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Some of East Palo Alto's most valuable assets are its parks, shoreline, baylands and San Francisquito Creek. The Conservation and Open Space Element focuses on the protection and enhancement of open space and natural resources to ensure a high quality living environment in future years. Parks and facilities for recreational activities are particularly important because of the significant family population living in East Palo Alto. Community involvement is a historic tradition. Continued cultivation of human resources in addition to environmental resources will foster community stability and vitality.

Purpose of the Conservation and Open Space Element

The East Palo Alto Conservation and Open Space Element meets state requirements for the Conservation and Open Space Elements as defined in Sections 65302(d) and 65302(e) of the Government Code. According to these requirements, the Conservation Element must contain goals and policies to protect and maintain state natural resources such as water, soils, wildlife and minerals, and prevent wasteful resource exploitation, degradation and destruction. The Open Space Element must contain goals and policies to manage open space areas, including undeveloped lands and outdoor recreation areas. Specifically, the Open Space Element must address open space that is used for the preservation of natural resources, the managed production of resources, and open space maintained for public health and safety reasons. The last

category of open space is also addressed in the East Palo Alto Safety Element.

While air quality is not a state-mandated element, the Bay Area Clean Air Plan (CAP) requires air quality to be addressed in General Plans. Air quality is included as a component of the Conservation and Open Space Element to fulfill CAP requirements. The purpose of air quality component is to reduce pollutant levels through stationary source, mobile source, transportation and land use control measures, and energy conservation measures.

Scope and Content of the Element

The Conservation and Open Space Element expresses community goals to protect environmental resources and open space while providing opportunities for economic development and growth. Resource issues addressed in the element include cultural resources, parks and other open space, natural resources and features, solid waste, air quality and human resources. East Palo Alto utilizes and affects environmental resources outside its boundaries. As a result, some regional resource issues are addressed in this element including regional air quality and regional landfill capacity. One of the most important resources in East Palo Alto is human resources. The element specifically addresses continued development and enhancement of public involvement in civic activities.

The Conservation and Open Space Element is comprised of three sections: 1) Introduction;

2) Issues, Goals and Policies; and 3) the Conservation and Open Space Plan. In the Issues, Goals and Policies section, community open space needs and resource management issues are identified, and corresponding goals and policies are established. The goals, which are overall statements of the City desires are comprised of broad statements of purpose and direction. The policies serve as guides for planning recreational facilities, enhancing the natural amenities of East Palo Alto, and minimizing the environmental effects of planned development. The Plan explains how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented. Specific implementation programs are located in the General Plan Implementation Program (Appendix A).

Related Plans and Programs

There are a number of existing plans and programs that directly relate to the Conservation and Open Space Element. These plans and programs are enacted through federal, state and local legislation, and administered by agencies or special districts. Federal laws pertaining to the protection of significant resources include the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Antiquities Act and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Other related plans and programs are described below.

American Disabilities Act (ADA)

The American Disabilities Act of 1991 was adopted to make public areas, including parks and play areas, accessible to all persons. Playground equipment, trails and facilities must be usable by adults and children with disabilities under ADA. Designing

accessible recreational facilities and retrofitting existing facilities is addressed in the Conservation and Open Space Element.

California Environmental Quality Act and Guidelines

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was adopted by the state legislature in response to a public mandate for thorough environmental analysis of projects impacting the environment. The provisions of the law and environmental review procedures are described in the CEQA Law and Guidelines. CEQA will continue to be instrumental in ensuring that the environmental impacts of local development projects are appropriately assessed and mitigated.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife/ California Fish and Game Regulations

Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and California Fish and Game have regulations of codes to protect wildlife resources. Special permits are required for the alteration of any lake or stream, dredging or other activities that may affect fish and game habitat. Both departments also regulate impacts to sensitive plant and animal species. Future development in East Palo Alto potentially affecting wildlife habitat will be subject to the regulations of both departments.

Integrated Waste Management Plan

The California Integrated Waste Management Act (Assembly Bill 939) changed the focus of solid waste management from landfill to diversion strategies such as source reduction, recycling and composting. The purpose of the diversion strategies is to reduce

dependence on landfills for solid waste disposal. AB 939 establishes mandatory diversion goals of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000. The County has prepared the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and each city must prepare a Source Reduction Recycling Element (SRRE) which becomes a component of the IWMP.

**National
Pollutant
Discharge
Elimination
System**

Under the NPDES Stormwater Permit issued to San Mateo County and the City of East Palo Alto as a co-permittee, all development and significant redevelopment must be implemented with run-off pollution control measures known as Best Management Practices (BMPs). Proposed development projects (public and private) within East Palo Alto must incorporate structural and non-structural BMPs to preclude significant water quality impacts from non-point source pollutants.

**Bay Area
Clean Air Plan**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is a regulatory body responsible for improving air quality in the Bay Area. The Bay Area 1991 Clean Air Plan (CAP) is required by the 1988 California Clean Air Act. Prepared by AQMD in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and ABAG, its main objective is to attain state air quality standards for ozone and carbon monoxide. The plan includes a specific measure which urges cities and counties to formulate and adopt local air quality elements, or the equivalent, in their general plans (*Air quality is addressed in the Land Use, Circulation, Economic Development, Housing, and Conservation and Open Space Elements of the East Palo Alto*

General Plan).

**San Mateo
County
General Plan**

The San Mateo County General Plan includes an inventory of the County-wide resources such as: a) vegetable, water, fish and wildlife resources; b) historical and archaeological resources; and c) parks and recreation resources. The Plan also includes goals, policies and programs for development, management, preservation and conservation of the County resources. This element provides sources of regional information affecting East Palo Alto.

*Relationship to Other General
Plan Elements*

The Conservation and Open Space Element must be consistent with the other General Plan elements and all elements of the General Plan are interrelated to a degree. Certain goals and policies of each element may also address issues that are the primary subjects of other elements. The integration of overlapping issues throughout the General Plan elements provides a strong basis for the implementation of plans and programs, and achievement of community goals. The Conservation and Open Space Element relates most closely to the Land Use, Safety, Noise and Circulation Elements.

The Land Use Element provides a planned land use pattern with the following specific designations: Resource Management and Community Open Space Conservation. These community designations are applied to public and private land that is intended for open

space and recreational uses. The designations are also applied to areas with high resource and aesthetic value for preservation purposes.

Natural resource conditions are also considered in the Safety Element. Policy in the Safety Element minimizes potential hazards from geologic and floodway conditions. Emergency preparedness requires public education and involvement which overlaps with the human resource goals identified in the Conservation and Open Space Element.

Air quality, a major regional concern, is specifically addressed in the Conservation and Open Space Element and other elements. Local efforts to improve air quality will involve improvements to the local street system to maintain efficient traffic flow, increased use of alternative transportation modes, the creation of new jobs in East Palo Alto to improve the jobs-to-housing balance, and continued coordination with other jurisdictions to implement regional programs. Policies and plans in the Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, and Circulation Elements support the achievement of these air quality strategies.



East Palo Alto possesses valuable assets in the form of its natural open space and improved parklands. Conservation and enhancement of these assets can be accomplished by addressing certain issues affecting the City.

Eight major issues are addressed by the goals, policies and plan of the Conservation and Open Space Element. These major issues include: 1) preserving cultural resources; 2) enhancing natural resources; 3) reducing solid waste generated in the community; 4) improving air quality; 5) utilizing human resources; 6) improving open space and recreational opportunities; 7) promoting economic use of open space; and 8) providing greater access to open space and recreational areas. Each issue and the related goals and policies are included in the following section of the Element.

Cultural Resources

Conservation/Open Space Issue 1: Desire to preserve historic, archaeologic and paleontologic resources.

East Palo Alto includes a number of important cultural resources and potential resource areas that should be conserved to provide a link to the community's history and heritage. Areas such as Cooley Landing and the Weeks agricultural colony are examples of such resources. Conservation of these resources and investigation of potential resource areas represents an important undertaking for connection with the community's past.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 1.0: Identify and conserve important historic, archaeologic and paleontologic resources.

Policy 1.1: Protect areas of important archaeologic and paleontologic resources.

Policy 1.2: Protect and conserve buildings or sites of historic significance.

Natural Resources

Conservation/Open Space Issue 2: Desire to preserve and enhance natural open space, resources and features, such as water, plant and animal habitats, large trees, and soils.

Many important natural features, such as the baylands, San Francisquito Creek, and the shoreline are a part of the East Palo Alto community. These resources provide visual changes in the urban environment that create interest, and are landmarks that communicate a sense of place and location in the community. These resources need to be preserved and enhanced to maintain the natural physical and visual quality of East Palo Alto.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 2.0: Preserve and enhance important natural resources and features.

Policy 2.1: Conserve, protect and maintain important natural plant and animal communities, such as the baylands, Cooley Landing, San Francisquito Creek, the shoreline and significant tree stands.

Policy 2.2: Conserve and protect important watershed areas and soils through appropriate site planning and grading techniques, revegetation and soil management practices, and other resource management techniques.

Policy 2.3: Preserve existing and increase the number of trees within the community.

Policy 2.4: Maximize enjoyment and promotion of natural resource areas, such as the baylands, Cooley Landing, San Francisquito Creek, and the shoreline.

Solid Waste

Conservation/Open Space Issue 3: Need to reduce amounts of solid waste.

To maintain the long-term quality of life in East Palo Alto, the community must manage the generation, use and disposal of solid waste. Recycling, reuse and reduction of solid waste can dramatically reduce the amount of material that will otherwise use expensive land fill space.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 3.0: Reduce per capita volume of solid waste.

Policy 3.1: Reduce the per capita production of solid waste in East Palo Alto in concert with San Mateo County source reduction and recycling plans.

Air Quality

Conservation/Open Space Issue 4: Need to improve air quality.

Air quality in the Bay Area does not presently meet state and federal standards. Cooperation among all agencies in the area is necessary to achieve desired improvements to air quality. East Palo Alto can participate and contribute its share in those efforts by proper planning for land use and transportation.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 4.0: Improve air quality.

Policy 4.1: Cooperate with the Bay Area Association of Governments and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in their efforts to implement the regional Air Quality Management Plan.

Policy 4.2: Cooperate and participate in regional air quality management planning, programs and enforcement measures.

Policy 4.3: Implement land use and economic development policies aimed at achieving a greater balance between jobs and housing in East Palo Alto.

Human Resources

Conservation/Open Space Issue 5: Desire to utilize human resources.

East Palo Alto has many community and business groups which represent important resources for accomplishing long-term community improvements. These groups are sources of volunteer leaders and workers who have a distinct understanding of their neighborhoods and areas. These important human resources should be used to achieve community goals and improvements.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 5.0: Utilize human resources to improve the community.

Policy 5.1: Solicit citizen participation in the early stages of major public or private development projects and regulatory programs.

Policy 5.2: Utilize community groups and business groups as sources of individual volunteers for important appointed positions on City commissions, boards and task forces.

Policy 5.3: Communicate important City information to the population of East Palo Alto through newsletters, information brochures, public broadcasting, cable television programming and announcements, the Internet and other methods.

Recreation

Conservation/Open Space Issue 6: Need adequate open space and recreational opportunities within areas of new and existing development.

Open space and recreational opportunities are important components of urban living. As new development is proposed in East Palo Alto, open space and recreational opportunities need to be provided to maintain quality of life in the community. In older areas of the community, existing open space and recreation facilities should be improved to meet continuing need.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 6.0: Provide adequate open space and recreational opportunities.

Policy 6.1: Promote the development and maintenance of a balanced system of public

and private recreational lands, facilities and programs to meet the needs of the community.

Policy 6.2: Provide parkland improvements that are durable and economical to maintain.

Policy 6.3: Maximize the utility of existing parks, recreational facilities and open space within East Palo Alto.

Economic Use of Open Space

Conservation/Open Space Issue 7: Desire to promote economic use of open space - nurseries, horticulture, community gardens.

The community includes a variety of open space land that offers opportunities for economic, as well as recreational use. Horticulture, nurseries and community gardens can maintain the visual quality of open space within the community while offering economic return.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 7.0: Promote economic use of open space.

Policy 7.1: Promote the economic use of privately owned land for horticulture, nurseries, community gardens and other uses that maintain land as open space.

Greater Access to Open Space

Conservation/Open Space Issue 8: Desire greater access to open space and recreational resources.

Open space and recreational resources access is an important aspect of the quality of life in

urban areas. Greater access can be provided through joint use agreements with other public owners of open space and recreational lands. Physical access to specific sites can also be improved to promote greater use. The accessibility of these areas needs to be improved as an enhancement to quality of life for the broad community.

Conservation/Open Space Goal 8.0: Improve access to open space and recreation resources.

Policy 8.1: Create joint use agreements with school districts, water districts and other public agencies to allow greater access to open space and recreational lands.

Policy 8.2: Provide physical improvements, such as parking lots, sidewalks, trails, access points or other facilities that promote greater use of recreation and open space lands and the bay.

Related Goals and Policies

The goals and policies described in the Conservation and Open Space Element are related to and support subjects included within other General Plan elements. In turn, many goals and policies from the other elements directly or indirectly support the goals and policies of the Land Use Element. These supporting goals and policies are identified in Table COS-1.

**Table COS-1
Conservation and Open Space
Related Goals and Policies by Element**

Conservation and Open Space Issue Area	Related Goals and Policies by Element						Housing
	Land Use	Circulation	Conservation and Open Space	Noise	Safety	Economic Development	
Cultural Resources						8.1, 8.2, 9.2	
Natural Resources	3.2					2.2, 8.1, 8.2	
Solid Waste							
Air Quality	1.3, 3.2	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 5.2				8.1	
Human Resources	1.4, 2.2, 3.2						
Recreation	2.1, 3.2, 4.1			1.1			
Economic Use of Open Space	1.1, 1.3					2.2, 3.1, 8.2, 9.2	
Greater Access	2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2	2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2				9.1, 9.2	

A distinct combination of physical setting on San Francisco Bay, agricultural and Bay-related heritage, and natural open space provide identity for East Palo Alto. The Conservation and Open Space Plan establishes an approach to utilize these assets by conserving environmental quality and developing recreational opportunities. The Plan addresses the conservation and open space issues identified in the previous section. The related goals and policies serve as the basis of the Plan and are supported by approaches to protect and enhance natural areas, historic sites and the community's human resources, as well as methods to obtain new parkland. The Conservation and Open Space Implementation Program, is an extension of this Plan and contains specific programs to achieve environmental and recreational goals.

Cultural Resources

A number of important cultural resources and potential resource areas lie within and near East Palo Alto. Recognition and conservation of such resources provide a strong connection with the community's history and heritage. Examples of these cultural resources are illustrated on Figure COS-1 *Historical Sites* and include: Cooley's Landing/Port of Ravenswood (1849-1870) and the County Dump (1930s); the Brick Factory (1874); the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony (1916); the Ohlone Artifact Site (1950s); and the Dumbarton Bridges (1927).

Creating a strong link with the community's past can occur through conserving and investigating these resources and potential

resource areas. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its Guidelines provide an environmental review process calling for assessment of public and private development proposals for impacts to cultural resources, including historic, archaeological and paleontologic sites. Where development will create impacts to significant resources, the CEQA Guidelines describe specific actions to preserve or record the existence of these resources before development is approved.

Natural Resources

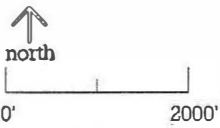
The East Palo Alto area includes many important natural features, such as the Baylands, San Francisquito Creek, and the shoreline. The natural features act as landmarks establishing a strong sense of place and location within the community.

Although these natural features provide strong definition to the physical space within the City, they are also sensitive to urban development. As depicted in Figure COS-2 *Sensitive Habitats* and Figure COS-3 *Water Resources*, areas such as salt ponds, wetlands and riparian corridors are the locations for many sensitive plant and animal species. In particular, these areas offer suitable habitat for many species of birds that are susceptible to changes in the quality and amount of water.

Properly planned urban development can avoid impacts to sensitive habitats. In particular, control of surface water runoff from urban development can maintain the quality of water needed by both plant and

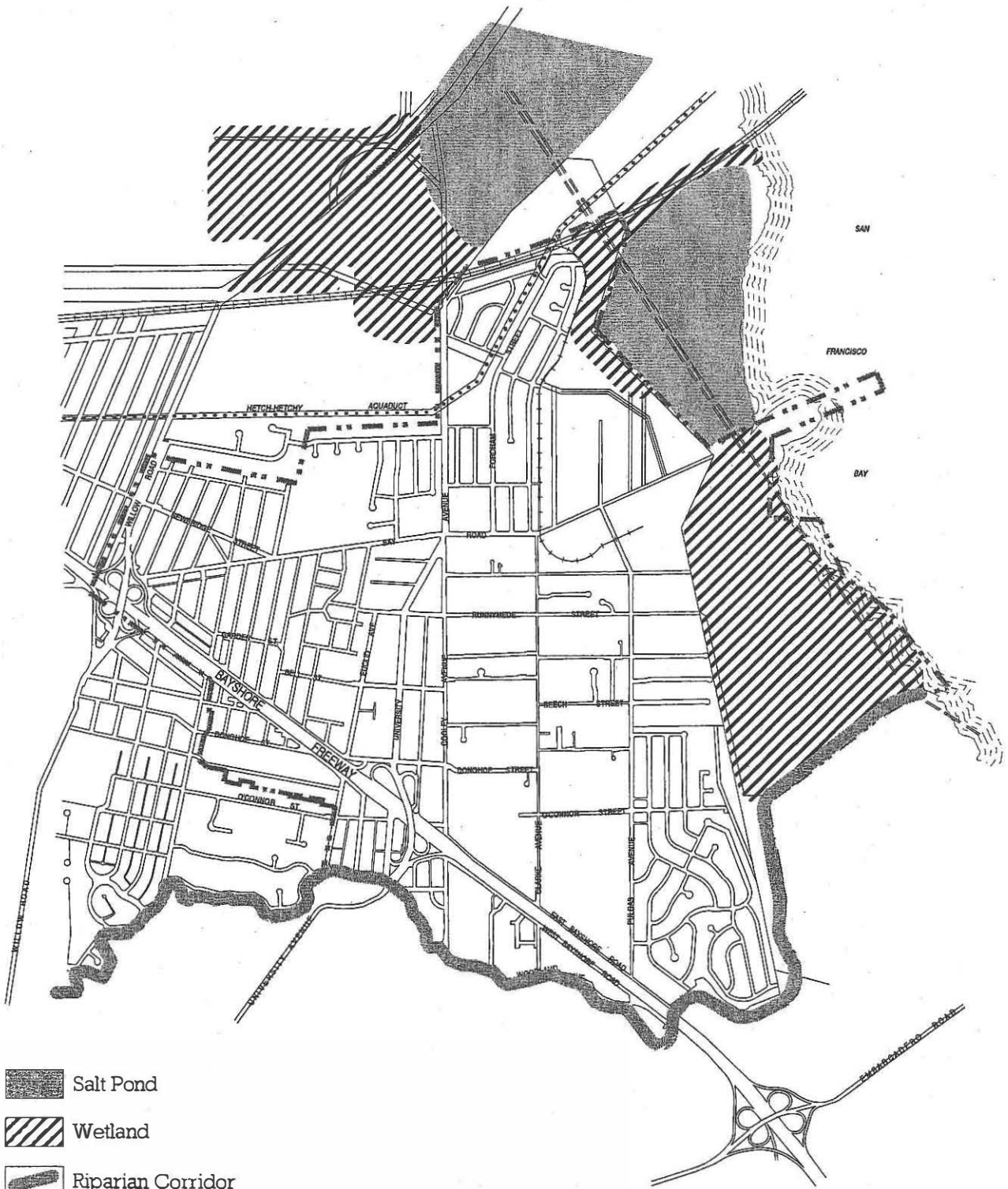


- 1** Cooley's Landing/Port of Ravenswood (1849 - 1870)
County Dump (1930)
- 2** Brick Factory (1874)
- 3** Charles Weeks Poultry Colony (1916)
- 4** Ohlone Artifact Fount (1950s)

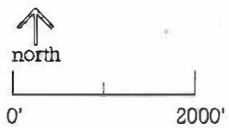


SOURCE: City of East Palo Alto

Figure COS-1
Historical Sites



-  Salt Pond
-  Wetland
-  Riparian Corridor



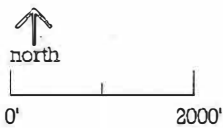
SOURCE: San Mateo County General Plan

Figure COS-2
Sensitive Habitats



-  Wetland
-  Stream

Note: The entire city is a groundwater basin.



SOURCE: San Mateo County General Plan

Figure COS-3
Water Resources

animal species in these habitats. Although access to these areas is necessary for passive recreational activities, limitation on the extent and location of access can promote sustainable habitats.

Within the urbanized areas of East Palo Alto, many mature trees exist. These trees provide important sources of shade and cooling during the summer, improve local air quality through their natural processes, and are a source of beauty and locational recognition with the community.

These important natural resources, including sensitive natural habitats and large trees, will be preserved and enhanced to maintain a desired physical and visual quality within the community. Proposals for public and private development will be assessed through the environmental review process (CEQA) to identify impacts to natural resources prior to City approval. Where impacts to these resources are considered significant, mitigation will be required to avoid or reduce such effects.

Solid Waste

Long-term quality of life in the Bay Area requires management of the generation, use and disposal of solid waste by all communities. Solid waste management has become an important resource issue because landfill space is dwindling and recycling technology has improved. Siting new landfills is increasingly difficult due to environmental, economic and political considerations. As required by the Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939), the City has drafted a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE).

Adoption and implementation of the SRRE

will reduce the amount of solid waste entering landfills. AB 939 calls for a 25 percent reduction in the solid waste stream by 1995 and a 50 percent reduction by 2000. The reductions will be achieved through recycling and composting solid waste and reducing the total amount of waste produced. Implementation of the SRRE will result in other environmental benefits in addition to reducing landfill capacity impacts. For example, recycling reduces the amount of raw resources and energy used to construct new containers.

Anticipated regional growth will require the future expansion of landfills even with the implementation of AB 939. The City will support regional efforts to study expansion of existing landfills and find sites for new landfills.

Air Quality

Federal and state standards for air quality are not presently attained in the Bay Area. Necessary improvements in air quality require the cooperation of all agencies in the region. The Bay Area Clean Air Plan (CAP) is the "blueprint" for cleaner air and its primary goal is to reduce the number of trips and vehicle miles Bay Area residents travel in single-occupant vehicles.

To achieve this goal, the CAP includes a variety of transportation control measures (TCMs) intended to improve alternatives to driving alone, such as expanded rail, bus and ferry services, car pool facilities, and bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Also included in the CAP are local land use measures designed to complement TCMs. These include development of land use patterns that promote walking, bicycling, carpooling and transit use.

As a supplement to the CAP, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have prepared *Improving Air Quality Through Local Plans and Programs: A Guidebook for City and County Governments*. This guidebook includes suggestions for a range of policies and techniques that can be selectively applied by individual communities to support the CAP.

To address air quality and support the CAP, East Palo Alto has incorporated the following measures in its General Plan Land Use, Circulation, Housing, and Economic Development Elements, as well as the Conservation and Open Space Element:

- Allow mixed uses (commercial, office and residential) in its General Commercial, Neighborhood Commercial and Office land use designations.
- Promote infill development in areas where higher density housing already exists, adjacent to commercial or industrial land uses, and in areas served by public transit.
- Provide pathways linking residential, commercial and employment uses.
- Promote a balance between jobs and housing within the community.
- Locate new air pollution point sources, such as manufacturing facilities at appropriate distances away from residential areas.
- Use 20% housing set-aside for redevelopment tax increment for affordable housing.
- Recruit low- or non-polluting industries for economic restructuring and job training programs.

- Encourage employers to hire workers from within the community.
- Establish solid waste recycling programs.
- Coordinate intercity pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- Implement the traffic and air-pollution reduction measures included in the Countywide congestion management program (CMP).
- Provide a bicycle and pedestrian circulation system as an alternative to vehicular transportation.
- Seek funding to implement a "Smart Shuttle" system that promotes public transit use.
- Participate with neighboring jurisdictions in subregional planning activities to improve air quality.
- Utilize the provisions of the AQMD *Air Quality and Urban Development: Guidelines for Assessing Impacts of Project and Plans* into development project review procedures.

Human Resources

Although not a required component of a General Plan, a City's human resources may be one of its most valuable assets. Many community and business groups exist in East Palo Alto and these groups represent important resources for accomplishing long-term community improvements. Volunteer leaders and workers from such groups can often provide a neighborhood perspective that is essential in the formulation of public policy

at the local level.

To make use of these human resources, East Palo Alto will actively solicit citizen input as a component of major public or private development projects and regulatory programs. To be most effective, this input will be sought during the early stages of such projects.

East Palo Alto has a number of positions on City commissions, boards, committees and task forces that are filled by City Council appointment. The City will develop and utilize a list of community groups, business groups, and interested individuals as a primary source for appointed positions within the formal City structure.

With improvements in communications technology, a strategy to take advantage of various media opportunities will be developed. These opportunities include newsletters, information brochures, cable television programming, radio and newspaper announcements, and the Internet. Such methods will provide a greater understanding of significant governmental decisions made in East Palo Alto.

Recreation

Open space and recreational opportunities are important aspects of life in urban areas. East Palo Alto has substantial open space with its Baylands, shoreline and San Francisquito Creek areas; however, City parklands and other open space are in need of improvement to adequately serve the community's population. Particularly, as new development occurs and the population increases, the City will be seeking to maximize the value and benefit derived from land devoted to

recreational use.

City Parks

Figure COS-4 *Open Space and Recreation System* illustrates existing City parks, planned parks and existing public schools. Existing City parks include:

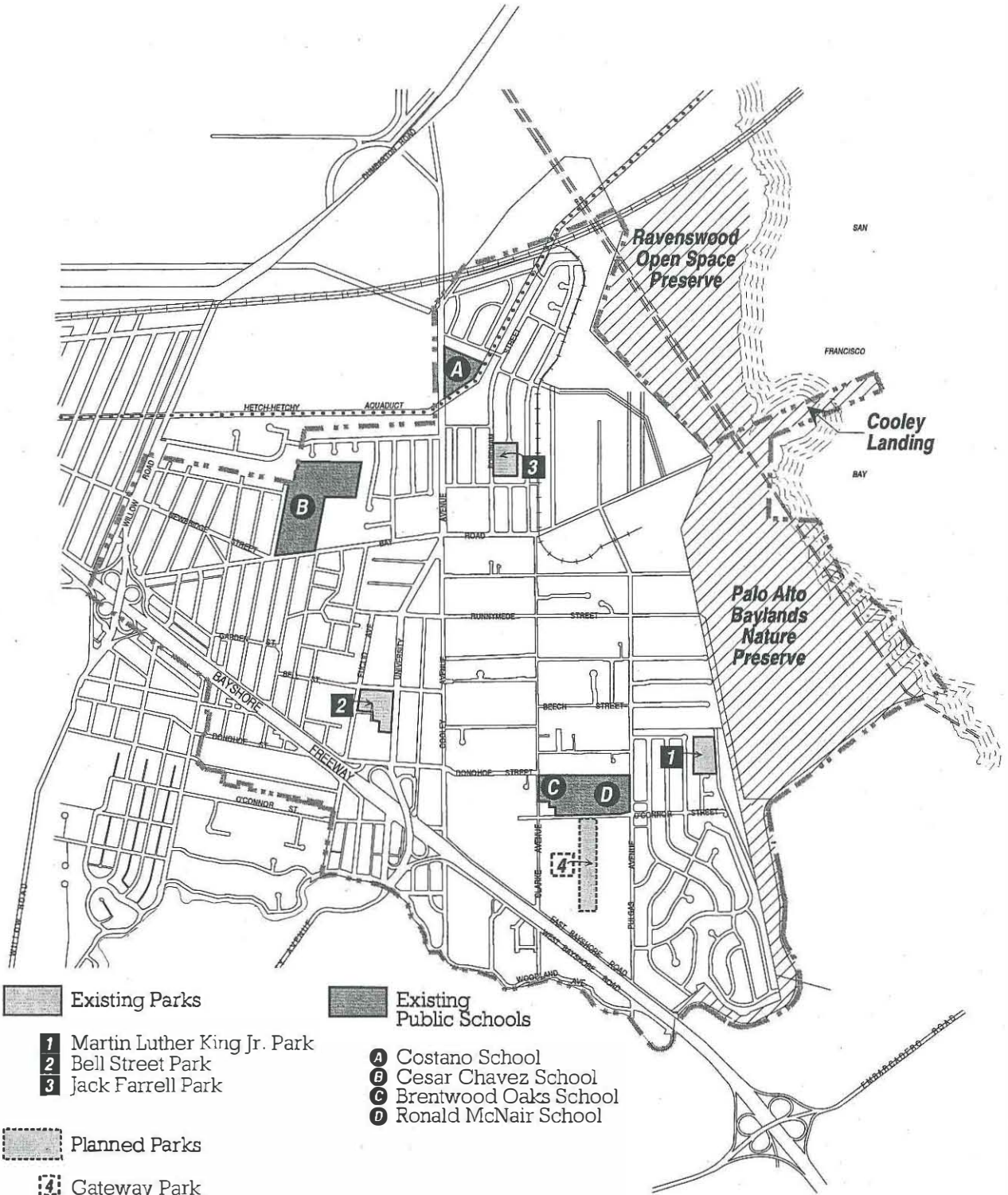
- Jack Farrell Park (a 5.5 acre park located on the east side of University Avenue in the University Village neighborhood);
- Bell Street Park (a 5.0 acre located on the west side of University Avenue in the University/Bay Corridor neighborhood); and
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park (a 3.5 acre park located east of Pulgas Avenue next to the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve in the Gardens/Gateway III neighborhood).

These three parks represent the active recreation facilities owned and operated by the City.

Planned City parkland includes the:

- Gateway Park located on the south side of O'Connor Street in the Gateway III/Gardens neighborhood).

The Ravenswood School District owns approximately 37 acres of land on four school sites within the East Palo Alto (Costano School, Cesar Chavez School, Brentwood Oaks Schools, and Ronald McNair School). Most of that property includes open space and recreational facilities.



SOURCE: City of East Palo Alto

Figure COS-4
Open Space and
Recreation System

**Open Space
Preserves**

Open space preserves in East Palo Alto and its surrounding area are located along San Francisco Bay, and include the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve which dominates the frontage of San Francisco Bay south of Cooley's Landing. This Preserve is owned and managed by the City of Palo Alto, and has limited access for hiking, bird watching, nature study, and cycling on established trails. Preservation of wetland habitat and wildlife populations have priority in the management strategy of the area. A second preserve is the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, located primarily within the City of Menlo Park, north of Cooley's Landing. Similar use and management restrictions apply to this area which is owned and operated by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

**Recreational
Trails**

Recreational trails within the East Palo Alto area include the San Francisco Bay Trail and the San Francisquito Creek Trail and Greenway. The Bay Trail is planned to encircle San Francisco Bay with a multi-use trail. The trail in depicted in Figure C-5 *Bikeway Plan* of the Circulation Element and has been improved for a portion of its planned length.

Forming the boundary between East Palo Alto and Palo Alto is the San Francisquito Creek. The Friends of San Francisquito Creek, a private nonprofit organization, promotes the restoration of the riparian habitat and return of historic flows throughout the waterway. Some short unimproved trail segments created by human use exist with the creek, but this corridor represents an important opportunity for a trail and greenway that could connect the Baylands north of Highway 101 with the East Palo Alto neighborhoods south of Highway

101. The creation and enhancement of a trail along the Creek may require the acquisition of some private land along its course to provide adequate width for improvements that will not interfere with the natural watercourse.

**Recreational
Opportunities**

In 1995, a report entitled *East Palo Alto Parks, Recreation and Open Space Recommendations* (The Trust for Public Land, Sokale/Landry Collaborative, GORP, and Heru Hall) identified a number of opportunities and recommendations for expanding recreational opportunities in East Palo Alto. These included:

- a) Joint use of City and school district facilities;
- b) Additional neighborhood park development in the Weeks neighborhood;
- c) Pocket-park development throughout the City;
- d) Commercial recreation ventures;
- e) Improvements to existing City parks;
- f) Trail and greenway development along San Francisquito Creek;
- g) Use of Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way for access from the Costano School and the San Francisco Bay Trail; and
- h) An integrated trail system throughout the community.

Such recommendations will be considered for inclusion in an overall City Recreation Plan that focuses on prioritizing and funding for desired recreational improvements. Where appropriate, the City will utilize options for parkland acquisition, such as development fees, open space easements, leaseholds, and land donations to acquire additional needed land. The City will also continue to provide recreational facilities and programs to meet the needs of East Palo Alto residents.

Economic Use of Open Space

In addition to its recreational land, East Palo Alto also includes open space land that offers opportunities for economic use. In particular, the Weeks and Gardens/Gateway III neighborhoods offer parcels where nurseries, horticulture, and community gardens can continue to exist among other more urban land uses. The City will allow the establishment and continuation of these open space activities that offer economic return, while ensuring that surrounding land uses are planned for compatible uses.

Greater Access to Open Space

Creating greater access to open space is a means of expanding recreational opportunities within East Palo Alto. Greater access will be provided by seeking joint use agreements with other public owners of open space and recreational lands, such as the Ravenswood School District. The City will also expand and improve the physical access points to recreational lands through signage, improved bicycle and pedestrian linkages, and other forms of access improvement.

