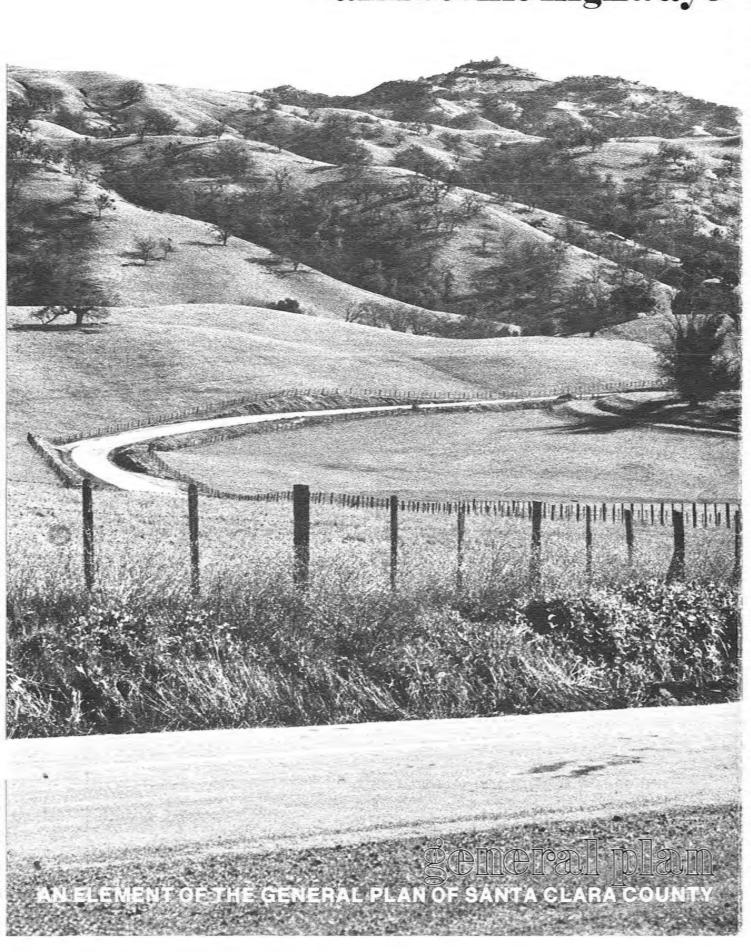


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June

2008

regional parks, trails, and scenic highways



Regional Parks

Opportunities for outdoor recreation amid the natural beauty and splendor of the California landscape are important ingredients contributing to the quality of life in Santa Clara County. This county has been blessed with a great diversity of natural resources and scenic beauty, including the salt marshes of the baylands, rolling, oak-studded foothills, majestic redwood groves, and wooded streamsides. These varied open space areas are part of a priceless environmental legacy. to be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Many of the county's finest natural areas are being protected through public acquisition as park and open space sites. Since 1956, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has established 27 separate regional parks, through purchase or long term lease, encompassing a total of more than 33,000 acres. These regional parks provide outstanding recreational opportunities in a wide variety of settings.

Parks and Open Space Lands Owned by Other Agencies

In addition to the County Parks Department, various other public agencies have acquired regionally significant parks and open space lands within Santa Clara County. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has acquired more than 8,000 acres of open space lands in this county, primarily within the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Other major open space lands are owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (reservoir lands and water percolation and distribution facilities), San Francisco (Calaveras Reservoir and much of its watershed), the State (Henry Coe State Park and University of California lands around Lick Observatory), and the Federal government (San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge).

Existing and proposed regional parks and open space areas are described in the following sections. They are grouped according to general location or type of area. The number preceding each site description corresponds to the number on the map indicating its

The Baylands

South San Francisco Bay is a scenic and recreation resource which has not always been fully appreciated. Access to the Bay is difficult except in one or two places. The Baylands have been used for dumping of sewage and garbage. Its large expanses of tidal flats are seen by some as unsightly mud. Yet, the Baylands are a unique and stimulating environment, teeming with wildlife and enjoyable in many ways. They are our County's only frontage on salt water.

Shoreline recreation should be accommodated in ways compatible with maintaining the natural habitat. The outer shore should be kept for those activities which can take place only there: enjoyment of the open water, the birds and wildlife, and boating on the open bay and the sloughs. Back from the shore there can be picnic areas and open meadows for unstructured play. Farther back yet can be areas developed for active sport -- golf courses, play fields.



I. PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR, Existing; developed. Managed by County Parks and Recreation Department under lease from the City of Palo Alto. Has capacity of 108 berths. Adjoins Palo Alto Interpretive Center with its boardwalks to the Bay over marsh areas for wildlife observation; 92 acres.

2. PALO ALTO FLOOD BASIN. Existing. A valuable upland meadow area used by wildlife for nesting and resting. Owned by the City of Palo Alto as a flood control basin, it is a wetland in the rainy season, but is a dry meadow area most of the year. It should be preserved in its natural state so far as is consistent with flood control requirements; 600 acres.

3. CHARLESTON SLOUGH WILDLIFE PRESERVE. Existing. A tidal slough and wet marsh teeming with a variety of wildlife. It is a favorite habitat for Egrets, the Great Blue Heron, and a myriad of shore birds. Managed by the City of Mountain View; 51

4. SHORELINE PARK. Proposed. The immediate shoreline of the Bay should be acquired for public access and enjoyment. Recreation development would be consistent with the protection of the area's natural resources and maintenance of water surface areas of the Bay and adjacent salt ponds. Trail links with Mountain View Shoreline Park and the Stevens Creek Park Chain should be consid-

MOUNTAIN VIEW SHORELINE PARK. Existing; partially developed. A baylands park planned for a variety of recreation facilities including a sailing basin, a golf course, and playfields. Acquired and developed jointly by the City of Mountain View and Santa Clara County; 550 acres.

6. SUNNYVALE - SANTA CLARA BAY-LANDS PARK, Existing; undeveloped, Part of the area is owned by the City of Sunnyvale and is being reserved under agreement with the County for later use as a regional park. Can be developed for intensive recreation activity as a Baylands Park; 280 acres.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY FLOOR PARK. Proposed. Site is partly owned by the City of Santa Clara for initial use as a solid waste disposal site. Low-lying flat lands along the Guadalupe River could be intensively developed and would be a major feature of the Guadalupe Streamside Park Chain.

8. ALVISO MARINA COUNTY PARK. Existing; developed. Has berths and a launching ramp, as a first stage of development. Needs further development; 30 acres.

9. SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Existing. The refuge includes portions of Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Mateo counties. Within the refuge are waters of the Bay, salt ponds, marshes, and upland areas. Located along the Pacific Flyway, the refuge provides feeding, resting and nesting areas for hundreds of thousands of birds and other wildlife, including several rare and endangered species. An environmental education facility is located in Alviso. Trails, wildlife observation blinds, and other facilities for recreation use are planned.



Reservoirs

Nestled in the folds of the hills surrounding Santa Clara County are clusters of water conservation lakes. In a semiarid country, these sizable bodies of water are refreshing and exciting to come upon. A benefit perhaps as important as the water these lakes conserve is the recreation opportunity they afford. Managed for recreational use by the County Parks Department, these lakes are heavily used for all kinds of water activities.



10. STEVENS CREEK COUNTY PARK. Existing: developed. Includes Stevens Creek Reservoir. Popular for swimming, fishing, boating and picnicking. Trail connection easement corridor proposed. There shall be no use of condemnation to acquire residences in Stevens Canyon unless specifically requested by the owner of a residence; 777

II. VASONA LAKE COUNTY PARK. Existing; developed. Perhaps the County's most popular park. Offers fishing, sail boating, row boating, canoeing, picnicking, and miniature train rides. Large lawn areas for unstructured play: 151 acres.

12. LEXINGTON RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. Popular in spring and early summer for fishing, motor boating, water skiing. Needs more public land for development of recreation facilities; 844 acres.

13. GUADALUPE RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK. Existing; undeveloped. Steep shoreline limits its recreational usefulness, Can be used for boating and fishing, if stocked: 107 acres.

14. ALMADEN RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK. Existing; undeveloped. A small reservoir suitable for boating and fishing: 112

15. CALERO RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK.

Existing; partially developed. A large reservoir suitable for power boating and all water sports. May be enlarged to store imported water. Would then have a constant level for year-round recreation use; 2,284 acres.

16. CHESBRO RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK. Existing; undeveloped. This reservoir may be expanded. Reserved for sailing, rowing, and canoeing. Popular for fishing: 528 acres.

17. UVAS RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. Limited to nonpower boating. Popular for fishing when stocked. Can be a key feature of the Uvas Creek Park Chain; 639 acres.

posed. If it is determined that a reservoir can be built here, as proposed, without adverse ecological impact, provision should be made for recreational use. 19. NORTH FORK PACHECO RESERVOIR

18. PACHECO RESERVOIR PARK, Pro-

PARK. Proposed. This reservoir, administered by the Pacheco Pass Water District, should be stocked with fish and opened for recreation.

20. CANADA DE LOS OSOS RESERVOIR PARK. Proposed. If a reservoir can be built here as proposed without adverse ecological impact, it should be utilized for recreation. Plans foresee two reservoirs, one on Coyote Creek for flood control, and a smaller reservoir on de los Osos Creek for recreation purposes. The latter would have a constant water level.

21. COYOTE RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK Existing; partially developed. A large reservoir suitable for all water sports, including fishing, power boating and water skiing. Includes flat land along the western shore. Picnicking, camping and hiking: 760 acres.

22. ANDERSON LAKE COUNTY PARK Existing; undeveloped. This park, when developed, will make an excellent base for the enjoyment of this large reservoir, which offers all kinds of water recreation; 2,031 acres, including 383 park acres.

23. CUNNINGHAM LAKE PARK. Existing; being developed. Will include a 50-acre lake. a boat marina, swimming lagoon, fishing pier, picnic areas, and play areas. City of San Jose: 204 acres.

24. CALAVERAS RESERVOIR PARK AND

ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE. Proposed. Reservoir and adjacent land owned by San Francisco Water Department. Proposed recrea-25. PALO ALTO FOOTHILLS PARK. Existtional use, through an agreement with the County of Santa Clara, would include picnicking, row boating, fishing on the reservoir and its close-in shoreline. Watershed areas 26. HIDDEN VALLEY PARK. Proposed. A would be kept as an ecologial preserve.

Foothills and Mountains

The foothills and mountains which surround the Santa Clara Valley are major scenic and recreation resources. Although located close to the urbanized valley floor, they retain much of their natural, unspoiled beauty and provide County residents opportunities for recreation in natural settings just a few minutes drive from their homes.

Recreation development of foothill and mountain parks should be compatible with simple outdoor living and maintenance of the

natural character of these rural settings.



ing; developed. Open only to Palo Alto citizens and guests; 1,400 acres.

flat valley at the foot of steep canyons and heavily forested ridges at the headwaters of Adobe Creek.

27. RANCHO SAN ANTONIO PARK, Existing; partially developed. A picturesque secluded valley with tremendous oak trees. Adjacent to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District land; 167 acres.

28. SKYLINE SCENIC RECREATION ROUTE. Partly existing. This scenic road

along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains

(continued)

SEE REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS, AND SCENIC HIGHWAYS MAP ON REVERSE SIDE

PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Foothills and Mountains (continued)

needs protection as an important scenic resource by careful zoning controls. Acquisition of key park lands fronting on the road can assure protection of the roadway as well as offer recreation opportunities. Vista points and roadside rests should be developed along the way. Main trunk trails and loop trails through nearby parks can offer a variety of hiking and riding possibilities. The Skyline concept encompasses 100 miles of existing and proposed roadway between the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco to the Pajaro River at the southerly boundary of Santa Clara County.

29. UPPER STEVENS CREEK COUNTY PARK. Existing; undeveloped. A rugged wilderness area at the headwaters of Stevens Creek. Should be extended for additional frontage on Skyline Boulevard. There shall be no use of condemnation to acquire residences in Stevens Canyon unless specifically requested by the owner of the residence; 1,200 acres.

30. CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK. Existing state park within Santa Cruz County; partially developed. A wilderness park being acquired in memory of Mr. Russell Varian. pioneer electronics inventor and manufacturer. Linked by trails to Big Basin State Park and the San Mateo Coast. About half of the eventual 2,200 acres have been acquired, Shown on the plan because of its close relationship to Sanborn-Skyline Park, the Skyline Scenic Recreation Route, and Judge and Dona Welsh's historic house, Welsh-Hurst.

31. SANBORN-SKYLINE COUNTY PARK. Existing; Partially developed. A mountain park wth family and group picnic areas, walkin family campsites, and hiking trails through the redwoods. Welsh-Hurst, Welsh home being restored for American Youth Hostel; 2,856 acres.

32. VILLA MONTALVO COUNTY ARBORE-TUM. Existing; developed. This large estate in the hills near Saratoga was once the home of Senator James Phelan. Paths lead visitors through gardens containing a great variety of trees and plants and through natural forested areas. The buildings and the cultural programs are administered by the Villa Montalvo Association; 178 acres.

33. BEAR CREEK REDWOODS PARK, Proposed. A proposed addition to the state park system, this site located near Lexington Reservoir contains large stands of redwoods.

34. ALMADEN QUICKSILVER COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. The Hacienda (village) of New Almaden and its adjacent guicksilver mine are valuable links with Santa Clara County's past and deserve careful protection. Much of the park lies within a National Historic Landmark District, Development of the park will occur in accordance with a plan which protects the site's heritage resources; 3,589 acres.

35. SANTA TERESA COUNTY PARK. Existing; developed. Has 18-hole golf course. picnic area, small fishing pond for children, archery range, riding and hiking trails. Adjoining private stables. Expansion of park area proposed; 1,229 acres.

36. FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK. Existing. A wilderness type park with a backpack camp and trails. Shown on Plan due to its proximity to proposed Skyline Scenic Recreation Route and Uvas and Mt. Madonna County Parks; 9,870 acres.

37. UVAS CANYON COUNTY PARK. Existing; developed. Park includes Swanson Creek, with its cascading waterfalls. Has picnic and camp sites. Additional frontage on the Skyline Scenic Recreation Route is proposed; 1,049 acres.

38. MT. MADONNA COUNTY PARK. Existing; developed. Cool groves of redwoods and stands of giant madrones characterize this beautiful park. Picnicking, camping, hiking. Has fishing pond reserved for children; 3,056 acres.

39. CASTRO VALLEY PARK, Proposed. Beautiful intermountain valley with huge oak trees and expansive pastures. A potential park site if needed in the long range future.

40. HENRY W. COE MEMORIAL STATE PARK. Existing; partially developed. Rolling range land, steep mountain slopes, and a system of streams in the upper watershed of Coyote Creek and its tributaries. A gift to the County in memory of Henry W. Coe. pioneer cattleman, the park was turned over to the state. At park headquarters there is a

western cattle ranching. Has a few picnic and camping sites at the roadhead. Trails lead to a vast wilderness area open to hikers, backpackers, and horsemen; 32,000 acres.

museum containing mementoes of early day

41. DIABLO RANGE WILDERNESS PARK. Partly existing; undeveloped. The County of Santa Clara is cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Land Management to consolidate 7,000 acres of B.L.M. land in the County into a block of land contiguous with Coe State Park to create, with Coe, a large wilderness park. Would have many miles of back-country trails for exploration by backpackers or

42. SAN ANTONIO VALLEY PARK. Proposed. Remote valley near the eastern boundary of the County. Has wild flowers in profusion in the spring; is hot and dry in summer.

43. FIELD SPORTS COUNTY PARK, Existing. Special recreation facilities appealing to sportsmen are available. Includes rifle, pistol, skeet and trap shooting ranges; 99 acres.

44. MOTORCYCLE COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. Dirt trails provided for off-road motorcycle riding; 230 acres. 45. SAN FELIPE VALLEY PARK. Proposed.

Beautiful intermountain valley. Accessible

from the Evergreen Valley.

46. J. D. GRANT COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. Picturesque intermountain valley in the Diablo Range, Has flat land easily developed for recreation. Includes picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, fishing; 9,522 acres.

47. ALUM ROCK PARK. Existing; developed. Owned and operated by the City of San Jose: 776 acres.

48. ED LEVIN COUNTY PARK. Existing; partially developed. Picnicking, riding, hiking, boating, and golf; 1,544 acres.

The streamsides of Santa Clara County are rich in beauty and recreation opportunity. The streamsides should be utilized to the fullest for their open space and recreation potential. If left in their natural state, they can give welcome relief to the buildings and pavements of the urban development which has filled most of the valley.

Streams offer the possibility of walking, riding or bicycling on bankside trails in a natural setting, safe from traffic. Some have potential for development as Streamside Park Chains -- a necklace of parks strung along a continuous streamside trail system.



49. STEVENS CREEK PARK CHAIN. Partly existing; undeveloped. City of Mountain View owns 50 acres in a strip between Stevens Freeway and Stevens Creek running from El Camino Real south to Fremont Avenue. County of Santa Clara owns park land along the creek south of Stevens Creek Boulevard. Complete creekside trail continuity has been precluded by subdivision development between Fremont Avenue and Stevens Creek Boulevard.

50. SARATOGA CREEK PARK CHAIN. Proposed. The many native sycamores along the creek make it one of our most attractive. Trails should be provided where not precluded subdivision development. There is considerable publicly owned land between the creek and Lawrence Expressway suitable for a linear park.

51. LOS GATOS CREEK PARK. Partly existing. Connects by trail with Lexington Reservoir County Park, Vasona Lake County Park, and 80 acres of percolation ponds, and is being extended northwards to the confluence with Guadalupe River in downtown San Jose. The trail system is a joint project of the County, the City of Campbell, the Town of Los Gatos and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

52. GUADALUPE RIVER PARK CHAIN. Proposed. Continuous trails for hiking and bicycling should be provided. Key features along the chain: Percolation ponds in the upper Almaden Valley; Park of the Guadalupe in downtown San Jose; City of San Jose-County Civic Center area; Santa Clara Valley Floor Park; the historic Lick Mansion, Brick Round House and Water Gardens now threatened by development.

53. COYOTE CREEK PARK CHAIN. Partly existing; additions proposed. Proposed to have continuous trails from Anderson Reservoir to San Francisco Bay, with trail connection to Coe State Park. Would link various existing parks, including the County's Hellyer Park and San Jose's Kelley, William Street, and Watson Parks. Currently has a sevenmile paved bicycle path and equestrian trail extending southward from Hellyer Park. A joint project of the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, State of California, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

54. PENITENCIA CREEK PARK CHAIN. Partly existing; additions proposed. Would make use of percolation ponds owned by Santa Clara Valley Water District. A joint project with the City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Water District, school districts, and Santa Clara County.

55. LOS ALAMITOS - CALERO CHAIN. Partly existing. Being developed jointly by the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Flood control acquisitions on the basis of the limited flood plain concept are in progress. In some stretches the City of San Jose has worked with developers to acquire trail easements along the creek.

56. LLAGAS CREEK PARK CHAIN. Proposed. This stream's park chain potential will become more important as the South County grows. Flood control projects or urban development along the creek should be required to leave the creek in a natural state and provide for trails. Features of the park chain would include: an attractive little intermountain valley in the upper reaches of the creek along Casa Loma Road and Uvas Road and Chesbro

57. UVAS CREEK PARK CHAIN. Proposed This beautiful South County stream should be protected as a park chain in advance of urbanization. Features of the chain include Uvas Reservoir and Gilroy's 29-acre Christmas Hill Park.

58. LITTLE ARTHUR CREEK PARK. Partially existing; undeveloped. One of the County's most beautiful intermountain valleys. Its gentle, streamside terrain complements nearby Mt. Madonna Park, where rugged terrain limits development potential; 17

59. PAJARO RIVER PARK CHAIN. Proposed. Any development proposals along the Paiaro should provide for maintenance of the natural quality of the stream and for trail-

60. PACHECO CREEK PARK CHAIN. Proposed. Sycamore lined stream running through a narrow valley ringed with mountains. Picnicking and camping facilities along the creek would have great attraction for travelers using the parallel Pacheco Pass Highway (Route 152). Improvement of this highway should be carefully planned to preserve the natural beauty of the area and complement its recreation potential.

Open Space Reserves

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has been acquiring open space lands and establishing open space preserves in the foothills, mountains, and baylands of northwestern Santa Clara County since 1972. The District's open space preserves serve a variety of functions such as providing opportunities for low intensity recreation, protecting scenic areas, preserving habitat for wildlife, preventing urban sprawl, and protecting agriculture.

The District will continue to add lands to its system of open space preserves to help ensure that prime examples of the Midpeninsula area's natural resource legacy are preserved for the benefit of present and future generations. To date, the District has established the following open space preserves within Santa Clara County:



61. FOOTHILLS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE. Existing; undeveloped. Includes scenic, chaparral-covered foothill lands adjacent to Page Mill Road; 180 acres.

62. LOS TRANCOS OPEN SPACE PRE-SERVE. Existing; developed. Hiking, picnicking, self-guided or docent-led hikes on the interpretive earthquake trail along the San Andreas Fault. Parking for 25 vehicles; 258

PRESERVE. Existing; partially developed. Includes 594 acres adjacent to Rancho San Antonio County Park, Deer Hollow Farm in the preserve is operated by the City of Mountain View for educational purposes. The preserve also includes the 761 acre Duveneck Windmill Pasture area named after Frank and Josephine Duveneck, who donated the initial 430 acres; 1,355 acres.

63. RANCHO SAN ANTONIO OPEN SPACE

64. MONTE BELLO OPEN SPACE PRE-SERVE. Existing; undeveloped. Includes 2,592 acres of Monte Bello Ridge and upper Stevens Creek Canyon. Also includes the 307-acre Picchetti Ranch with its historic winery which was constructed in 1898; 2,899

65. SARATOGA GAP OPEN SPACE PRE-SERVE. Existing; undeveloped. Links the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve and Upper Stevens Creek County Park with the State trail system leading to Big Basin State Park and the sea; 411 acres.

66. FREMONT OLDER OPEN SPACE PRE-

SERVE. Existing; developed. Adjacent to

Stevens Creek County Park. Hiking, picnicking, horseback riding. Occasional public tours of "Woodhills," the historic home of Fremont and Cora Older. Parking available: 734 acres. 67. EL SERENO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE.

Existing; undeveloped. Includes shady creek canyons and chaparral along the major ridgetop overlooking Los Gatos and the West Valley area; 1,018 acres. 68. MANZANITA RIDGE OPEN SPACE

5 separate ridgetop sites; 1,199 acres. 69. STEVENS CREEK SHORELINE NATURE STUDY AREA. Existing; undeveloped. The District's first baylands acquisition in Santa Clara County, It will provide a strategic link

in the Bayfront Trail; 54 acres.

PRESERVE. Existing; undeveloped. Includes

Trails and Pathways

Trails and pathways for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding are an important element of the County's parks and recreation system, providing both recreation and health benefits for county residents. They can also be important elements of the urban transportation system, providing alternatives to traffic congestion, energy consumption, and air pollution from the automobile.

Trails and pathways can link parks and open space preserves with one another as well as with the urban area. They can also serve as routes for recreational hiking and bicycling and routes for commuting.

Within the urban area of Santa Clara County, most cities have already established bicycle lanes on some of their streets. Recreational trails and bicycle routes in the urban area are relatively rare, but many improvements are now being funded under the Federal Aid to Urban Areas (FAU) program.

Within the county's rural areas, most trails are along roads, and are confined to publicly owned parks and open space areas. Opportunities for hiking, bicycling, or horseback riding from one park to another or from the urban area to rural parks and open space preserves are quite limited.

In 1978, the Planning Policy Committee's Trails and Pathways Subcommittee prepared a proposal for a countywide Trails and Pathways Master Plan for Santa Clara County, The PPC's Trails and Pathways Master Plan was published as a series of six publications-one overall summary and five detailed reports describing proposed trail routes for particular geographic areas of the county. Most of the recommendations of that plan have been included in this General Plan.

70. Three major historical trail routes traverse the County: Ohlone Indians Bay to ocean; De Anza Party 1776 and Reenactment 1976; and Mission Padres Trail, Santa Clara.

Heritage Resources

71. HERITAGE RESOURCES. Heritage resources must be protected if they are to survive for future generations. Heritage resource acquisition, preservation, restoration and interpretation projects eligible for funding are identified in the "Santa Clara County Heritage Resources Inventory" adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Scenic Highways

Santa Clara County has been a leader in the establishment of scenic highway systems in California and has officially recognized the scenic and recreational values of the county's roads in previous elements of the General

The scenic roads of Santa Clara County serve a variety of purposes of fundamental importance. They provide a network for recreational driving, which links the urban and open space areas. They are the only public access to vast portions of the county and connect the system of regional parks in the county.

The County's General Plan includes routes in the county and state scenic road systems. In addition to the routes included in this Plan, there are many urban roads designated as scenic routes by individual cities.



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