
6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Corte Madera offers a combination of regional parklands and Town parks, as well as a range of recreation and leisure programs for its residents. Marin County's extensive open space lands and preserves system provides Town residents with an array of recreational opportunities, which is complemented by Town-owned and maintained neighborhood parks.

In addition to Corte Madera's expansive medley of outdoor trails, recreational facilities include a gymnasium, play equipment, soccer fields, softball fields, picnic areas, and tennis, basketball, roller hockey and volleyball courts. The Town's parks, recreation facilities and programs strengthen community image, create a sense of place, and promote residents' health and well-being.



The Parks and Recreation Element provides the policy-level foundation for maintaining and enhancing the Town's existing programs and facilities, preserving open space areas, and planning for the expansion of Town-wide trails. Providing recreational opportunities at all levels is a key component for quality of life in Corte Madera.

Acquiring new lands and expanding facilities is essential for improving the Town's programs and parks. A Community Preferences Survey, distributed to Town residents in July 2002, indicated a strong desire for new and improved recreational facilities, including recreational programs and facilities specifically for teens, and new and improved bicycle and pedestrian paths. Other interests included developing specialized areas, such as dog parks and skate parks.

The Town's Recreation and Leisure Services Department offers a wide range of programs for Town residents. However, Recreation Center facilities are too small to meet community needs. Additionally, the General Plan Steering Committee identified the need for a Community Center, perhaps in conjunction with an expanded Recreation Center, to serve the entire community.

6.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE

State law and policies require the Open Space Element of the General Plan to promote the retention of open space for recreational purposes. California Government Code §65560(b) defines "open space land" as any parcel or area of land or water that is unimproved and devoted to an open space use. State law requires cities and counties to prepare and carry out open-space plans that will, in conjunction with state and regional plans, accomplish "long-

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

range preservation and conservation of open-space land within its jurisdiction.”

The law provides for the preservation of open-space lands for a variety of uses, including outdoor recreation. The intent of the law is to protect the public interest in open-space land, and to recognize it as a limited and valuable resource that must be conserved wherever possible. Open-space plans must also contain specific implementation programs.

QUIMBY ACT

The Quimby Act, Government Code §66477, allows cities and counties to adopt ordinances requiring the dedication of parkland, fees in lieu of, or a combination of both to be used only for the purpose of acquiring land for park purposes. The Act provides for the conditioning of new development at the tentative map stage to dedicate unimproved parkland at the minimum standard of three acres per 1,000 residents to a maximum of five acres per 1,000 residents. The parkland and/or in lieu fees are to be used for new or existing neighborhood or community parks or recreational facilities to serve the subdivision.

1989 TOWN GENERAL PLAN AND MUNICIPAL CODE STANDARDS

The 1989 General Plan (Policy 2.8.e) retained the standard set in the 1978 General Plan of 5.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Corte Madera has a total of 35.8 acres of parkland. This equates to a ratio of approximately 3.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 Town residents. The 1989 General Plan emphasized retention and upgrading of existing park facilities, with the 5.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents as a goal in the event additional parklands became available. This standard does not include regional open space lands, both in the Town and adjacent to it.

The Corte Madera Municipal Code (Section 17.30.020) currently utilizes a standard of 4.0 acres per 1,000 residents, which is applicable to subdivisions of 50 units or more. Municipal Code standards for provision of parkland must be consistent with those in the General Plan.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

Recreational lands differ from other open space lands in that they allow a greater range of public access and direct recreational uses. Recreational lands vary by size, use, and facilities. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed definitions for types of recreational facilities:

Mini-park: A specialized facility that serves a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. This facility should be located within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing for the elderly.

Neighborhood park: An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. Neighborhood park sites should be suited for intense development, easily accessible to neighborhood populations, and geographically located for safe walking and bicycle access.

Community park: An area of diverse recreational value including intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and pools, as well as more passive uses such as picnicking, viewing, nature study, and other types of recreational development.

Regional park/Park preserve: An area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses, with much of the land reserved for conservation and natural resource management.

The NRPA also describes other types of recreational facilities such as “linear parks” for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian activities; “special use” areas for golf, gardening, and outdoor theatres; and “conservancies” designated for the protection and management of natural or cultural resources. The NRPA has established guidelines for the amount of recreational land necessary to serve a given population, however, these guidelines are oriented toward more metropolitan areas. Therefore, the NRPA advises each jurisdiction to establish its own standards that are tailored to the unique characteristics of the area.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Parks and Recreation Element addresses facilities that are typically subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Due to the public nature of park and recreation facilities, it is critical that the Town include accommodations that promote access for persons with limited mobility. The Corte Madera Town Council has stated its commitment to implementing the intent and spirit of the ADA, and the Town recently adopted a Transition Plan to implement provisions of the Act.

The individual General Plan elements must be consistent with each other. Internal consistency within the Parks and Recreation Element will be maintained with the Land Use Element (designation of lands for park and recreation uses), and the Circulation Element (movement through the community, including bicycle and pedestrian circulation).

6.3 PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES

The Town of Corte Madera maintains neighborhood and community parks varying in size, and distributed throughout the community (see **Figure 6.1**). Most of the parks in Town are located within walking or biking distance of residential neighborhoods, with the exception of residential areas on the higher elevations of Christmas Tree Hill.

Neighborhood parks generally abut residential areas and include play areas, picnic areas, gathering areas, and open turf suitable for informal play, practices, or scrimmages. Community parks are generally designed to serve the needs of several neighborhoods or the whole community.

The Town has seven neighborhood and community parks:

- ◆ Town Park is the community's centerpiece with approximately 22 acres on Tamalpais Drive. This extensive park contains numerous picnic areas with barbecues, softball and soccer fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, skate park, and playground equipment at various locations, with restrooms and parking. Most of the park is owned by the Town. The Larkspur School District owns a portion of the playfields, which are operated under a joint-use agreement. Town Park is host to the Town's Recreation Center.
- ◆ San Clemente Park is an 8.5-acre park with a softball field, picnic area, volleyball area, restroom and parking lot. The park site is located east of Highway 101 just south of San Clemente Creek and owned by the Larkspur School District. A joint use agreement with the Town expires in 2017.
- ◆ Granada Park is a 0.5-acre park with a tennis court, picnic area, and parking area owned by the Reed School District and located in the southeastern portion of town. A joint-use agreement with the Town expires in 2005, but is expected to continue.
- ◆ Skunk Hollow Mini-Park is a 0.25-acre playground and picnic area located on the east side of Town. Parking is on-street. The park is Town-owned.
- ◆ Menke Park is a 1.0-acre park with a picnic area, bandstand/pavilion, and parking lot on the west side of Town in Old Corte Madera Square. The Town owns the old railroad right-of-way traversing the site (estimated at 5% of the entire park areas), as well as the remainder of the site, and conducts all park maintenance operations.
- ◆ Bayside Trail Park is a 2.75-acre linear park located on San Clemente Drive. A 0.5-mile long trail traverses the park. The Town owns the park.
- ◆ Higgins Landing is a .55 - acre Town-owned boathouse and dock located on the north edge of Town by Corte Madera Creek.

Parks and Open Space

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA

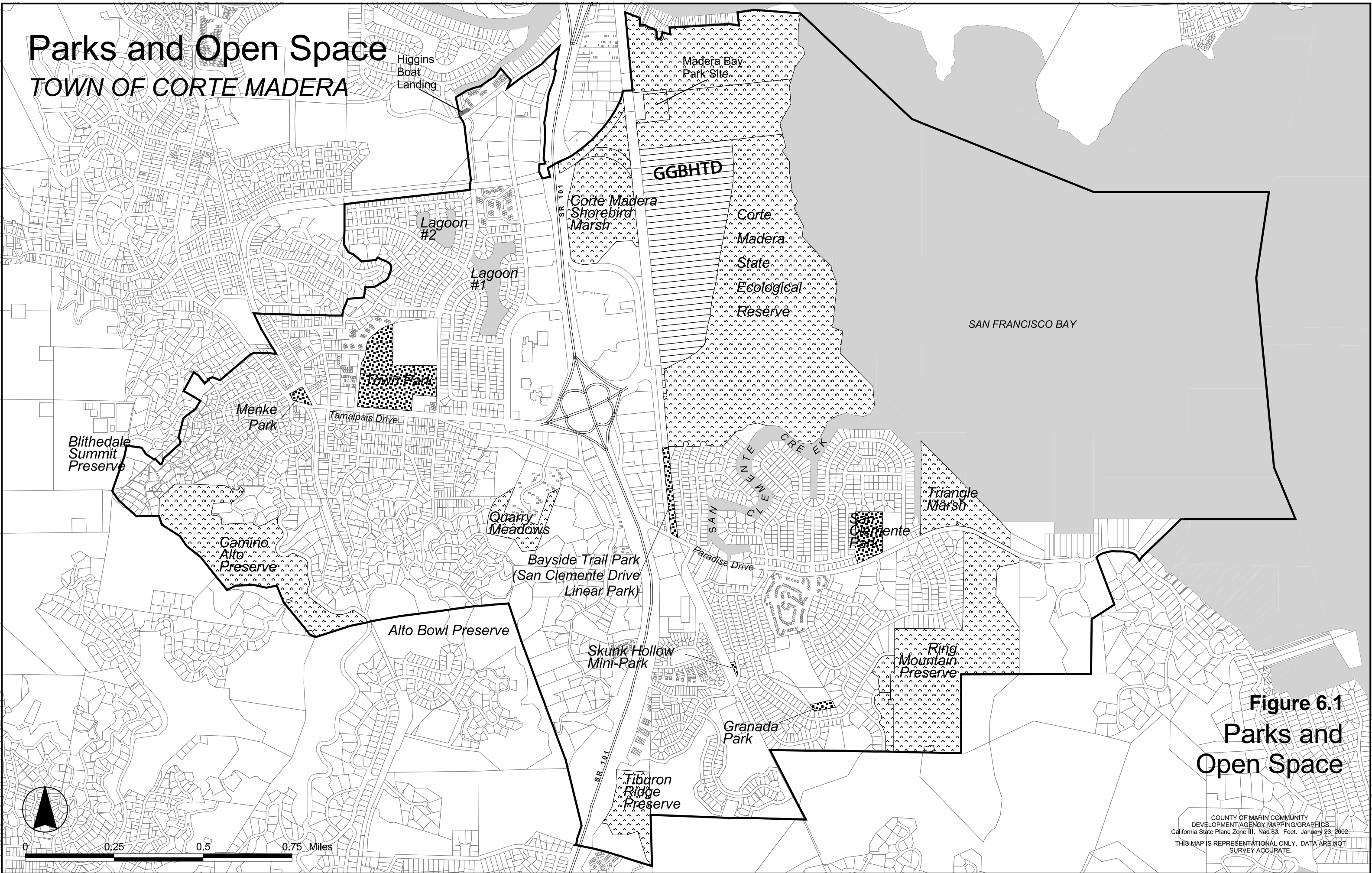


Figure 6.1
Parks and
Open Space



COUNTY OF MARIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MAPPING/GRAPHICS
California State Plane Zone III, NAD 83, Feet, January 23, 2002.
THIS MAP IS REPRESENTATIONAL ONLY. DATA ARE NOT SURVEY ACCURATE.

San Clemente Park, Granada Park, Menke Park, Bayside Trail Park and portions of Town Park have been developed and maintained under joint-use agreements with the Larkspur and Reed School Districts. These joint-use agreements detail how the joint-use will be funded, developed, and maintained. Park/School project agreements generally hold the Town responsible for improvements and cost of maintenance operations, while the School District provides land.

Other joint-use agreements include the use of the Neil Cummins school gymnasium, San Clemente School multi-use room and Redwood High School roller hockey rink. Neil Cummins and San Clemente Schools are under the Larkspur School District, while Redwood High School is under the Tamalpais Union High School District. The Town has joint-use agreements with both Districts and is responsible for insurance, utilities, and maintenance operations.

Town recreation facilities include the Recreation Center in Town Park. Built in 1953, the Center includes approximately 10,000 square feet of space housing a main hall, kitchen, classrooms, patio and offices. Other facilities included space a Youth Center, which was recently closed, causing relocation of classes and events to other locations. The Town has arrangements to use other facilities in the area, including the swimming pools at Redwood High School and the College of Marin, dance academy, and local businesses and churches.

6.4 RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACES

The extensive array of regional open space lands in and adjacent to the Town, combined with marsh and wetland sites along the Bay frontage, add to the availability of recreational open space in Corte Madera.

The Marin County Open Space District was established in 1972 for the acquisition and management of open space lands, with operations funded through an ongoing property tax. These lands provide open space and community separators in the urban corridor of Marin County, as well as passive recreational opportunities for Corte Madera residents. These preserves are open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, picnicking, bird watching and fishing. Open space areas also create a green infrastructure and provide relief from urban development. Acquiring and managing open space protects natural resources through environmental stewardship.



There are five Open Space Preserves in and adjacent to the Town of Corte Madera, shown on Figure 6.1:

- ◆ Blithedale Summit Preserve, located just outside the western border of Town, and accessed through hiking trails in the Christmas Tree Hill area below.

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

- ◆ Camino Alto Preserve, located on the western edge of Town.
- ◆ Alto Bowl Preserve, located just outside the southwestern border of Town.
- ◆ Tiburon Ridge Preserve, located in the southern portion of Town.
- ◆ Ring Mountain Preserve, located in the southeastern portion of Town and accessed along the Paradise Drive frontage.

These preserves cover approximately 200 acres in the Town limits.

In addition to open space preserves, marshes and wetlands in the Town enhance recreational values as open space and wildlife sanctuaries that provide important habitat for plant and wildlife. These areas include mudflats, tidal salt marshes, diked marshlands, associated uplands and freshwater marshes. As part of the San Francisco Bay wetlands system, Corte Madera marshes provide important habitat for many birds, as well as expand the Town's recreational opportunities for passive recreational activities.

There are several marsh areas along Corte Madera's Bay front, shown on Figure 6.1:

- ◆ Corte Madera State Ecological Reserve is the largest holding of marshlands in Corte Madera, consisting of over 200 acres. This area has been fully restored as a tidal wetland as mitigation for the dredging and filling associated with the operations of the Larkspur Ferry. It includes hiking trails and wildlife observation areas.
- ◆ Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Site is a 72-acre site surrounded on three sides by the Corte Madera State Ecological Reserve, with approximately half the site classified as a seasonal wetland. The site includes trail access along the Old Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way.
- ◆ Madera Bay Park Site/Shorebird Marsh and the Habitat Site are marsh and upland sites located north of The Village Shopping Center. They provide access to the marsh areas from the shopping center parking areas and from Paradise Drive.
- ◆ Triangle Marsh is a tidal mudflat and salt marsh, which is privately owned, but includes access points for wildlife viewing from Paradise Drive and Cay Passage.

Collectively, these marshland areas total in excess of 300 acres, and when combined with open space preserves of the Marin County Open Space District, total approximately 500 acres.

6.5 TRAILS

Largely known only to local residents, Corte Madera's residential hillsides are host to staircases and earth trails that climb the Chapman and Christmas Tree Hill areas. These trails provide an important link between residential streets and allow local residents

pedestrian access to Old Corte Madera Square, Town Hall and Town Park. These trails also provide convenient points of access to regional open space and hiking areas such as the Blithedale Summit, Baltimore Canyon, and Camino Alto Open Space Preserves, and serve as gateways for the energetic hiker heading toward open space lands in the Marin Municipal Water District or Mt. Tamalpais State Park. The trails also serve as alternative emergency evacuation routes and support public utilities, such as water distribution and storm water drainage collection.

Most of the trails in the Christmas Tree Hill area are the result of easements created through subdivisions decades ago, which were intended to interconnect the narrow and winding streets by trails and paths. Up to 36 easements were shown in the original Christmas Tree Hill subdivisions. Today, some of the trails are still privately owned and maintained, and in some instances, are partially contained within fenced yards. Portions of the easements are overgrown and neglected with no evidence of an existing trail. Other segments of these easements have been dedicated to the Town by adjoining property owners and are currently used by the community.



The Town maintains some of these trails as part of the Capital Improvement Program budget. On-street parking near the trails is limited, and for this reason the trails are used mostly by neighborhood residents.

Of note is the planned completion of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a multi-jurisdictional and agency effort headed by the Association of Bay Area Governments to provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian trail around the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. In Corte Madera, the Bay Trail would likely follow Paradise Drive, sharing the existing bicycle route, San Clemente Drive, and Redwood Highway or the former Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way by the Bay frontage.

Key trail locations are shown on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Lanes map (**Figure 4.2**).

6.6 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Department manages park and recreation facilities. Department duties include acquisition, development and implementation of park and recreation policies and programs.

Recreational programs are varied, including self-facilitated services such as senior activities, after-school programs for youth, pre-school programs, teen programs, summer camps, nature and outdoor programs, health and wellness classes, sports leagues and sports instruction, youth sports coaches and training, art and dance programs, multicultural events, and emergency preparedness and support.

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

Services and facilities are largely centered on family recreation programs, special events, drop-in activities, and facilities that serve Corte Madera families. Youth and Teen Development programs and services include before- and after-school camps, non-school day camps, parenting skill classes, family and child leisure education, and referral services to drug and alcohol treatment. Senior services for both the active and elderly include recreation programming and supportive community services.

6.7 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

GOAL PR – 1

Well-distributed and maintained system of park and recreational facilities.

POLICY PR – 1.1

Emphasize maintenance and upgrading of existing community parks and facilities.

Implementation Program PR-1.1.a: Conditions Inventory

Conduct a conditions inventory of existing park facilities and identify needed improvements.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	Three years
Resource:	General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.1.b: CIP Funding

Recommend sufficient annual funding through the CIP to ensure ongoing maintenance and improvements of existing parks and recreational facilities.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-1.1.c: Renewals with Leaseholders

Research options for renewal of long-term contracts with leaseholders of Corte Madera parks. Revise leases as appropriate.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.1.d Turf Maintenance

Explore options to convert natural turf sports fields to artificial turf in order to extend the range of use from its current five-month period to year-round use; additional benefits may include conservation of water resources and decreased pollution. Convert to artificial, environmentally sensitive turf when and where appropriate.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	CIP Budget

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

POLICY PR – 1.2

Remodel or replace the Town Recreation Center as a multi-purpose community center.

Implementation Program PR-1.2.a: Recreation Center

Prepare plans, develop funding sources, and remodel or replace the Town Recreation Center. Funding sources should not detract from funding for existing park and recreation facilities. Plan the new or remodeled facility in coordination with the Town Commons Plan described in Policy LU-6.7. Utilize green building design and construction techniques in order to reduce resource use, prevent pollution, and improve indoor environmental quality, per the Town's Green Building Guidelines.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	Four years
Resource:	CIP Budget

POLICY PR – 1.3

Pursue opportunities for new parks and recreational facilities.

Implementation Program PR-1.3.a: Acquire New Parks

Develop new neighborhood parks where land can be acquired or leased, where funding will support required maintenance activities, and where such actions would not detract from necessary funding to maintain or upgrade existing parks and facilities. Consider acquisition of surplus school properties, such as the Granada School site, if they become available.

In general, neighborhood parks should meet the location and functional criteria outlined under the proposed Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan (Policy PR-1.6 and Policy PR-1.7, below). Among the possible acquisitions or long-term leases would be those portions of Town Park, San Clemente Park and Granada Park that are currently under the control of the Larkspur and Reed Union School Districts.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.3.b: Day School Park

Maintain the playfield area of the Marin Country Day School, located between Paradise Drive and the San Francisco Bay. Consider acquisition as a park site should school use discontinue at a future date. Include the site in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (described below).

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.3.c: Park Facility Use

Coordinate Town Park planning efforts with plans for development of a Town Commons Plan to maximize use of Park facilities by Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: Three years
Resource: General Fund

POLICY PR – 1.4

Develop and maintain a Town ratio of five acres of parkland and one acre of open space for every 1,000 Corte Madera residents.

Implementation Program PR-1.4.a: Determine Park Needs

Determine the Town’s needs for adequate open space and recreation facilities based on current and projected needs, and incorporate into the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (see below).

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.4.b: Potential Park Sites

Where feasible, develop portions of school sites, regional open spaces and other facilities and sites to contribute to meeting the Town’s park needs where long-term use agreements can ensure availability and accessibility of facility use for all Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.4.c: Development Requirement

Require new development to provide dedication of parklands (for larger development projects) or payment of an in lieu fee to assist the Town in meeting parkland and open space goals.

Responsibility: Planning and Building Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: Application Fees

Implementation Program PR-1.4.d: Park Impact Fee

Adopt an ordinance to require all new residential development to pay a park improvement fee. Such Ordinance shall cover existing lots of record.

Responsibility: Planning and Building Department
Timeframe: Three years
Resource: General Plan Maintenance Fee

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

POLICY PR – 1.5

Consider acquisition of lands by fee title or lease for expansion of the Town’s parks and recreation facilities.

Implementation Program PR-1.5.a: Neighborhoods Parks

Seek to provide park and recreational facilities in neighborhoods that may be underserved or in need of expanded facilities by targeting such areas when preparing long-range budgets for parks and recreational facilities and through the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

POLICY PR – 1.6

Continue to coordinate with local, regional and state agencies to ensure the proper protection and enhancement of the Town’s park and recreational resources.

Implementation Program PR-1.6.a: Agency Coordination

Share Town park and recreational facility planning needs and interests with local, regional and state park agencies, particularly when funding options for Town program implementation will require extended agency participation.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

POLICY PR – 1.7

Develop and implement Parks and Recreation Program and Facilities Master Plans.

Implementation Program PR-1.7.a: Develop Program Master Plan

Develop a Parks and Recreation Program Master Plan that addresses the current and long-term recreation needs for Corte Madera residents. The Master Plan will examine the full range of recreation needs including open space, pedestrian and bicycle trails, as well as activities typically offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Master Plan will identify broad categories of programs to be developed and existing program areas to be maintained. Solicit public and interest group input (including from children and seniors) in preparing the Program Master Plan.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	Three years
Resource:	General Fund

Implementation Program PR-1.7.b: Program Master Plan Contents

The Parks and Recreation Program Master Plan shall include the following components:

- Demographic analyses to identify current and future trends and need groups.
- Assessment of existing and future program needs.
- Identification of program providers, including other public and private organizations as well as the Town Park and Recreation Department. Emphasize opportunities to partner and coordinate with other agencies, especially the public schools.
- Funding policies.

Implementation Program PR-1.7.c: Develop Facilities Master Plan

Using information developed in the Parks and Recreation Program Master Plan, prepare a Facilities Master Plan that addresses park and recreational facility needs for Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	Three years
Resource:	General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-1.7.d: Contents of Facilities Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan shall include the following components:

- An inventory of all parks and recreational facilities and programs, along with bicycle and pedestrian paths.
- Identify short- and long-term park and recreational facility needs for all Corte Madera residents and age groups. This may include the following facilities: the Recreation Center or a new Community Center, Youth Center and Senior Center; and new and expanded park sites and open spaces. Of these, improving or replacing the existing Recreation Center is the Town's top priority for allocation of funds.
- Identify special-needs or special-purpose parks and consider utilization of portions of existing parks for: off-leash dog areas, roller-skating, community gardens, and other needs as determined by the community.
- Develop standards for location and construction of mini-parks, neighborhood and Town (community) parks. While mini-parks can be located at almost any location in residential neighborhoods, neighborhood parks must be located within an easy walk (preferably 1/8

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

mile) of residences intended to be served by the park and of sufficient size to accommodate playfields, tot lots, playground equipment and related facilities.

- Develop standards for equipment and facility installation at each park.
- Coordinate with Town plans and programs for improved community sustainability, including trails and pathways that connect shopping, school, employment and residential uses, increased bicycle use, construction of community-gathering locations, shared-use facilities, and use of environmentally sensitive design and construction processes and materials in an effort to reduce energy and water use in facilities, consistent with the Town's Green Building Guidelines. This shall include preparation of a Trails Plan and update to the Town's Bicycle Plan as part of the Park and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- Corte Madera parks and recreational facilities should be designed to strengthen the community image, connect the community, and create a sense of place.
- Identify funding sources to achieve long-term objectives of the Master Plan. This should include a variety of financing mechanisms for the acquisition, development, operations and maintenance of parks, trails and recreation facilities.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: Four years
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

GOAL PR – 2

A range of recreation programs that offers opportunities to participate for all Town residents.

POLICY PR – 2.1

Expand the range of recreation programs available to Town residents by providing constructive and creative leisure opportunities.

Implementation Program PR-2.1.a: Varied Recreational Activities

Continue to identify the recreation needs for residents of all ages and abilities, and make arrangements for the availability of a wide range of recreation programs. Provide additional annual funding to expand facilities and programs.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-2.1.b: Program Services

Provide leisure opportunities through programs, activities and facilities that mainstream the specialized needs of the disabled, children, and elderly into the daily provision of public recreation services.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; Program User fees

Implementation Program PR-2.1.c: ADA Compliance

Update recreation facilities to meet ADA and other accessibility standards through compliance with the Town's Transition Plan.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-2.1.d: Playground Safety

Update all Town playgrounds and facilities for conformance to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

POLICY PR – 2.2

Explore opportunities for joint-use of existing recreational facilities and programs available through surrounding jurisdictions.

Implementation Program PR-2.2.a: Joint-Use Opportunities

Work with the jurisdictions of Mill Valley, Larkspur and Tiburon to identify joint use opportunities at existing and planned parks and recreational facilities. Assure that there is a clear and measurable benefit to Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility: Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

POLICY PR – 2.3

Seek expanded opportunities for Corte Madera residents to utilize the Redwood High School aquatics center.

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

Implementation Program PR-2.3.a: Redwood High School

Explore a long-term use agreement with Redwood High School to provide expanded opportunities for use of the aquatics center by Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

POLICY PR – 2.4

Pursue opportunities for Corte Madera residents to use private recreational facilities through joint-use agreements.

Implementation Program PR-2.4.a: Coordinate Facility Use

Contact local recreational facility providers and operators to explore opportunities for entering into long-term use agreements to provide expanded and affordable opportunities for facility use by Corte Madera residents.

Responsibility:	Parks and Recreation Department
Timeframe:	On-going
Resource:	General Fund

GOAL PR – 3

Community trails system that will promote non-automotive, environmentally sound circulation.

POLICY PR – 3.1

Preserve the aesthetics, accessibility, and environmental qualities of existing trails and paths within Corte Madera.

Implementation Program PR – 3.1.a: Enhance Trails

Prioritize and enhance selected trail and pathway segments in the hillside areas of Town, and develop a map of existing trails and footpaths. In general, trail enhancement should focus on the lower elevations to provide improved pedestrian access to Old Corte Madera Square, Town Hall and Town Park, to Lagoons 1 and 2, and trail access at higher elevations to the Blithedale Summit, Alto Bowl and Ring Mountain Preserves. Coordinate such activities with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan through inclusion of a Trails Plan.

Responsibility:	Planning/Bldg & Public Works Departments
Timeframe:	Three years
Resource:	General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-3.1.b: Paving Trails

Paving trails or paths shall only be considered for specific purposes, such as bicycle uses. [Pervious paving materials should be used where reasonably feasible.](#)

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-3.1.c: Interest Group Participation

Encourage the participation of such groups as the Christmas Tree Hilldweller's Association in hillside trail and pathway improvements and maintenance and in developing the Trails Plan.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

Implementation Program PR-3.1.d: Special Access Construction

Construct or enhance trails, where possible and practical, to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Trail projects shall be included in the CIP Budget based on the availability of finances, as determined by the Town Council.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-3.1.e: Drainage and Erosion Control

Construct or enhance trails to provide for proper drainage and erosion control. Trail projects shall be included in the CIP Budget based on the availability of finances, as determined by the Town Council.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-3.1.f: Informational Signage

Establish interpretive and informational signage to promote use of Town trails and paths.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

6.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

POLICY PR – 3.2

Identify linkages, corridors and other connectors to provide a functional network of parks, open space areas, and bicycle paths through the Town.

Implementation Program PR-3.2.a: Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity

Implement provisions of the Town’s Bicycle Transportation Plan, and include bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. This shall include an update of priority construction projects in the Plan and as carried out through financing, as available, in the CIP Budget. Completion of the Bay Trail is identified as the Town’s top priority for construction of bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

Implementation Program PR-3.2.b: Habitat Protection

Protect and retain existing natural habitat when planning a Town-wide trail system.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

Implementation Program PR-3.2.c: Bicycle Lock Facilities

Consider bicycle lock facilities to enhance connections and accessibility for different users within the network of parks, open space areas, and bicycle paths through the Town.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

GOAL PR – 4

Adequate access to open space.

POLICY PR – 4.1

Encourage the provision of access to open space areas in the design of adjacent development projects.

Implementation Program PR-4.1.a: Subdivision Requirements

Identify access paths and parking areas as part of development approvals. Design access paths to avoid neighborhood and user disputes; minimize intrusion into sensitive wildlife habitat areas.

Responsibility: Planning/Bldg & Public Works Departments
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: Application Fees

Implementation Program PR-4.1.b: Marsh and Preserve Access

Coordinate access to and use of the Town's varied open spaces, canals and ecological preserves with policy and implementation actions in Chapter 3 (Resource Conservation).

Responsibility: Planning/Parks/Public Works Departments
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund; CIP Budget

POLICY PR - 4.2

Encourage the provision of access to parks and open space areas via public transportation.

Implementation Program PR-4.2.a: Public Transportation

Work with the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transit District to develop a strategy for the future to provide public transportation to parks and open space areas.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Timeframe: On-going
Resource: General Fund

