

## **15. PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

This chapter describes the existing public services and recreation resources in the General Plan Planning Area.

Topics covered in this chapter include:

- Fire Protection Services
- Police Protection Services
- Schools
- Libraries
- Parks

This chapter begins with an overview of the regulatory framework for all the public services topics followed by a description of existing services in the General Plan Planning Area.

### **15.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

#### **15.1.1 STATE REGULATIONS**

##### **15.1.1.1 California Building Code**

The State of California provides a minimum standard for building design through Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The California Building Code (CBC) is located in Part 2 of Title 24. The CBC is updated every three years, and the current 2019 CBC went into effect in January 2020. The City of Hollister adopted the CBC into its Municipal Code (see below). Commercial and residential buildings are plan-checked by City building officials for compliance with the CBC. Typical fire safety requirements of the CBC include the establishment of fire resistance standards for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of construction, and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

##### **15.1.1.2 California Fire Code**

The California Fire Code (CFC) incorporates, by adoption, the International Fire Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments. This is the official Fire Code for the State and all political subdivisions. It is found in CCR Title 24, Part 9 and, like the CBC, it is revised and published every three years by the California Building Standards Commission. Also like the CBC, the CFC is effective statewide, but a local jurisdiction may adopt more restrictive standards based on local conditions.

The CFC includes provisions and standards for emergency planning and preparedness, fire service features, fire protection systems, hazardous materials, fire flow requirements, and fire hydrant locations and distribution. Typical fire safety requirements include: installation of sprinklers in all high-rise buildings; the establishment of fire resistance standards for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

construction; and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

### **15.1.1.3 The Mello-Roos Communities Facilities Act of 1982**

The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act, Government Code Section 53311 *et seq.*, provides an alternative method of financing certain public capital facilities and services through special taxes. This State law empowers local agencies to establish Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) to levy special taxes for facilities such as fire protection, police protection, and libraries. Such districts exist within the City of Hollister.

### **15.1.1.4 Senate Bill (SB) 50**

Senate Bill (SB) 50 (funded by Proposition 1A, approved in 1998) limits the power of cities and counties to require mitigation of school facilities impacts as a condition of approving new development and provides instead for a standardized developer fee. SB 50 generally provides for a 50/50 State and local school facilities funding match. SB 50 also provides for three levels of statutory impact fees. The maximum allowable fee is \$3.79 per square foot (SF) for residential development and \$0.61 per SF for commercial and industrial development. In setting the fees, school districts must prepare nexus studies to demonstrate a reasonable connection between new development and the need for school improvements. The fees may only be used to finance the construction or modernization of school facilities. The fee application level depends on whether State funding is available, whether the school district is eligible for State funding and whether the school district meets certain additional criteria involving bonding capacity, year-round school, and the percentage of moveable classrooms in use.

### **15.1.1.5 California Government Code, Section 65995(b), and Education Code Section 17620**

SB 50 amended California Government Code Section 65995, which contains limitations on Education Code Section 17620, the statute that authorizes school districts to assess development fees within school district boundaries. Government Code Section 65995(b)(3) requires the maximum square footage assessment for development to be increased every two years, according to inflation adjustments. On January 22, 2014 the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved increasing the allowable amount of statutory school facilities fees (Level I School Fees) from \$3.20 to \$3.36 per square foot of assessable space for residential development of 500 square feet or more, and from \$0.51 to \$0.54 per square foot of chargeable covered and enclosed space for commercial/industrial development. According to California Government Code Section 65995(3)(h), the payment of statutory fees is “deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization...on the provision of adequate school facilities.” The school district is responsible for implementing the specific methods for mitigating school impacts under the Government Code.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****15.1.1.6 Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code 66000-66008)**

AB 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put.<sup>1</sup> The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This Act became effective on January 1, 1989.

**15.1.1.7 The Quimby Act**

The 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) authorizes cities and counties to adopt ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for operation and maintenance of park facilities.<sup>2</sup> A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or parkland and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons for new development. Cities with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per 1,000 persons. The calculation of a city's park space to population ratio is based on a comparison of the population count of the last federal census to the amount of city-owned parkland.

**15.1.2 REGIONAL REGULATIONS****15.1.2.1 San Benito County Free Library Strategic Plan, 2011**

The 2011 San Benito County Free Library Strategic Plan, prepared by the San Benito County Free Library (SBCL), which sets forth goals and objectives for a 5-year horizon. The goals and objectives identify ways to improve the libraries existing services by providing customer-focused service, building community ties, enhancing technology, and optimizing space.<sup>3</sup>

**15.1.2.2 San Benito County Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan**

San Benito County developed the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to:

- Define a 20-year vision for parks and recreation in San Benito County for the next 20 years and beyond.
- Develop a realistic implementation program to achieve the vision.

---

<sup>1</sup> California Legislative Information, California Law, Code Section Group, Government Code Sections 66000-66008, [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=) accessed on April 8, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Westrup, Laura, 2002, Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation.

<sup>3</sup> San Benito County Free Library, 2011, San Benito County Free Library Strategic Plan.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

- Define the County’s role and responsibilities to maintain and enhance countywide parks and recreation.

Goals from the Plan include, but are not limited to:

- Encouraging and developing access and connections between parklands through an expanded alternative transportation network.
- Locating parks with active recreation facilities near urban centers.
- Establishing greenbelts around urban development areas.
- Protecting natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Coordinating parkland locations and facilities to diversity their geographic distribution.

The plan recommends the following capital projects in Hollister on County-owned land or through partnerships with the City in the near and long term:

- San Benito River Parkway: interim trails, community or regional park, and dog park.
- Community Cultural Center.
- Existing Park Improvements: Veterans Memorial Park improvements, BBQ pit installations, entrance signage.
- Existing School Improvements: McCarthy Park playground, Marguerite Maze Middle School, San Benito High School.

### *San Benito River Parkway Master Plan*

San Benito County adopted the San Benito River Parkway Master Plan in 2013 to develop a 20-mile contiguous park along the San Benito River and a segment of Tres Pinos Creek through the county. The plan provides opportunities for nature education, bird watching, hiking, biking, and horseback riding through the park. The parkway is directly adjacent to Hollister’s Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, which is slated for park improvements by the City, discussed further below. This master plan proposes a link between the City’s park and the regional park to facilitate park accessibility and encourage park use.

## **15.1.3 LOCAL REGULATIONS**

### **15.1.3.1 2005 City of Hollister General Plan**

The City of Hollister 2005 General Plan goals, policies, and actions relevant to fire protection, police services, schools, libraries, and parks are throughout the seven elements. As part of the General Plan Update, it is likely that some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions could be amended, substantially changed, or new policies could be added. Applicable goals, policies, and actions are identified in Table 15-1 below. In addition to the policies discussed below, the existing General Plan includes a recommended parks service per population standard of four acres of park space per 1,000 residents within the greater Hollister area.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**TABLE 15-1 2005 HOLLISTER GENERAL PLAN RELEVANT FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, POLICE SERVICES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND PARKS POLICIES**

<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Policy</b>
LU2.3	Police and Fire Staffing Levels. Review police and fire department master plans to determine and meet adequate staffing levels.
LU3.5	Open Space Preservation. Require the provision of usable open space in multi-family residential developments in the form of ground-floor patios, upper-floor decks and balconies, and common recreational facilities.
LU3.6	Landscaping On Public and Private Sites. Require landscaping on public and private sites, including entry areas, street medians, parks, schools, parking lots, plazas, courtyards and recreational areas.
LU4.4	Streets, Paths and Bikeways. Ensure that streets, paths and bikeways contribute to the system of a fully connected transportation network.
LU9.4	San Benito River. Where possible, preserve and restore natural drainage ways to the San Benito River, and coordinate recreational and trail use along the river
CSF1.1	Adequate Capabilities and Capacity of Local Public Services. Ensure that future growth does not exceed the capabilities and capacity of local public services such as wastewater collection and treatment, local water supply systems, fire and police protection, maintenance of streets and roads, local school systems, parks and recreational facilities, and landfill capacity, and ensure that public services meet Federal and State standards and are available in a timely fashion
CSF1.2	New Development Requirements for Public Services. Require new development applications to identify the impacts that the proposed development would have on the provision of public services, and approve those applications that can mitigate impacts or contribute a proportional fair share so that local public services can be maintained at an acceptable level.
CSF1.4	Coordinate Facilities and Services Planning. Cooperate and coordinate with the County of San Benito, LAFCO and other local agencies in the provision of infrastructure and services within the Hollister Planning Area.
CSF1.5	Capital Improvements Maintenance and Replacement. Ensure that the City's Capital Improvement Program is coordinated with responsible districts and agencies and provides for ongoing, preventative maintenance of infrastructure facilities and the timely replacement of City equipment
CSF1.6	Other Infrastructure Planning. Require the preparation of infrastructure master plans in areas outside the designated Sphere of Influence as a prerequisite to annexation. Such plans shall contain, but not be limited to, plans for sewer services, water service, storm drainage, traffic circulation, recreation facilities, school facilities and funding alternatives for police and fire services.
CSF4.1	Providing Quality Education. Maintain a close, collaborative relationship with the school districts to maximize public benefit, and collaborate with schools, from preschools to the college level, in fostering educational programs to benefit the community.
CSF4.2	Community Use of School Facilities. Collaborate with schools to provide access to school facilities for neighborhood and community activities, and encourage joint planning with local school districts in determining the location of educational facilities. All new development shall be required to mitigate its fair share of the impact of such development on school facilities to the maximum extent permitted under state law.
CSF4.4	Park and Recreation Standards. Provide for high-quality neighborhood and community parks to meet the recreational, open space, leisure and play needs and desire of existing and future residents. Coordinate efforts with the County of San Benito to provide an average of four acres of developed parks and recreational facilities for every 1,000 residents within the Hollister Planning Area.
CSF4.5	Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ensure an equitable distribution of parks and recreational facilities throughout the City. The City will strive to improve, operate, maintain and rehabilitate existing parks, facilities and other public amenities, and will design all new parks to meet the quality standards established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
CSF4.6	Recreation Programs. Provide high-quality facilities and recreation programs to meet the recreational and cultural needs and desires of existing and future residents of all groups, ethnicities and income levels.
CSF4.7	Police Services. Ensure that development within the Hollister Planning Area does not exceed the capability of the Hollister Police Department and the San Benito County Sheriff's Department to provide an adequate level of police protection.
CSF4.8	Fire Safety. Ensure that development within the Hollister Planning Area does not exceed the capability of the Hollister Fire Department and the San Benito County Fire Department to provide an adequate level of fire protection.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

**TABLE 15-1 2005 HOLLISTER GENERAL PLAN RELEVANT FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, POLICE SERVICES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND PARKS POLICIES**

Policy No.	Policy
CSF4.9	Library Services. Cooperate with the County of San Benito and local schools in all efforts to maintain or enhance local library services.
CSF4.12	Requirements for Fire Safety. Ensure that all new development will be adequately designed to minimize risks to life and property through the implementation of the Fire Protection Master Plan. New development will be protected from fire hazards through the provision of peak load water supply systems capable of providing the flow required for fire suppression, through the design of roads with adequate widths and turning radii, and through adequate separation between buildings, prior to project approval.
CSF4.15	Develop Public Information Campaigns. Collaborate with schools, governmental agencies and community organizations to expand existing programs and establish new outreach campaigns to promote physical activity and nutritious meals.
OS1.1	Open Space Preservation. Retain and protect open space areas whenever practical through the protection of prime farmlands, the prevention of new development in areas subject to natural hazards that serve as wildlife habitat or as visual assets for the community, and where the development of additional parks and trails is possible. Open space areas can also function as connections between neighborhoods, for example with the creation of pathways in environmentally appropriate areas.
HS1.1	Location of Future Development. Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated, including development which would be subject to severe flood damage or geological hazard due to its location and/or design. Development also should be prohibited where emergency services, including fire protection, cannot be provided.
HS1.10	Floodplain Uses. Identify those areas with natural hazards that are unsuitable for development but which may be suitable for recreational uses, and encourage developers to dedicate such lands to the City for use as parks or for preservation as open space consistent with the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Master Plan or other infrastructure plan developed for a given area. Such areas of dedication or proposed to develop as recreation amenities to the community should be economically feasible to build and maintain.
HS3.6	Noise Standards Enforcement. Administer the policies identified in the Noise Element and comply with State requirements for certain other noise control programs through specific local enforcement programs.
HS3.7	Airport Noise. Review all proposed development north of Wright Road/McCloskey Road to ensure that it will be compatible with operations at the Hollister Municipal Airport and applicable noise standards and regulations.

Source: City of Hollister, 2005 *General Plan*.

### 15.1.3.2 Hollister Municipal Code

The Hollister Municipal Code (HMC), organized by Title, Chapter, and Section, contains all ordinances for the City and addresses fire protection services and parks. Most provisions relating to fire protection services are included in Title 15, Buildings and Construction, which establishes the jurisdiction of the Hollister Fire Department (HFD). Services of the HFD include fire protection, vehicle accidents, first responder emergency medical services (EMS), public assistance, alarms, gas leaks, HAZMAT, and other miscellaneous needs. Title 15.04, Hollister Building Code, of the HMC adopts prescriptions regulating governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion. This includes the 2019 Fire Code, which consists of portions of the 2018 International Fire Code as amended by the California Building Standards Commission. This Title includes building regulations related to the fire resistance of buildings.

Section 16.55, Park and Recreation Area Dedications and Fees, of the HMC requires new subdivisions include dedicated parkland. The subdivider can opt to pay parkland in-lieu fees in place of dedicating a portion of their project to parkland. In-lieu fee amounts are determined prior to project approval, and are

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

generally equal to the value of the land and improvements, which would have been required for dedication.

**15.1.3.3 Hollister Park Facility Master Plan**

Hollister’s 2018 Park Facility Master Plan (PFMP) assesses existing City parks and recreation facilities and recommends future priority projects and potential funding mechanisms. Recommendations regarding future parks and joint use agreements to maximize City facilities focus on:

- Future park and trail projects:
  - McCarthy Park Development with expanded amenities;
  - Dog Park at Valley View Park following park expansion;
  - Pedestrian connection via footbridge to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility;
  - Leatherback Property recreational development;
  - Hollister Fire Station No. 2 Neighborhood Park and outdoor fitness park; and
  - Santa Ana Creek Linear Trail connector.
- Development of an aquatic facility via joint use agreement with a school district.
- Adoption of formal dual use flood control basin/park design typology to ensure adequate recreational usage in the event of inundation.
- Revision of development in-lieu fees to require 5 acres of park land per 1,000 population.
- New amenities to be added to Dunne Park, Jerry Gabe Memorial Park, Las Brias Park, Tony Aguirre Memorial Park, and Valley View Park.

**15.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS****15.2.1 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

Fire services in the General Plan Planning Area are provided by the Hollister Fire Department (HFD). Preventing and extinguishing structural fires, protecting life and property safety, and reducing fire losses is an essential part of HFD’s mission. The HFD provides fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue, and fire prevention services within the City Limits, as well as to the City of San Juan Bautista, and all of San Benito County.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

HFD has two automatic aid agreements with the South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) and Aromas Tri-County Fire District (ATCFD).<sup>4</sup> Both SSCCFD and ATCFD have contracted with CALFIRE for service, and both automatic aid agreements encompass reciprocal responses with each agency. Agencies in California must provide mutual aid assistance to each other when requested and available. This agreement only allows for assistance for a specific period of time and the requesting agency may be charged for service, but it increases aid during fire emergencies across the county.

In addition, HFD and CALFIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit (BEU), which services the State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) in San Benito County and Monterey County, have an established Annual Operating Plan (AOP) which delegates operation responsibilities, relationships, and expectations at the field unit level.<sup>5</sup> CALFIRE BEU does not operate year round, so the AOP clearly designates both agencies' service responsibilities and fire operations within San Benito County. During operation, CALFIRE BEU has responsibility for the SRA for wildland fires, and HFD has responsibility for the Local Response Area (LRA). When CALFIRE BEU is not in operation, HFD assumes full responsibility of fire protection services. Refer to Chapter 18, Wildfire, of this Environmental Baseline for detailed information on fire hazard severity zones and wildfire prevention within the General Plan Planning Area.

### **15.2.1.1 Staffing**

The HFD employs a total of 41 uniformed emergency personnel, in addition to one Fire Chief and one Fire Marshal. The HFD Fire Marshal works closely with the City's Code Enforcement to ensure all structures meet CFC standards. The HFD also provides fire response and rescue services for both urban and wildland fires throughout San Benito County. The HFD reports that personnel are highly skilled qualified, but the current level of staffing is inadequate to meet the current demands for fire protection services in the service area.

The HFD administrative facilities are located at Fire Station 1 on 110 Fifth Street. There are 13 firefighters on duty daily dispersed among the four stations, and each station has at least one engine company, one captain, one engineer, and one firefighter on duty at all times. The HFD reports that the current ratio of 0.69 firefighters for every 1,000 people in the county is not adequate. Low staff levels are due to limited budget and ongoing staff attrition (i.e. employees leave HFD for similar, higher-paying positions in other jurisdictions). While there is no standard established locally, the HFD reports that a generally accepted ratio should be 1 firefighter for every 1,000 people. Furthermore, the HFD anticipates that there will not be enough staff to meet the growing population in Hollister and the surrounding unincorporated county.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Martin Del Campo, Bob. Fire Chief, Hollister Fire Department. Personal communication with PlaceWorks. May 27, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> CAL FIRE identifies lands in California as falling within one of the following management areas: Local Responsibility Area (LRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Within each of these areas, a single agency has direct responsibility: in LRAs, local fire departments or fire protection districts are responsible; in SRAs, CAL FIRE is responsible; in FRAs, federal agencies such as the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of Defense, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of the Interior are responsible.

---

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****15.2.1.2 Facilities**

There are three HFD fire stations in the City Limits and one fire station in the unincorporated area of the county. The HFD anticipates constructing two additional fire stations in San Benito County within the next ten years to serve the growing population development in the areas surrounding Hollister. The HFD anticipates constructing one station near the San Juan Oaks Golf Course southwest of the General Plan Planning Area and one station approximately five miles south of the Hollister City Limits. The HFD reports that efforts in recent years to update antiquated equipment have been largely successful, but there are a few outstanding equipment needs in order to maintain an acceptable level of service. The HFD needs one Type 3 wildland engine, a ladder firetruck, and a water tender.

HFD intends to establish a critical infrastructure building at Station 3, making it a fully-functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and warming center. HFD notes that, if service continues to the future planned developments southwest of Hollister, a fifth station would be needed for adequate fire protection services.<sup>4</sup>

**15.2.1.3 Response Times and Performance**

During 2019, the HFD responded to 33 grass fires and 22 building fires. The HFD also responded to 21 vehicle fires, 18 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fires, 17 trash/rubbish fires, and 12 cooking fires. In the General Plan Planning Area, there were a total of 4,245 calls for service, including 2,550 for EMS, ambulances, and similar services. There were also 282 false alarms, malfunctions, or unintentional calls and 1,413 other incidents (animal rescue, hazardous waste, smoke, etc.).

The HFD's Insurance Service Office has a rating of Class 3 in the city and 3X for the unincorporated county, which is on the scale of 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. The HFD has a response time goal to be on scene within 5 minutes following a call for service, which is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710. The HFD reports that its current response time is approximately 5 to 7 minutes in the city, but response times vary within their 1,400 square mile service area due to its large size and rural, often inaccessible, nature. The HFD strives to improve response time with strategic engine placement, more station locations, increased staffing, and equipment updates.<sup>4,6</sup>

**15.2.1.4 Budget**

The Hollister Municipal General Fund supports essential City services, including fire protection. In fiscal year 2019 to 2020, fire services accounted for roughly 29 percent of the City's Municipal General Fund expenditures, which included funding for employee salaries, purchasing fire suppression equipment, and various other basic funding needs.<sup>7</sup> The County of San Benito also contributes to the budget for the provision of countywide fire services.

---

<sup>6</sup> Hollister Fire Department, 2020. Count of Incidents by Incident Type by Incident Status for Date Range Report.

<sup>7</sup> City of Hollister, 2018, Fiscal Year 2018-2020 Bi-Annual Budget, <http://hollister.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/BUDGET-FY-18-19-19-20-pt-1.pdf>, accessed on June 1, 2020.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

Voters approved Measure E in November 2012 which commits the City to maintain operations at all current Hollister fire stations and rapid emergency response times. Measure E also funds other essential City services such as major capital public safety improvements and road maintenance. Measure W, approved by voters in 2016, extended the 1 percent sales tax enacted by Measure E for an additional 20 years. Although Measure W is more recent, the City budget still categorizes the tax revenue as “Measure E funds”. Measure E revenues have raised approximately \$4.6 million per fiscal year, which has been the funding source for multiple essential facility upgrades in Hollister.

HFD was also awarded a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant FY 2017 for 9 Firefighters for a period of three years.

Other funds for the HFD also come from the Mello Roos District Fund, the Panoche Valley Fund, and development impact fees. Community Facilities District 5, with boundaries that mirror the City Limits, funds the Mello Roos District which covers the salaries of three fire staff personnel. Community Facilities District 5 was created in 2018 to replace the tax rate levied by the previous Community Facilities District 2 for the provision of police and fire services to new development, based on a revised financial study. The Panoche Valley Fund finances HFD service to the Panoche Valley Solar Farm during the construction phase and the salaries of three fire staff personnel. Development impact fees are levied against all new development in the city to pay for the construction or improvement of fire facilities as a result of City growth.

### **15.2.1.5 Implications for the General Plan Update**

Based on information contained in this section, the General Plan Update process should consider the following:

- Formalize HFD adopted response times as a General Plan policy.
- Identify general locations for new fire stations in the General Plan Planning Area to serve future development.

### **15.2.2 POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

Police services in the General Plan Planning Area are provided by the Hollister Police Department (HPD), the San Benito County Sheriff’s Office, and the California Highway Patrol. The HPD has primary responsibility for areas within the City Limits. The San Benito County Sheriff’s Office provides services to unincorporated areas within the General Plan Planning Area and the California Highway Patrol provides traffic enforcement on State and local freeways. Mutual aid agreements between these agencies allow for joint responses to emergency situations that warrant additional personnel.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****15.2.2.1 Staffing and Facilities**

The national staffing average for cities with populations comparable to Hollister is 17.0 sworn personnel per 10,000 residents and 21.2 total personnel per 10,000 residents.<sup>8</sup> HPD has a goal of staffing 15 to 17 sworn officers per 10,000 residents. HPD has a total of 37 full-time sworn officers and 12 full-time non-sworn personnel, for a total staff of 49 personnel. This equates to 12.5 sworn officers per 10,000 residents and 16.5 total personnel per 10,000 residents, which is below the national staffing average for cities with populations of comparable size. The HPD also has 8 positions within the Animal Care and Services division. This suggests that HPD is understaffed for a city of Hollister's size, and a recent staffing study recommended adding an additional 11 positions to the HPD.<sup>9</sup>

The HPD is organized into two divisions: the Operations Division and the Support Services Division. The Operations and Support Services Divisions are commanded by Lieutenants who report directly to the Captain. The Captain is responsible for the administration and management of the HPD and reports to the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police has overall command of the entire HPD and is responsible for the administration of the HPD. The Operations Division is commanded by a Lieutenant whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for that division. The Operations Division consists of Patrol, Reserves, and SWAT. The Support Services Division, also called the Investigation Division, is commanded by a Lieutenant whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Investigation Division. This Division consists of Investigations, Volunteers, Records, Parking Enforcement, Property/Evidence, Personnel and Community Services, and Animal Control. Some police services are provided with field patrols on a geographic (or "beat") basis and other functions are organized on a citywide basis. Citywide services include crime prevention, investigations, community engagement, and traffic patrols.

The HPD divides the city into separate beats. Officers traditionally switch beats every day of their work week to keep them knowledgeable of each beat's unique issues and qualities. HPD recently redesigned the beats to reflect a more balanced call volume between beats.

The HPD headquarters is located at 395 Apollo Way in northwest Hollister. The HPD is gradually outgrowing its existing facilities and is in need of a new storage room, women's locker room, gas pumps, and other general facilities. Following recommendations from a recent staffing study, the HPD plans to expand its headquarters to the adjoining lot, and construct a new, larger training facility and administration office, along with a dispatch center. The current building will house the expanded patrol and investigations units.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> *Governing* calculations of 2016 FBI UCR data, <https://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/police-officers-per-capita-rates-employment-for-city-departments.html>, accessed June 12, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Reynoso, Carlos. Interim Chief of Police, Hollister Police Department. Personal communication with PlaceWorks. June 10, 2020.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

### **15.2.2.2 Response Times and Performance**

In 2019, HPD received 2,628 calls to 9-1-1. This equates to an average of 219 calls per month, or about 7.2 per day. In addition, HPD received 17,609 administrative calls and 9,982 officer-initiated calls in 2019.<sup>10</sup>

HPD reported an average response time of 6 to 7 minutes for high priority calls in both 2018 and 2019. Mid-level priority calls had an average response time of 9 to 12 minutes in 2018 and 2019, and low-priority calls had an average response time of 20 to 27 minutes. The HPD does not have an adopted response time. The proximity of the police department to call locations correlates to response times and performance, according to HPD. Headquarters sit at the most northern edge of the city, well outside of the center, so this adds to longer response times. A more centralized police department or even large substation for patrol could aid in response time reduction.<sup>10</sup>

### **15.2.2.3 Budget**

The HPD is funded by the City's Municipal General Fund, which supports essential City services such as police and fire protection, building and street maintenance, libraries, recreation, parks and open space maintenance. In fiscal year 2019 to 2020, police services accounted for roughly 31 percent of the City's Municipal General Fund expenditures, which funded employee salaries, police equipment, and other needs.<sup>11</sup> HPD also receives funding from a Homeland Security Grant, managed through the County, which is used to purchase anti-terrorism equipment. Additional police expenses are paid for by the Measure E fund as described above.

Funds for the HPD also come from:

- State Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds which finances capital police projects.
- State-endowed Office of Traffic Safety Fund which supplements traffic-related programs like DUI checks and motor safety.
- COPS More Fund, a federal program that supports School Resources Officer programs at local schools from federal monies.
- Community Facilities Districts 2 and 5 Mello Roos District Fund, as described above, which funds the salaries of three police staff personnel.
- Development Impact Fees which help fund the construction of new police facilities. HPD anticipates a need to increase impact fees to anticipate new growth in the city over the next 20 years.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Olson, Eric. Lieutenant, Hollister Police Department. Personal communication with PlaceWorks. June 27, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> City of Hollister, 2018, Fiscal Year 2018-2020 Bi-Annual Budget, <http://hollister.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/BUDGET-FY-18-19-19-20-pt-1.pdf>, accessed on June 1, 2020.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

**15.2.2.4 Implications for the General Plan Update**

Based on information contained in this chapter, the General Plan Update process should consider the following:

- Encourage HPD to establish a formal response time policy.
- Support HPD’s efforts to improve staffing and facility resources to provide an adequate level of police protection as Hollister grows.

**15.2.3 PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The General Plan Planning Area is served by four school districts: the Hollister School District (HSD), Southside Elementary School District (SESD), North Joint Union Elementary School District (NJUESD), and the San Benito High School District (SBHSD). The HSD, for students in grades K through 8<sup>th</sup>, also serves unincorporated areas of San Benito County surrounding the City Limits. SBHSD, for students in grades 9 through 12<sup>th</sup>, is the high school district for both the city and most of unincorporated San Benito County. Both SEDS and NJUESD are single-school elementary school districts located in unincorporated San Benito County but within the General Plan Planning Area. The names, locations, and grades of each school in the four school districts are shown in Table 15-2.1.

**TABLE 15-2.1 HOLLISTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS**

School Name	Location	Grade	Capacity	2018-2019 Enrollment
<b>Hollister School District</b>				
Accelerated Achievement Academy <sup>a</sup>	1151 Buena Vista Rd	K-5	250	145
Calaveras Elementary School <sup>a</sup>	1151 Buena Vista Rd	K-5	550	464
Cerra Vista Elementary	2151 Cerra Vista Dr	K-5	700	597
Gabilan Hills Elementary School <sup>a</sup>	921 Santa Ana Rd	K-5	900 <sup>b</sup>	257
Hollister Dual Language Academy <sup>a</sup>	921 Santa Ana Rd	K-5		713
Ladd Lane Elementary School	161 Ladd Lane	K-5	750	659
Marguerite Maze Middle School	900 Meridian St	6-8	800	722
Rancho San Justo Middle School	1201 Rancho Dr	7-8	800	<b>866</b>
R.O. Hardin Elementary School	881 Line St	K-5	700	437
Sunnyslope Elementary School	1475 Memorial Dr	K-5	700	578
Rancho Santana School <sup>c</sup>	1454 Santa Ranch Dr	K-8	850	n/a
<b>Southside Elementary School District</b>				
Southside Elementary School	4991 Southside Rd	K-8	n/a	213
<b>North Joint Union Elementary School District</b>				
Spring Grove Elementary School	500 Spring Grove Rd	K-8	n/a	720
<b>San Benito High School District</b>				
San Benito High School	1220 Monterey St	9-12	3,437	3,005

- a. This campus contains both a traditional school and a magnet school.
- b. Gabilan Hills Elementary is slated to close in 2021.
- c. This school is under construction and anticipated to open in 2021.
- d. Acreage is a general estimate.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

### **15.2.3.1 Hollister School District**

The HSD consists of eleven K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade schools, including Rancho Santana School which is slated to open in 2021. Two of the elementary schools, Calaveras Elementary School and Gabilan Hills Elementary School, share a campus with two magnet schools, the Accelerated Achievement Academy and the Hollister Dual Language Academy, respectively. Gabilan Hills Elementary School is expected to close and transition to become part of the Hollister Dual Language Academy in 2021, moving all students on the campus to attend Rancho Santana School.

In 2020, total capacity was 4,500 students for the HSD elementary schools, 1,600 for the HSD middle schools, and 850 for the HSD K-8<sup>th</sup> grade school. The total number of K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade children attending public school in the General Plan Planning Area in the 2018-2019 school year was 5,438 students. All the schools are operating within the existing capacity, with the exception of Rancho San Justo Middle School which exceeded its capacity by 66 students in the 2018-2019 school year.<sup>12</sup>

Funded by Measure M, HSD performed facility upgrades at multiple schools starting in 2014. The Gabilan Hills Elementary/Hollister Dual Language Academy campus underwent an expansion project and received a new shade structure. R.O. Hardin Elementary School and Rancho San Justo Middle School both underwent modernization projects. Sunnyslope Elementary School carried out Phase I of their Master Plan to upgrade classrooms, restrooms, black top, and administration offices. Ladd Lane Elementary School underwent a re-roofing. The Cerra Vista Elementary School and the Calaveras Elementary/Accelerated Achievement Academy campus both had HVAC upgrade projects. In addition, Measure V is anticipated to fully fund construction of the Santana Ranch Elementary School campus.<sup>13</sup>

The operating budget for HSD was \$59.3 million for the 2019-2020 school year. HSD funds primarily come from the State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), property taxes, federal revenue, other State revenue, Measures V and M, and other local revenue.<sup>14</sup> In 2019, HSD charged impact fees of \$3.33 per square foot of residential development and \$0.56 per square foot of commercial development.<sup>15</sup> These help fund constructing and rehabilitating school facilities.

### **15.2.3.2 Southside Elementary School District**

SESD includes one elementary school, Southside Elementary School, approximately 1.5 miles south of the Hollister City Limits. The SESD serves students from K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with 213 students enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> Ochoa, Diego. Superintendent, Hollister School District. Personal communication with PlaceWorks. May 17, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Hollister School District. 2018. Measures M & V Annual Report.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IC5csiXmah31IWxKwIqorYF\\_0XZsH3BM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IC5csiXmah31IWxKwIqorYF_0XZsH3BM/view), accessed June 10, 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Hollister School District. 2020. District Reports, <https://www.hesd.org/district-reports>, accessed August 18, 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Chadwell, John. 2019. *HSD Trustees Receive Report on Developer Fees*. BenitoLink, <https://benitolink.com/hsd-trustees-receive-report-on-developer-fees/>, accessed June 10, 2020.

<sup>16</sup> California Department of Education, Data Reporting Office, <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus>, accessed August 18, 2020.

---

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

The current campus was constructed in 1978 and contains 11 classrooms with 15.5 staff members (9.5 teachers, five classified staff, and one administrator).<sup>17</sup> Facility improvements are identified through an annual site report and grounds inspections, and no major improvements are anticipated at this time. The school is currently in the process of repainting, and the well water pump was replaced in 2018.

For the 2019-2020 school year, SESD had a budget of approximately \$1.29 million, comprised of LCFF funds, LCFF supplemental and concentration funds, lottery, Title II, other supplemental and concentration funds, the Friends of Southside School Endowment fund, the "Bumpy" Picetti Southside School Fund, and other sources.<sup>17</sup>

### **15.2.3.3 North County Joint Union School District**

The NCJUSD encompasses approximately 190 square miles in northern unincorporated San Benito County, and includes one school, Spring Grove Elementary School, located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the City Limits. Grades offered range from K through 8<sup>th</sup>, and approximately 720 students were enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year.<sup>16</sup>

The current campus was built in 1975, and there are 60 certificated teachers and classified employees.<sup>18</sup> The district does not anticipate major improvements in the foreseeable future but maintains funds for deferred maintenance for classroom and campus improvements. In 2018, for example, Spring Grove Elementary School used those annual funds to replace carpet and tiles in various campus facilities. NCJUSD also recently dedicated funds for a new school bus and has plans to purchase one in the next year.

For the 2020-2021 school year, NCJUSD had a budget of approximately \$7.2 million, comprised of LCFF funds, LCFF supplemental and concentration funds, lottery, federal funds for special purpose programs, other state revenues, local science camp revenues, pre-kindergarten costs, fees for facility use, Special Education Local Plan Area transfer, and other local funds.<sup>19</sup>

### **15.2.3.4 San Benito High School District**

San Benito High School is the only school in the SBHSD.

In the 2018-2019 school year, there were 3,005 students enrolled at San Benito High School. The school campus has the capacity to accommodate 3,437 students, and projected enrollment by 2022-2023 will be 3,404. The SBHSD reports that new facilities will need to be constructed to accommodate additional students beyond the 2022-2023 school year.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> Southside Elementary School District, *2019-20 Local Control and Accountability Plan*, <https://www.ssesd.org/view/85.pdf>, accessed August 18, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> North County Joint Union School District, *2019-20 Local Control and Accountability Plan*, [https://www.ncjUSD.org/content/uploads/2019\\_Local\\_Control\\_and\\_Accountability\\_Plan\\_\\_Annual\\_Update\\_Spring\\_Grove\\_Elementary\\_School\\_201905181.pdf](https://www.ncjUSD.org/content/uploads/2019_Local_Control_and_Accountability_Plan__Annual_Update_Spring_Grove_Elementary_School_201905181.pdf), accessed August 18, 2020.

<sup>19</sup> North County Joint Union School District, Resolution #19/20 – 13. [https://www.ncjUSD.org/content/uploads/Regular\\_Board\\_Meeting\\_Packet\\_June\\_25\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ncjUSD.org/content/uploads/Regular_Board_Meeting_Packet_June_25_2020.pdf), accessed August 18, 2020.

<sup>20</sup> San Benito High School District. 2020. Draft Facility Master Plan.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

Funded by Measures G and U, the SBHSD completed extensive campus improvements and infrastructure upgrades such as new classrooms, PE/athletic areas including tennis courts, a multi-use field, a softball field and stadium, and Baler Aquatics Complex. Other projects included construction of a new career technical education (CTE) building, a new science and robotics building, a new communications and public address system, and a new visual and performing arts and academic building. Classrooms throughout the campus were modernized, and a new solar photovoltaic system was installed. Unfunded projects include a new multi-purpose building, relocating the maintenance building, and abasement and demolition of the old CTE building. In anticipation of increased student enrollment, the SBHSD anticipates needing to construct a new, smaller high school in the next few years. The estimated cost of the new high school is approximately \$165 million.

The operating budget for SBHSD was \$38.8 million for the 2019-2020 school year. SBHSD funding primarily come from the State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), LCFF supplemental/concentration grants, federal revenue, other State revenue, and other local revenue.<sup>21</sup> The development impact fees for SBHSD as of 2019 were \$1.47 per square foot for most residential development and \$0.21 per square foot for commercial development.<sup>22</sup> These fees contribute to SBHSD's the construction and rehabilitation of school facilities. In total, the SBHSD has authorized two bond measures over the past six years, Measures G and U, to fund facility upgrades totaling \$102.5 million.

### 15.2.3.5 Gavilan College

Gavilan College, established in 1919 as San Benito Junior College and renamed in 1963, offers associates degrees in a variety of fields, as well as other academic programming. The college serves approximately 6,886 students with a main campus in Gilroy and satellite campuses in Hollister and Morgan Hill.<sup>23</sup> Classes are held in the day and evening in a variety of formats, including on campus and online, to accommodate students' diverse schedules.

The Hollister satellite campus of Gavilan College is located in the Briggs Building at 365 Fourth Street, in Downtown Hollister. This campus offers general education courses, librarian services, academic counseling, tutoring, a computer drop-in lab, and more. Classes include, but are not limited to, English, Computer Science, Political Science, English as a Second Language, Communications, Child Development, Math, Psychology, History, Art, Spanish, and Sociology.<sup>24</sup> In addition, the college plans to expand services, and the district has purchased 80 acres of land in the General Plan Planning Area to build a permanent educational center there long-term.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup> San Benito High School District. 2020. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget and 2019-20 Estimated Actuals, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZBWU2PFYfpLtO7yZRdqO4RqdQ8Csf3MX/view>, accessed July 7, 2020.

<sup>22</sup> San Benito High School District. 2019. Finance and Operations: Developer Fee Information. <https://sbhds.k12.ca.us/content/finance-operations>, accessed June 10, 2020.

<sup>23</sup> Gavilan College, 2017, Education Master Plan, <https://www.gavilan.edu/administration/budget/EducationMasterPlanFlipbook.php>, accessed August 18, 2020.

<sup>24</sup> Gavilan College, Hollister Site, <https://www.gavilan.edu/about/hollister.php>, accessed August 18, 2020.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****15.2.3.6 Implications for the General Plan Update**

Although the City of Hollister does not have jurisdiction over local schools, schools are an important part of the community. The General Plan Update can support the mission of local school districts and the provision of high-quality education for Hollister’s children. Based on information contained in this chapter, the General Plan Update process should address the following issues:

- Identify sufficient land for new schools dispersed throughout the General Plan Planning Area that mirror housing development patterns.
- Coordinate the City’s long-range planning efforts with the school districts.

**15.2.4 LIBRARIES**

San Benito County operates the San Benito County Free Library (SBCFL) in Hollister. This section discusses SBCFL library facilities and services, staffing, and funding.

**15.2.4.1 Library Facility and Services**

The SBCFL, located at 470 5th Street, is the only public library in the county. To supplement the main facility, the SBCFL operates a mobile “Bookmobile” that travels throughout the county to supply unincorporated areas with direct access to library resources. The Bookmobile has a fixed schedule with visits to rural schools during the school year and a summer schedule. Library materials can be checked out from and returned to the Bookmobile.

*Existing Facility and Service Demands*

In 2019, there were over 98,000 library visits to the SBCFL and 21,000 program participants. Demand for library services and programs is high, but the SBCFL reports that access to these services, programs, and resources is limited due to lack of space, safety concerns such as maximum capacity limitations, and limited parking at their Hollister facility.

The existing library facility lacks adequate space, which inhibits the library’s ability to meet the community’s library needs. Specifically, the library has a need, but not space, for adult, teen, and children’s spaces, collections, study spaces, conference/meeting rooms, a multi-purpose community room, computer labs for both adults and youth, law library resources, and a digital library with a teleworking center.

*Facility Needs*

The existing library facility also lacks sufficient working space for employees and volunteers. Existing workspaces and computer workstations are shared amongst many employees, making access to email and other technology difficult and inhibits ongoing logistics and system processes. The library also needs storage space, which adds to the overcrowding of staff work areas. SBCFL also reports that outdoor space and public art spaces, while important to modern libraries, are deficient. Given the library facility’s status as a hub of the community, the SBCFL reports there is demand for an on-site cafe.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

The current library facility also needs modern digital and technological infrastructure. There are insufficient electrical outlets and poor network connections. In addition, the telephone network is inadequate and there are several plumbing issues, which have interrupted library service to the community and incurred costs for the County.<sup>25</sup>

The SBCFL conducted a needs assessment in 2016, which identified the need for a new 60,000 square foot library. Modern industry standard for public libraries is 1 square foot per capita with infrastructure. Libraries typically accommodate new technology, study areas, meeting rooms, library collections, and community programs and classes to address the informational, technological, and educational needs of the multi-cultural, multi-lingual, diverse community. For San Benito County, this industry standard would dictate a library building of at least 60,000 square feet.<sup>26</sup> Built in 1960, the current 15,000 square foot library facility has a public service area of just over 7,000 square feet. Using the 1 square foot of library space per resident, the county library only has capacity for 12 percent of the county's population. In addition, 4,435 square feet of the original 15,000 square foot library is dedicated to the sole use of the San Benito County Office of Education.<sup>25</sup>

### **15.2.4.2 Library Staffing**

Current library staffing includes one full-time County Librarian and 5.5 full-time library staff. SBCFL reports that the existing staff level is inadequate to meet current and future community needs. To maintain library safety, the SBCFL requires at least three staff members on the public floor, including one permanent, benefited supervisor available during all hours of public operation, including night and weekend hours. A greater level of security is needed during busier times, which are more frequent due to increased library usage. In addition to the main library facility staffing needs, at least two staff members must board the bookmobile during bookmobile runs. There is often only one staff member available at the main library facility, and one volunteer typically provides additional support.<sup>25</sup>

### **15.2.4.3 Library Funding**

In 2017-2018, San Benito County provided funding for 87 percent of the SBCFL's budget. The County of San Benito collects library facilities impact fees for new residential development within the unincorporated area of San Benito County. The City of Hollister also collects library facilities impact fees for new residential development within the City Limits.

Additional funding comes from contributions of library partners and internal library revenue, which accounts for approximately 8 and 7 percent of the SBCFL budget respectively. Partners include the Friends of the Library, the California State Library, the City of Hollister, the Community Foundation, the United Way, San Francisco State University, Gavilan College, Youth Alliance, LULAC, First 5 San Benito, and local schools, businesses, and individual community volunteers.<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> Conte, Nora. County Librarian, San Benito County Free Library. Personal communication with PlaceWorks. June 2, 2020.

<sup>26</sup> There are approximately 60,000 residents in San Benito County. 1 square foot x 60,000 residents = 60,000 square feet of library space is needed to meet the modern industry standard.

<sup>27</sup> San Benito County Free Library. 2019. SBCFL 2018-2019 Statistics. <http://sbcfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SBCFL-2019-2019-Statistics.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2020.

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****15.2.4.4 Implications for the General Plan Update**

Based on information contained in this chapter, the General Plan Update process should address the following issues:

- Add policies to support the SBCFL and increase access to adequate library facilities and services.
- Coordinate the City's long-range planning efforts with the SBCFL.

**15.2.5 PARKS AND RECREATION**

As mentioned in Chapter 12 of this Environmental Baseline, open space and parks make up 6.1 percent of the land in the General Plan Planning Area. Although both open space and parks provide open space benefits, these two types of land provide differing benefits. Open space refers to space managed for resource conservation, hazard reduction, and scenic value, while parks refer to land that has been improved in such a way to support active recreation. Typical park improvements include sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, running tracks, recreation centers, and basketball courts. Larger parks support programmed services such as classes, swim and tennis lessons, activities for children and seniors, and league sports. Programs and other recreational services are coordinated by the City's Recreation Department.

The City of Hollister, Recreation Department, is one of several park service providers in the General Plan Planning Area. Other service providers include San Benito County, the HSD, and the SBHSD. Public park services are supplemented by private facilities such as swim and fitness clubs, and the YMCA. Private golf courses and swimming and tennis facilities are located in surrounding unincorporated land south of Hollister.

**15.2.5.1 Park Facilities**

The City of Hollister classifies parks into three categories:

- Pocket Parks (Less than 2.5 acres)
- Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood/School Parks (Between 2.5 and 10 acres)
- Community Parks (Greater than 10 acres)

The City's 2018 PFMP assessed existing facilities and resources and recommended future priority projects. The existing parks and recreation facilities in the City Limits owned or leased by the City are shown in Table 15-2.2.

The PFMP also prioritized future park locations to address "blank spots" in the City not within easy walking distance of a City park. Priority locations identified within the City Limits include:

- Proximate to new developments in south Hollister (Homestead neighborhood area);
- North of Maple Street and east of San Felipe Road;
- Area near Airline Highway and Union Road (vicinity of Hollister Fire Station No. 2); and
- The neighborhoods immediately surrounding San Benito High School.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

TABLE 15-2.2 CITY-OWNED OR CITY-LEASED PARKS IN HOLLISTER

<b>Community Parks</b>	
Water Reclamation Recreational Facility	49.7 acres
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
Allendale Park	6.3 acres
Dunne Park	4.8 acres
Frank Klauer Memorial Park	4.8 acres
Santa Ana Park	3.0 acres
Valley View Park	2.7 acres
Vista Park Hill	5.0 acres
<b>Pocket Parks</b>	
Apricot Park	2.0 acres
Jerry Gabe Memorial Park	2.0 acres
John Z. Hernandez Memorial Park	0.2 acres
Las Brisas Park	1.0 acres
McCarthy Park	1.5 acres
Mirabella Park	0.4 acres
Nora Drive Park	0.1 acres
Tony Aguirre Memorial Park	1.0 acres
<b>Joint-Use Parks</b>	
<i>Neighborhood/School Parks (School District Property)</i>	
Calaveras School Park	5.0 acres
Cerra Vista School Park	7.0 acres
Ladd Lane School Park	4.3 acres
Marguerite Maze Sports Complex	11.0 acres
Rancho San Justo Sports Complex	9.2 acres
R.O. Hardin School Park	6.3 acres
San Benito High School Tennis Courts	0.8 acres
<i>County Parks (Leased Acreage)</i>	
Hollister Skate Park (within Veterans Memorial Park)	1.3 acres
Hollister Softball Fields (within Veterans Memorial Park)	2.3 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.7 acres</b>

Source: City of Hollister, 2020, Hollister Park Facility Master Plan.

Parkland owned exclusively by the City of Hollister totals 84.25 acres. All parks and recreational facilities within the City Limits either owned by the City or leased by the City under joint-use agreements totals 131.7 acres. All other parks and recreational facilities in the City Limits owned by the County or private developers, including school district-owned recreational areas and County-owned Veterans Memorial Park, are not included in the parkland total but contribute an additional 37 acres of parkland for community use.

---

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

Two additional neighborhood and pocket parks are located outside the City Limits but within the General Plan Planning Area: Quail Hollow Park and Oak Creek Park. Both are south of the city and are 2.8 acres and 1.5 acres, respectively. In addition, the proposed San Benito River Parkway sits immediately adjacent to the City's Water Reclamation Recreational Facility, which is planned for future integration to the 20-mile regional park corridor. Priority locations for future park development outside City Limits but within the General Plan Planning Area include:

- West Hollister, north of Buena Vista Road;
- East Hollister, north of Santa Ana Road;
- Southeast Hollister, east of Fairview Road;
- North-Central Hollister, immediately south of the airport on Flynn Road, adjacent to the County Jail; and
- East Hollister, west of Fairview Road, north of Hillcrest, east of Santa Ana Creek.

### *Joint Use Agreements*

The City holds joint use agreements with the HSD and SBHSD to make school district-owned properties available for public use. Similarly, the City leases property from San Benito County's Veterans Memorial Park to provide tournament softball and skate park amenities to the public.

### *Service Standards*

Quimby Act fee calculations, as described in the Regulatory Framework above, count areas of parkland within a city's Planning Area, provided they are publicly accessible for community and neighborhood recreation. Therefore, the parkland ratio of the General Plan Planning Area is 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents, including the acreage from joint-use parks.

To meet the City's goal of 5 acres of parks per 1,000 residents, the PFMP recommends increasing in-lieu fees to finance the construction of new parks. The PFMP would ultimately like to achieve providing 5 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.

As discussed above, the PFMP identifies the following future park projects:

- McCarthy Park Development with expanded amenities;
- Dog Park at Valley View Park following park expansion;
- Pedestrian connection via footbridge to the Water Reclamation Recreational Facility;
- Leatherback Property recreational development;
- Hollister Fire Station No. 2 Neighborhood Park and outdoor fitness park; and
- Santa Ana Creek Linear Trail connector.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION**

### **15.2.5.2 Recreational Programs**

The City of Hollister Recreation Division offers youth and adult sports and summer and special population programs throughout the year. Youth sports include soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, and running, and baseball and tennis are offered in partnership with San Benito County. Adult sports leagues typically include softball and basketball.

Summer programs offered by the Recreation Division include Kids at the Park, Movies Under the Stars, Art in the Park, Science in the Park, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Kiddie Parade, and the Hollister Recreation 5k Fun Run. Seasonal and holiday events include fun runs, children’s fall crafting events, an annual Trick or Treat Street, and an annual Breakfast with Santa.

### **15.2.5.3 Implications for the General Plan Update**

Based on information contained in this chapter, the General Plan Update process should address the following issues:

- Incorporate the Hollister Park Facility Master Plan and the San Benito River Parkway Master Plan recommendations into the General Plan Update.
- Coordinate with San Benito County, HSD, and SBHSD for shared use of County and school facilities on a regular basis for general public park and recreation use.