the other DeLaveaga Park facilities located within the George Washington Grove, Lower DeLaveaga Park, and the Upper DeLaveaga Park areas. The City adopted a Master Plan for DeLaveaga Park in 1960 that conceptually depicts a trail system throughout the park. Arana Gulch Creek deposits sediment into the lower portion of the watershed, and the City works with the Resource Conservation District to seek grant opportunities for watershed enhancement projects.

DeLaveaga Golf Course is an 18-hole golf course with other facilities, including driving range, a barbeque group picnic area, a clubhouse with a banquet facility, and practice greens for putting and chipping. The operations of the golf course, driving range, and restaurant are leased to a concessionaire. The City maintains the golf course, and a maintenance yard is located on the site. The City adopted the DeLaveaga Golf Course Master Plan in 2002, which recommends a variety of improvements, including constructing a new clubhouse to accommodate larger events, installing a new irrigation system to conserve water, adding solar to the upper deck of the golf course to provide shade and conserve energy, performing tree management work to reduce dead and diseased trees, redesigning and updating the sand traps, leveling the tees, grading the fairways, increasing the parking areas, and improving the maintenance yard. Instead of constructing a new clubhouse, the City and lessee are currently renovating the existing one.

Lower DeLaveaga Park and George Washington Grove are located along Branciforte Drive. George Washington Grove is located across Branciforte Creek to the north of Lower DeLaveaga Park and

contains a seasonally opened group picnic area, two bocce ball courts, and restrooms. Lower DeLaveaga Park supports two softball fields, a large grass field, a sand volleyball court, two horseshoe pits, and a playground. There is currently no access between these two portions of the park.

Depot Park is a community park in a developed area near the beach area, just outside of the downtown area. The park has an adult soccer field and practice area which can be used as two practice or youth fields. Other facilities include: the Depot Freight Building that have restrooms, which are open to park visitors; the only ramped, wooden bicycle park in the area; a large plaza area; picnic tables, and artwork; parking; and a small play features. A pathway connects the southern end to Beach Street towards Cowell Beach. The park includes the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center and adjacent parking area. An approximately half acre site at 101 Washington Street (former location of Lighthouse Liquors) was purchased for incorporation into the park and is currently being leased.

Harvey West Park is a large community park that is used for a variety of recreational activities, including recreation programming and summer camps, events, sports, and large gatherings. It contains a pump track, athletic fields, reservable picnic areas, a playground and tot lot, exercise equipment, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and bocce ball courts. The park hosts large community events. It also contains Community Recreational Facilities that include the Harvey West Pool, Wagner Cottage, Kids Kottage, and Scout and Clubhouse. The Ranger Station and Parks Maintenance Yard are also located on the grounds. Hiking trails connect to the Upper Westside Neighborhood and Pogonip Open Space.

Jessie Street Marsh is adjacent to Ocean View Park and East Cliff Drive and currently has an ad-hoc trail that extends from E. Cliff Drive to Lemos Avenue. The property is a City-owned wetland and open space site located north of San Lorenzo Boulevard and the San Lorenzo River. In 1998, the City prepared the Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan, which includes goals to restore the marsh and improve access. The Plan identifies actions to improve hydrologic functions of the marsh (including hydrologic interaction with the San Lorenzo River), habitat restoration actions, and measures to enhance public access. Historically, Jessie Street Marsh was part of a large tidal estuary open to the San Lorenzo River. Since adoption of the plan, the City has implemented some management actions, including control of invasive plant species and marsh vegetation management.

Moore Creek Preserve is a 246-acre natural preserve area that supports coastal prairie, riparian, and oak woodland habitats, as well mixed eucalyptus and Monterey cypress groves and special status species. The preserve has nearly three miles of hiking trails (no dogs are allowed) that wind through canyon, forest, and grassland natural settings. Many of the trails overlook the Pacific Ocean. Cattle graze the coastal prairie areas to help restore native plants and the Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*). Access to the site is limited. Visitors can park on Shaffer Road and cross Highway 1 to enter the southern entrance or park east of Western Drive to walk down Meder Street to enter the northeastern entrance.

Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge is a 37-acre-owned wetland and natural area situated in the central part of the City. Habitat areas include freshwater marsh, open water, riparian and mixed oak woodland, and grassland. Habitat and wildlife/fisheries management actions include removal of non-native plant and wildlife species, maintaining a balance between freshwater marsh and open water habitat through removal of tules and cattails, sediment removal, establishing and enhancing islands within the lagoon for waterfowl, grassland restoration, and conducting annual surveys and monitoring. The facility offers a boardwalk loop trail where visitors can bird watch and explore a variety of natural habitats such as riparian forest, freshwater marsh, mixed oak woodland, and open water. The floating walkway offers a truly unique experience within the City and region. Interpretive signs provide information about some of the wildlife that inhabit the refuge. The Museum of Natural History leads educational tours funded by the City.

Pogonip Open Space contains approximately eight miles of hiking trails and three miles of multi-use (hiking, biking, and horseback riding) trails that weave through a variety of natural and historic landscapes. The property supports a variety of plant communities, as well as sensitive habitat (coastal prairie) and special status species. The open space is located adjacent to Harvey West Park, UCSC (which includes trails that connect to Wilder Ranch State Park), and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. The Emma McCrary Trail was constructed in 2013 with the help of volunteers and has become a very popular trail, especially for mountain biking.

The City-adopted Pogonip Master Plan envisioned a variety of recreational and educational activities for the open space, including new trails. The Homeless Garden Project will soon be locating in Pogonip. The Homeless Garden Project is a non-profit organization that provides programs and training to people who are or have previously been homeless. The property includes the historic Pogonip Clubhouse, which was constructed in 1911 as the Casa del Rey Golf and Country Clubhouse. The clubhouse is currently in a dilapidated condition and is closed off from public access. The Pogonip Master Plan envisions the restoration of the Pogonip Clubhouse as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center, and a site for special events. The former tennis courts are also closed, and the swimming pool has been filled in. The Parks Master Plan recommended replacing the tennis and pool area with event grounds and parking. The Parks Master Plan also planned for an outdoor education camp in the Lower Main Meadow and an interpretive trail through Sycamore Grove, which is located to the east of Highway 9 along the San Lorenzo River and is currently closed as a result of illegal camping issues. The habitat types most common along the San Lorenzo River within the City of Santa Cruz are ruderal grassland, mixed riparian forest, willow thickets, freshwater marsh, and brackish water tule marsh.

San Lorenzo Park is located along the eastern edge of the San Lorenzo River and is bordered by Water Street to the north; the Santa Cruz County Government Center, a hotel, and an apartment complex to the east; and Branciforte Creek to the south. The park is connected to downtown by a pedestrian bridge over San Lorenzo River. The benchlands area of the park is located within a San Lorenzo River floodplain. San Lorenzo Park hosts multiple events throughout the year and parking is often provided at the County Government Center and in the benchlands area for the events. The park has a

playground, a tot-lot, nine disc golf baskets, the San Lorenzo Lawn Bowling facility, and a pond with a small stage.

San Lorenzo River is the major watercourse through the City and a major physical feature in the City. The river originates in the Santa Cruz Mountains and traverses through the center of the City. Following severe flooding in downtown Santa Cruz in the winters of 1938, 1941, and 1955, the ACOE completed a flood control project along the San Lorenzo River in 1959 that straightened and confined the river within its current configuration. The project created a channelized flood control channel for the river’s lower 2.5 miles south of Highway 1. The project included rip-rap levee banks, removal of all vegetation from the banks, and dredging of the river channel bottom with an excavated channel. Significant flood improvements along the river were completed in 2000 as part of the ACOE’s San Lorenzo River Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Project. This project raised the river levee height, provided landscaping and improved the pedestrian/bicycle path on the levee, and rehabilitated three of the four downtown bridges (over the San Lorenzo River) to increase flood flow capacity. The habitat enhancement efforts focused on the land side of the levees in the study area which were landscaped with native trees, shrubs, and groundcover (SOURCE V6.a).

The West Cliff Pathway and accents is a multi-use path located on a coastal bluff along West Cliff Drive, which extends from Natural Bridges State Park to Cowell Beach. Stairs provide access to popular surfing breaks and beaches. The path and adjacent bluffs support a variety of coastal recreational activities, including ocean and wildlife viewing, rock fishing, biking, walking, and exercising. The park has benches, landscape accents, coastal overlook/viewing areas, artwork, and one turf field. The adjacent Monterey Bay is a popular surfing location, and areas also are used for swimming and kayaking. Surf contests are held at Steamer Lane and marathons are held along the pathway. The Surfing Museum is located at Lighthouse Point, which offers an un-paralleled viewing opportunity of surfing. Natural Bridges State Park is located at the western edge of West Cliff, and Lighthouse Field State Park is located across the street from Lighthouse Point.

4.9.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with CEQA; State CEQA Guidelines (including Appendix G); City of Santa Cruz plans, policies, and/or guidelines; and agency and professional standards; a project impact would be considered significant if the project would:

- PUB-1 Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
- Fire protection
 - Police protection

- Parks
 - Other public facilities;
- PUB-2 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; or
- PUB-3 Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact PUB-1: New or Expanded Public Service Facilities. The proposed Project would not require new or physically altered governmental facilities. Therefore, this is a *less-than-significant* impact.

The project consists of a program-level plan to guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Parks Master Plan includes goals, policies, actions and recommendations that would result in future improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. Most of the improvements would be considered an upgrade or enhancement to an existing facility with addition of amenities, landscaping or minor improvements.

The Parks Master Plan was developed in response to resident needs. Most of the recommendations are for minor improvements, and there are no recommendations that would substantially increase uses at existing facilities, except for potential off-season weekend events at the Audrey Stanley Grove theater at DeLaveaga Park. The Parks Master Plan addresses the need for adequate public parks and recreational facilities to accommodate residents and visitors within the City. While, continued and future uses at parks and recreational facilities may result in additional calls for police or fire emergency services, these would not be of the magnitude that would result in the need for new or expanded fire or police facilities.

Public concerns have been raised about the City's failure to enforce dog regulations, especially off-leash dog use at Its Beach. The Parks Master Plan calls for increased enforcement of off-leash and dog access laws (Goal III-Policy 1, Action 5) and review of the existing day-use access areas for domestic animals onto beaches and open spaces with consideration of creation of a licensing program to manage off-leash dog use (Goal III-Policy 1, Action7). At Mitchell's Cove, the Master Plan includes a recommendation to consider programs and enforcement to ensure that off-leash dog use does not overwhelm the small beach area. Furthermore, the proposed Parks Master Plan does not propose legalizing illegal off-leash use, but rather supports fenced areas for such use and increased enforcement as indicated above.

Therefore, potential indirect project impacts public services resulting from future improvements and park uses are considered *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.

Impact PUB-2: Increased Use of Parks. The proposed Project would not cause a substantial increase in use of parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, this is a *less-than-significant* impact.

Santa Cruz offers residents and visitors a wide range of parks, open space, beaches, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City has responsibility for management, maintenance, and operation of more than 1,700 acres of parks and open space lands, and various community/recreational facilities, and oversees development of new parks and improvements within City-owned parks, open space, beaches and community facilities.

The proposed Parks Master Plan includes improvements to existing facilities, and no new parks or facilities are specifically identified. The projects and recommendations in the Parks Master Plan will support the City's resident and visitor population. While increased use at some facilities may occur, with ongoing City maintenance and the Plan's administration policies and actions, future continued and/or expanded use would not be expected to be of a magnitude that would cause substantial physical deterioration to facilities. The recommendations in the Parks Master Plan could increase the attractiveness and use of certain recreation facilities. However, the Plan is developed in order to maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities such that they do not substantially deteriorate.

Furthermore, the General Plan 2030 EIR evaluated potential impacts to parks while estimated growth that could be accommodated by the General Plan and concluded that the estimated growth would not increase use of parks or recreational facilities such that a substantial physical deterioration would occur. The largest projected increases in population would be distributed along existing transportation corridors throughout the City and in downtown. Thus, it is anticipated that the increased use of parks and recreational facilities would be distributed throughout existing neighborhood and community parks. A geographically widespread increase in use would not likely result in substantial physical deterioration of specific parks and recreational facilities. The EIR concluded that the increased population accommodated by the General Plan would result in increased use of existing parks and school playgrounds, but was expected to be spread out throughout the City so that no substantial deterioration would occur at any one facility. With implementation of the proposed General Plan 2030 goals, policies and actions that set forth measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on parks and recreational facilities, indirect impact on parks and recreational facilities were considered less-than-significant.

Therefore, the impact related to increased park use and deterioration of facilities is less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.

Impact PUB-3: New Recreational Facilities. The proposed Project would not include recreational facilities or require expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, this is a *less-than-significant impact with mitigation*.

The proposed Parks Master Plan recommends improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities within the planning area, but no site-specific proposals are included in the plan. Potential indirect impacts resulting from future development of park and trail improvements would be avoided or minimized with implementation of the policies and actions included in the Master Plan as discussed in this EIR. Additionally, future development would be subject to compliance with City General Plan policies and regulations. As such, projects would be evaluated and designed to avoid significant impacts in accordance with policies and actions included in both the proposed Parks Master Plan and the City's General Plan, as well as in accordance with guidelines and measures included in parks management plans. Potential indirect significant impacts related to biological resources (nesting birds) and geology-soils (erosion) identified in this EIR would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, potential indirect impacts resulting from development of parks and recreational facilities are considered *less than significant with mitigation*.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required as a significant impact has not been identified.