

# 5

## PUBLIC FACILITIES



PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE  
CIVIC FACILITIES  
INFRASTRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION

The quality of public facilities and services is vital to Danville’s future. Danville residents take pride in the Town’s attractive parks, outstanding recreational programs, excellent public schools, well-maintained civic and community facilities, and responsive public services. The Town’s incorporation was driven by a desire to retain these qualities and ensure a continued commitment to excellence as growth took place. During the last 30 years, the Town has added new facilities and services to keep pace with increasing demand, changing needs, and new technologies. Looking to the future, the Town will maintain this commitment.

State law does not require a “public facilities element” in the General Plan. However, Danville has elected to make this topic one of the Plan’s four major Chapters. This underscores the importance of public facilities to the quality of life in Danville. The Chapter is intended to anticipate future facility needs based on growth projections. It will guide

capital improvement programming and provide broad policies for delivering community services. The state-mandated open space element has also been incorporated into this Chapter.

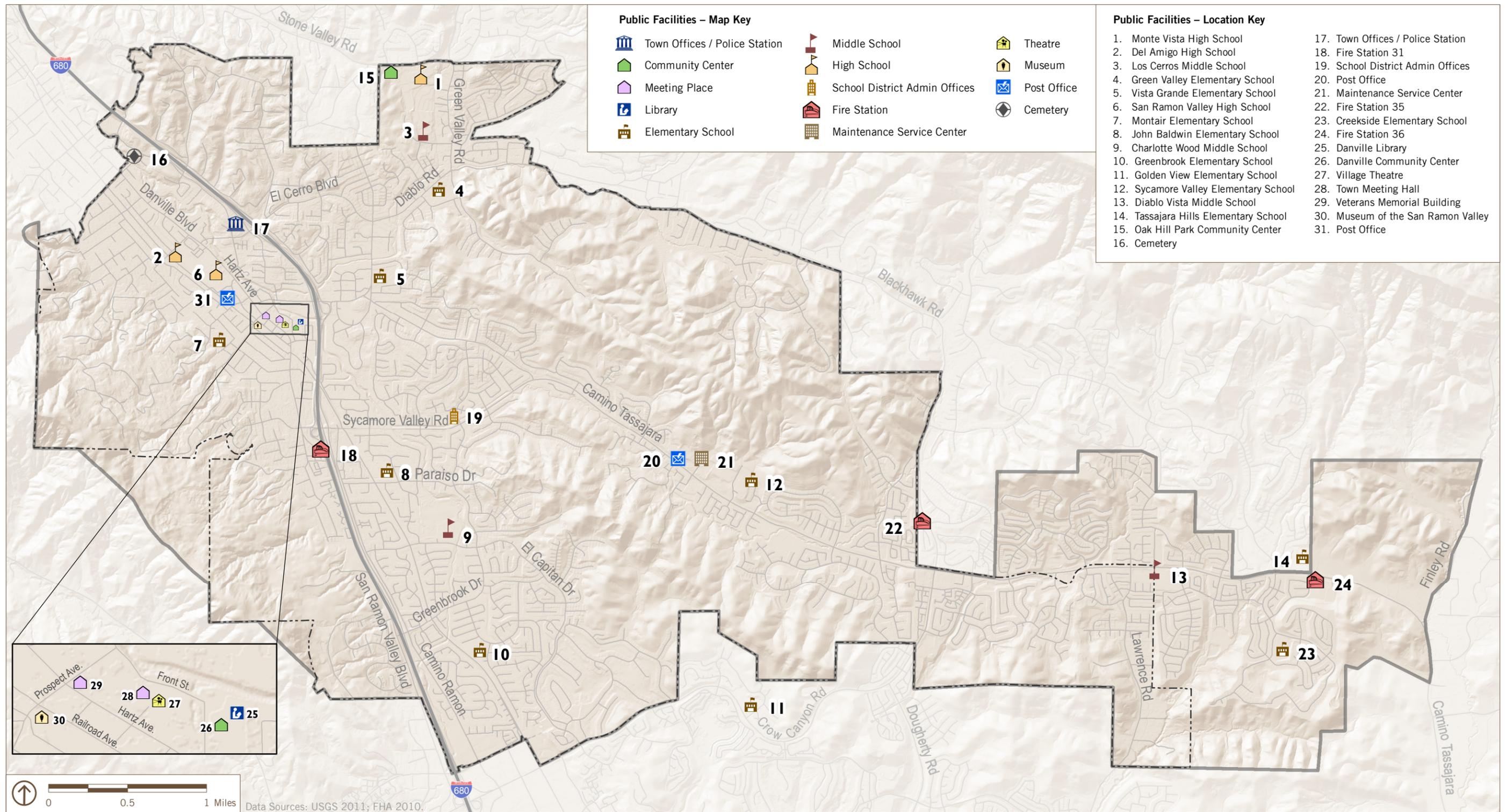
Although Danville is expected to experience relatively slow growth between now and 2030, demand for public services will require continued investment in new facilities by the Town and other service providers. Factors such as the aging of the population, changes to the size and make up of households, and reductions in the provision of human services by the federal and state governments will influence service and facility demands placed upon the Town of Danville.

**Figure 17** shows the agencies currently responsible for providing specific public facilities and services in Danville. **Figure 18** presents a map indicating the location of key public facilities. These facilities and services are provided to residents by a variety of public agencies, including the Town of Danville, regional special districts serving the San Ramon Valley area, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, and Contra Costa County.

**FIGURE 17**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE TOWN OF DANVILLE**  
**(2010)**

SERVICE	AGENCY
<b>FLOOD CONTROL</b>	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
<b>LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	Town of Danville
<b>LIBRARY</b>	Contra Costa Library System/ Town of Danville
<b>MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND VECTOR CONTROL</b>	Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District
<b>PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES</b>	Town of Danville/Lighting and Landscape Assessment District
<b>PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATION</b>	Town of Danville
<b>POLICE PROTECTION</b>	Town of Danville
<b>PUBLIC TRANSIT</b>	Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection)
<b>PUBLIC WORKS, DESIGN REVIEW, AND BUILDING</b>	Town of Danville
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	San Ramon Valley Unified School District
<b>SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL</b>	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
<b>SOLID WASTE</b>	Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
<b>STREET AND DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE</b>	Town of Danville
<b>STREET LIGHTING</b>	Town of Danville/Lighting and Landscape Assessment District, PG&E
<b>WATER SERVICE</b>	East Bay Municipal Utility District
<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
<b>INTERMENT AND GRAVES MAINTENANCE</b>	Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District

Sources: Town of Danville, 2012



Town Limit
  Planning Area Boundary

**FIGURE 18**  
**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Danville recognizes that government agencies cannot meet all the service needs of the community. Local churches and religious organizations, private schools and day care facilities, fraternal organizations, and nonprofit organizations are, and will continue to be, important providers of services.

Specific public facility needs, goals and policies, and implementation measures are addressed in the following subsections:

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Civic and Community Facilities
- Infrastructure



Sycamore Park. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.

## PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

### A. SETTING

Park and recreation facilities in Danville are currently provided by several public agencies and by the private sector. Public agencies include the Town of Danville, the U.S. National Park Service, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, East Bay Regional Park District, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, and Contra Costa County. Private sector organizations include private businesses, homeowner and neighborhood associations, and community based organizations.

Park and recreational facilities and services are an important component of the quality of life in Danville. Those facilities owned and maintained by the Town have been developed to a standard that demonstrates the Town's strong commitment to a high level of service delivery. The Town's Parks and Leisure Services Commission and Arts Commission provide guidance in the ongoing development of the Town's park system and in the provision of recreational facilities, services and programs.

In addition to the 278 acres of active public parkland, almost 3,800 acres of the Town's land area (33 percent of the total area within the Town limits) is in general open space or agricultural uses. This open space is primarily located in the hillside areas that define the west and east boundaries of Danville. A significant portion of the open space is owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. The Town does not manage open space unless the land is within a Town park. The private open space areas are mainly used for grazing cattle.

### REGIONAL PARK FACILITIES

The U.S. National Park Service owns and operates the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (Tao House) immediately adjacent to Danville in a meadow mid-slope along Las Trampas Ridge. The Park Service presently offers tours to this site on a limited basis. The California Department of Parks and Recreation owns and operates Mt. Diablo State

Park, a facility of just under 20,000 acres that abuts the northeast edge of Danville and encompasses the vast majority of Mt. Diablo.

The East Bay Regional Park District owns and operates the 5,342-acre Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, located largely outside the Town limits and lying to the northwest and west of the town roughly centered along Las Trampas Ridge. The Wilderness area features hiking trails and nature study areas. Access is mainly from a parking lot and picnic area in Bollinger Canyon, over Las Trampas Ridge from Danville. Additional access is provided via Del Amigo Trail (off Starview Drive), Remington Loop, and from points within unincorporated Alamo. The Town is working cooperatively with the East Bay Regional Park District on park planning and design. The approved plans for the 450-acre Elworthy West property include an expansion of the Wilderness area and the provision of a new staging area and trailhead.

The District also owns and operates the Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve. In 2011, open space land in the Sycamore Valley under EBRPD control totaled 696 acres. Additional acreage may be added in the future as land dedication offers to the District are considered.

### LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The Town of Danville owns, operates, and maintains 178 acres of parkland, most of which is used for active recreation. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District provides an additional 80 acres of playing fields, ball courts, and miscellaneous facilities within the Town of Danville that also serve the active recreation needs of the community. The Town of Danville has improved and maintains more than 24 acres of this total. Another 21 acres have been improved with trails or special use recreational facilities. Danville's parkland is further supplemented by a large number of private and homeowners associations recreational facilities, including a golf course, tennis courts, swimming pools, and tot lots.

**Figure 19** identifies the location of existing park and recreation facilities in Danville. Further description of these facilities is provided in **Figure 20**.

The adequacy of park and recreation facilities can be measured with the use of commonly accepted standards that specify the area and/or facilities required to serve a given number of residents. A service standard of 5.0 acres of improved parkland per 1,000 residents was established for park and recreation facilities in Danville through the Growth Management Element adopted by the Town Council in 1991. At the time of adoption of the 2030 Plan, as shown in **Figure 21**, Danville met a higher standard than that. Based on an April 1, 2010 population of 42,039 and a park acreage total of approximately 278 acres, there are currently about 6.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the town. The Town will strive to maintain this standard in the future as population is added and needs increase. This will occur through a combination of impact fees, land dedication within new development, joint use agreements, public-private partnerships, and similar strategies for expanding the Town's park inventory.

New residential projects will be required to

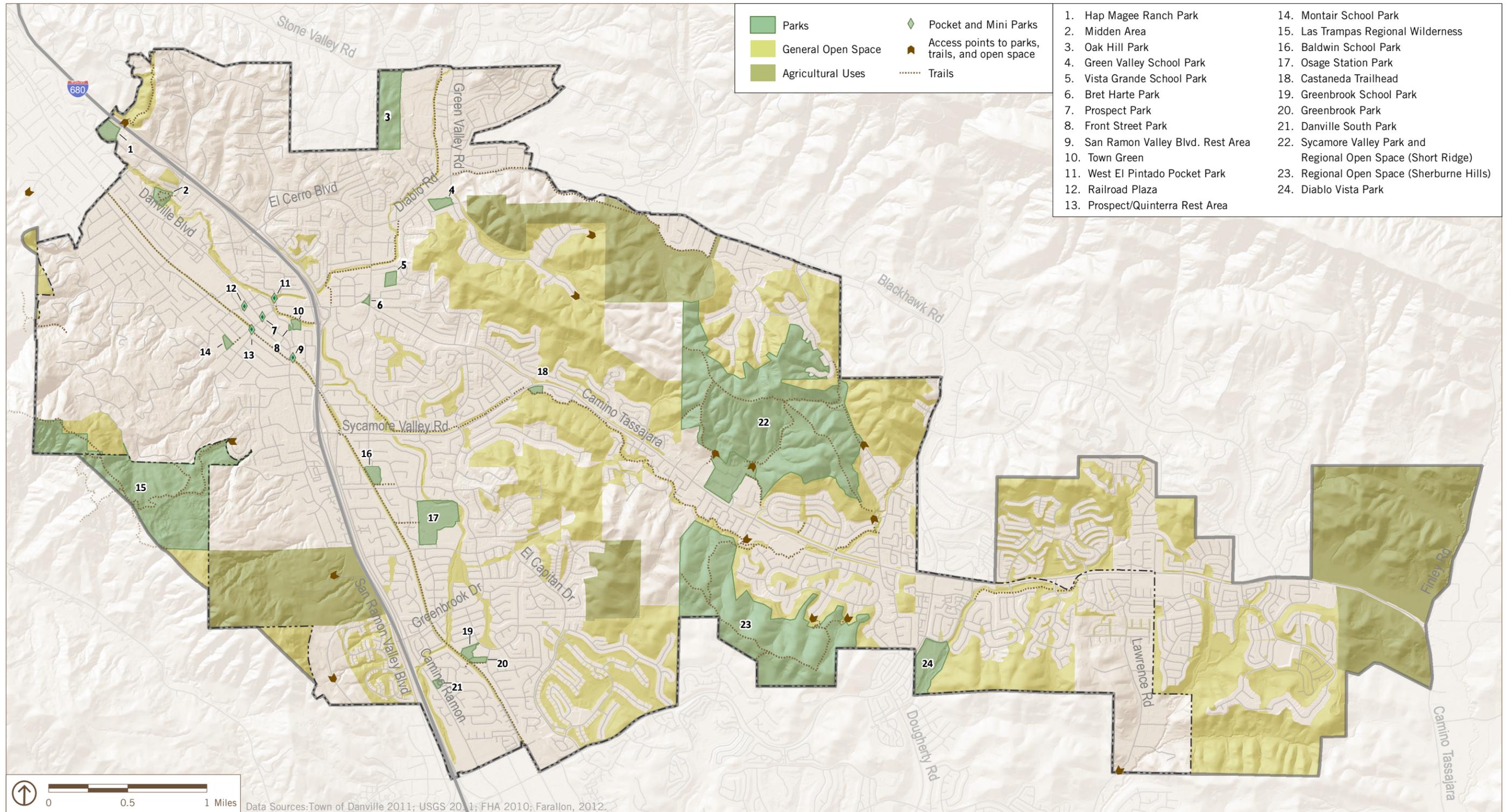
dedicate land and/or pay fees to help the Town maintain its parkland ratio. Under California's Quimby Act, the Town may require land dedications or impact fees equivalent to a ratio of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Only functional, usable acreage is considered as meeting this standard. Consistent with the Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement, projects that require General Plan Amendments are subject to a higher standard of 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Imposing the higher standard on these types of projects will further assist the Town in maintaining an outstanding park system.

While Danville seeks to provide adequate park and recreation facilities for its own residents, it should be noted that the Town's existing park facilities are heavily utilized by non-residents from adjacent unincorporated areas (i.e., Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk). These residents typically have less parkland available to them than Danville residents, although this is offset somewhat by access to private open space and the low-density rural residential character of much of this area. Additional demand is also placed on local resources by employee groups from the business community, both in Danville and in neighboring cities.



*Sycamore Park Playground. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.*





Town Limit     Planning Area Boundary

**FIGURE 19**  
**PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE**

**FIGURE 20**  
**PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY**

STATUS AND SITE	ACRES	AMENITIES
<b>TOWN-OWNED FACILITIES</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>		
<b>Diablo Vista Park</b>	31.82	“Snake” water feature, picnic tables, BBQ, volleyball, basketball court, 2 tennis courts, 2 baseball/softball fields, 2 soccer fields, children’s play area, snack shack and ancillary parking. Night lighting.
<b>Hap Magee Ranch Park</b>	9.01	Three ranch style homes, perimeter trail is linked to Mt. Diablo/Las Trampas trail, large meadow and ancillary parking (supplemented by 4.1 acres in Alamo)
<b>Oak Hill Park</b>	43.69	Children’s “ranch style” play area, community building, horseshoes, pond fishing, picnic tables and BBQs, open space trails, and ancillary parking (park area will expand to 47.33 acres with Weber/Davidon dedication)
<b>Osage Station Park</b>	30.10	Children’s “Old Town” play area, rose garden, par course, 4 tennis courts, 4 baseball/softball fields, 5 soccer fields, picnic tables and BBQs, jogging path, and ancillary parking
<b>Sycamore Valley Park</b>	48.88	Children’s play area, water features, 5 baseball/softball fields, 4 soccer fields, picnic tables, jogging path, barbecue areas, and ancillary parking. Night lighting.
<b>Acreage Subtotal</b>	163.54	Acreage will be 167.2 with Weber/Davidon dedication.
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>		
<b>Danville South Park</b>	1.38	Children’s play area, basketball court, picnic tables
<b>Greenbrook School Park</b>	1.01	Children’s play area, picnic tables
<b>Acreage Subtotal</b>	2.39	
<b>MINI/POCKET PARKS</b>		
<b>Bret Harte Park</b>	0.67	Passive open space, walkway
<b>El Pintado Park</b>	0.18	Benches, creek overlooks
<b>Front Street Park</b>	0.36	Picnic table, benches, drinking fountain, public art
<b>Prospect Corner Park</b>	0.06	Seating areas, kiosk
<b>Railroad / Linda Mesa Park</b>	0.09	Seating areas, fountain, kiosk

STATUS AND SITE	ACRES	AMENITIES
<b>MINI/POCKET PARKS (CONTINUED)</b>		
Railroad / Hartz Ave Park	0.07	Seating areas, entry feature
<b>Acreage Subtotal</b>	1.43	
<b>SPECIAL USE FACILITIES</b>		
Danville Library, Community Center and Town Green	3.38	2-building complex, plaza, bandstand, passive open space, and ancillary parking
Town Meeting Hall, Village Theatre and Art Gallery	1.28	2-building complex of Heritage Resource Buildings with multi-purpose utilization and ancillary parking
Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center	0.32	Multi-purpose activity/meeting facility
Teen centers	0.27	3 individual buildings (one each on Charlotte Wood, Diablo Vista, and Los Cerros Middle School campuses) owned by Town
West Briar Knolls Midden	4.91	Open space remainder of the West Briar Knolls development dedicated to the Town to protect archaeological resources—area available to public through Town-issued permit
Southern Pacific RR Depot	0.25	National Registry structure serving as home to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley
<b>Acreage Subtotal</b>	10.41	
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE TOWN-OWNED FACILITIES</b>	177.77	Subtotal increases to 181.43 after acceptance of offer of dedication from Weber/Davidon project
<b>TOWN IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED/ NON-TOWN OWNED FACILITIES</b>		
<b>SCHOOL PARKS</b>		
John Baldwin Elementary School	6.41	Childrens' play area, covered and lighted basketball courts, 2 baseball/softball fields, 1 soccer field, picnic tables, and parking area
Greenbrook Elementary School	0.40	Portion of parking area abutting Town parcel
Green Valley School	5.03	Childrens' play area, 2 baseball/softball fields, 3 soccer fields, and picnic tables (excludes parking area)
Montair School	1.97	Childrens' play area, picnic tables, 1 baseball/softball field, 1 soccer field
Charlotte Wood Middle School	5.06	Portions of playfields, rose planter areas, walkway
Vista Grande Elementary School	3.21	Informal playfields
San Ramon Valley High School Tennis Courts	0.32	2 lighted tennis courts (maintenance of lights only)

STATUS AND SITE	ACRES	AMENITIES
<b>SCHOOL PARKS (CONTINUED)</b>		
Monte Vista High School Tennis Courts, Landscape Buffer, Swimming Pool	1.69	4 tennis courts (4 non-lighted courts maintained by School District), swimming pool, annex to Oak Hill Park (buffer to school parking)
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	24.09	
<b>SPECIAL USE FACILITIES</b>		
Iron Horse trailhead and rest area at Prospect/Quinterra	0.21	Seating, drinking fountain, information kiosk, bike racks
Iron Horse trailhead and rest area at San Ramon Valley Boulevard	0.16	
EBMUD Castaneda Pumping Trailhead/ Camino Tassajara	1.75	
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	2.12	
<b>TRAILS</b>		
Trails	7.7	Benches, signage
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	7.7	
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE TOWN-IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED BUT NON-OWNED FACILITIES</b>	33.91	
<b>SRVUSD FACILITIES/ NON-TOWN OWNED OR MAINTAINED FACILITIES</b>		
<b>SPORTS FIELDS AND COURTS</b>		
John Baldwin Valley Elementary School	1.07	Hardscape play areas
Creekside Elementary School	—	4.75 acres outside Town Limits in sphere
Greenbrook Elementary School	4.39	Informal play fields and parking
Green Valley Elementary School	0.98	Hardscape play areas
Montair Elementary School	1.99	Hardscape play areas, playground, lawn
Sycamore Valley Elementary School	1.29	Hardscape play areas
Vista Grande Elementary School	1.59	Hardscape play areas, playground
Charlotte Wood Middle School	2.07	Informal play fields and parking
Diablo Vista Middle School	1.07	Additional 15 acres outside Town limits in sphere of influence
Los Cerros Middle School	5.82	Hardscape play areas, sports fields, informal play fields
Monte Vista High School	19.32	Sports fields

<b>San Ramon Valley High School</b>	14.71	Sports fields
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	54.30	Total increases to 74.05 acres for sphere of influence
<b>GYMNASIUMS, POOLS, AND MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR FACILITIES</b>		
<b>Gymnasiums, Pools, and Multi-Purpose Indoor Facilities</b>	1.4	Various school sites
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	1.4	
<b>IRON HORSE TRAIL</b>		
<b>Iron Horse Trail</b>	10.88	20-foot wide section of abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad transportation corridor for length of Town
<b>Acerage Subtotal</b>	10.88	
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE NON-TOWN MAINTAINED OR OWNED FACILITIES</b>		Subtotal increases to 181.43 after acceptance of offer of dedication from Weber/Davidon project
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	278.26	Increases to 281.92 acres after acceptance of 3.66 acres from Weber/Davidon and 310.67 acres for sphere of influence

**FIGURE 21**  
**PARKLAND REQUIREMENTS**  
**TOWN OF DANVILLE**

<b>Current Population</b>	42,039 residents
<b>Current Usable Parkland and School Grounds</b>	278.3 acres
<b>Current Ratio of Acres per 1,000 residents</b>	6.6/1,000

Sources: US Census, 2010  
Town of Danville, 2012

### ***Community Parks***

Community parks, as traditionally defined, range from 20 to 50 acres in size and serve residents within a three mile radius of their homes. Community parks are intended to serve a wide variety of active and passive recreation activities and may include sports fields, tennis courts, family and group picnic areas, children’s play apparatus areas, community buildings, water features, ponds, riparian areas, landscaping, and/or specialized activity areas. Night lighting of activity areas is appropriate at community parks to increase the availability and utilization of courts and/or playing field facilities. Parking lots and restroom facilities are typically provided at community parks. The Town currently owns and maintains five community parks, as noted in **Figure 20**.

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

Neighborhood parks range from one to ten acres in size and are specifically oriented toward residents within a one-half mile radius. Facilities in neighborhood parks are usually geared toward the recreation needs of children. The Town owns and/or maintains two neighborhood parks, South Danville South Park and Greenbrook School Park.

### ***Other Town-Operated Parks***

In addition to community and neighborhood parks, the Town operates mini-parks and a number of special use facilities which meet recreational needs. The mini-parks are typically passive open spaces with benches, landscaping, and in some instances public art. These include the Town Green, Front Street Park, Bret Harte Park, El Pintado Park, Prospect Corner Park, Prospect/Quinterra Rest Area, the Railroad Plaza, the Iron Horse Trail trailhead at San Ramon Valley Boulevard, and the Castaneda Park trailhead. The special use facilities include the Town Meeting Hall, the Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center, the Village Theater, and the Library/ Community Center. Although these facilities are not parks in the traditional sense, they are important civic open spaces and support many recreational and cultural arts programs. Cultural arts, including visual arts and performing arts, are an increasingly important part of the Town’s recreational service programs.

### **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

As part of a long-term agreement with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD), the Town maintains and manages four school parks that effectively function as neighborhood parks. The Town also facilitates community use

of recreational facilities owned by the District through a variety of joint use agreements which include management of SRVUSD facilities. These agreements provide the community with priority use during non-school hours at three teen centers, two pools, two gymnasiums, 14 tennis courts, 12 baseball/softball fields, and nine soccer fields. The availability of these facilities is essential to supplement Town-owned resources and provide active recreational areas within easy reach of all Danville residents.

### OTHER PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC FACILITIES

In addition to the Town parks and school parks listed above, Danville is also served by other types of active recreational facilities. For example, the Iron Horse Trail (see text box) provides an important amenity for pedestrians and bicyclists, running the length of the town on a north-south alignment. Other trails have been developed along

Sycamore Creek and Green Valley Creek. The Town is also home to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, occupying a National Register of Historic Places structure that once served as the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot.

### PRIVATE SECTOR RECREATION FACILITIES

A large number of private recreation facilities supplement local park and recreation facilities. Homeowner's associations in Danville provide numerous tennis courts, swimming pools, and clubhouses, as well as landscaped greenbelt areas. Approximately half of Danville's population has access to these types of recreation facilities. While these private facilities make a significant contribution to meeting the need for specific recreational amenities, such as tennis courts and swimming pools, they do not satisfy the need for large sports fields and community social spaces.



Osage Station Park. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.

## TRAILS

Trails are an important element of Danville's park system and provide significant opportunities for recreation. Hikers, bikers, and equestrians all share a need for trails, although their specific requirements may vary. Trails have two major functions. First, they provide recreational value associated with physical fitness and the enjoyment of the natural environment. Second, in some instances, they provide safe, off-street linkages between neighborhoods, parks, schools, shopping, workplaces, and public facilities.

The Iron Horse Trail, running along the former San Ramon branch line of the Southern Pacific Railroad and bisecting the Town on a north to south axis, already connects a number of recreational facilities and has become the Town's major off-street trail (see text box). Steps are being taken to improve the trail system in the eastern part of the town. The Sycamore Creek Trail will eventually connect the eastern side of Danville to Downtown, while providing spur trails to regional open space, schools, and nearby residential areas. A new section of the Sycamore Creek Trail extended the existing trail to the EBMUD Castaneda pumping facility, where a staging area was installed. Additional trails have been added between Zenith Ridge at Tassajara Ranch Road to Jasmine Way at Camino Tassajara and along Sycamore Creek from Freitas Road to Old Orchard Road.

Danville's major creeks (i.e., San Ramon Creek, Sycamore Creek, Green Valley Creek, and Alamo Creek) offer unique opportunities for trails. Although current development patterns preclude continuous public access along some sections of these creeks, opportunities remain for incorporating the creeks into the overall trail system. These opportunities, as well as linkages to the state and regional parks, are currently being considered by the Town.

The Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan adopted in 2006 served to update and consolidate the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (1989) and the Townwide Trails Master Plan (1989). Trails are addressed in the Strategic Plan, with an inventory of

the major community trails in Danville, discussion of trail design standards, and a summary of missing trail links. The Strategic Plan adopted by reference the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which had been previously adopted by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) in December 2003. The Countywide Plan primarily addressed on-street bicycle routes and on-street pedestrian trails.

### CONNECTING THE VALLEY: THE IRON HORSE TRAIL

The Iron Horse Trail is a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trail that follows the former Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Concord to Pleasanton. The Trail, which is operated by the East Bay Regional Park District, is an important recreational amenity and commute route for the communities it connects. In Danville, the Trail connects residential areas, workplaces, schools, shopping centers, and civic facilities. It provides opportunities to view Mt. Diablo, scenic ridgelines, creeks, and other landscape features, providing a pleasant experience that adds to the appeal of living in Danville.



*Iron Horse Regional Trail. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.*

The goals for trail development established by the Strategic Plan include:

- Provide logical, comprehensive, and user-friendly trail connections throughout Danville.
- Develop a network of trails that provide a variety of trail experiences to meet user needs.
- Preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.
- Coordinate regional trail planning.

Trails should provide a practical alternative to driving, provide opportunities for fitness and exercise, help bring residents closer to nature, and provide social and leisure opportunities.

### ACCESS WAYS

Access ways provide linkages from existing public facilities or street rights-of-way to important parklands or open space resources such as Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, Mt. Diablo State Park, and the Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve. An access way normally includes two components—a staging area where people can gather or park, and the access or trail corridor which traverses the open space.

Approximate locations for access ways are delineated on **Figure 19**. Precise locations of new parks, open space areas, and access ways will be determined through future planning efforts.

### BIKEWAYS

Bikeways are an important component of recreational facilities in Danville. Because bicycling is also a mode of transportation, bikeways are addressed in the Mobility Element of the General Plan.

### OPEN SPACE

Preservation of open space has been a major goal since the Town of Danville’s incorporation. Open spaces surrounding the community are an important element of the town’s form and character. The General Plan Land Use Map identifies about

one-third of the town as open space, using either the General Open Space or Agriculture designations. In the unincorporated portion of the Danville Planning Area, an even higher proportion of the land area has been designated as open space.

Areas designated as “General Open Space” on the Land Use Map are planned as permanent open space with either fee title or development rights belonging to a public agency. These lands are generally inappropriate for development due to hazardous conditions such as steep slopes and/or are important scenic resources for the community. Many areas designated as “Rural Residential” and “Country Estate” on the Land Use Map will also retain an open space character. Although a limited amount of development is permitted in these two categories, development regulations ensure that the visual qualities of Danville’s hillsides and ridgelines will not be significantly impaired in the future. The large open space areas along the ridgelines may include outstanding opportunities for scenic trails and trail links to community and regional parks.

Other permanent open space areas have been created through the development process. In general, the Town has not accepted ownership or management of these areas. However, they provide an aesthetic and ecological asset which benefits many Danville residents.

Open space buffers are also typically required between the large regional parks and development areas. These buffer areas are owned in common by the adjacent homeowner’s association and may be managed privately or by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) under contract to the homeowner’s association. When development occurs adjacent to major publicly owned or managed open space, public access easements through the developed area may be required.

The Town considers the EBRPD as the appropriate public agency to manage the large public open space areas and will continue to coordinate future open space dedication in the Sycamore Valley, Las Trampas Ridge, and Tassajara Valley areas to conform to their standards for ownership and management.

## RECREATIONAL SERVICES

The availability of varied recreation opportunities and services, along with the accessibility of parklands and open space, is an integral part of what makes Danville attractive. The delivery of high-quality recreation and leisure services is a top priority of the Town. During the last decade, the range of services has become more diverse in response to changing needs. For example, as the population has aged, more emphasis has been placed on programs for seniors. This will be facilitated by the recent opening of a new senior center as part of the Veterans Memorial Building remodel. Services also have expanded to

include the performing and visual arts, including the opening of a publicly-operated art gallery in the Village Theatre in 2009. Administrative functions also have evolved, with the replacement of the Community Services Department with a Recreation Services Department focused on programs and a Maintenance Services Department focused on park care and facilities management.

In 2006 the Town adopted a Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan. Preparation of this Plan was specifically recommended by the previous General Plan when it was adopted in 1999. The Strategic Plan guides future development of Town recreational facilities, services and programs (see

## THE 2006 PARKS, RECREATION, AND ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Parks Recreation and Arts Strategic Plan is based on an assessment of current and future needs in Danville, input from the community, and an evaluation of existing park facilities and resources. It is predicated on the following seven basic “Vision Principles”:

1. Parks are community places.
2. Parks are interwoven into the community.
3. Community members are engaged in creating community spaces and becoming park stewards.
4. Amenities are located to promote comfort and sociability of public spaces.
5. Activities enhance the use of public spaces and community sociability.
6. Partnerships sustain parks, recreation, and the arts.
7. Cultural arts enhance the livability of the community.

Each of these principles is supplemented by strategies, along with specific short-term action steps for the Town’s community parks and its trail system.



Children’s Fall Fest at Danville Community Center. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.

text box). Among the issues addressed by the Plan is the impact of development in the unincorporated areas east of Danville on the Town's recreational services.

Danville is a family oriented community, so the benefits of providing parks and recreation facilities and activities have far reaching impacts. From the positive physical, mental, and social development of youth and opportunities for volunteerism and leadership, to family and multi-generational activities and special events which help create a sense of community, recreational services are regarded as an investment in Danville's future.

There is active participation in organized sports leagues by both adults and children. Approximately 10,000 children or adults were listed on the team rosters for the various organized sports leagues for Fiscal Year 2009/2010, a 25 percent increase in just over a decade. The growth reflects both increases in total participants in the respective leagues and an expansion of the range of sport leagues offered. Currently, classes, sports leagues, events and services are available in the following program areas: youth, adults, seniors, special recreation for persons with disabilities, sports and fitness, cultural arts, special events, and volunteer services. These programs are extremely popular. They have grown significantly in size and variety since the opening of the Danville Community Center in 1996 and the opening of the Oak Hill Park Community Center in 2007. After school programs for youth have also been enhanced with the Town's purchase and installation of modular units serving as Teen Centers at each of Danville's three middle schools.

There is also strong involvement in community service activities by Danville residents. Numerous cultural, recreational, and educational organizations are active and look to public parks and facilities as locations to sponsor their community and organizational events.

## **B. FORECAST**

It is anticipated that strong demand for parks and recreation will continue into the future as

the benefits of recreation activity to individuals, families, and the community at-large are recognized and celebrated. As leisure services become an increasingly high priority, there will be a concurrent increase in the diversity and size of special interest groups, such as seniors, trail enthusiasts, equestrians, theatre supporters, art and music lovers, and indoor sports enthusiasts. All will want and expect the Town to provide for their needs.

Additional parkland will need to be acquired and improved if the existing ratio of park acreage to population is to be maintained. Projections indicate that the population within existing Town limits could increase by approximately 3,100 residents by 2030. At current standards, this would require 20 acres of new active parkland. There are few opportunities for large new neighborhood or community parks in the town, and funds to acquire large parcels for park use are limited. An increasing emphasis may need to be placed on linear parks, creekside trails, pocket parks, and other types of parks to meet future recreational needs. This shift in emphasis would also help support the future growth pattern, which includes more development in Downtown Danville and little change in most of the town's established residential neighborhoods.

Annexation of land beyond the current Town limits would also increase the demand for parkland, although residents of these areas are already using Danville's parks and recreational services. Over 5,000 persons currently reside in the unincorporated portion of the Danville planning area, and another 2,000 persons may reside in this area by 2030 based on current projections. At 6.6 acres per 1,000 residents, this would translate into a need for 46 acres of parkland. Presently the only parks in this area are associated with Creekside Elementary School and Diablo Vista Middle School. These areas total less than 25 acres, creating the potential for a deficiency or a lower service standard if additional parkland is not acquired. The need for additional parks in this area is offset to some degree by private recreational facilities in most of the unincorporated subdivisions, and

by the presence of a private soccer field complex which is available for public use.

The Town's parkland dedication requirements and impact fee will continue to be the primary tool for creating new parks in the future. However, additional steps may be needed to maintain the existing ratio of 6.6 acres per 1,000. The Town will continue to rely on joint use agreements with the school district to expand the range of facilities and services available, and may explore other strategies

for expanding its parkland inventory as growth occurs.

The 2006 Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan will continue to guide the development of Town recreational facilities, and the delivery of services and programs. As appropriate, the policies in the 2030 General Plan have been edited to align with the direction provided by the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan should be periodically updated to reflect changing priorities and program needs.



*Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center. Photo courtesy of Alex Lopez.*

C. GOALS AND POLICIES

**GOALS: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE**

**Goal 17:** *Provide a comprehensive network of high quality park and recreation facilities that are attractive, efficient, convenient to users, appropriately distributed throughout the community, and that reinforce community identity, culture, history, and visual character.*

**Goal 18:** *Provide a diverse range of recreational and cultural arts programs that meet the leisure-time needs of Danville residents, while promoting fitness, health, knowledge, and personal growth.*

POLICIES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
17.01	<p>Maintain and periodically update a strategic plan for parks, recreation, and the arts in Danville. The Plan should guide future acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities.</p> <p><i>The Implementation section of this Chapter includes additional information on the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
17.02	<p>Promote the use of Danville’s parks by a broad range of constituents through publicity, stewardship events, partnerships, Commission activities, and other communication and outreach strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
17.03	<p>Regularly evaluate park facilities for their overall function and ability to meet recreational needs. Provide new amenities as needed to support changing needs and recreational trends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> </ul>
17.04	<p>Enhance the role of Danville’s parks as places for recreation, community gatherings, learning, discovery, and sociability. The design, landscaping, programming, and maintenance of the Town’s parks should create places that are comfortable, attractive, and inviting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>

POLICIES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
17.05	<p>Strive to maintain the existing (2010) standard of 6.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.</p> <p><i>Maintaining this standard as the Town adds population will require a combination of strategies, including on-site dedication of parkland within new development, the use of impact fees to acquire new parkland, and joint use agreements to use other public open space for recreation purposes. Existing park dedication requirements and impact fees are based on a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents, although pursuant to the Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement, a higher standard of 6.5 acres per 1,000 residents is used for projects requiring General Plan amendments. Other methods of expanding the Town's park inventory may be considered in the future.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkland Dedication Ordinance and Fee</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• CEQA</li> </ul>
17.06	<p>Plan for the acquisition and development of new park and recreation facilities that maintain the parkland performance standard and achieve other park and recreation objectives. The Town shall seek a balance between active and passive recreation facilities in its acquisition and park improvement programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> <li>• CEQA</li> </ul>
17.07	<p>Pursue opportunities to expand and enhance existing parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Program</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> </ul>
17.08	<p>Continue to work with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to develop and operate school sites for local recreation purposes. The development of facilities and fields which jointly serve school athletic programs and Town recreational needs is strongly supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Joint Use Agreements</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> </ul>
17.09	<p>Site new parks to provide maximum public visibility and access, while minimizing impacts on adjacent residential areas. Park design should capitalize on natural attributes, such as topography, creeks, and trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• CEQA</li> </ul>
17.10	<p>Decisions to acquire and develop park and recreation facilities shall include a commitment to continuing, high quality maintenance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>

POLICIES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
17.11	To the extent practical and within fiscal constraints, develop new neighborhood parks and pocket-parks in new development areas and in other areas where access to parks by Danville residents would be improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Comm.</li> </ul>
17.12	Participate with neighboring communities, Contra Costa County, East Bay Regional Park District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Alamo Parks and Recreation District, and other local organizations to acquire and improve additional parks and increase the range of recreational opportunities available to Danville residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> </ul>
17.13	Assemble open space areas from contiguous parcels to the extent possible to minimize management problems and increase public access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Development Review</li> </ul>
17.14	<p>Enhance Danville’s trail system by closing gaps in the existing system, providing adequate access points, and extending trails to achieve better connectivity to all areas of the town. The trail system should be logical, comprehensive and user friendly and should provide a variety of trail experiences, including opportunities for exercise, encounters with nature, and social walking.</p> <p><i>Improvements should include new trails and enhancement of existing trails, including signage, new access points, and other amenities. Particular emphasis should be placed on improving trail connections to Downtown Danville, in keeping with the emphasis on multi-modal circulation in the Downtown area.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
17.15	Public access easements shall be provided to designated public open space areas and along creeks and streams, where appropriate. Where appropriate and consistent with adopted trail plans, conditions of approval for new development should include requirements for land dedications and public access easements for trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>

POLICIES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
17.16	<p>Pursue revenue generating opportunities in developing and managing park, open space, and recreation facilities, including differential user fees for non-residents.</p> <p><i>The intent of this policy is to recover some of the cost of providing recreational programs through fees and to make certain park facilities available for rental use by the public. The policy is not intended to encourage revenue-generating concessions and other types of private vending in parks.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure Services Commission</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
17.17	<p>Preserve and enhance the Iron Horse Trail right-of-way for non-motorized trail, linear park, and other recreational purposes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
17.18	<p>Cooperate with the National Park Service and other agencies in preserving public access to the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site (Tao House).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
17.19	<p>Cooperate with the East Bay Regional Park District and other agencies in developing access and staging areas for regional parks adjacent to Danville.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
17.20	<p>Identify and pursue potential sources of funding, including federal, state, and private sources, for acquiring, developing, and operating park, recreation, and cultural arts facility improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
17.21	<p>Recognize the benefits of trails as an alternative transportation mode and integral part of the Town’s strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as their role as a recreational amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
18.01	<p>Promote park programming which enhances sociability, encourages resident interaction, and showcases local arts and culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>
18.02	<p>Periodically adjust park programs and leisure services in response to changing demographics, recreational trends and preferences, and user surveys.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>

POLICIES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
18.03	Design recreational programs to serve all age groups and to encourage inter-generational activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>
18.04	Support the visual and performing arts as an important component of community life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>
18.05	Encourage the involvement of the local arts community in the design and enhancement of parks and public spaces, including art installations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
18.06	Develop partnerships with local schools, businesses, artists and musicians to schedule exhibits, concerts, and other special events which showcase local culture and contribute to Danville’s sense of community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>
18.07	<p>Recognize opportunities to support environmental education and awareness of local history through parks and recreational programs.</p> <p><i>This could include activities such as creek restoration, community gardening, botanical displays, interpretive trails or exhibits, and historic markers within parks.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>
18.08	Encourage continuing citizen participation, including meaningful involvement of youth and seniors, in evaluating and planning park and recreation facilities and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park and Leisure Services Commission</li> </ul>

## CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### A. SETTING

Civic facilities are those buildings and properties owned by the Town of Danville which are used for the day-to-day operations of Town government or the activities of community based organizations.

The Town Administrative Offices are located at 510 La Gonda Way, just off El Cerro Boulevard. The building was acquired and remodeled in 1985. The building encompasses approximately 17,100 square feet, including an addition to the Police Department offices completed in 2003. Town Council, Commission meetings, and other public assemblies are typically held at the Town Meeting Hall at 201 Front Street. The Town Meeting Hall is a 1930's era structure, renovated for public use after it was purchased by the Town in 1989. The building is located on property that housed the First Presbyterian Church of Danville, the oldest church in the San Ramon Valley.

Civic facilities for general public use include the Danville Community Center and Library (completed in 1996), the Oak Hill Park Community Center (completed in 2007), and the Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center. Remodeled in 2012, the Veterans Memorial Building (400 Hartz Avenue), the facility doubled in size, taking it to approximately 13,000 square feet. The project allowed the construction of a larger community hall, a dedicated senior center, and a public plaza.

The Village Theatre (233 Front Street), a 245-seat performing arts theater, is another civic facility located in the Downtown area. In 2009, a 1,000 square foot portion of the front lobby area was remodeled for use as an art gallery. The building incorporates the 1873-vintage Grange Hall building as a portion of its second floor and is a designated heritage resource.

Additional civic facilities include three converted residential structures at Hap Magee Ranch Park (1025 La Gonda Way), including the "Swain House", the "Magee House", and the "Cottage", that are available for general public use.



*Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center*

Hap Magee Ranch Park is also home to the Town’s dog park facility identified as the “Canine Corral.” Facilities for the Town’s Maintenance Services operations are located at the Town Service Center at 1000 Sherburne Hills Road, off of Camino Tassajara.

Community facilities, including fire stations and schools, are provided by other public agencies serving Danville. Private and nonprofit organizations also provide facilities that serve specific residential neighborhoods or the community at-large. These include child care facilities and private schools.

## **B. FORECAST**

The demand for community and civic facilities will remain high in the future due to the factors described earlier. An overview of projected demand is provided below.

### **TOWN OF DANVILLE FACILITIES**

#### ***Administrative Offices***

In 2003 the existing Administrative Offices were remodeled and expanded. The changes primarily addressed space needs for police services. Any consideration of annexation of developed land on the east side of Danville could further increase space requirements.

#### ***Council Chambers***

Town Council meetings and other events attracting a large attendance occur in the Town Meeting Hall. When a larger meeting facility is required, the meetings are moved to the nearby Village Theatre or to the Danville Community Center across the street. These facilities should be adequate through the 2030 planning horizon period of the General Plan.

#### ***Maintenance***

The existing Town Service Center located off of Camino Tassajara is expected to be adequate through the 2030 planning horizon period of the General Plan.

### ***General Purpose Community Facilities***

The primary general purpose community facilities are the Danville Community Center (located on Front Street next to the library) and the Oak Hill Park Community Center (located off Stone Valley Road). These facilities run close to capacity despite the Oak Hill Park Community Center having just opened in 2007. Renovation of the Veterans Memorial has provided additional capacity for programmed events and private rentals. Opportunities to add general purpose community space may be considered prior to the end of the 2030 planning horizon period of the General Plan.

#### ***Library***

Danville Library is operated through a partnership between the Town of Danville and the Contra Costa County Library System. Construction of the 17,200 square foot library, located in the same complex as the Danville Community Center on Front Street, was completed by the Town in 1996. The library was remodeled in 2009, updating technological features and modifying/updating the checkout desk. The library will meet community needs through at least the 2030 planning horizon year, although continued acquisition and investment will be required to keep the collection current and to keep pace with advances in information technology. Since its opening, the Town has funded additional hours of operation at the library and will strive to ensure that library hours and service levels meet community needs. In fiscal year (FY) 2009-10, the Danville Library had an annual circulation of approximately 427,000 items with over 78,000 items in its collection. During 2010, over 6,300 individuals attended the library’s 207 programs.

### **OTHER FACILITIES**

#### ***Fire Protection***

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District provides fire protection and emergency medical facilities and services to Danville and the other

communities within the San Ramon Valley. The District currently maintains two stations within the Town of Danville, one at the intersection of Diablo Road and Green Valley Road and one on San Ramon Valley Boulevard just south of the intersection with Sycamore Valley Road. A third station, serving the Sycamore Valley area and the unincorporated Blackhawk area, is located in an unincorporated area on Blackhawk Road, just off Camino Tassajara. A fourth station recently was added in the Alamo Creek Area just east of the eastern edge of Danville's 2010 sphere of influence.

### **Schools**

Danville is entirely within the jurisdiction of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, which also provides schools to the City of San Ramon and the unincorporated portions of the San Ramon Valley. In Danville, the District operates seven elementary schools, three middle schools (including one that is partially located outside Town boundaries), San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista High Schools, and Del Amigo Continuation High School. In addition to their educational functions, the school facilities include play areas, public meeting space (e.g., the

Education Center), and community facilities that augment the Town's park and recreation facilities.

### **Child Care**

Child care is an important issue in Danville and is recognized as an ongoing need in the community. This service is provided by a variety of schools, private day care services, community based organizations, and churches. Approximately 18 licensed preschools operate in Danville, with many operating within church facilities and most offering the option of extended day child care service. At the time of adoption of the 2030 General Plan, Danville had 14 large-family day care centers (i.e., facilities serving from eight to 14 children each). A larger number of small-family day care centers (i.e., facilities serving up to eight children) supplements the large-family centers.

There are privately operated child care facilities at each of the elementary schools, which provide before and after school care for K-5 students. The Town also operates school teen facilities at each of the three Danville middle schools. Some of these facilities are at capacity and are operating with waiting lists.



Oak Hill Park Community Center

C. GOALS AND POLICIES

**GOALS: CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

*Goal 19: Give high priority to development of quality civic, public, and community facilities which serve a broad range of needs within the community.*

POLICIES: CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
19.01	Require new development to pay its fair share of the cost of civic and community facilities, based on the impacts attributed to that development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> <li>• CEQA</li> </ul>
19.02	Work with adjacent communities to identify future needs for regional public facilities in the Tri-Valley area. Ensure that new development contributes its fair share of the cost of these facilities, as well as the local facilities identified in Policy 19.01.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> </ul>
19.03	Monitor the adequacy of existing multi-purpose community facilities for public meetings, cultural events, and other public functions and, as warranted, seek to expand facility capacity through remodels, additions and/or by developing additional facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> <li>• Public/Private Partnerships</li> </ul>
19.04	Ensure that high quality library services are maintained for the residents of Danville.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
19.05	Use technology to improve access to government services, working toward a target of around-the-clock access to information about Town services and events. This can be achieved through upgrades to the Town’s website, expanded use of social media, and other tools which support on-line civic engagement and interaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> </ul>
19.06	<p>Cooperate with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District in providing the fire protection facilities needed to maintain or improve existing fire protection standards.</p> <p><i>(See also the Resources and Hazards Chapter for policies on response time.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> </ul>

POLICIES: CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
19.07	Strive for superior school facilities in Danville by coordinating the development review process with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. To the extent permitted by law, this review should ensure that new development contributes its fair share to the timely construction of new school and/or administrative facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
19.08	Encourage the development of an adequate supply of and high-quality child care and pre-school facilities in appropriate locations, especially in conjunction with parks, recreational facilities, schools, and church facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
19.09	Consider large-family child care facilities (as defined by state law) to be appropriate in residential neighborhoods where traffic, safety, and access concerns can be adequately addressed. Larger facilities such as preschools may be considered appropriate where safe vehicular access and effective buffering of nearby residences can be assured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>
19.10	Designate portions of new commercial and residential projects for child care and preschool facilities, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>
19.11	<p>Consider churches and other religious buildings as appropriate in residential areas provided safe vehicular access and effective buffering from noise, traffic, and other impacts can be achieved, and the design is appropriate to the immediate area.</p> <p><i>The Town has developed a land use permit process to evaluate proposals for institutional uses in residential areas. Approval of such permits is subject to specific findings which ensure that the project will not adversely affect its surroundings. Conditions to mitigate potential impacts on nearby properties may be developed through this process.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• CEQA</li> </ul>
19.12	Work closely with private for-profit and nonprofit organizations to provide cultural, art, sports, and community facilities as necessary to enhance the quality of life for Danville citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public/Private Partnership</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Program</li> <li>• Arts Commission</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> </ul>
19.13	Provide attractive and well-maintained surroundings on public property throughout the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts Commission</li> </ul>

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### A. SETTING

Infrastructure is the system of basic public improvements needed to serve urban development. This system includes water supply and storage facilities; storm drainage and flood control facilities; sewage collection, treatment, and disposal facilities; and gas, electric, and telecommunication facilities.

As described in **Figure 17**, the basic components of infrastructure in Danville, with the exception of local storm drainage facilities, are provided by public utilities or special districts serving the San Ramon Valley. The Town coordinates the infrastructure construction provided by these entities through its Capital Improvement Program. Coordination of maintenance is also critical, since the maintenance of water, sewer, gas, electric, and communication facilities by special districts and utilities can be potentially disruptive to Danville neighborhoods. It is particularly important to coordinate utility maintenance with the Town's repaving and pavement management programs.

Another major planning issue surrounding infrastructure involves the growth-inducing aspects of new infrastructure. In the past, decisions to extend utilities and provide capacity to developing areas have often occurred without overall consideration of the potential impacts such decisions have on other service providers or on the environment in general. In response, a variety of sub-regional commissions and planning strategies have been created to coordinate decisions with regional impacts.

### B. FORECAST

Based upon current projections, water supply and sewage capacity can be made available to meet the needs of projected development in the existing Town limits. Additional development outside of the Town of Danville and City of San Ramon (particularly the Dougherty Valley and

Alamo Creek developments) faced significant infrastructure challenges, most notably water and sewer system capacity limitations and traffic capacity limitations. Through the CEQA review process, these County-approved projects were obligated to implement significant mitigation programs to offset their water needs and traffic impacts. The projects were also obligated to abide by specific requirements regarding the nature and timing of infrastructure installation. If the portions of the Tassajara Valley outside of Danville's and San Ramon's respective spheres of influence are considered for development in the future, a parallel review of infrastructure needs and impacts will be necessary.

Between now and 2030, it is anticipated that the most limiting infrastructure constraint will be associated with traffic congestion on the I-680 freeway and local streets. This issue is discussed more fully in the Mobility Element.

As more growth occurs in and around Downtown Danville, the ability of existing utilities to handle increased volumes (of water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.) will need to be considered. In some instances, the existing utilities may not have been sized in anticipation of the type and intensity of development that is now envisioned. The environmental review and development review processes provide a means of considering such impacts.

Even if the Town does not experience growth, investment in infrastructure is still important to minimize waste, reduce potential hazards, and protect the environment. Most utility lines must be periodically inspected, maintained, and repaired to keep them in optimal condition.



*Wemby Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project*

**C. GOALS AND POLICIES**

**GOALS: INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Goal 20:** *Ensure that local water supply, storm drainage, sewerage, streets, and similar facilities are well maintained; improvements meet existing and future needs; and land use decisions are contingent on the adequacy and maintenance of such facilities.*

<b>POLICIES: INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		<b>IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES</b>
20.01	Maintenance and improvement of the street and storm drainage system shall receive high priority during the annual Capital Improvement Program review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Program</li> <li>• Stormwater Pollution Control Program</li> <li>• Grant Funding</li> </ul>
20.02	Coordinate development approvals with the appropriate agencies to ensure that adequate water quantity, quality, and distribution; adequate sewage collection and wastewater treatment capacity; and other utilities can be provided to serve proposed development projects without adverse community impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
20.03	Ensure that all water and sewer infrastructure is designed to meet the respective standards established by the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth Management Element</li> <li>• Development Review</li> </ul>
20.04	Ensure that high quality library services are maintained for the residents of Danville.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
20.05	<p>Continue to provide for flood control, protection from erosion and siltation, and improvements to urban runoff as required by federal law. Continue to explore the recreational potential of flood control facilities and waterways, consistent with public safety and security, and stress aesthetic treatment of needed facilities.</p> <p><i>(See also the Resources and Hazards Chapter for additional information on the conservation of creeks and the Town’s stormwater management programs.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Storm Drainage Plan</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> <li>• Growth Management Element</li> </ul>

POLICIES: INFRASTRUCTURE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
20.06	<p>Ensure that the costs of upgrading and constructing public facilities needed to serve new development shall be the responsibility of the developers and not existing residents.</p> <p><i>The above policy would not apply to systemwide improvements and/or upgrades that are necessitated by factors other than growth and new development.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEQA</li> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> <li>• Assessment Districts</li> </ul>
20.07	<p>Discourage private infrastructure improvements such as private roads and private storm drainage systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• Development Review</li> </ul>
20.08	<p>Protect surface water from pollution by ensuring that stormwater discharges comply with Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Permit (RWQCB-SF Bay MRP) requirements.</p> <p><i>The Town will enforce nonpoint source pollution control measures as required by federal and state law. These measures include steps to control erosion and sedimentation, require stormwater containment facilities and other measures which reduce or contain development-related runoff.</i></p> <p><i>(See also Goal 22 for additional policies on water quality.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater Pollution Control Program</li> <li>• Development Review</li> </ul>
20.09	<p>Encourage coordination of water, sewer, storm drain, electric, gas, and cable maintenance and repair activities with the Town of Danville’s road maintenance and repair projects in order to minimize disruption of streets and reduce infrastructure-related expenses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>
20.10	<p>Work with local utilities and service providers to ensure the periodic inspection, maintenance, and repair of infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Utilities and other service providers should be regularly contacted so that they may provide the Town with updated information on the location of their facilities, and any issues related to potential hazards or service interruption.</i></p> <p><i>(See also Chapter 6 for discussion of emergency preparedness and other issues related to infrastructure-related hazards.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Coordination</li> </ul>

POLICIES: INFRASTRUCTURE		IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES
20.11	Support the development of coordinated telecommunications systems which enhance the availability of information to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public/Private Partnership</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Program</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>
20.12	Encourage the design and siting of telecommunication facilities in a manner which minimizes adverse impacts on surrounding uses, while complying with all applicable state and federal laws on the siting of such facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Review</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>



Camino Tassajara Repaving

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The goals and policies in the Public Facilities Chapter will be implemented with a variety of techniques. The key implementation measures are listed below. General implementation strategies, applicable to all categories of public facilities, are listed first. These are followed by strategies specifically aimed at parks, recreation, and open space; civic and community facilities; and infrastructure, respectively. Recommended revisions or actions are described at the end of each entry, where applicable.

For ease of reference, the strategies in each section are listed in alphabetical order.

### A. STRATEGIES APPLYING IN ALL SUB-CHAPTERS

The following implementation strategies apply to all topics addressed in this Chapter:

#### ***Capital Improvement Program***

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a compilation of the capital improvements planned for construction over the next five year period in Danville. It includes cost estimates, the phasing of specific improvements and associated costs, and financing methods. The CIP helps implement the General Plan by ensuring that Town revenues are invested in projects that are consistent with the Land Use Map, as well as the Growth Management Element and other parts of the General Plan.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The Town will continue to update its CIP annually. Future updates should evaluate the need for additional community facilities.

#### ***California Environmental Quality Act***

The Town will continue to follow all mandated environmental review procedures as established by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its implementing regulations. In addition to the mandatory requirements of CEQA, Danville has developed local CEQA guidelines.

#### ***Development Review***

Development review comprises the process through which development applications are received, evaluated, and acted upon. This implementation measure includes the day-to-day activities of Planning, Building, and Engineering staffs, and the activities of the Planning Commission and Town Council. The Design Review Board, Heritage Resource Commission, Arts Commission, and Park and Leisure Services Commission are involved if the application relates to their missions.

During the development review process, projects are evaluated for their potential impacts on park and recreation needs and facilities. This process includes determination of the parkland dedication requirements or impact fees and preliminary design of on site parks and recreational facilities. Development review is also used to evaluate the impacts of new projects on the demand for community facilities such as schools and child care centers.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The Town will continue to evaluate the impact of new development on the demand for civic facilities and implement impact fees or other mechanisms to help finance needed improvements. Where appropriate, the Town should continue to require dedication of land and/or building space for community facilities.

#### ***Grant Funding***

A variety of State and federal programs grant local governments funds for developing local public facilities.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The Town will continue to identify, evaluate, and where appropriate, apply for available grants to support projects identified in the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan, and other plans and programs related to community services.

#### ***Impact Fees***

Impact fees collected from new development are

used to fund a variety of capital improvements, including roads, parks, water and sewer facilities, and schools. Several of these fees are collected by special districts and utilities rather than the Town of Danville. Specific information on parkland dedication fees is presented later in this Chapter.

### ***Intergovernmental Coordination***

The complex overlay of jurisdictions providing public services in the Tri-Valley area make effective intergovernmental coordination essential to the Town of Danville. Intergovernmental coordination is an integral part of planning for infrastructure, parks and open space, and community facilities.

For example, the Town of Danville and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District have developed a successful cooperative agreement for the provision of parks and recreation facilities. The play yards, swimming pools, tennis courts, and ball fields located on school campuses are an important component of recreation facilities in Danville. A Master School Parks Agreement has been executed between Danville and the School District, covering all school parks and the tennis courts at the two high schools. Osage Station Park and Sycamore Valley Park, both adjacent to schools, have dedicated school use of designated areas during a portion of the day. The Town contributed financially to construct the Monte Vista High School and San Ramon Valley High School swimming pools and the Los Cerros Middle School gymnasium, thus ensuring that these facilities would be available to serve the community during non-school hours.

Infrastructure planning requires coordination with public agencies such as EBMUD and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, as well as private entities such as PG&E. Coordination with EBMUD includes discussions about new water storage and transmission facilities, retrofitting of existing facilities, conservation measures and programs, and the use of recycled water. The Town also works with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to ensure adequate access and fire-fighting capacity, implement vegetation management and fuel reduction programs, and require fire-safe design.

### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

California Government Code Section 65401 authorizes the Town Council to obtain lists of all capital projects planned by public agencies within Danville. Proposed capital improvements must be found to be consistent with the General Plan. As part of its annual review of the Capital Improvement Program, the Town should identify all capital projects affecting Danville proposed by other jurisdictions during the following year, and make a finding relative to the consistency of each project with the General Plan.

As a part of the effort to maintain high quality services and implement the General Plan, the Town should continue to maintain an effective relationship and improve cooperation with all districts and agencies, including, but not limited to, the agencies listed below:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Contra Costa County
- Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
- Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
- Caltrans
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Other local cities
- California Department of Fish and Game
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Town of Danville should continue to cooperate with the East Bay Regional Park District regarding the planning and development of trailhead access points to regional parks that serve Danville and the San Ramon Valley. Cooperation with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District should include continuing efforts to maintain and develop joint use facilities. Site-specific issues such as parking and circulation should be discussed

where appropriate. The Town should continue to assist the District in its imposition of equitable development fees to pay for facility improvements. The Town should also continue to cooperate with the District to update Facility Needs Studies.

Coordination with PG&E, EBMUD, and other utilities is also an essential part of implementing General Plan policies. The Town strongly encourages PG&E to evaluate the safety of pipelines and other infrastructure affecting Danville, and to reduce risks to life and property while ensuring long-term system reliability. In addition, the Town will continue to work with telecommunication and cable service providers to ensure high-quality service delivery.

### **Zoning Ordinance**

The zoning ordinance divides Danville into districts and establishes land use and development regulations for each district. It also contains regulations and procedures that apply in multiple districts, such as those for child care and pre-school facilities.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The zoning ordinance should be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to implement the policies of the General Plan.

*(See also the Implementation sections of Chapters 3 and 6 for additional recommendations related to the Zoning Ordinance.)*

## **B. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE**

The key implementation measures for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space policies are listed below.

### **Arts Commission**

The Town Council created the Arts Commission in 1990 to be the primary advisory body on matters related to arts and cultural facilities and programs in Danville. The Arts Commission is

responsible for promoting interest and support for the arts within the community at-large. The Town Council appoints the Commissioners, as well as a member who represents youth. Public meetings are held at least once every two months and public participation is encouraged. In addition to its role in implementing policies for community and civic facilities, the Arts Commission also plays a role in implementing several Park and Recreation policies.

### **Park and Leisure Services Commission**

The Town Council created the Park and Leisure Services Commission in 1986 to be their primary advisory body on acquiring, developing, and maintaining park and recreation facilities and providing leisure and human service programs for residents. The Town Council appoints the Commission, including an alternate and a youth representative. The Commission holds at least one public meeting per month and invites public participation at all hearings. The Commission's responsibilities include the development and ongoing review and implementation of the Town's Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan, with Council oversight as needed.

The Commission also conducts surveys to determine park, recreation, cultural, and human service needs; and recommends facility use policies, revisions to the Community Beautification Plan, and improvements to the Town's recreation facilities.

### **Parkland Dedication Ordinance and Fee**

State law allows cities with adopted recreation elements to require the dedication and development of parkland, or the payment of an in-lieu fee for the acquisition of parkland. In 1985, the Town adopted a Parkland Dedication Ordinance requiring parkland dedication or payment of in-lieu fees. The dedication standard established by the ordinance is 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is the maximum standard permitted under California's Quimby Act. Based on the 1994 Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement, new development requiring a General Plan Amendment is subject to a standard

of 6.5 acres of improved parkland per 1,000 people.

For projects that do not include a neighborhood park on-site, Danville's in-lieu fees on new residential development are intended to cover off-site park acquisition and improvement costs. The Ordinance requires the payment of a one time fee for each new residential unit. The fee is adjusted over time to reflect current land acquisition costs, and is on a graduated scale based on the type of residential unit involved.

**Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

For the foreseeable future, the Town will maintain a parkland dedication requirement and impact fee based on the 5 acre per 1,000 resident standard for projects that do not require a land use designation change through a General Plan Amendment and 6.5 acres per 1,000 for those that do. The amount of the fee should be periodically reviewed to reflect the changing costs of land. The higher standard applied to projects requiring General Plan Amendments will sunset upon buildout of the Dougherty Valley.

It should be noted that the Town's goal is to maintain the current (2011) ratio of 6.6 acres per 1,000 residents (including school recreational facilities). Because the Quimby Act caps the developer dedication requirement at 5 acres per 1,000, maintaining the 2011 ratio may become more difficult in the future. As population is added, the Town may need to supplement developer-funded open space with other types of open space. For example, this could include new joint use agreements for access to usable open space elsewhere in Danville, new linear parks or trails, or new parks that could be created through grants, donations, and other sources. At some point, the Town could consider preparing a nexus study which would enable it to charge fees above those allowed by the Quimby Act in order to sustain the 6.6 acres/1,000 ratio.

**Figure 20** provides a listing of Town parks and their acreages.

***Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Map***

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Map (refer to **Figure 19**) reflects existing parks, recreation

facilities and open space, as well as planned facilities, linkages, and related facilities and features.

***Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan (Parks and Recreation Portion)***

Danville adopted a Parks, Recreation, and Arts Strategic Plan in 2006 as an update to its 1989 Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan. The Strategic Plan also updated and replaced the 1989 Trails Master Plan and formally recognized and adopted by reference the 2003 Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

**Proposed Revisions and Actions:**

The Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was updated in 2009. Because the Town's 2006 Strategic Plan incorporated an earlier version of the Countywide Plan, it will be updated to reflect the 2009 changes. Changes to the Strategic Plan also may be needed to ensure consistency with the 2030 General Plan. For example, opportunities for a river walk along San Ramon Creek may be explored.

**C. CIVIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Implementation of Civic and Community Facility policies will involve continued efforts on the part of the Town to design, finance, and construct needed facilities. The Town has established a Parks and Leisure Services Commission and given it the responsibility, among other functions, of advising the Town Council on acquiring, developing, and maintaining cultural, arts, and recreation facilities. Its activities are supplemented by the Danville Arts Commission and the Heritage Resource Commission. Key Civic and Community Facility implementation measures are listed below.

***Arts Commission***

A description of the Arts Commission is provided earlier in the General Plan (see Page 5-39). The responsibilities of the Commission include working

with the Town Council and the Parks and Leisure Services Commission on matters related to arts and cultural facilities and programs in Danville.

### ***Public/Private Partnerships***

Community organizations should be involved in advising the Town and assisting in implementing General Plan policies. The Town supports the efforts of nonprofit organizations and community groups in providing services to special needs groups and the community at-large.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

Community organizations, including those providing services to youth and the elderly, should continue to be consulted when the Town plans and designs civic facilities and community buildings.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE**

Infrastructure goals and policies will be implemented primarily through intergovernmental coordination among special districts, the Town's Capital Improvement Program, functional plans (e.g., Master Storm Drainage Plan), and Town ordinances. The key implementation measures are listed below.

### ***Assessment Districts***

Assessment district financing has been successfully used to finance a number of improvements in the town and can be used as needed in the future.

### ***Master Storm Drainage Plan***

The Master Storm Drainage Plan, a component of the Facilities Maintenance Plan, contains schedules for the overall maintenance and protection of all drainage facilities, including natural creeks and constructed channels and culverts.

#### **The Plan includes:**

- Provisions for upgrading the drainage system as well as providing routine maintenance.
- Coordination of facilities and maintenance efforts with the Contra Costa County Flood

Control and Water Conservation District.

- An inventory and classification of all natural and constructed drainage facilities. Natural streams are evaluated for their wildlife habitat values and recreation potential.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The Master Storm Drainage Plan should be updated to integrate the Town's Stormwater Pollution Control Program and the Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Permit (SF Bay-RWQCB MRP).

### ***Stormwater Pollution Control Program***

The Town's Stormwater Pollution Control Program is a three-tiered program linking the Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance, the SF Bay-RWQCB MRP, and the most recent version of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program Stormwater C.3. Guidebook.

#### **Proposed Revisions or Actions:**

The Town should review and update its Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance to ensure that it correctly aligns with the mandates of the SF Bay-RWQCB MRP.



Osage Station Park. Photo courtesy of Paige Green.