

Recreation

This chapter evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed Project on recreational facilities near the Project site. This chapter describes recreational facilities present in the Project area; discusses local regulations related to recreation; identifies potential impacts that could occur from Project construction and operation; and proposes mitigation measures, as applicable.

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 (see **Figure 15-1**). The parks and facilities vary in size and the types of services provided to the public, and include the following (City of San Mateo, 2010):

- **Mini Parks** – The smallest parks, usually less than 1 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 0.25 mile.
- **Neighborhood Parks** – These parks may be up to 6 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 0.33 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 5 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 1 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.

Bay Meadows Community Park is a 12-acre park located adjacent to the Project site that includes amenities such as a pond, league-size soccer field, picnic tables, a passive lawn area, and a loop walking path (Canzian, 2015). The park is used regularly both during the weekdays and weekends for sanctioned sporting activities such as soccer, lacrosse, and baseball, and other non-sanctioned recreational activities. Weekend activities at the park can include movie nights, festivals, and barbecues. The pond serves as a stormwater storage facility for the area and the soccer field serves as dry storage for excess stormwater flows.

Fiesta Meadows Park is a 4.7-acre park located in the Fiesta Gardens neighborhood (Canzian, 2015), located approximately 0.25 mile northeast of the Project site. This neighborhood park includes picnic tables, a soccer field, and an asphalt perimeter pathway.

Paddock Park is a 1.2-acre park located approximately 0.25 mile south of the Project site. The park features a playground, picnic tables, restrooms, an open lawn area, and a basketball half court (City of San Mateo, 2018).

Landing Green Park is a 1.5-acre linear park located approximately 0.25 mile southwest of the Project site. The park features a dining terrace, social lounge, bocce court, succulent garden, a central flexible lawn, children's play garden, and a large-scale modernist sculpture (CMG, 2018).

15.2 Regulatory Framework

No state or federal parks or recreation facilities are located in or adjacent to the Project site. 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) and the City's Zoning Ordinance (City of San Mateo, 2015).

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 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.

15.2.2 City of San Mateo Zoning Ordinance

The current zoning of parcels on which Project facilities would be constructed is discussed in Chapter 11. Title 13 of the City's Zoning Ordinance (City of San Mateo, 2015) 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 Project construction and operation activities and how they might affect use of parks and recreation facilities in the Project area.

Impacts on recreational resources may occur if the Project 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 that 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 avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

15.4 Environmental Impacts

Impact 15-1. Would the proposed Project result in increased use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Construction of the proposed Project would occur over an approximate 25-month period and could require up to 30 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 workday. Therefore, the minor increase in construction workers within the City is not expected to increase the use of existing parks and recreation facilities compared to current levels.

Construction of the diversion pipelines could require temporary intermittent closures of one or more lanes of Saratoga Drive and S. Delaware Street for up to several days. The lane closures would not prevent access to local parks or recreational facilities. Use of nearby parks, including those identified in Section 15.1, may temporarily increase due to road closures and traffic detours; however, closures would be temporary in duration, and substantial or accelerated deterioration of alternate parks and recreation facilities used during construction is not expected.

As discussed in Impact 13-1, the proposed Project would not change the currently permitted ADWF of the WWTP and, therefore, would not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned that could place demand on parks and recreation facilities. Implementation of the proposed Project may result in a minor, temporary increase of parks and recreation facilities near the Project area during construction but would not result in substantial or accelerated deterioration of parks and recreation facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 15-2. Would the proposed Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The proposed Project entails the construction and operation of wastewater collection and conveyance facilities; it does not include any recreational facilities.

As described under Impact 13-1, the proposed Project would not induce population growth beyond what is currently planned; therefore, the proposed Project would not generate demand for new or expanded recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.

Impact 15-3. Would the proposed Project affect use of existing parks or recreation facilities, inconsistent with applicable policies?

As discussed in Impact 15-1, construction of the diversion pipelines would require temporary, intermittent closures of one or more lanes of Saratoga Drive and S. Delaware Street. The lane closures may limit vehicle access to Bayside Meadows Community Park. However, access would continue to be provided to foot traffic, vehicle traffic could be limited on a temporary and intermittent basis but would not limit vehicle traffic to other nearby parks identified in Section 15.1. The Project, therefore, would not conflict with applicable policies.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not alter existing recreational facilities such that they would be inconsistent with applicable policies. Impacts would be less than significant.

15.5 Mitigation Measures

All impacts to recreation would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.

15.6 References

Canzian, Sheila/Director of Parks and Recreation, City of San Mateo. 2015. Personal communication with Andrea Gardner/Jacobs. August 3.

City of San Mateo. 2010. City of San Mateo General Plan – Vision 2030. Available at <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/2021/2030-General-Plan>. Adopted October 18.


_____. 2015. *San Mateo City Charter and Municipal Code*. Available at <http://qcode.us/codes/sanmateo/>. Effective as of September 17.


_____. 2018. Paddock Park. Available at <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/3348/Paddock-Park>. Accessed September 6.


CMG. 2018. Bay Meadows Landing Green. Available at <https://www.cmgsite.com/project/bay-meadows/bay-meadows-landing-green/>. Accessed September 6.





Legend


 Diversion Structure

 Diversion Pipeline

 Watercourse

 10' Construction Buffer

 Park

 Underground Temporary Holding Structure

Source: City of San Mateo, 2016.



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

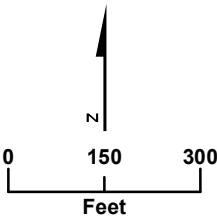


FIGURE 15-1
San Mateo Parks and Recreation Facilities
Underground Flow Equalization System,
Environmental Impact Report
City of San Mateo Clean Water Program