

Chapter 15. Recreation

This chapter evaluates the potential impacts of the two CWP alternatives on recreational facilities, including parks, located in the Program Area. This chapter describes recreational facilities present in the Program Area; discusses local regulations related to recreation; identifies potential impacts that could occur from construction and operation; and proposes mitigation measures to reduce any significant impacts to a less than significant level.

15.1 Existing Setting

The City of San Mateo Department of Parks and Recreation maintains parks and recreation facilities throughout the City that provide more than 200 acres of open space and recreation fields. The parks and facilities vary in size and services provided to the public and include the following (City of San Mateo, 2010):

- **Mini parks** – The smallest parks, usually less than one acre, are located throughout the City and are generally limited in facilities to a single use. The general service radius of a mini-park is one-quarter mile.
- **Neighborhood Parks** – These parks may be up to six acres in size, and are optimally at least 4 acres. Neighborhood parks typically service multiple uses such as multi-purpose turf area, playground equipment, picnic and seating areas, opportunity for passive enjoyment of landscape, and a multi-use court. The general service radius of a neighborhood park is one-third mile.
- **Community Parks** – These are major, multi-use facilities that are intended to address City-wide as well as neighborhood recreation needs. Community parks are typically at least five acres in size and contain uses such as athletic game facilities, community centers, large group picnic areas, swimming pools, outdoor performing facilities, and tennis or game courts. The service radius of community parks ranges from one mile to the entire City.
- **Regional Parks** – These are major facilities such as Shoreline Park and Laurelwood/Sugarloaf Mountain that meet City-wide recreation needs and draw significant use from people outside the City.

Figure 15-1 shows the location of existing parks and recreational facilities in the Program Area. These parks and facilities include the following:

- **Bayside/Joinville Park** is a 20.5 acre community park that includes amenities such as the John Lee Memorial Dog Park, a children’s playground, an aquatics center, tennis courts, and night-lighted softball and multi-purpose fields (Canzian, 2015). The park supports activities such as youth sports, group picnics and seasonal aquatics activities. It is located directly south and east of the existing WWTP.
- **Shoreline Parks** is a large regional park system comprised of Ryder, Seal Point, and Tidelands Parks, the Bay Marshes, and the Bay Trail (Canzian, 2015). Seal Point Park includes a three-acre off-leash dog park. Ryder Park includes a children’s playground and group picnic areas. The Bay Marshes includes observation points and a boardwalk for viewing native habitats. Tidelands Park remains an undeveloped parcel. Numerous walking and biking paths connect the parks and the San Francisco Bay Trail where it passes through San Mateo. This park system is located generally north of the WWTP Site across from J. Hart Clinton Drive.
- **Mariner’s Island Park** is a 4-acre neighborhood park that includes two children’s play areas, a passive lawn, picnic tables, and a baseball field (Canzian, 2015). Mariners Island Park is located between the Marina Lagoon and San Mateo’s easterly city limits, to the east of the WWTP Site.
- **Bay Meadows Community Park** is a 12-acre park that includes amenities such as a pond, soccer field, picnic tables, a passive lawn area, and a loop walking path (Canzian, 2015). The pond serves as a storm water storage basin for the area and the soccer field serves as dry storage for excess storm water flows. The current amenities at Bay Meadows Park are part of an interim design because the park has yet to be

completely master planned. Bay Meadows Community Park is one of the proposed locations for an in-system equalization storage basin.

- **Fiesta Meadows Park** is a 4.7 acre park located in the Fiesta Gardens neighborhood (Canzian, 2015). This neighborhood park includes picnic tables, a soccer field, and an asphalt perimeter pathway. Fiesta Meadows Park is one of the proposed locations for an in-system equalization storage basin.
- **Central Park** is an approximately 16-acre park near downtown San Mateo and is considered San Mateo's signature park (City of San Mateo, 2015a). It includes lighted tennis courts, a playground, baseball field, mini-train, Japanese tea garden, picnic areas with tables and grills, and a recreation center. Central Park is one of the proposed locations for an in-system equalization storage basin.
- **Trinta Park** is a 1.8-acre baseball park with two baseball diamonds as well as a basketball court and a playground (City of San Mateo, 2015a). Trinta Park is one of the proposed locations for an in-system equalization storage basin.

The Dale Avenue parcel, in the southwest portion of the WWTP Site, is zoned as Open Space and is considered to be land under the management of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

15.2 Regulatory Framework

The Program Area contains only local recreation facilities and parks; no state or federal parks or recreation facilities are located in the Program Area. Therefore, this section summarizes local regulations related to recreational facilities and parks. Applicable local regulations include relevant sections of the General Plan (City of San Mateo, 2010), the *Shoreline Park Specific Plan* (City of San Mateo, 1971), and the City's Zoning Ordinance (City of San Mateo, 2015b).

15.2.1 City of San Mateo General Plan

General plan goals and policies applicable to recreation facilities and parks include those listed below as they appear in the General Plan (City of San Mateo, 2010).

15.2.1.1 Environmental Stewardship

Goal 2: Conserve and manage the City's natural resources to ensure that current and future generations will enjoy the environmental, social and economic benefits derived from our urban forest, parks and open spaces.

C/OS 1.1: Lagoon Habitat. Enhance the wildlife habitat value of Marina Lagoon, whenever possible, in conjunction with recreational use and flood control management activities.

C/OS 1.2: Bird Island. Maintain "Bird Island" as a bird nesting and breeding site.

C/OS 1.3: Interpretive Opportunities. Promote public awareness of the value and care of the Shoreline through on-site interpretive programs or outdoor displays which are in character with the adjacent open spaces.

C/OS 1.4: Shoreline Parks Master Plan. Continue to seek funding for the implementation of the remaining phases of the Shoreline Parks Master Plan through RDA and grant funding.

C/OS 10.1: Public Open Space Design. Review planning applications for opportunities to promote exceptional design and use of public open spaces in new developments and new public buildings.

15.2.1.2 Parks and Recreation

Goal 5: Provide a comprehensive park and recreation system of programs and facilities based on the needs of the City's residents for all ages and interests by including active, passive, social, educational, and cultural opportunities that insure access for all.

Goals 7: Maintain and upgrade park infrastructure to optimize its value in meeting community recreation needs and cost effectiveness of its operations.

Goal 8: Support the continued utilization of school sites to augment City recreation facilities, meet community needs, and encourage school agencies to adopt reasonable user fees and operating practices that allow continued community access.

C/OS 12.1: Balanced Park System. Provide the appropriate mix of parkland that balances the needs of active and passive facilities, formal and informal uses and that are accessible to all residents, and meet existing and future recreation needs.

C/OS 12.1: Facility Standards. Adopt and use the Parks and Recreation Facility Standards to assess the adequacy of existing facilities, designing, developing and redeveloping sites, and acquiring or accepting new sites.

C/OS 12.3: Maximizing Park Assets. Create an asset management plan that identifies the highest and best use of undeveloped parcels or underutilized areas within existing parks to insure they are best positioned to meet current and future needs and where appropriate, consider options for non-park uses. Ensure that appropriate value or credit is restored to the park system for loss of land.

C/OS 12.5: Compatible Public Use. Provide for public access, study, and recreation opportunities at the Shoreline, Sugarloaf Mountain, San Mateo and Laurel creeks that are compatible with their setting and natural attributes; ensure that significant natural qualities and habitat are protected.

C/OS 12.6: Resident Access. Provide use and reservation policies that give priority to residents of San Mateo; in particular, ensure that regional usage of Sugarloaf and Shoreline does not diminish resident opportunities to use these facilities.

C/OS 14.5: Central Park. Enhance Central Park's character as the city's signature park and community gathering place.

15.2.2 Shoreline Park Specific Plan

The *Shoreline Park Specific Plan* (City of San Mateo, 1979) addresses 885 acres around the north end of Marina Lagoon and along the adjacent shoreline, and it provides greater detail than the General Plan regarding policies and requirements for development in this area. The WWTP Site is located in Plan Area 3, Seal Cove. The plan identifies several improvement and recreational opportunities for this area, including preservation of existing natural vegetation, development of bicycle and pedestrian paths, and park improvements for public parks and recreation purposes. Recreation and open space facilities in the plan area include Marina Lagoon, Coyote Point Park and Marina, the golf course, and numerous smaller parks.

Major goals of the Shoreline Specific Plan include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Establishment of a waterfront development usable by all the people in San Mateo
- Establishment of a variety of uses so all types of needs, interests and activities will be accommodated
- Establishment of as much open space as possible
- Reduction of bay fill to an absolute minimum

15.2.3 City of San Mateo Zoning Ordinance

The current zoning of parcels on which CWP facilities would be constructed is discussed in Chapter 11. Title 13 of the City's Zoning Ordinance (City of San Mateo, 2015b) addresses parks and recreation, including hours of access, park impact fees for residential development, park use fees, and closure of parks and recreational areas.

15.3 Assessment Methods and Thresholds of Significance

The assessment of impacts was based on consideration of CWP construction and operation activities and how they might affect use of parks and recreation facilities in the Program Area.

Impacts on recreational resources may occur if the CWP 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.
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.
- Conflict with any applicable recreation land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the program (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect

15.4 Environmental Impacts

Potential impacts of the CWP on recreation facilities and parks are summarized in Table 15-1 and described in subsequent sections.

TABLE 15-1

Summary of Recreation Impacts

Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, City of San Mateo Clean Water Program

Impact	In-System Storage Program	Full Conveyance Program	New Headworks Project	Primary Clarifier Project
Impact 15-1. The CWP could increase use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.	Less than significant impact	Less than significant impact	No impact	No impact
Impact 15-2. The CWP may include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.	Less than significant impact	No impact	No impact	No impact
Impact 15-3. The CWP could affect use of existing parks or recreation facilities, inconsistent with applicable policies.	Less than significant impact with mitigation			

Impact 15-1. The CWP could increase use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

In-System Storage Program

As discussed in Impact 13-1 in Chapter 13, the In-System Storage Program would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned that could place demand on parks and recreation facilities.

Construction of the In-System Storage Program would occur over a 10- to 20-year period and could require up to several dozen construction workers at any given time. The need for construction workers is expected to be met from the local Bay Area workforce; workers would be expected to commute daily to the worksites and return home at the end of each work day. Therefore, construction workers are not expected to increase use of existing parks and recreation facilities compared to current levels.

Construction of pipeline projects would require temporary closure of one or more lanes of roads for up to several days. Depending on the project location, the roadway closures could prevent access to parks or recreational facilities. Users of these facilities may increase use of nearby parks or recreation facilities during the road closures. However, such closures would be expected to be no more than a few days in duration, and substantial or accelerated deterioration of other parks and recreation facilities would not be expected.

Potential sites for the in-system storage basin include several parks: Bay Meadows Park, Fiesta Meadows Park, Central Park, and Trinta Park. Construction of the basin would require up to several months, during which time up to approximately 2 acres of the site would be closed for excavation, construction access and staging, and other construction purposes. For the smaller parks, Fiesta Meadows and Trinta Park, this could entail closure of the entire park during this period. Users of the affected park could instead increase use of other nearby parks or recreation facilities. However, because the closure would be temporary, substantial or accelerated deterioration of other parks and recreation facilities would not be expected.

As described in Chapter 2, operation of the In-System Storage Program would require approximately the same number of staff that currently operate the existing WWTP and collection system. Automation could further decrease the number of required staff. Increased use of existing parks and recreation facilities would not be expected to occur as a result of the operations workforce.

Implementation of the In-System Storage Program may result in a minor temporary increase of existing parks and recreation facilities during construction, but would not be expected to result in substantial or accelerated deterioration of parks and recreation facilities. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

Full Conveyance Program

As discussed in Impact 13-1 in Chapter 13, the Full Conveyance Program would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned that could place demand on parks and recreation facilities.

Construction of the Full Conveyance Program would occur over a 10- to 20-year period and could require up to several dozen construction workers at any given time. The need for construction workers is expected to be met from the local Bay Area workforce; workers would be expected to commute daily to the worksites and return home at the end of each work day. Therefore, construction workers are not expected to increase use of existing parks and recreation facilities compared to current levels.

Construction of pipeline projects would require temporary closure of one or more lanes of roads for up to several days. Depending on the project location, the roadway closures could prevent access to parks or recreational facilities. Users of these facilities may increase use of nearby parks or recreation facilities during the road closures. However, such closures would be expected to be no more than a few days in duration, and substantial or accelerated deterioration of other parks and recreation facilities would not be expected. Construction of the new Dale Avenue Pump Station would not affect access to parks or recreation facilities.

As described in Chapter 2, operation of the Full Conveyance Program would require approximately the same number of staff that currently operate the existing WWTP and collection system. Automation could further decrease the number of required staff. Increased use of existing parks and recreation facilities would not be expected to occur as a result of the operations workforce.

Implementation of the Full Conveyance Program may result in a minor temporary increase of existing parks and recreation facilities during construction, but would not be expected to result in substantial or accelerated deterioration of parks and recreation facilities. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project

Implementation of the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP as described in Chapter 13, and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned that could place demand on parks and recreation facilities.

Construction of the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would last approximately two years and could require up to several dozen construction workers at any given time. The need for construction workers is expected to be met from the local Bay Area workforce; workers would be expected to commute daily to the worksites and return home at the end of each work day. Therefore, construction

workers are not expected to increase use of existing parks and recreation facilities compared to current levels.

Operation of the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would not require new permanent staff and would therefore not result in an increased use of existing parks and recreation facilities from additional workforce.

No substantial or accelerated deterioration of parks and recreation facilities would occur from implementation of the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project.

Impact 15-2. The CWP may include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

In-System Storage Program

The In-System Storage Program entails the construction and operation of wastewater collection and treatment facilities; it does not include any recreational facilities.

As described under Impact 15-1, the In-System Storage Program would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned or generate demand for new or expanded recreational facilities.

The Dale Avenue parcel, part of the WWTP Site, is currently unused. As described in Chapter 11, the Dale Avenue parcel is zoned Open Space and allowed uses include parks, playgrounds and community centers. The In-System Storage Program may include wastewater treatment-related facilities on this parcel; however, any treatment facilities would be underground and use of the parcel for recreation purposes would not be prevented.

Potential sites for the in-system storage basin include several parks: Bay Meadows Park, Fiesta Meadows Park, Central Park, and Trinta Park. Specific locations within these parks for the basin would be under existing ball fields or open space areas. Following construction, all in-system storage basin facilities would be underground except for minor appurtenances for access and cleaning. These structures would occupy approximately 300 square feet. The parcels would continue to be used for parks and open space.

Implementation of the In-System Storage Program would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No significant impacts would occur.

Full Conveyance Program

The Full Conveyance Program entails the construction and operation of wastewater collection and treatment facilities; it does not include any recreational facilities.

As described under Impact 15-1, the Full Conveyance Program would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned or generate demand for new or expanded recreational facilities.

The Dale Avenue parcel, part of the WWTP Site, is currently unused. As described in Chapter 11, the Dale Avenue parcel is zoned Open Space and allowed uses include parks, playgrounds and community centers. The Full Conveyance Program may include wastewater treatment-related facilities on this parcel; however, any treatment facilities would be underground except for minor appurtenances for access and cleaning and use of the parcel for recreation purposes would not be prevented. No other Full Conveyance Program facilities would be located at existing parks or recreation facilities.

Implementation of the Full Conveyance Program would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.

New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project

The New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project entail the construction and operation of wastewater treatment facilities; no recreational facilities are included.

As described under Impact 15-1, the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and would therefore not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned or generate demand for new or expanded recreational facilities.

The New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would be located on the Detroit Drive parcel, which is not currently zoned or used for park or recreational purposes.

Implementation of the New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.

Impact 15-3. The CWP could affect use of existing parks or recreation facilities, inconsistent with applicable policies.

In-System Storage Program

Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists travel around the WWTP by using Dale Avenue, a small access road west of the facility; Detroit Drive, north of the facility; and Joinville Park Road, east of the facility. Construction for the In-System Storage Program would likely result in the closure of Detroit Drive for approximately 10 years; depending on the final configuration of new WWTP facilities, this section of Detroit Drive may be permanently closed. The access roads on the east and west sides of the existing WWTP may also be temporarily closed by construction. These closures could affect access between residential areas and recreation facilities to the east and west of the WWTP Site. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 11-1 Provide pedestrian and bicycle access around the WWTP Site** would reduce impacts to a less than significant level by providing a clearly marked, safe, and accessible route past the WWTP Site.

Construction of pipeline projects for the In-System Storage Program would require temporary closure of one or more lanes of roads for up to several days. Depending on the project location, the roadway closures could prevent access to parks or recreational facilities. However, these closures would typically be no more than a few days and significant impacts to use of these parks and recreation facilities would not occur.

Potential sites for the in-system storage basin include several parks: Bay Meadows Park, Fiesta Meadows Park, Central Park, and Trinta Park. Construction of the basin would require up to several months, during which time up to approximately 2 acres of the site would be closed for excavation, construction access and staging, and other construction purposes. For the smaller parks, Fiesta Meadows and Trinta Park, this could entail closure of the entire park during this period. During construction, other nearby parks and recreation facilities would be available for use.

After construction, a small portion of the in-system storage basin site, approximately 300 square feet, would be occupied by minor appurtenances for access and cleaning. The appurtenances could include hatches set into the ground or a small building. If the basin is located in a park, this area would change from park to utility use. In addition, future uses of the park area over the basin would be limited; for example, facilities such as pools or recreation buildings could not be constructed over the basin. Those changes represent a potentially significant impact on the use of existing parks or recreation facilities. **Mitigation Measure 15-3 Provide park improvements to offset lost uses** would create increased park use opportunities at the affected park, reducing impacts to a less than significant level.

The potential impacts from odors are discussed in Impact 4-4 in Chapter 4. As described there, the potential for odor generations from the in-system storage basin is low and significant impacts would not occur.

With implementation of **Mitigation Measure 11-1** and **Mitigation Measure 15-3**, impacts of the In-System Storage Program on the use of existing parks or recreation facilities would be less than significant.

Full Conveyance Program

Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists travel around the WWTP by using Dale Avenue, a small access road west of the facility; Detroit Drive, north of the facility; and Joinville Park Road, east of the facility. Construction for the In-System Storage Program would likely result in the closure of Detroit Drive for approximately 10 years; depending on the final configuration of new WWTP facilities, this section of Detroit Drive may be permanently closed. The access roads on the east and west sides of the existing WWTP may also be temporarily closed by construction. These closures could affect access between residential areas and recreation facilities to the east and west of the WWTP Site. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 11-1 Provide pedestrian and bicycle access around the WWTP Site** would reduce impacts to a less than significant level by providing a clearly marked, safe, and accessible route past the WWTP Site.

Construction of pipeline projects for the Full Conveyance Program would require temporary closure of one or more lanes of roads for up to several days. Depending on the project location, the roadway closures could prevent access to parks or recreational facilities. However, these closures would typically be no more than a few days and significant impacts to use of these parks and recreation facilities would not occur.

New Headworks Project and Primary Clarifier Project

The New Headworks project and Primary Clarifier Project would be constructed within the WWTP Site, likely on the Detroit Drive parcel. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists travel around the WWTP by using Dale Avenue, a small access road west of the facility; Detroit Drive, north of the facility; and Joinville Park Road, east of the facility. Construction for the In-System Storage Program would likely result in the closure of Detroit Drive for approximately 10 years; depending on the final configuration of new WWTP facilities, this section of Detroit Drive may be permanently closed. The access roads on the east and west sides of the existing WWTP may also be temporarily closed by construction. These closures could affect access between residential areas and recreation facilities to the east and west of the WWTP Site. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 11-1 Provide pedestrian and bicycle access around the WWTP Site** would reduce impacts to a less than significant level by providing a clearly marked, safe, and accessible route past the WWTP Site.

15.5 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 11-1. Provide pedestrian and bicycle access around the WWTP Site is described in Chapter 11.

Mitigation Measure 15-3. Provide park improvements to offset lost uses.

The City shall provide improvements at any park used for in-system storage to offset the lost uses. Improvements shall be coordinated with the Department of Parks and Recreation and may include improved landscaping for improved aesthetics, upgrading grass to synthetic turf to allow increased field use, or additional amenities such as picnic tables or playground equipment. In addition, construction work areas, other than the aboveground appurtenances, shall be returned to the same uses in as good or better condition compared to pre-construction.

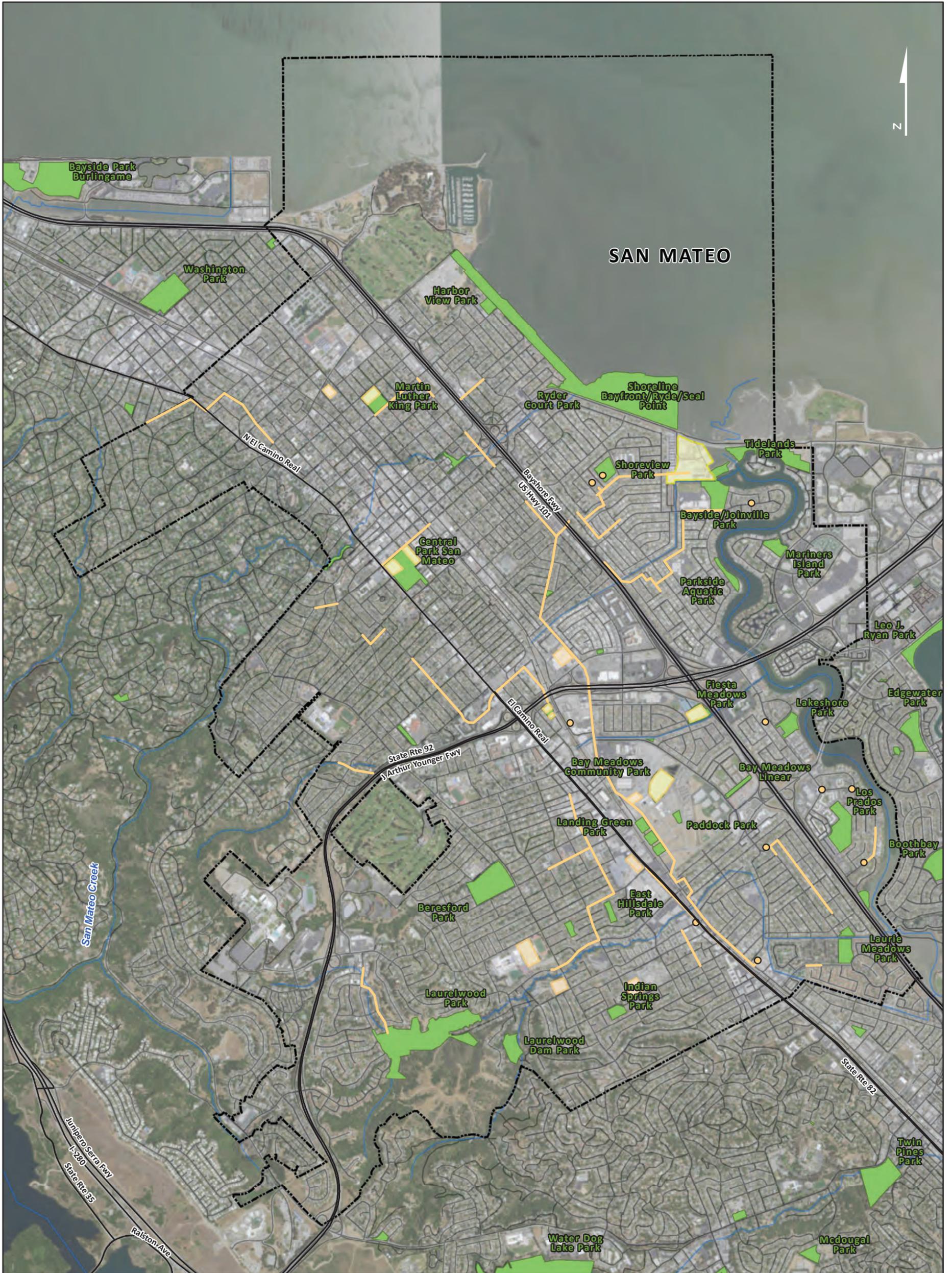
15.6 References

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City of San Mateo. 1971. *Shoreline Park Specific Plan*. Revised 1979, 1990.

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- Legend**
- Pump Station Project
 - Pipeline Project
 - In System Storage Location
 - WWTP Site
 - Program Area
 - Park
 - Railroad
 - Watercourse
 - Road

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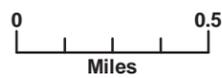


FIGURE 15-1
San Mateo Parks and Recreation Facilities
 Programmatic Environmental Impact Report
 City of San Mateo Clean Water Program

Source: City of San Mateo, 2016.

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