

## 7. Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element

Parks and recreation provide many benefits to a community and its citizens, including economic, health, environmental, social, and overall quality of life. Similarly, open spaces are important recreational, natural resource, and cultural assets that provide wildlife habitat, wilderness protection, groundwater retention, active recreational uses, historic landscapes, and visual corridors. The Open Space, Parks, and Recreation includes goals, policies, and programs addressing open space, parks, recreation facilities, and access conditions in Pleasant Hill.

The Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element is divided into the following sections:

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## Key Terms

**Open Space.** A parcel or area of land that is essentially undeveloped for human use and devoted to an open space use, such as the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, and preservation of public health and safety.

### 7.1 Open Space

The open spaces of Pleasant Hill are in the northern and western parts of the city and total almost 370 acres of land. These areas include a multitude of walking and hiking trails, grass fields, and creeks for residents and visitors to explore. Open space areas in Pleasant Hill include the Contra Costa Country Club, Old Grayson Woods Golf Course, Laes Juntas Open Space, Paso Nogal Park and open space, Valley High, Ridgeview, and Woodside Hills Open Space and Chilpancingo Park.

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OSP-1</b> | Preserve, enhance, and protect a continuous system of open space areas, hillsides, and natural features. <i>[Source: Existing General Plan, Community Development Goal 20, modified]</i> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**OSP-1.1 Open Space Preservation**

Strive to keep open space and undeveloped hillsides free of future development. *[Source: Community Development Policy 20A, modified]*
- OSP-1.2

**Regional Coordination**

Continue to encourage and coordinate with Contra Costa County, the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, and organizations like the East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa Water District, and John Muir Land Trust in the preservation of open space resources within and surrounding the city. *[Source: New Policy]*
- OSP-1.3

**Access to Open Space Resources**

Ensure that the public has ~~adequate accessibility~~ equitable access to all parts of the city to experience and appreciate open space resources. *[Source: New Policy]*
- OSP-1.4

**Connected Open Space Areas**

Integrate, wherever possible, the local open space and parks systems with the open space systems of nearby communities and the region to create and preserve a continuous and connected system of open space areas. *[Source: New Policy]*



## 7.2 Parks and Recreation

The Recreation and Park District of Pleasant Hill (PHRPD), a Special District that operates as an independent government agency, provides and manages parks, facilities, open space, and recreation programs and events throughout the Pleasant Hill community. The PHRPD serves an area about 20 percent larger than the city of Pleasant Hill. Within the city, Pleasant Hill has approximately 180 acres of parkland that offer playgrounds, sports fields, and barbecue and picnic areas for adults and children alike. Several of the parks located in Pleasant Hill as described below also include a diverse range of other amenities including dog parks, historical identifiers, and hiking and biking trails. The following are public parks in Pleasant Hill (Figure OSP-1):

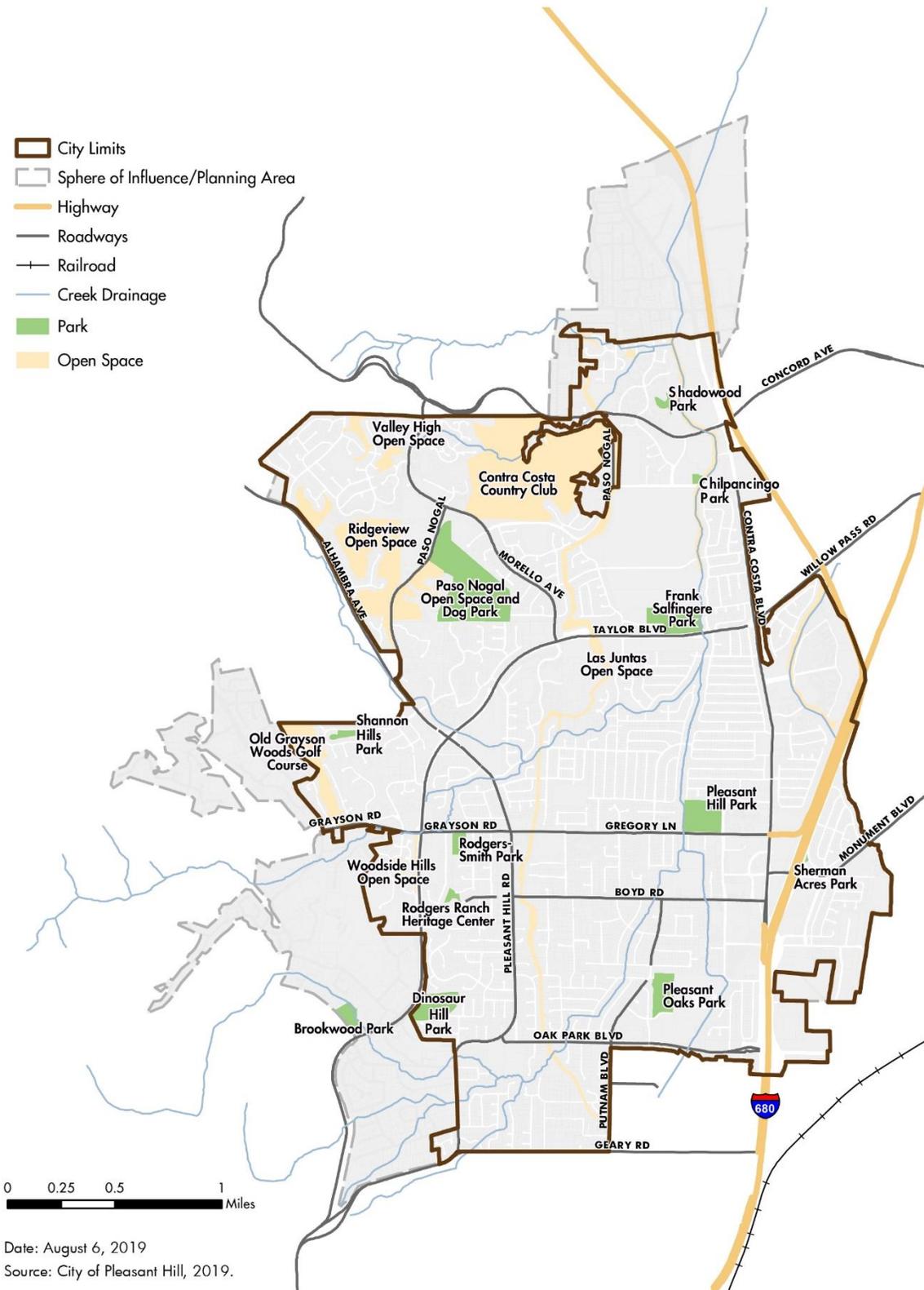
- Pleasant Hill Park and Pleasant Oaks Park, 16.5- and 11.5-acres respectively, host sports games with picnic areas and playgrounds. Pleasant Oaks Park includes a playground that accommodates all abilities serving people with disabilities.
- Chilpancingo Park is a 2.5-acre passive undeveloped park among redwood and oak trees.
- Rodgers-Smith Park is a small neighborhood park that includes a picnic area and playground, basketball courts, and a baseball field.
- Brookwood Park is a 6.3-acre neighborhood park with amenities that include picnic and barbeque areas, surfaced court and a children's play area with a play structure.
- and Rodgers-Smith Park have barbecue grills and other recreational amenities. is a 4.5-acre park which includes reservable picnic areas, a softball/sports field, sand volleyball court, surfaced basketball court, and lighted bocce courts.
- Paso Nogal is an open space area with a 2.5-acre public dog park with 63 acres of hiking trails.
- Dinosaur Hill Park and Shannon Hills Park are maintained open parks. is a 2.1-acre neighborhood park with a small tot play area, walking paths and trails picnic tables providing a scenic outdoor setting.
- Dinosaur Hill Park is a 13.6-acre open space park with trails for hiking and scenic views.
- Sherman Acres Park is a small 0.16-acre neighborhood park for pre-school-aged children with a playground and picnic facilities picnic table.
- Shadowood Park and Chilpancingo Park are each 2.5-acre passive turf areas. Shadowood Park has a playground and basketball hoop. is a 2.5-acre passive park with a playground and basketball hoop.
- Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center is a historic site just under over two acres in size. The Rodgers farmhouse is the oldest house in Pleasant Hill, built around 1867 and expanded in the early 1900s. The site includes an urban farm that serves as an education center, hosting workshops and events including farm-to-table culinary courses, gardening, and permaculture. The Heritage Center also offers a summer day camp, hosts field trips and a harvest festival, and provides tours to the public.

The PHRPD also has programs to serve all ages and interests. Separated by age groups, programs range from sports leagues and aquatics programs, to urban farming classes. Residents of all ages can explore their passion for theatre or learn computer skills or coding at any of the six community centers. Children as young as two-and-a-half years old can begin attending community programs or participate in preschool offered by the Recreation and Park District. For children three to five years of age, additional recreational opportunities are provided including swim lessons, sports, theater, and daytime summer camps.

Teens can enroll in enhanced recreation activities including summer camps, sports leagues and enrichment classes focusing on performing arts and computer coding. The Aquatics Center also offers teens the opportunity to participate in water sports, fitness classes, lifeguard training, and a swim team. The local Teen Council has teen representatives directly involved in community recreation programs, allowing them to plan activities, classes, sports, and trips for students grade six through college. There are numerous opportunities for adults and seniors, including advanced art classes, dance, fitness activities, sports leagues, daytrips and excursions, and even international travel tours to Tuscany, Vietnam, and Egypt. Adult enrichment classes are also offered in creative writing, retirement planning, computer skills, and wine tasting. In an effort to provide the best range of courses, the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District has partnered with Ed2Go to offer a wide variety of courses in topics such as finance, computer skills, college prep, and personal development.



**Figure OSP-1 Parks and Open Space**



**OSP-2**

Support the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District’s efforts to offer high-quality park, recreation (e.g., sports fields), and trail facilities for residents and visitors. *[Source: Existing General Plan, Community Development Goals 17 and 18, modified]*

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- OSP-2.1      Recreation Facilities Planning**  
Plan for appropriate sites for new recreational facilities, including playing fields, tennis courts, and other facilities. *[Source: Community Development Policy 18A]*
- OSP-2.2      Recreational Programs for All**  
Advocate for and support PHRPD in their efforts to provide a wide range of recreation programs that are appropriate to a wide range of ages (e.g., youths, seniors), interests (e.g., sports, arts), and backgrounds which reflect Pleasant Hill’s cultural diversity. *[Source: Community Development Policy 17A and Goal 19, modified]*
- OSP-2.3      Expand Youth Programs**  
Encourage new and expanded youth recreation and extracurricular educational programs. *[Source: Community Development Policy 19A]*
- OSP-2.4      Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**  
Advocate for and support PHRPD in their efforts to provide recreation programs accessible to those with disabilities and strive to improve accessibility of existing recreation programs. *[Source: New Policy]*
- OSP-2.5      Accessibility for Persons of All Income Levels**  
Advocate for and support PHRPD in their efforts to make all programs available regardless of participants’ ability to pay, through scholarships, fee waivers, program cost underwriting, and other available methods. *[Source: New Policy]*
- OSP-2.6      Parkland Standard**  
Work with the PHRPD to establish and achieve a standard of 3 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population. *[Source: Community Development Program 17.2]*
- OSP-2.7      Expand Recreation and Park Facilities**  
Work with the PHRPD and supporting implementation outlined in the 2020 Parks, Facilities & Recreation Master Plan to facilitate development and expansion of recreation and park facilities. *[Source: Community Development Program 18.1]*
- OSP-2.8      Equitable Access to all Parkland**  
Work with the PHRPD to identify parcels for new parks and open space preservation to ensure all residents have access to parkland within a one-mile radius of their place of residence regardless of socio-economic status. *[Source: New Policy]*



## 7.3 Community Facilities

Pleasant Hill has six community facilities for events:

- **Pleasant Hill Community Center.** A venue ideal for weddings, parties, business meetings, and events. Includes a reception area, meeting rooms, a dance studio, and an outdoor pavilion.
- **Winslow Center.** A self-service events facility featuring two rooms for rent and a playground. The space includes an assembly room that seats up to 120 people with a stage area.
- **Senior Center.** A facility that is home to programs offered for adults age 50 and up Monday through Friday, including events, nutritional programs, classes, and health services such as insurance counseling and blood pressure screening.
- **Teen Center.** A facility that offers programs for Middle School students, including social events, classes, after-school programs, and summer camps. Room rentals are available.
- **Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center.** A historic ranch with a restored house and urban farm. The space hosts educational events and gardening classes while preserving the buildings on site.
- **Aquatic Park.** A facility that features a 25-yard pool with diving boards, a shallow water pool, a sprayground, and picnic areas. Programs include swim lessons and aquatic events. ~~The Community Center, Senior Center, Teen Center, and Winslow Center have rooms available to rent for private events such as weddings, business meetings, or parties. Pleasant Hill residents receive a discounted rate on room rentals, and each community facility offers different amenities.~~

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### OSP-3

Ensure the provision of a variety community facilities that are well-maintained and accessible to all residents. *[Source: New Goal]*

#### OSP-3.1

##### **Awareness of Facilities**

Work with the PHRPD to provide information about available recreational and community facilities and strive to make all residents aware of these facilities and the programs offered in each. *[Source: New Policy]*

#### OSP-3.2

##### **Support Facility Needs**

Support the community's needs by working with PHRPD to implement the 2020 Parks, Facilities & Recreation Master Plan, during their assessment of facilities for a variety of uses, including but not limited to meeting spaces, sports fields, and programming (e.g., educational, arts, youths, seniors). *[Source: New Policy]*

## 7.4 Implementation Programs

| Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Implements Which Policy(ies)                                                                       | Responsible                                  | 2021 – 2025 | 2026 – 2030 | 2031 – 2040 | Annual | Ongoing |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|---------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    | Supporting Department(s)                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| <p><b>A Maintain Land Coverage Constraints</b></p> <p>Ensure the Zoning Ordinance continues to require aesthetic and land coverage constraints on new land divisions in open space and undeveloped hillside areas. <i>[Source: Community Development Program 20.2]</i></p> | <p>OSP-1.1<br/>OSP-1.5</p>                                                                         | <p>Planning Division</p> <p>City Council</p> |             |             |             |        | ■       |
| <p><b>B Coordination with the Recreation and Park District</b></p> <p>Continue to coordinate with the Recreation and Park District on efforts and initiatives taking place in the city. <i>[Source: New Implementation Program]</i></p>                                    | <p>OSP-2.2<br/>OSP-2.3<br/>OSP-2.4<br/>OSP-2.5<br/>OSP-2.6<br/>OSP-2.7<br/>OSP-5.1<br/>OSP-5.2</p> | <p>Planning Division</p> <p>City Manager</p> | ■           |             |             |        | ■       |



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