



**WELCOME!**  
To the City of San Jose  
Children's Park

**THE SAFEST WAY TO PLAY**  
Please read the instructions on the sign  
before playing. Do not play if you are  
wearing shoes, jewelry, or loose clothing.  
Do not play if you are sick or injured.



## *chapter seven*

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# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

*Easy access to safe and well-maintained parks, open space, and recreation facilities is vital to Seaside as a community. Quality green spaces can encourage physical activity, improve well-being, provide a respite from developed areas, serve as habitat for native species, and provide an aesthetic backdrop to the city. Taken together, such parks and natural areas can contribute to a healthy, more livable, and attractive urban environment. In addition, parks and open space provide urban sanctuaries that reduce stress and promote good mental health, accommodate trees and vegetation that reduce the heat-island effect of paved developed areas. The City is committed to supporting community-led efforts to protect and improve existing green spaces, build social capital, enhance natural habitat, protect scenic views, and broaden support of conservation.*

*This chapter covers these topics:*

- *Park types and needs*
- *Regional parks and open spaces*
- *Seaside coastal zone*
- *Recreational facilities*
- *Recreational programming*

# Statutory Requirements

The Seaside Parks and Open Space Element meets state of California requirements for the Open Space Element as defined in Sections 65302(d) and 65302(e) of the Government Code, California Coastal Act requirements. State law requires all general plans to contain an Open Space element. Over and above the State requirements for a Parks and Open Space Element, this chapter includes policy guidance about recreation services and facilities in the city.

## California Coastal Act

The California Coastal Act requires that the City's Local Coastal Program (LCP) contain specific coastal access and beach management components to ensure public access to the coastal and public recreation areas is provided. This Element is consistent with the LCP and contains goals and policies related to intergovernmental coordination, protection of scenic views, enhanced coastal access, and identifying and preserving environmentally-sensitive habitat.



*Blackhorse and Bayonet Golf Courses.*



*Fernando Park clean-up.*

# Setting the Scene

Parks and recreation facilities provide a critical benefit to the city. They provide space for active and passive recreation, enhance the visual appearance of the city and contribute to increased residential and commercial property values, among other benefits. New and well-maintained parks and open space are essential to the quality of life of existing and future residents.

## Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

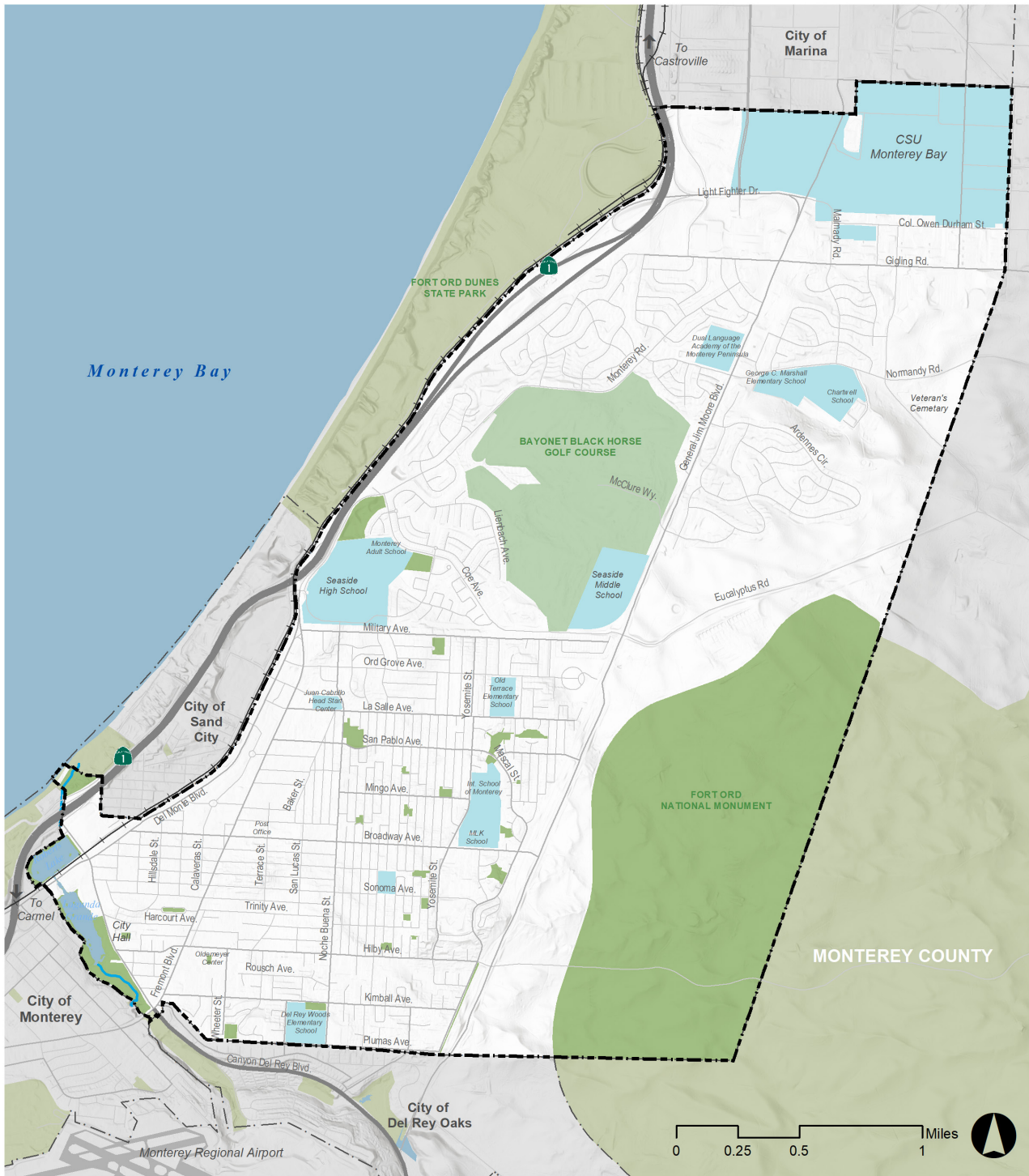
As shown in Table 13, the City of Seaside owns and maintains twenty-eight park and recreational sites totaling approximately 55 acres. In the Seaside city limits, there are other large open space areas, including the Bayonet and Black Horse golf courses (359 acres), the Fort Ord National Monument lands (918 acres), and the Seaside Beach (6 acres). These additional open space areas total 1,333 acres. Figure 33 illustrates the distribution of parks and open space in City.

Currently, the City provides nearly 13 acres of park space per 1,000 residents within a combination of mini, neighborhood, community, regional, and golf course park types. This ratio exceeds the California Quimby Act target of 3.0 acres per 1,000 acres (CGC 66477). With the addition of over 12,000 new residents expected by 2040, maintaining 13.0 acres per 1,000 residents would require an additional 180 acres of new parks and open space. Seaside's demographics – with more children than the County average – highlights the demand for new park spaces, but the buildout of Seaside East alone is anticipated to add new open space. Similarly, it is

anticipated that the Fort Ord National Monument will open and provide access to over 900 acres within Seaside. This would achieve a ratio greater than 28 acres per 1,000 residents in 2040.

Seaside's parks are generally spread out across the City, with some areas being better served than others. Many residents in the Terrace West, Terrace East, and Olympia neighborhoods (see Figure 33) are more than a ½ mile walk from a park. These neighborhoods have some of the highest population densities, greatest number of children, and largest BIPOC populations. Improving access to parks and open spaces by adding new green spaces, re-programming unused spaces for public use, and improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to existing parks and open spaces can make it easier for Seaside residents to use public spaces, especially in these neighborhoods.

Figure 33: Existing Parks and Open Spaces



- |  |             |  |                           |
|--|-------------|--|---------------------------|
|  | City Limits |  | Schools                   |
|  | Rail        |  | City Parks and Open Space |
|  | Highway     |  | Golf Course               |
|  | Major Road  |  | Context Parks             |
|  | Local Road  |  | Monterey Airport Runway   |
|  | Streams     |  | Monterey Bay              |



Sources: City of Seaside (2016); Fort Ord National Monument (2016); City of Monterey (2016); AMBAG (2016); ESRI (2022), USGS & NOAA (2016).

Table 12: Parks and Recreational Areas by Type

	Park Name	Acres	Park Type
1	Beta Park	1.1	Mini
2	Capra Park	0.8	Mini
3	Durant Park	0.5	Mini
4	Ellis Park	0.4	Mini
5	Farallones Park	0.8	Mini
6	Fernando-Montgomery Park	0.1	Mini
7	Highland-Otis Park	1.2	Mini
8	Manzanita-Stuart Park	0.8	Mini
9	Martin Park	0.6	Mini
10	Portola Leslie Park	1.1	Mini
11	Sabado Park	0.4	Mini
12	Trinity Park	0.8	Mini
13	Havana Soliz Park	2.6	Neighborhood
14	Lincoln Cunningham Park	2.9	Neighborhood
15	Mescal-Neil Park	2.2	Neighborhood
16	Metz Park	2.1	Neighborhood
17	Pacchetti Park	1.7	Neighborhood (Dog Friendly)
18	Cutino Park	5.6	Community
19	Soper Field and Community Center	4.2	Community
20	Laguna Grande Park	10.7	Regional
21	Robert's Lake Area	5.7	Regional
22	Fort Ord National Monument (within City)	918.7	Regional
23	Wheeler Tennis Courts	1.6	Special Use
24	Oldemeyer Center	2.4	Special Use
25	Pattullo Swim Center	2.0	Special Use
26	Stephen E. Ross Memorial Park	1.3	Special Use (modular office buildings now occupy a portion of the park)
27	Youth Education Center	1.1	Special Use
28	Encanto Park	0.2	Undeveloped
29	Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses	359.6	Golf Course
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,333.2</b>	

## Park Types and Needs

The Seaside park system includes various types of parks, each of which provides different recreational opportunities, and serves different geographies and segments of the population.

**Mini-parks.** Mini-parks are small, single-purpose play areas designed primarily for small children or as little oases to break up urban areas. Due to their size (less than one acre), the facilities are usually limited to a small grass area, a children's playground, and a small picnic area. Mini-parks mainly serve people living within walking distance.

**Neighborhood parks.** Neighborhood parks are one to five acres in size and serve people living within walking and bicycling distance. Typical facilities found in a neighborhood park include playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use open grass areas for practice fields.

**Community parks.** Community parks typically range from five acres to ten acres and serve people living within a short drive of the facility. Community parks provide active recreational uses, including athletic fields and swimming pools, and they can provide for passive recreational opportunities, such as walking, viewing, sitting or picnicking. They may also provide a community center or facilities for group uses. Cutino Park, and the Soper Field and Community Center are community parks in Seaside.

**Regional parks.** Regional parks are large recreational areas designed to serve an entire region, often beyond the city limits. These areas offer unique recreational opportunities and are often managed by county, state, or federal agencies. Examples of regional parks in Seaside are the Fort Ord National Monument, Seaside Beach, and Laguna Grande Park.

**Special use areas.** Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses that fall into this class include special purpose areas, community gardens, single purpose sites used for field sports, or sites occupied by buildings. The five special use areas in Seaside, include the Oldemeyer Center, Wheeler Tennis Courts, and the Pattullo Swim Center.

**Golf course.** The City owns two, 18-hole golf courses: the Bayonet and Black Horse Courses.



*New park equipment.*



*Blues in the park.*



*Bayonet and Blackhorse golf courses.*

**Table 13: Park Types and Characteristics**

Park and Recreation Type	General Size and Service Characteristics		Count and Area in Seaside		
	Service Area	Size	Number	Acres	Percent of Total Acreage
Mini-Park	¼-mile	½ to 3 acres	12	8.7	< 1 percent
Neighborhood Park	1-mile	3 to 7 acres	5	11.5	< 1 percent
Community Park	Entire City	20 to 50 acres	2	9.8	< 1 percent
Regional Park	Entire region	75+ acres	3	935.1	70 percent
Special Use Area	Entire City	N/A	5	8.4	< 1 percent
Golf Course	Entire region	N/A	1	359.6	27 percent
Undeveloped	N/A	N/A	1	0.2	< 1 percent
TOTAL			29	1,333.3	

Table 13 summarizes the number and acreage of park and recreational sites by type. The City has a large number of mini-parks (12) compared to all other types, as there are five neighborhood and two community parks. Together, mini, neighborhood, and community parks make up approximately two percent of all park land in the city. More neighborhood and community parks are needed to ensure communities are being served with appropriate park spaces.

Some of Seaside’s parks are well-maintained and equipped with high-quality amenities. The City could benefit from a more consistent revenue stream for the maintenance and improvement of park and recreation facilities. This could facilitate new irrigation systems, upgraded

turf, replacement landscaping, improved accessibility, replacement of children’s play equipment, and additional signage, trash and recycling bins, drinking fountains, and benches, among others. Due to water restrictions, several parks become very dry in the summer months as they do not receive any water other than rainfall. Community volunteers are welcomed to help with park maintenance in conjunction with Public Works. Currently, Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA), a volunteer-led non-profit organization that supports the development and maintenance of parks and open green spaces does work to improve city parks.



Soper Park.



# Regional Parks and Open Space

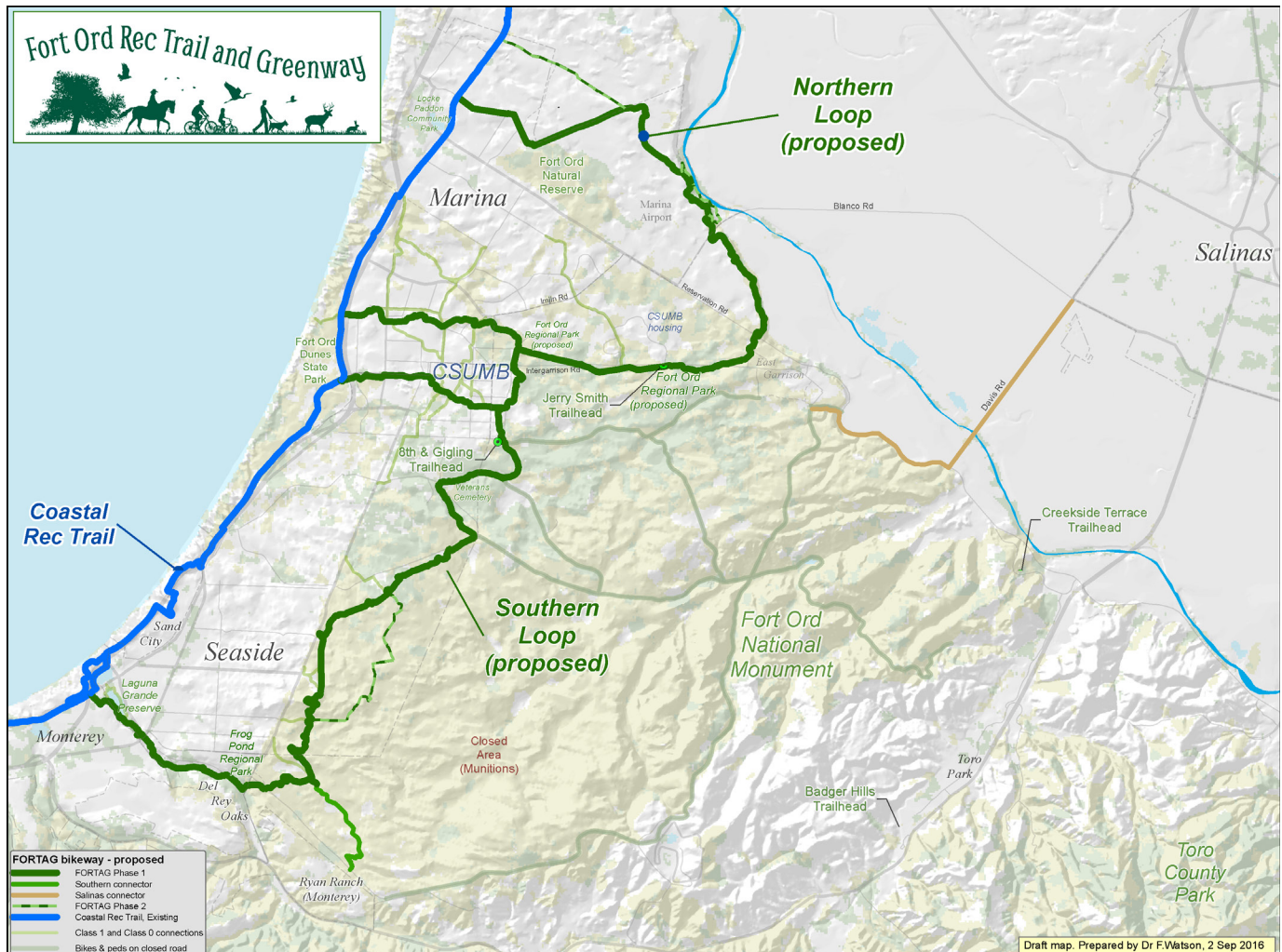
Seaside’s location places it at the center of three regional parks and open spaces: the Fort Ord National Monument, the Fort Ord Dunes State Park, and the Monterey Bay shoreline. These regional parks and open spaces provide the City with an opportunity to increase park access, and to leverage these areas for visitor-serving amenities.

Created in 2012, the Fort Ord National Monument offers hiking, biking and equestrian trails for residents and visitors to Monterey County. Located on the former Fort Ord military base, the National Monument covers over 14,600 acres, including 918 acres in Seaside; however, only 7,200 acres are open to the public. The remainder of the area, including the portion in Seaside, is undergoing munition hazard cleanup by the U.S. Army and is anticipated to be open as soon as feasible. The potential

future entry points into the National Monument at Gigling Rd, Broadway Ave, and Eucalyptus Rd, as well as informal and formal trailheads.

The Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) is a community-proposed 28-mile regional network of paved recreational trails and greenways connecting communities to open space. The project was included in the Transportation Agency for Monterey County-authored and 2016 voter-approved Transportation Safety & Investment Plan (Measure X). FORTAG is anticipated to run through the Seaside section of the National Monument, as illustrated in Figure 34. The Phase 1 Segment of FORTAG stretches 1.5 miles along the State Route 218 and Can-yon Del Rey corridor through Del Rey Oaks and Seaside and is currently in process.

**Figure 34: FORTAG**



Seaside shares much of its western border with the Fort Ord Dunes State Park, which opened in 2009. The park area includes approximately 990 acres of State parkland, including a boardwalk, four mile path with beach access, and interpretive exhibits. Visitors can enjoy the coastal landscape via bike or foot. Fort Ord Dunes is dominated by a continuous coastal sand dune formation and remnants from former Fort Ord's military history. The California Coastal Commission approved a permit for California State Parks to build a campground in Fort Ord Dunes State Park including 45 RV sites, 43 tent sites and 10 hike-in/bike-in sites.

South of the Fort Ord Dunes State Beach, Seaside Beach serves as a gateway to more than 21 miles of coast linking six contiguous beach front parks: Monterey State Beach, Fort Ord Dunes State Park, Marina State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, and Zmudowski State Beach. These parks are linked together by the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail, which connects to the City of Monterey in the south and Marina in the north, extending to Pacific Grove and just south of Castroville. The trail is paved, provides access to cyclists and runners/walkers, and offers coastal views and access to the beach, natural habitat, and some of the highest dunes on California's central coast.



*Oak Woodlands on former Fort Ord lands.*

## Seaside Coastal Zone

The Seaside LCP identifies the coastal zone with approximately 90 acres of land that extend from the Pacific Ocean to the terminus of the Canyon Del Rey Creek on the southeastern portion of Laguna Grande. The coastal zone includes a beach visitor parking lot and the Monterey Bay Trail system, in addition to access to Sand Dunes Drive and Highway 1. The area includes approximately 500 feet of beach frontage along the Pacific Ocean.

The coastal zone area is part of a former estuarine complex, composed of Robert's Lake at the center and Laguna Grande to the south. Highway 1 separates the beach from Robert's Lake, although they are connected by an outfall located at the foot of Humboldt Street and in the seawall adjacent to the Monterey Beach Hotel. Del Monte Boulevard and the abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way separate Robert's Lake from Laguna Grande.

## Recreational Facilities

Along with the park and recreational sites, Seaside owns a variety of recreation facilities, including the Oldemeyer Center, Pattullo Swim Center, Soper Community Center, Wheeler Tennis Courts, the Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses. These centers are designed primarily for large group gatherings and provide activities for all age groups.

The City also owns sport facilities, such as fields and courts, which are incorporated into existing park and recreational sites. These sport facilities include three youth baseball/softball fields and a new soccer field at Cutino Park.

The City also partners with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District to use their athletic facilities as a short-term alternative. Seaside should benefit from additional specialized recreation facilities including a skate park, multi-use and soccer fields, a group picnic area, amphitheater, adventure playground, and additional off-leash, dog areas

## Recreational Programming

The Recreation Services Department provides recreational activities and classes to serve the needs of Seaside residents of all ages. The department offers targeted programs for youth, adults, and seniors, including the following:

- **Youth program** offerings vary in length, including daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal programming. Activities are scheduled year-round and include athletic leagues, dance, recreational swim, and youth camps. The City also provides two types of educational programs: Tiny Tot University offers a preschool program for children between the ages of three and five; and the Kids Club, an afterschool program emphasizing the arts, environmental activities, and indoor and outdoor physical activity for students from kindergarten to fifth grade.
- **Adult classes** offer dance, exercise and swim programming for all levels. The City also partners with local organizations to support emotional and physical well-being, parent workshops, and other educational resources.
- **Senior programs**, activities, and services are meant to serve and enhance quality of life for older members of the Seaside community. Programming includes swimming, social activities, game nights, arts and crafts, and support services. The department also organizes a variety of day trips, walks, and excursions that are open to adults of all ages.



*Examples of Seaside recreational programs.*

# Goals and Policies

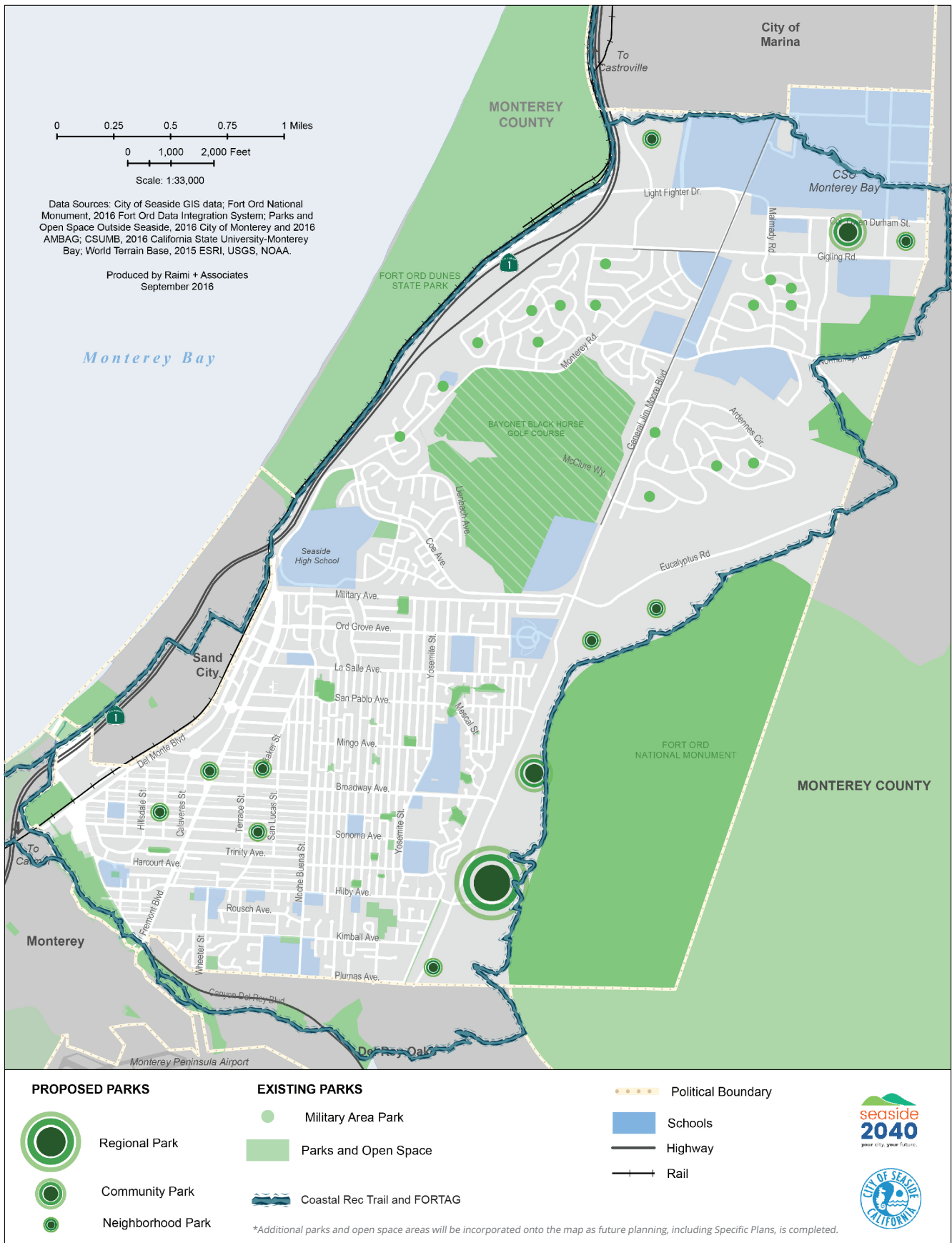
## Goal PO-1: Park and recreational facilities to serve Seaside.

Intent: Close proximity to parks, open space, and recreational facilities encourages use, but can also facilitate opportunities to engage in physical exercise. Creating new parks in areas with limited access to park space is particularly important. Incorporating the principles of active design can help improve health and promote civic engagement. This goal seeks to increase the amount and availability of park and recreational facilities for all Seaside residents and future residents. Figure 35 illustrates a complete vision for the proposed additions to Seaside's open space network.

### Policies:

- **Park ratio and standard.** Meet a city-wide park standard ratio of three acres per thousand residents, (excluding the Fort Ord National Monument and Bayonet) reflecting the standard requirement in the Quimby Act.
- **Minimum on-site open space.** Require a minimum amount of open space in higher density residential and mixed-use projects. Carefully and deliberately integrate these spaces into project design and require maintenance by the property management organization.
- **Parks in existing neighborhoods.** If sufficient water supply is available to make the project feasible, increase the number and acreage of mini- and neighborhood parks in areas with low park levels of service, including the Terrace, Olympia, Noche Buena, and Rousch neighborhoods. Ensure that all neighborhoods are served by a park within a reasonable walking or bicycling distance. Maintain existing parks, as funds allow, and supplement with volunteer opportunities or partnerships when possible.
- **Parks on former Fort Ord lands.** Provide a range of park types and community recreation facilities on former Fort Ord, including a regional recreation area in Seaside East.
- **FORTAG.** Support implementation of the FORTAG regional trail and coordinate with FORTAG on trail design and connectivity and promote trail art.
- **Innovation in park design.** Encourage innovation in new park design allowing community gardens, urban agriculture and orchards, paseos, plazas, tot lots, roof-top gardens and other urban parks and green spaces.
- **Art in public spaces.** Ensure new park facilities have adequate spaces and equipment for active and passive recreation as well as public art.
- **New fields, courts, and gyms.** Provide multi-purpose fields and courts and new indoor gyms for Seaside residents and visitors.
- **Funding and dedication requirements.** Explore park funding and dedication requirements for new development, including the addition of park-like features, such as tot lots, paseos, and urban orchards in new developments.
- **New park maintenance.** In addition to the adopted Community Facilities District explore options for Quimby Act fees, other developer impact fees, disposition and development agreements or other mechanisms to provide funding for improvements.
- **Recreation programs.** Promote opportunities for physical activities for all ages and abilities by improving and expanding community recreation programs.
- **Park and open space plans.** During the creation of specific plans, master plans, or other similar area planning processes, create a park and open space plan that shows the location and extent of future parks, open space, and recreation-open space areas. Develop a comprehensive and connected network of trails and non-auto circulation that improve access to parks, open space, and other community spaces.
- **Education in public spaces.** Promote community use of public places, including parks, schools, and community centers, as neighborhood educational facilities.

**Figure 35: Existing and Proposed Open Space Network**



## Goal PO-2: Natural open space on former Fort Ord lands.

Intent: As former Fort Ord lands redevelop, this goal aims to create a high-quality and well-connected series of natural open spaces that support expanded recreational opportunities. Open space corridors include trails connecting to the Fort Ord National Monument, parks, and other destinations. It also includes passive corridors to preserve habitat.

### Policies:

- **Active open space corridors and trails.** In partnership with regional and local agencies, develop active open space corridors that support natural vegetation communities, scenic vistas, and sensitive habitats within former Fort Ord lands. Open space corridors should connect to formal and informal trailheads in the National Monument where possible.
- **Open space buffer.** Provide an open space buffer/fuel break consistent with the BRP, HMP, and potential HCP between future development in Seaside East and the National Monument.
- **Partner with outside agencies.** Participate in regional and federal programs and partner with land trusts or other nonprofits to seek funding to preserve, maintain, and manage natural open space.
- **Educational opportunities.** Promote educational opportunities to emphasize the need to maintain and manage biological resources to maintain the uniqueness and biodiversity of the former Fort Ord.
- **FORTAG trail.** Coordinate trail design and connectivity of parks and other open spaces with the FORTAG regional trail.

## Goal PO-3: Well-maintained and safe parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces.

Intent: Safe and well-maintained parks encourage greater community use. Improving infrastructure around parks, implementing safer park design, and ensuring adequate staff and resources support active and passive recreational opportunities for existing and future residents.

### Policies:

- **Park upgrades.** Continue making improvements to existing parks and recreational facilities, including ADA and Title 24 compliance, upgrading and adding new recreational equipment, and enhancing park sustainability.
- **Low-maintenance design.** Promote low-maintenance design principles in the renovation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).** Utilize CPTED principles in the design and renovation of existing parks and open space facilities to improve safety.
- **Lighting.** Provide appropriate lighting and visibility in park facilities while minimizing adverse impacts to adjacent properties.
- **Resources and staff.** Provide the appropriate resources and staffing to improve and maintain existing park and recreational facilities in Seaside.

## Goal PO-4: Accessible connections to parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

Intent: Safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian connections to the park, open space, and recreational facilities encourage greater park use. These access improvements include providing bicycle and pedestrian priority routes to parks, as well as ADA and Title 24 improvements. Transportation improvements and wayfinding can also increase access to regional open spaces, such as the Fort Ord National Monument and Seaside beach.

### Policies:

- **Access to parks.** Increase connectivity between parks and open space through bicycle facilities and priority pedestrian routes.
- **ADA improvements.** Support ADA and Title 24 improvements to improve access to existing parks.
- **Park visibility.** Increase park visibility through signage, wayfinding, and well-marked entry points.
- **National Monument connectivity.** Promote the development of trails within Seaside East to the National Monument.
- **Coastal and beach access.** Improve coastal and beach access from existing Seaside neighborhoods.
- **On-site open space.** Encourage on-site open space, (e.g. courtyards, to be connected to streets and other public spaces through physical access and sightlines).
- **Trail standards.** Strive to meet California State Parks' standards for accessible trail design.



Example of safe and visible access to parks.



Example of open spaces connected with bikeways.

## Goal PO-5: The coast is easily accessible from existing Seaside neighborhoods and former Fort Ord lands by different transportation modes.

Intent: Providing public access to California's coast is a central premise of the California Coastal Act. This goal seeks to maintain and enhance public access through the provision of multiple access points, increased visibility and signage, and increased opportunities for alternative modes to safely travel to the beach.

### Policies:

- **Public access areas.** Implement pedestrian and bicycle access improvements along Canyon Del Rey Boulevard and from the Main Gate area to provide safe passage to the coast consistent with the pedestrian improvement focus areas (in the Mobility Element) and FORTAG implementation.
- **Signage program.** Implement the coastal access / directional signage program for all public access points.
- **Coastal parking.** Provide free and unrestricted parking at all public access and public parking areas within the coastal zone during daylight hours. Pursue opportunities to share existing parking lots with adjacent businesses, such as the Embassy Suites Hotel.
- **Trails and bicycle network.** Continue to participate in regional trail planning efforts, such as FORTAG, and local bicycle planning to better link existing Seaside neighborhoods and former Fort Ord lands to the California Coastal Trail.
- **Minimal impact to access.** Require new development and substantial redevelopment projects to minimize impacts to existing public access to the coast.

## Goal PO-6: Partnerships and agreements that improve park access.

Intent: The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, CSUMB, federal government, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District all maintain parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities within or directly adjacent to Seaside. Area nonprofits also help with park design, construction, maintenance and funding. This goal seeks to maintain and expand joint use agreements with these agencies and organizations to facilitate greater park access for Seaside residents and visitors.

### Policies:

- **Joint use agreements.** Establish and maintain joint use agreements with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, CSUMB, federal government, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District to allow greater park access.
- **Partnerships.** Strengthen public-private partnerships with groups, such as the Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA), to build and maintain public parks and recreational facilities. Continue working with Sustainable Seaside and other partners, when programming ecology education.
- **Regional coordination.** Participate in coordinated regional planning for parks and open space development and access.
- **Green space near schools.** Work with Seaside schools to ensure that students have adequate access to green space.



## Goal PO-7: Environmental sustainability and awareness at new and existing park and recreational facilities.

Intent: Reducing energy and water use, diverting solid waste from the landfill, and capturing stormwater onsite can improve the environmental sustainability of Seaside's parks and open spaces. This goal seeks to increase the City's sustainability efforts in parks, using these actions as an opportunity to educate the community about sustainability.

### Policies:

- **Conservation and efficiency.** Increase energy and water conservation and efficiency at new and existing park and recreation facilities.
- **Stormwater infiltration.** Design future parks to use natural processes to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater.
- **Solid waste diversion.** Promote solid waste diversion at City parks and recreation facilities through recycling and composting.
- **Education.** Increase awareness of environmental sustainability practices by highlighting conservation practices at park and recreational facilities.
- **Environmental literacy.** Promote environmental literacy classes or urban ecology programs for youth.

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