

3.15 RECREATION

This section characterizes existing recreation facilities and opportunities within the LRDP area and surrounding area and evaluates whether potential increased demand for recreation facilities under the 2021 LRDP could lead to physical deterioration of existing recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The analysis that follows evaluates the increase in population under the 2021 LRDP and the associated demand for recreation resources that could be provided by the UC Santa Cruz and/or by the City and/or County of Santa Cruz.

Public comments received in response to the NOP (see Appendix B) related to recreation raised concerns regarding increased demand for existing on-campus and off-campus recreational facilities, construction of new recreation facilities, and continued public access to on-campus trails. These issues are considered below and addressed where appropriate.

3.15.1 Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL

There are no federal laws and regulations addressing recreation that pertain to the 2021 LRDP.

STATE

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) preserves open space and parkland in urbanizing areas of the state by authorizing local governments to establish ordinances requiring developers of new subdivisions to dedicate land for parks, pay an in-lieu fee, or perform a combination of the two. The Quimby Act provides two standards for the dedication of land for use as parkland. If the existing area of parkland in a community is 3 acres or more per 1,000 persons, then the community may require dedication based on a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 persons residing in the proposed subdivision. If the existing amount of parkland in a community is less than 3 acres per 1,000 persons, then the community may require dedication based on a standard of only 3 acres per 1,000 persons residing in the proposed subdivision. The Quimby Act requires a city or county to adopt standards for recreational facilities in its general plan recreation element if it is to adopt a parkland dedication/fee ordinance.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Office of the President Policies and Procedures

UC Office of the President (UCOP) establishes systemwide policies and procedures that guide various operational and functional areas. Systemwide policies are guiding principles that express the institutional culture, goals, and philosophy. Policies promote consistence and operational efficiency, enhance the UC's mission and mitigate significant institutional risk. Procedures are step-by-step descriptions of the tasks required to support and carry out organizational policies. Procedures articulate the process for accomplishing controls, document a course of action accomplished in a defined order, and ensure the consistent and repetitive approach to accomplish control activities (UCOP 2020a). The UCOP Facilities and Resources policies and procedures establish requirements for the maintenance of real property and equipment (UCOP 2019).

Office of the President Facilities Manual

UCOP Facilities Manual Volume 6, "Plant Operations and Maintenance," establishes operation and maintenance policies for the UC (UCOP 2020b). Maintenance is defined as the upkeep of property, machinery, systems, and facilities, including buildings, utility infrastructure, roads, and grounds. Maintenance consists of those activities

necessary to keep facilities and systems operational and in good working order; it consists of the preservation, but not the improvement, of buildings and grounds, other real property improvements and their components.

UC Santa Cruz Construction and Maintenance Policy

The UC Santa Cruz construction and maintenance policy sets forth the policy, authorities, and requirements for authorization for all construction and maintenance activities carried out in UC owned and operated facilities. The intent is to ensure that work is in compliance with UCOP Policies and Procedures, the UCOP Facilities Manual, the construction and maintenance policies and regulatory requirements that govern construction and maintenance on campus. In accordance with UCOP Facilities Manual, the UC Santa Cruz construction and maintenance policy outlines procedures for preventative maintenance, general replacement and repair, electrical repairs, ventilation, plumbing, painting, and furniture/cabinetry work (UC Santa Cruz 2005).

UC Santa Cruz Student Life Facilities Fee

UC Santa Cruz administers the Student Life Facilities fee to fund operation and maintenance of Office of Athletics and Recreation facilities. The fee is included as part of the undergraduate and graduate student registration fees. A portion of the fee revenue is used to fund salaries for Athletics and Recreation staff and student employees, including lifeguards, maintenance workers, and facility operations personnel, as well as supplies, equipment, and utilities. The remaining funds are placed into a reserve for major repairs and maintenance to existing facilities. The Student Advisory Committee, in consultation with Athletics and Recreation staff, make recommendations for potential use of reserve funds based on estimated project costs and student needs (UC Santa Cruz 2016).

LOCAL

As noted in Section 3.0.2, "University of California Autonomy," UC Santa Cruz, a constitutionally created State entity, is not subject to municipal regulations of surrounding local governments for uses on property owned or controlled by UC Santa Cruz that are in furtherance of its educational purposes. However, UC Santa Cruz may consider, for coordination purposes, aspects of local plans and policies of the communities surrounding the campus when it is appropriate and feasible, but it is not bound by those plans and policies in its planning efforts.

Santa Cruz County General Plan

The Santa Cruz County General Plan and Local Coastal Program contains the following policy that is relevant to recreation and that may be relevant to the 2021 LRDP:

- ▶ **Policy 7.13.1 Community Use of School Facilities.** Encourage broad community recreational and cultural use of school facilities by taking full advantage of the role and services of the community schools, the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Cabrillo College as training, recreational, and cultural centers.
- ▶ **Policy 7.1.5 Access to Recreation Facilities.** Provide physical access to all recreation facilities through provision of public transportation, trail system development, protection of prescriptive rights to beach access trails, and recreation programs.

Santa Cruz County Code

Chapter 15.01 of the Santa Cruz County Code establishes park dedication requirements and fees for residential development, including mobile homes. Fees are determined and paid as of the date of the issuance of a building permit, or, in case of land division, at the time the final map or parcel map is filed. The revenue collected is held in trust by the County and administered by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to fund the ongoing maintenance of the Countywide parks system. This fee is not applicable to residential development at UC Santa Cruz.

City of Santa Cruz General Plan

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 contains the following policies related to recreation that are relevant to the 2021 LRDP.

- ▶ **Policy PR 1.7:** Require developers to mitigate the impacts of their property improvements on City parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas.
- ▶ **Policy PR 1.9:** Maintain a Parks and Recreation Facilities excise tax on new construction or improvement of residential housing.

City of Santa Cruz Municipal Code

Chapter 5.72 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code imposes a “Parks and Recreation Facilities Tax” on new residential development, including mobile homes, within the City. Fees are payable at the time of issuance of a building permit for any residential dwelling unit, or prior to connection of a mobile home lot to the City sewer. The revenue collected is placed into a special fund which is used and expended solely for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in the City. This fee is not applicable to residential development at UC Santa Cruz.

3.15.2 Environmental Setting

UC Santa Cruz provides a range of on-campus indoor and outdoor open space, recreational, and athletic facilities that are available to students, staff and faculty, retirees, alumni, and local community members. Off-campus recreational opportunities are maintained by the City and County of Santa Cruz, and the California State Park System. On- and off-campus recreational are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

ON-CAMPUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

UC Santa Cruz provides amenities for active and passive recreation in the LRDP area. Facilities for active recreation include athletic fields, courts, fitness equipment, and a swimming pool. Facilities for passive recreation includes natural areas, undeveloped open space, and trails. On-campus indoor and outdoor open space, recreational, and athletic facilities are available to students, staff and faculty, retirees, alumni, and local community members. Indoor recreational facilities include courts (i.e., basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and badminton), and areas for fitness training, group exercise classes, weightlifting, and dance. Outdoor facilities include athletic fields (e.g., soccer), running tracks, courts (e.g., tennis), and swimming pools. In addition to developed recreational and athletic facilities, UC Santa Cruz includes a network of open spaces including the Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Chadwick Garden, UC Santa Cruz Farm, Campus Natural Reserve, natural open space, and trails. On-campus recreational opportunities are discussed in more detail below.

UC Santa Cruz Office of Athletics and Recreation

Athletics and Recreation manages 15 acres of land designated for recreation and athletic facilities on the UC Santa Cruz campus. Athletics and Recreation also provides a variety of recreational activities including physical education classes, intramural sports, sports clubs, intercollegiate sports, group exercise classes, and outdoor adventure programs. The following facilities and programs are available to students, staff and faculty, retirees, alumni, and local community members with a valid UC Santa Cruz Student ID, Athletics & Recreation Facility Usage Membership Card, or Day Pass (UC Santa Cruz 2019):

- ▶ The East Field House Complex, located in the lower campus off of Hagar Drive and to the south of Cowell and Stevenson Colleges, includes a 6,500 square foot Wellness Center, 6,185 square foot gym, 1,460 square foot martial arts room, 3,200 square foot dance studio, 1,145 square foot activity room for group exercise, a number of 800 square foot racquetball courts, 1,920 square foot multi-purpose room, tennis courts, swimming pool, the Upper East Field (a 9-acre field that can be configured to accommodate four soccer fields or two rugby fields), and the Lower Field (a 4.2-acre field that can be configured to accommodate two soccer fields or one rugby field).
- ▶ The West Field House Complex, located in the central campus east of Heller Drive and within the Rachel Carson College footprint, includes a 7,625 square foot gym with basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts, and six standard tennis courts.

- ▶ UC Santa Cruz Community Boating Center, located at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor, offers student and community classes throughout the school year. Participants can attend sailing, rowing, and kayaking classes.
- ▶ UC Santa Cruz Disc Golf Course is located east of the East Field House Complex and managed by Athletics and Recreation. The UC Santa Cruz Disc Golf Club practices off-campus, which makes the UC Santa Cruz Disc Golf Course more available to other UC users.

UC Santa Cruz On-Campus Housing Amenities

Each college on the main residential campus includes indoor and outdoor space for students. Indoor facilities include game rooms, media rooms, and computer laboratories. Outdoor facilities typically include a quadrangle, courtyard, and outdoor seating that students can use to study, socialize, relax, and dine. Family student housing also includes community open space for recreation. Facilities include open space and pedestrian pathways.

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden is a living museum located in the lower campus along Empire Grade. The Arboretum and Botanic Garden features plant specimens of more than 300 plant families of Mediterranean climates. The garden maintains collections of rare and threatened plants of unusual scientific interest, including world conifers, primitive angiosperms, and bulb-forming plant families. Large assemblages of plants from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and California natives are displayed on site. The Arboretum and Botanic Garden is open to students and the public for self-guided tours seven days a week. On-site events include educational workshops, plant sales, guided tours, and art exhibits (UC Santa Cruz 2020a). The arboretum is considered a passive recreational use on campus.

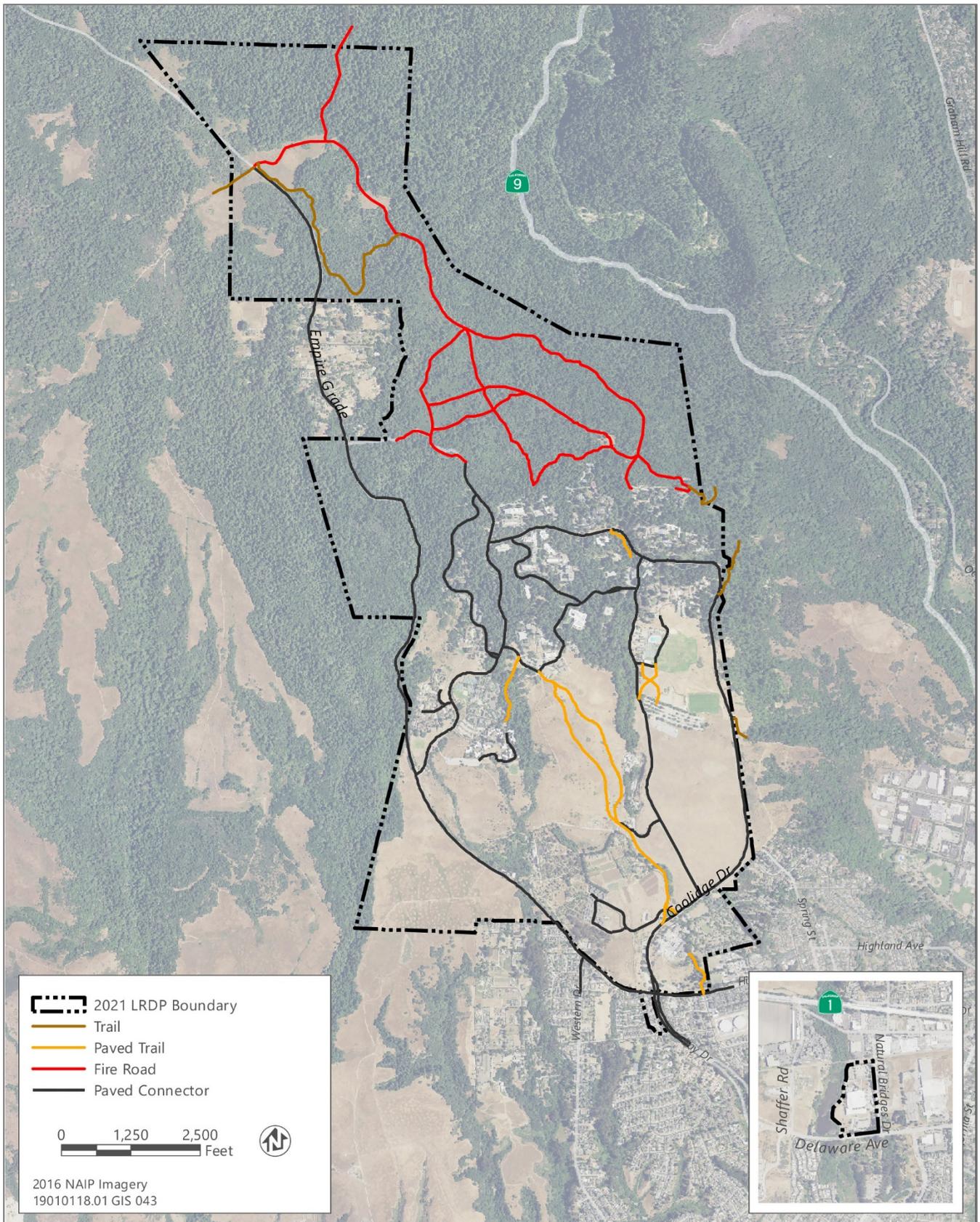
Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems

The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) manages the UC Santa Cruz Farm and the 2-acre Alan Chadwick Garden. The Farm includes gardens of annual and perennial food and ornamental crops, mechanically cultivated row crops, orchards, and research plots. The Alan Chadwick Garden features a diverse collection of plants including ornamentals, annual and perennial food crops, fruit trees (including more than 120 apple varieties), and native California plant species. Both facilities are open to students and the public for self-guided tours seven days a week. Docent-led tours are also available the first Sunday of the month from April through November (UC Santa Cruz 2020b). The UC Santa Cruz Farm and the Chadwick Garden are considered passive recreational uses on campus.

Open Space Land Use and Trails

Open space land uses on the main residential campus under the 2005 LRDP include land designated for Outdoor Research, Campus Natural Reserve, and Natural Space. As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," the Arboretum, Botanic Garden, and CASFS are designated for outdoor research and account for approximately 1,419 acres of open space within the main residential campus. As shown in Figure 3.15-1, the main residential campus also includes a network of pathways, trails, and service roads that are used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. The north campus features a network of multi-use trails maintained by UC Santa Cruz, including the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail, Fuel Break Road, and West Road. The Cowell Wilder Regional Trail connects the north campus to Wilder Ranch State Park, located to the west, and Henry Cowell State Park via Pogonip City Park, located to the east. The Webster Way Bike Path through the Great Meadow is a paved trail located in the lower campus which connects Coolidge Drive with Meyer Drive in the central campus. In addition to formally designated trails, there are numerous undesignated trails resulting from ad hoc use.

The Westside Research Park, located adjacent to Natural Bridges State Park and the Pacific Ocean, features a public access trail with benches and trash containers along the western property boundary adjacent to Antonelli Pond. The pond and associated trails are managed by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The City of Santa Cruz is currently constructing a segment of the Coastal Rail Trail, a paved multi-use trail in the former railroad corridor that terminates at Natural Bridges Drive adjacent to the Westside Research Park.



Source: data downloaded received from UCSC in 2020

Figure 3.15-1 Trail Network On the Main Residential Campus

OFF-CAMPUS RECREATION FACILITIES

Off-campus recreation facilities are provided by the California State Park System, the City of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz County. Off-campus recreation facilities located within about 2 miles of UC Santa Cruz are discussed in more detail below and shown in Figure 3.15-2.

California State Parks

California State Parks (CSP) manages 280 state park units, over 340 miles of coastline, 970 miles of lake and river frontage, 15,000 campsites, and 4,500 miles of trails throughout the State. The Santa Cruz unit of CSP oversees 32 state parks located within Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. The following state parks are located within 2 miles of the main residential campus and Westside Research Park (CSP 2020):

- ▶ Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is located on Big Trees Park Road, directly east of the main residential campus. This park covers 4,650 acres of forested and open land, including a 40-acre grove of old-growth redwood trees. The park also features hiking trails, campground, the Roaring Camp Railroad, and a garden.
- ▶ Natural Bridges State Beach is located off Delaware Avenue, directly south of Westside Research Park. This park provides beach access and includes a large area of coastal scrub and grasslands. Moore Creek flows through the park and forms a freshwater wetland and salt marsh. The Monarch Grove, located on the state beach property, serves as a temporary home to monarch butterflies during the late fall and winter seasons.
- ▶ Lighthouse Field State Beach is located on Pelton Avenue, 1.4 miles east of the Westside Research Park. This park features the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse and the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. The museum overlooks an internationally renowned surfing hotspot and showcases photographs, surf boards, and 100 years of surfing history in Santa Cruz.
- ▶ Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located at 144 School Street, 1 mile southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a California Mission founded in 1791, patio, and gardens. The mission exhibits depict the story of the Ohlone and Yokuts Native Americans before and during European contact, and archaeological excavations.
- ▶ Wilder Ranch State Park is located on Old Coast Road, directly southwest of the main residential campus. This park covers 7,000 acres of open space including 35 miles of trails. The park also features an 1897 Victorian home, 1859 Gothic Revival farmhouse, 1896 water-powered machine shop, rodeo arena, barns, and other historic buildings.

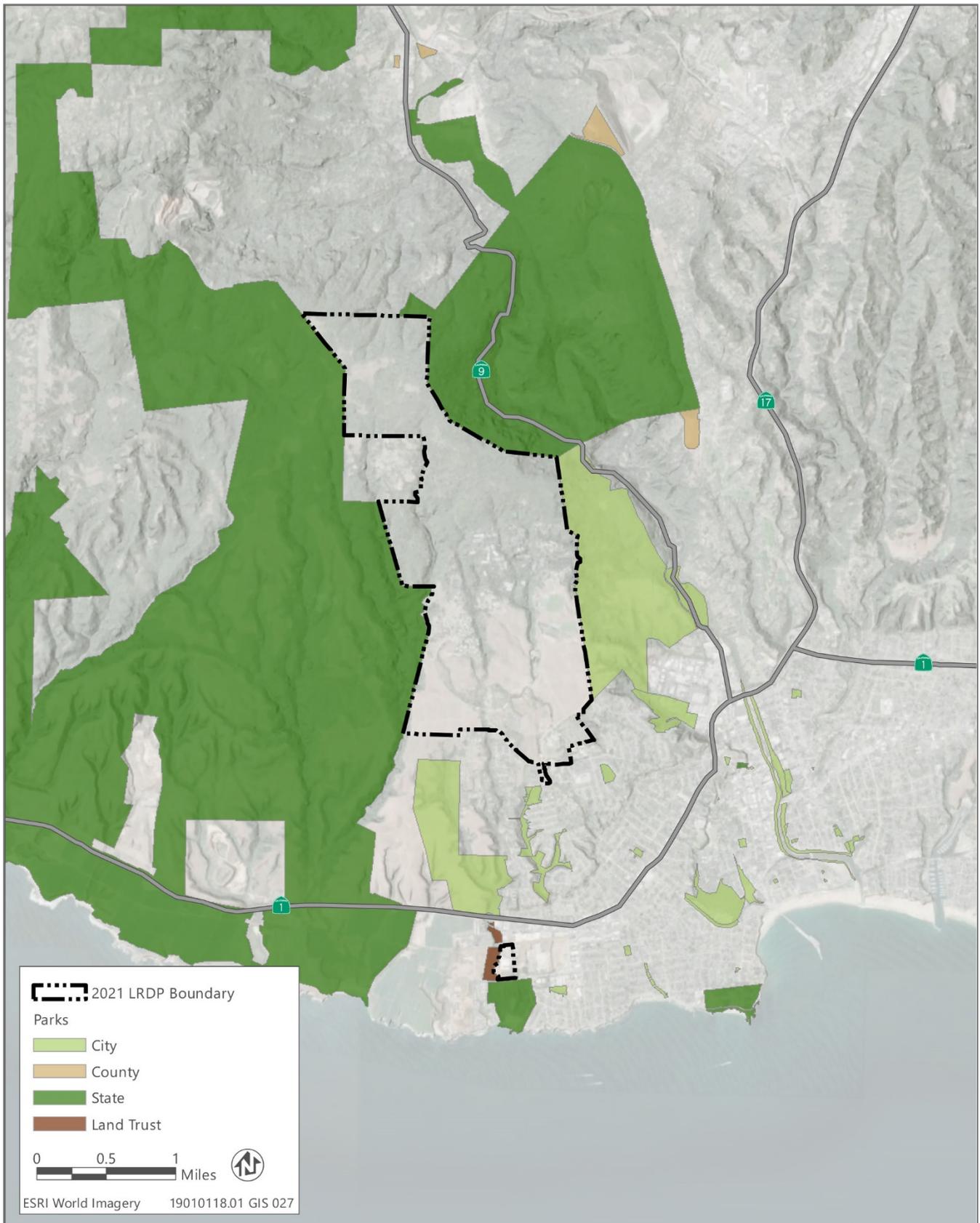
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Land Trust) is responsible for the management and restoration of Antonelli Pond and the lower Moore Creek Corridor. The main entrance to the 19-acre park, which is open from dawn to dusk, is located on Delaware Avenue between Natural Bridges Drive and Shaffer Road, directly adjacent to the Westside Research Park. The park was donated to the Land Trust in four parcels between 1982 and 1994 and features a freshwater pond, riparian lands, and trails.

Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services

Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services manages 29 parks and three coastal beaches throughout the county. The following County parks are located within 2 miles of the main residential campus and Westside Research Park:

- ▶ Felton Covered Bridge Park is located on Graham Hill Road at Mount Hermon Road, 1.8 miles north of the main residential campus. This park features a covered wooden bridge, picnic area, walking paths, a playground, and volleyball court.
- ▶ Felton Deck Park is located along Highway 9, 1.9 miles north of the main residential campus. This park offers a shaded deck with benches.



Source: Data downloaded from Santa Cruz County in 2020

Figure 3.15-2 City, County, and State Recreation Facilities Located within 2 Miles of UC Santa Cruz

- ▶ Felton Discovery Park is located on Gushee Street in Downtown Felton, 1.8 miles north of the main residential campus. This park features a pollinator garden, natural play areas, benches, and pedestrian pathways.
- ▶ Graham Hill Showgrounds is located at 1145 Graham Hill Road, 0.9 mile northeast of the main residential campus. The show grounds feature two horse competition arenas, two round pens, a large campground, a large clubhouse, and parking.
- ▶ Michael Gray Field Park is located at 3650 Graham Hill Road, 1.7 miles northeast of the main residential campus. This park features a 3-acre softball field, picnic tables, barbecue areas, and restrooms.
- ▶ Veterans Memorial Building is located at 846 Front Street, 1.5 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This facility is a historical landmark built in 1932.

City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department manages four beaches, two community centers, five recreational facilities, six open space areas, four community and regional parks, and 28 neighborhood parks (City of Santa Cruz 2020a). The City of Santa Cruz's adopted service standards for recreation facilities is to provide 2.0 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 persons, 2.5 acres of community parks per 1,000 persons, and the national standard for regional parks which is 20 acres per 1,000 persons (City of Santa Cruz 2012:110). To meet the adopted service standards for recreation facilities, the City would need to acquire 67 acres of parkland to serve the forecasted population growth associated with the City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 (City of Santa Cruz 2018: 2.4-18). The following City recreation facilities are located within 2 miles of the main residential campus and Westside Research Park (City of Santa Cruz 2020b):

- ▶ Arroyo Seco Canyon features 0.37 mile of hiking trails from Grandview Street to Meder Street. This trail is located 0.1 mile from the main residential campus.
- ▶ Beach Flats Park is located at 133 Leibrandt Avenue, 1.9 miles south of the main residential campus. This park features a playground, picnic tables, murals, and a stage.
- ▶ Bethany Curve trail, which runs from Delaware Avenue to West Cliff Drive, provides pedestrian and bicycle access and benches. This trail is located 0.9 mile from the Westside Research Park.
- ▶ Carmelita Cottages Park is located at 321 Main Street, 1.8 miles south of the main residential campus. This park features a youth hostel.
- ▶ Central Park is located at 301 Dakota Avenue, 1.6 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This neighborhood park features a playground.
- ▶ Chestnut Park is located at the end of Chestnut Street, 1.6 south of the main residential campus. This park features a playground, picnic tables, barbecue areas, and a basketball half-court.
- ▶ Depot Park is located at 119 Center Street, 1.6 south of the main residential campus. This park features soccer fields, picnic areas, a playground, bicycle storage lockers, and restroom facilities.
- ▶ Garfield Park is located at 634 Almar Avenue, 0.8 mile east of the Westside Research Park. This park features a basketball court, ping pong table, a playground, a picnic table, and barbecue pits.
- ▶ Grant Park is located at 150 Grant Street, 1.4 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a basketball court, bocce ball court, playground, baseball field, designated dog area, picnic table, and barbecue pits.
- ▶ Harvey West Park is located at 326 Evergreen Street, 0.3 mile east of the main residential campus. This park features two pools, a clubhouse, picnic areas, ballfields, bocce ball court, playground equipment, and restroom facilities.
- ▶ Jesse Street Marsh, located East Cliff Street and Lemos Avenue, features 0.15 mile of hiking trails. This trail is located 1.8 miles from the main residential campus.
- ▶ Laurel Park is located at 301 Center Street, 1.2 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a basketball court, playground, chess table, table tennis, and a pickle ball court.

- ▶ Lighthouse Avenue Park is located at 251 Lighthouse Avenue, 1.5 miles east of the Westside Research Park. This park features a playground, community garden, and benches.
- ▶ Mimi De Marta Dog Park is a 0.5 acre off-leash dog park, located on Broadway near Dakota Avenue, 1.5 miles from the main residential campus.
- ▶ Mission Plaza is located at 103 Emmett Street, 0.9 mile southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a water fountain, benches, and walking paths.
- ▶ Moore Creek Preserve is a 246-acre greenbelt with two entrances located on Meder Street and Highway 1 across from Shaffer Road. The greenbelt features hiking trails through open meadows with views of Monterey Bay. Trails are open to pedestrians only. The preserve is located 0.2 mile from the main residential campus.
- ▶ Neary Lagoon is located at 110 California Street, 1.1 miles south of the main residential campus. This park features a wildlife refuge, pollinator garden, two playgrounds, greenbelt trails, tennis courts, basketball court, and barbecue pits.
- ▶ Oceanview Park is located at 102 Ocean View Avenue, 1.9 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a basketball half-court, playground, picnic tables, and off-leash dog area.
- ▶ Poet's Park and Beach Flats Community Garden is located at 200 Raymond Street, 1.9 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features picnic tables, a drinking fountain, benches, play equipment, community garden plots, and artwork.
- ▶ Pogonip City Park is located at 333 Golf Club Drive, directly adjacent to the main residential campus. This park features approximately 11.5 miles of trails open to pedestrians. A portion of the trails are designated for multi-use and are open to hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The 640-acre park is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the main residential campus.
- ▶ Rincon Park is located at 601 Chestnut Street, 1 mile southeast of the main residential campus. This neighborhood park features a small demonstration garden and pedestrian pathways.
- ▶ Riverside Gardens Park is located at 262 San Lorenzo Boulevard, 1.6 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a community garden, elliptical trainer, playground, picnic tables, benches, and bike racks.
- ▶ Round Tree Park is located at 305 Nobel Drive, 0.3 mile south of the main residential campus. This 0.28-acre neighborhood park features a small grass field.
- ▶ San Lorenzo Park is located at 137 Dakota Avenue, 1.4 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This park features a duck pond, 9-hole disc golf course, playground, and lawn bowling green.
- ▶ Scope Park is located on the corner of Pacific Avenue and Mission Street, 1.1 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This 0.1-acre area park features a mural.
- ▶ Sergeant Derby Park is located at 508 Woodland Way, 0.3 mile east of the Westside Research Park. This park features a skateboard bowl, large grass field, a playground, wings, tennis courts, pickle ball courts, and a disc golf course.
- ▶ Town Clock Park is located at 101 Water Street, 1.1 miles southeast of the main residential campus. This 0.19-acre park features a plaza with benches, art, and a water fountain.
- ▶ Trescony Park is located on Trescony Street, 0.8 mile south of the main residential campus. This park features a tot lot, playground, community garden, and picnic tables.
- ▶ University Terrace Park is located on Meder Street, 0.04 mile south of the main residential campus. This park features a basketball court, two tennis courts, a playground, large lawn area, picnic tables, and a fenced dog park.
- ▶ Westlake Park is located on Bradley Drive, 0.2 mile south of the main residential campus. This park features a lake, two playgrounds, large lawn area, and picnic tables.

3.15.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, implementation of the 2021 LRDP would result in a significant recreation impact if it would:

- ▶ increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreation facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- ▶ include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The analysis of environmental impacts on recreation is based on a review of documents pertaining to the plan area and surrounding area (i.e., within 2 miles of the plan area) and focuses on the potential for implementation of the 2021 LRDP to result in substantial physical deterioration of existing facilities and construction or expansion of recreation facilities. As part of this review, local planning documents and publicly available information were reviewed, including policies, ordinances, and other regulations pertinent to recreation, to inform the analysis.

ISSUES NOT EVALUATED FURTHER

No issues related to recreation have been eliminated from further discussion in this EIR.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact 3.15-1: Impacts on Campus Recreation Facilities

The increase in campus population under the 2021 LRDP would increase demand for on-campus recreation facilities. However, UC Santa Cruz has an adequate amount of recreation facilities to serve existing and future campus populations under the 2021 LRDP, and maintenance of existing on-campus recreation facilities would continue to occur to offset demand for recreation facilities. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Deterioration of On-Campus Recreation Facilities

Campus population may grow from about 22,350 persons¹ at the present time to 35,230 persons at full development under the 2021 LRDP. This on-campus population includes students, faculty, staff, non-UC employees (e.g., construction workers, seasonal employees), and dependents of students, faculty and staff who live on campus. The projected increase in population is expected to result in increased demand for and usage of recreation facilities, which could result in the accelerated deterioration of on-campus recreation facilities if use of the facilities is not properly managed, sufficient maintenance is not provided, or new facilities are not constructed as part of the campus growth. Recreation facilities at UC Santa Cruz are maintained as needed to prevent deterioration based on the use levels. In accordance with UCOP Facilities Manual, the UC Santa Cruz construction and maintenance policy outlines procedures for preventative maintenance, general replacement and repair, electrical repairs, ventilation, plumbing, painting, and furniture/cabinetry work. In addition, revenue from the Student Life Facilities fee, administered by Athletics and Recreation, is used to fund maintenance of existing recreation facilities. Although on-campus facilities

¹ As noted in Chapter 2, "Project Description," the existing campus population of approximately 22,350 (2018 – 2019 academic year) includes 2,800 three-quarter-average full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees, which represents 3,657 headcount employees. An FTE student is (1) an undergraduate student who enrolls for 45 credit hours per academic year; or (2) a graduate student (master's level or doctoral student not yet advanced to candidacy) enrolled in 36 hours per year; or (3) a graduate doctoral student who has been advanced to candidacy. The 2021 LRDP campus population forecast accounts for students studying at the main residential campus and the Westside Research Park.

are heavily utilized, substantial deterioration of those facilities is not apparent. The level of management and maintenance of on-campus recreation facilities would increase throughout the implementation of the 2021 LRDP to prevent the accelerated deterioration that could result from increased demand and usage. Therefore, maintenance of existing facilities would continue to occur, and substantial deterioration of on-campus recreation facilities is not anticipated. The impact would be **less than significant**.

Construction of On-Campus Recreational Facilities

The existing campus population of approximately 22,350 (2018 – 2019 academic year) is served by 15 acres of developed on-campus active recreation and athletic facilities and 1,419 acres of on-campus passive recreational space (i.e., land designated as Outdoor Research, Campus Natural Reserve, and Natural Space under the 2005 LRDP). This equates to approximately 64 acres per 1,000 persons, which exceeds the parkland dedication standards established by the Quimby Act. Although the Quimby Act does not apply to the 2021 LRDP on-campus recreation facilities, it is used as a gauge to ensure an appropriate level of recreation facilities are provided. Under the Quimby Act, if the existing area of parkland is 3 acres or more per 1,000 persons, then the standard of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons should be used for new development.

As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," a total of 67 acres is designated for Athletics & Recreation in the 2021 LRDP; this represents a decrease of approximately 19 acres of designated land compared to the land use plan in the 2005 LRDP. This decrease is attributable to the removal of a secondary Athletics & Recreation area on the west side of the campus, which was identified in the 2005 LRDP and is not included in the 2021 LRDP. Instead, in recognition of the need for distributed recreational facilities to support increased housing throughout the campus, recreation and athletics facilities have also been included as a supporting use in the Colleges & Student Housing land use designation. As with Rachel Carson College, these may include small field houses offering courts and exercise rooms and may also include small playing fields and open areas suitable for informal use. In addition, the open space land use designations on the main residential campus were revised in the 2021 LRDP to include four designations—Outdoor Research, Natural Space, Campus Natural Reserve, and Campus Habitat Preserve—which provide passive recreational opportunities on campus. Collectively, the open space land use designations include approximately 1,419 acres, which represents a decrease of approximately 15 acres compared to the 2005 LRDP. This decrease is attributable to reallocation of acreages per land use designation as discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description." As noted above, under the 2021 LRDP, on-campus population could increase to 35,230 students, faculty, staff, non-UC employees by 2040-2041. The projected on-campus population would be served by the 15 acres of developed recreation and athletic facilities, and the 1,419 acres of open space land uses. This equates to approximately 40 acres per 1,000 persons. Although less than the existing parkland ratio, the new ratio would still exceed the Quimby Act parkland dedication standards.

Although the amount of land designated for Athletics & Recreation would decrease, the total acreage of existing recreation and athletic facilities would not decrease and land would still be available for expansion of recreation facilities in the LRDP area, as needed. The 2021 LRDP provides for the construction of new recreational facilities. As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," new multi-use pathway corridors would be developed to connect key locations on campus and existing pathways would be improved. New corridors could include separated bicycle facilities with adjacent pedestrian paths or combined bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In addition, new trail networks could be developed to provide connections to adjacent public lands surrounding the campus and the existing trail network could be improved. As shown on Figure 3.5-1, new unpaved multi-use trail networks include east-west connections from Wilder Ranch State Park to Henry Cowell State Park and Pogonip City Park; and north-south trail networks through Moore Creek Preserve and the Great Meadow, connecting to the east-west trail network in the north campus. Additional trail improvements include connecting the Spring Trail to Spring Street, and Spring Box Trail to Highway 9. Trail corridors that provide access to research areas would be limited to pedestrians only, such as Red Hill Road gravel fire road in the North Campus. Additionally, recognizing the need for distributed recreational facilities to support increased housing throughout the LRDP area, minor/supporting recreation and athletic facilities would be included as a supporting/accessory use within areas designated as Colleges and Student Housing under the 2021 LRDP. Similar to the facilities at Rachel Carson College, new facilities may include small field houses offering courts and exercise rooms and may also include small playing fields and

open areas suitable for informal use. However, the timing or exact location of proposed facilities are not known at this time. The construction of new facilities would occur when warranted by increased demand and when financially feasible. The potential impacts associated with the physical construction and operation of these facilities are programmatically analyzed throughout this EIR.

Summary

UC Santa Cruz will continue to maintain existing on-campus recreation facilities, and on-campus recreational facilities would be adequate to serve the demand. In addition, the 2021 LRDP sets aside an adequate amount of land for the continued passive use and development of recreation facilities to serve the projected campus population. The construction of new facilities would occur when warranted by increased demand and when financially feasible, and the potential impacts associated with the physical construction and operation of these facilities are programmatically analyzed in this EIR. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 3.15-2: Impacts on Off-Campus Recreation Facilities

The increase in campus population under the 2021 LRDP could increase demand for off-campus recreation facilities. This would be particularly the case for an increase in the number of students/employees who live off campus. However, any necessary recreational facility improvements as a result of substantial deterioration of existing facilities or requirements for new facilities within neighboring communities related to new UC Santa Cruz-related population growth would be addressed through development impact fees of the respective community, such as fees charged by the County and the City of Santa Cruz. In addition, the amount of recreation facilities on-campus is adequate to accommodate the increase in population under the 2021 LRDP and would help offset the demand for off-campus facilities. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Deterioration of Off-Campus Recreation Facilities

The projected increase in UC Santa Cruz population associated with 2021 LRDP implementation could result in increased use of off-campus recreation facilities. Use of off-campus recreation facilities by UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff, non-UC employees could occur in two ways: (1) UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff, and non-UC employees who live off campus would use recreation facilities near their residences; or (2) UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff, non-UC employees who live on-campus could use recreation facilities off campus in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The 2021 LRDP identifies locations and sets aside adequate land so that on-campus student beds can be provided for 100 percent of new enrollment beyond 19,500. The 2021 LRDP would accommodate 558 new dwelling units for the anticipated increase of 2,200 faculty and staff members. Therefore, an estimated 982 students and 1,992 employees would seek housing opportunities off-campus.

The projected demand for off-campus housing would be distributed across various surrounding communities, as noted in Section 3.13, "Population and Housing." Any increase in housing in nearby communities would be subject to the Quimby Act parkland dedication standards, which allows a city or county to require the dedication of land or impose a requirement for payment of in lieu fees, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes as a condition for the approval of a tentative map or parcel map for private development projects. City of Santa Cruz Municipal Code Chapter 5.72 requires the City to impose the parks and recreation facilities fee on new residential development (including mobile homes) within the City, payable at the time of issuance of a building permit for any residential dwelling unit, or prior to connection of a mobile home lot to the City sewer. The revenue collected from the parks and recreation facilities tax are expended to fund the acquisition, improvement and expansion of public park, playground and recreational facilities in the city. Consistent with Santa Cruz Municipal Code, the Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 Policy PR 1.7 requires developers to mitigate the impacts of their property improvements on City parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas. Similarly, Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 15.01 establishes park dedication requirements and fees to

fund the ongoing maintenance of the Countywide parks system. Therefore, any necessary recreation facility improvements within neighboring communities related to new UC Santa Cruz-related population growth would be addressed through development impact fees and other taxes of the respective community.

Use of off-campus recreation facilities by UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, and staff who live on-campus could also increase incrementally due to implementation of the 2021 LRDP. However, the amount of recreation facilities on-campus is adequate to accommodate the increase in those living on-campus and would help offset the demand for off-campus facilities. As discussed under Impact 3.15-1, the projected on-campus population of 35,230 under the 2021 LRDP would be adequately served by the on-campus recreation facilities. Further, UC Santa Cruz provides a variety of active and passive recreation facilities in the LRDP area; therefore, the on-campus population is not incentivized for this reason to use nearby off-campus facilities. Thus, implementation of the 2021 LRDP is not anticipated to result in a significant increase in use of off-campus recreation facilities by the on-campus population.

Construction of Off-Campus Recreation Facilities

As discussed above, the use of off-campus recreational facilities by UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff, and non-UC employees who live on-and off-campus could increase under the 2021 LRDP. However, any necessary recreation facility improvements within neighboring communities related to new UC Santa Cruz-related population growth would be addressed through development impact fees and other taxes of the respective community. In addition, UC Santa Cruz provides a variety of active and passive recreation facilities in the LRDP area that reduces the need for on-campus populations to use nearby off-campus facilities. Therefore, the increased use of off-campus facilities by UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff, and non-UC employees would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Summary

In summary, the increased population associated with implementation of the 2021 LRDP is not expected to cause substantial deterioration of or require improvements to off-campus recreation facilities that would not be addressed through development impact fees. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

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