

2.0

EXISTING PARKS AND  
RECREATION RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 2.0

### EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES

#### 2.1 OVERVIEW

The current Santa Paula Park System includes two Neighborhood Parks, eight Mini Parks, and two Special Interest Parks. The two Neighborhood Parks are Teague Park and Las Piedras Park. The eight Mini Parks are Railroad Plaza, Mill Park, Obregon Park, Fagan Barranca, Veterans Memorial Park, Ebell Park, and Moreton Bay Fig Tree Park. The Special Interest Parks are George Harding Park and the Skate Park at Veterans Memorial Park.

Community Parks are intended to provide community-wide recreational facilities and a greater variety of recreation opportunities than a Neighborhood Park. Community parks, which are usually between 15-40 acres, can provide a wide variety of uses such as swimming pools, athletic fields, community/recreation centers, cultural centers, picnic areas and gardens. Community parks also serve Neighborhood Park needs for the immediate neighborhood.

Neighborhood Parks are defined as having a usable size of 5-15 net acres and a service area of a one mile radius and provides for the daily recreation needs of residents within the service area.

Special Interest Parks are defined as facilities with a particular use that generally serve the entire community, but also include Mini Parks or Pocket Parks that are smaller than five acres in size and provide passive or limited recreational opportunity to a specific area.

Santa Paula High School, Isbell Middle School, and seven elementary schools allow organized sports leagues to play on their fields and grounds providing additional recreation opportunities and open space to many City residents. The City has entered into a Joint Use Agreement (JUA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Elementary School District for use of each others facilities. The facilities and resources shared between the City and School Districts governed by these agreements are described further in Section 2.2.3.

An inventory of the parks and schools noted above is provided in this chapter.

#### 2.2 EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In June 2005, Purkiss-Rose-RSI conducted an inventory of all existing parks, schools, and recreation facilities available to the community. A map of the City's parks, schools, and recreation facilities is shown on Exhibit 2.1, *Existing Public Parks, Facilities, and Schools*.

### 2.2.1 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

As of June 2005, the City of Santa Paula had two Neighborhood Parks, eight Mini Parks, and two Special Interest Parks. The following tables identify park amenities for each park site.

PARK AMENITIES	Existing Neighborhood Parks in the City of Santa Paula	
	Teague Park (5.7 Acres)	Las Piedras Park (4.5 Acres)
Basketball Full Court,	2	1
Practice Soccer Field/ Passive Space	1 lighted	1 lighted
Restroom Building	1	1
Tot Lot	1*	1*
BBQs	7	7
Picnic Tables	13	9
Picnic Shelters	0	0



Teague Park



Las Piedras Park

\*Tot Lots have neither ADA compliant play equipment nor ADA compliant surfacing.

PARK AMENITIES	Existing Mini Parks in the City of Santa Paula			
	Railroad Plaza (3Acres)	Mill Park (2.9 Acres)	Obregon Park (2.4 Acres)	Fagan Barranca (2 Acres)
Restroom Building	2	1		
Tot Lot (to 5 years)		1	1	
Softball Field, Practice			1	
BBQs				
Open Space Area	Y	Y	Y	Informal Trail System
Basketball Court, Full			1	
Basketball Court, Half		1		
Drinking Fountains				
Picnic Tables		8		
Picnic Shelters				
Meeting Room		1		
Benches				



Railroad Plaza Park



Fagan Barranca Park/Trail

Ebell Park

PARK AMENITIES	Existing Mini Parks in the City of Santa Paula			
	Veterans Memorial Park (1.5 Acres)	Recreation Park (0.8 Acres)	Ebell Park (0.8 Acres)	Moreton Bay Fig Tree Park (0.1 Acres)
Restroom Building	1	1		
Tot Lot (to 5 years)	1			
BBQs		4		
Open Space Area	Y	Y	Y	
Picnic Tables		5	4	
Picnic Shelters			1	

PARK AMENITIES	Existing Special Interest Parks in the City of Santa Paula	
	George Harding Park (12.2 Acres)	Skate Park @ Veterans Park
Softball Fields	1	
Baseball Fields	1	
Little League Field	1	
Practice/ T-Ball Field	1	
Concession/Storage Building	1	
Restroom Building	1	1
Skate Park	0	12,000 SF
Picnic Tables	0	0
Benches /Bleachers	3 (Home & Visitor)	0
Drinking Fountains	3	0



George Harding Park

## 2.2.2 COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

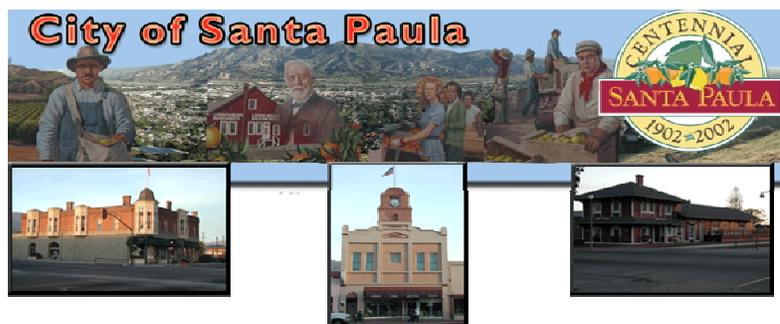
There are a number of privately owned and operated cultural and recreation facilities in Santa Paula. These include Mountain View Golf Course (see photo below) which is open to the public and offers 18 holes of golf along with clubhouse facilities.



Mountain View Golf Course

Ozzie Osborne's is a 9-hole, 3-par golf course located adjacent to the Mountain View Golf Course. The Santa Paula Airport is a privately owned and operated facility offering flying lessons, antique and classic aircraft displays, food service, aircraft hangars and general aviation services. The privately operated Fillmore & Western Railway Company provides special activities for tourists and service to the Santa Paula railroad depot.

There are several museums and theaters in Santa Paula including the Aviation Museum which chronicles local aviation history; the California Oil Museum which contains exhibits of science, history, and art related to the oil industry; and the Santa Paula Theater Center which is housed in the historic landmark Ebell Club Theater and features live theater productions.



The Santa Paula Boys & Girls Club offers recreation and human service programs at their facility in Harding Park. The building is owned by the City and leased to the Boys & Girls Club for a nominal fee.

Santa Paula is located very close to a number of regional recreational attractions such as the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County Parks, Six Flags Magic Mountain Theme Park, Lake Piru and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

### 2.2.3 PUBLIC SCHOOL INVENTORY

There is one high school, one middle school, and seven elementary schools in the City of Santa Paula. All seven elementary schools are in the Santa Paula Elementary School District. This section contains an inventory of these facilities. The City utilizes all school sites for athletic programming. Many non-city sports groups (Little League, AYSO, e.g.) also use the school sites for games and practices.

The City and Santa Paula Elementary School District have a Joint Use Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding that provides for shared use of fields and facilities.

SCHOOL AMENITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF SANTA PAULA	
	Santa Paula High School	Isbell Middle School
Swimming pool	1	
Football Field w/ Scoreboard (Lighted - L)	1 L	
Soccer Field - Practice		4
Running Track (D.G.)	1	
Gymnasium	2	
Basketball Half Court – Exterior	2	8
Baseball Fields	1	
Softball Field - Overlay		5
Tennis Courts, (Lighted - L) (Fenced - F)	2 – L,F 4 - F	

SCHOOL AMENITIES	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF SANTA PAULA		
	Glen City	Thille	Bedell
Softball Fields w/ backstop - Practice			1
Soccer Field, open space	1	1	1
Football Field, lighted			
Basketball Half-courts		2	8
Basketball Full-courts	3		
Tot Lot (to 5 years) w/ ADA compliant structure *		1	2
Tot Lot (5-12 years) w/ ADA compliant structure*	1	1	2
Handball Walls	4	2	4



Glen City Elementary School

SCHOOL AMENITIES	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF SANTA PAULA			
	Blanchard	Mc Kevitt	Webster	Mupu
Softball Fields w/ backstop - Practice	2	1	1	
Soccer Field, open space			1	1
Football Field, lighted				
Basketball Half-courts		6		4
Basketball Full-courts	2			
Tot Lot (to 5 years) w/ ADA compliant structure *		1	1	
Tot Lot (5-12 years) w/ ADA compliant structure*		1	1	
Handball Walls				

## 2.3 EXISTING RECREATION ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Community Services Department is responsible for recreation, activities, programs, and services in the City of Santa Paula. In addition, the department is also responsible for overseeing the Santa Paula Train Depot, the Farmers Market (currently not operating because of budget cuts), issuing film permits, the City's cable TV franchise agreement, programming for government Channel 10, and for City Volunteer Programs.

### 2.3.1 COMMUNITY CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are a number of clubs, organizations, youth sports groups, and senior citizen organizations that provide programs and services to the community. Community service clubs include Santa Paula Rotary Club, Loyal Order of Moose, Santa Paula Lyons Club, Women of the Moose, Santa Paula Optimist Club, Masonic Lodge #291, Santa Paula Kiwanis Club, Santa Paula V.F.W. Post #2043, Santa Paula Ebell Club, Santa Paula Soroptimist Club, Latino Town Hall, Santa Paula Theater Center, Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, Casa Del Mexicano, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce.

Youth sports groups and organizations include Santa Paula AYSO, Santa Paula Youth Track Club, Santa Paula Little League, Santa Paula Girl's Softball, Santa Paula Youth Football, Santa Paula Boys & Girls Club, Santa Paula Boy Scouts, Santa Paula Girl Scouts, and the Santa Paula 4H Club.

Senior citizen organizations include the Santa Paula AARP Chapter #2022, Santa Paula Meals on Wheels, and the Santa Paula Commission on Aging.

The Community Services Department has established good relations with all of the community clubs and organizations and works with them to help them deliver services and activities to the community. Clubs and organizations in Santa Paula are active groups providing an array of community events and human services as well as organized sports activities for youth.

### 2.3.2. SCHOOL DISTRICT RELATIONS

The City has developed a joint use agreement with the Santa Paula Elementary School District and uses the Santa Paula High School tennis courts and sports fields for community service programs. The agreement calls for each agency to be able to use the other agency's facilities and athletic fields under certain conditions and priority times of use. Through the implementation of the joint use agreement both the City and the School District has been able to utilize each others facilities to meet both recreational and educational demands. *However, recent budget cuts have left the Community Services Department unable to pay the cost to use school facilities, and most recreation programs the City has traditionally sponsored at school sites have been discontinued.* Under the terms of the Joint Use Agreement the school districts can charge the City a fee for use equal to the district's costs of maintaining the facilities for public use. In recent years both school districts have revised those costs to reflect their full burden costs for providing the facilities to the City, and thus have substantially increased the fees they charge the City. For example, the City used to operate adult basketball leagues in the Santa Paula High School Gym. When the High School District revised its fees and increased the cost to the City to use the gym by almost three fold the City in turn had to increase its participation fee. The participation fee became substantially higher then the fees charged

by the Ventura Park and Recreation Department. Consequently all of the Santa Paula adult basketball teams left Santa Paula and now play in Ventura. As a result, the City no longer operates Adult Basketball Leagues for residents in Santa Paula; they now travel to the City of Ventura to play in adult basketball leagues. However, community organizations such as the YMCA and competitive swim clubs do use the Santa Paula High School swimming pool and are able to pay the district the fees required to provide the facility for their programs.

The City needs to initiate new discussions with the School Districts regarding fees charged for facilities. For example, the High School District uses City facilities at little or no cost because the City has no policy to pass on its cost to maintain City facilities to the School District as the School District does to the City. The School Districts use City facilities, including the Council Chambers for their Board Meetings, the Community Center, and various City Parks, all at little or no cost. If a study were to be completed comparing City costs to provide facilities to the School District it may well be that the cost would be equal to what the School Districts charge the City for use of their facilities.

The City should pursue an amendment to the current agreement that would allow each entity to use the other's facilities at either no cost or for each entity's direct cost only. From a practical standpoint, it would make sense that each entity should allow the other entity to use their facilities and only pay for direct costs, i.e., setup and security. However, from an accounting standpoint, each agency may need to show its fully burdened costs and revenue to offset those costs. Therefore, each agency may have to pay the other a fully burdened fee to use the other's facilities. In any event, the issue of charging for the use of facilities between the School Districts and the City needs to be discussed and addressed.

### 2.3.3 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The inventory of recreation programs and services was developed from the review of program materials from recreation service providers in the community. While the City does much of the recreation programming, additional information was obtained from the internet, the public workshop, brochures, site visits and interviews with program staff from various recreation and community agencies.

There are a variety of recreation activities and services available to community residents. The City, as well as other organizations, including nonprofit agencies, commercial recreation operators and volunteer groups, offers a wide variety of recreation activities and services to the community. Youth Sports leagues, community events and cultural activities are the most popular programs.

The City used to promote its community recreation programs, activities and services through a quarterly newsletter and recreation activity guide; however, due to budget cuts, the Community Services Department no longer prints and distributes the guide. The City also has no funds available to list and promote programs and services on the City's web page. The loss of these two resources has had a significant impact on the City's ability to communicate to the community and inform them of the recreation opportunities, facilities, and programs available to them. The City needs to find a way to reestablish the program guide and to post its offerings on the internet. One possibility is to negotiate an agreement with the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce to include the City's recreation programs, services, and events listing as an insert in the quarterly Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter. This could be beneficial for both agencies as it would provide a greater distribution incentive for the Chamber Newsletter, and it would provide a method for the City to communicate to the community at a substantially lower cost than printing and mailing a stand alone program guide.

The Community Services Department should also look into the possibility of recruiting volunteers or at least a volunteer business to update the Community Services webpage, so that program offerings, activities, and events can be listed and accessed by the community. The City could even develop a partnership so that a local business has a link on the City's webpage to their webpage and in exchange provides program information on the City's activities and events.

Another approach the City may wish to consider would be to contract with a media company to print and distribute the City's program listings and information in exchange for the rights to sell advertising in the document. Several cities throughout California use this approach very successfully. Some cities also designate a portion of their transient occupant tax (bed tax) for printing and distributing a visitors' guide which includes the program listings of the Park and Recreation or Community Services Department.

It should be a high priority of the City to reestablish the production of a program and activity guide in one form or another and to make its program schedule available over the internet so that the community is aware of what is available to them.

The following list is a broad description of programs and services available in Santa Paula. A majority of the activities listed are offered by, or in cooperation with the City. Some of the programs listed are offered by local nonprofit and/or for profit groups.

Activities available to the community include:

- Youth baseball, youth and adult soccer, golf, softball, tennis and fitness programs
- Special Interest and Life Enrichment Classes
- Arts and Crafts Programs, Dance and other Creative Classes
- Senior Citizens Programs and Services
- Preschool and Child Development Activities
- Special Citywide Events, such as the Citrus Festival and Santa Paula Parade
- Community Center rentals for birthdays, weddings and special events
- Family Fun and Cultural Events – Concerts and Plays
- Human/Social Services including parent/teen classes, counseling, E.S.L., self-help workshops, job skills classes and financial assistance when available
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Skateboarding
- Hiking/walking/bicycling
- Competitive swim
- Museums
- Picnic and tot lot play
- Summer recreation day camps
- Train rides
- Flying lessons

Recent budget cuts have caused the Community Services Department to decrease the number of contract classes offered at the Community Center and reduce its availability to the public for rental purposes. The train depot has also been discontinued as a rental facility for community meetings and events due to the lack of funds to operate and maintain the facility. The Farmers Market has also been discontinued due to the department's budget cuts and limited resources to support the activity.



Senior Center



Train Depot at Railroad Plaza

The Community Services Department is responsible for the administration of the Santa Paula Community Center, Santa Paula Depot, Recreation Division, Cable Television, and the California Oil Museum. The Community Services Department consists of five full time employees, 30 part time employees and over 200 volunteers. There is a director, two recreation supervisors, a museum and tourism administrator, a customer services representative, a part time senior coordinator, part time facility attendants and part time recreation leaders.

The Department administers the scheduling and usage of seven City athletic fields, six of them are lighted. The Department is also responsible for the administration of leisure and public information for all citizens of Santa Paula (which is currently inactive due to budget cuts), activities and programs, special events for Pre-K, elementary children, youth, adults, and senior citizens. The Community Services Department provides centralized information on facility rentals, sports fields reservations, Channel 10 cable announcements, registration for classes and activities, senior programs and referrals, department sponsored special events, youth and senior trips, museum tours, museum exhibits, museum special events, adult and youth sport leagues, preschool, filming permits and citywide special event applications.

The budget situation makes it extremely hard for the department to adequately implement and administer all of the above. The department appears to be doing an excellent job of providing services with the very limited resources it has available to them. *Chapter 4* discusses policies and action items that should help the department set priorities and address the decreasing of program offerings due to budget cuts.

In addition to City parks, programs and services, residents in Santa Paula also have access to nearby county regional parks and open space areas of the Santa Clara Riverbed. The County parks offer camping, picnicking and hiking. Working with the County of Ventura to expand access and amenities at regional parks around Santa Paula could provide more recreational opportunities for residents and save the cost of the City acquiring additional parkland. It is also important for the City to work with the County in applying for joint grants for the preservation of open space and development of trail systems, especially in the Santa Clara Riverbed area.

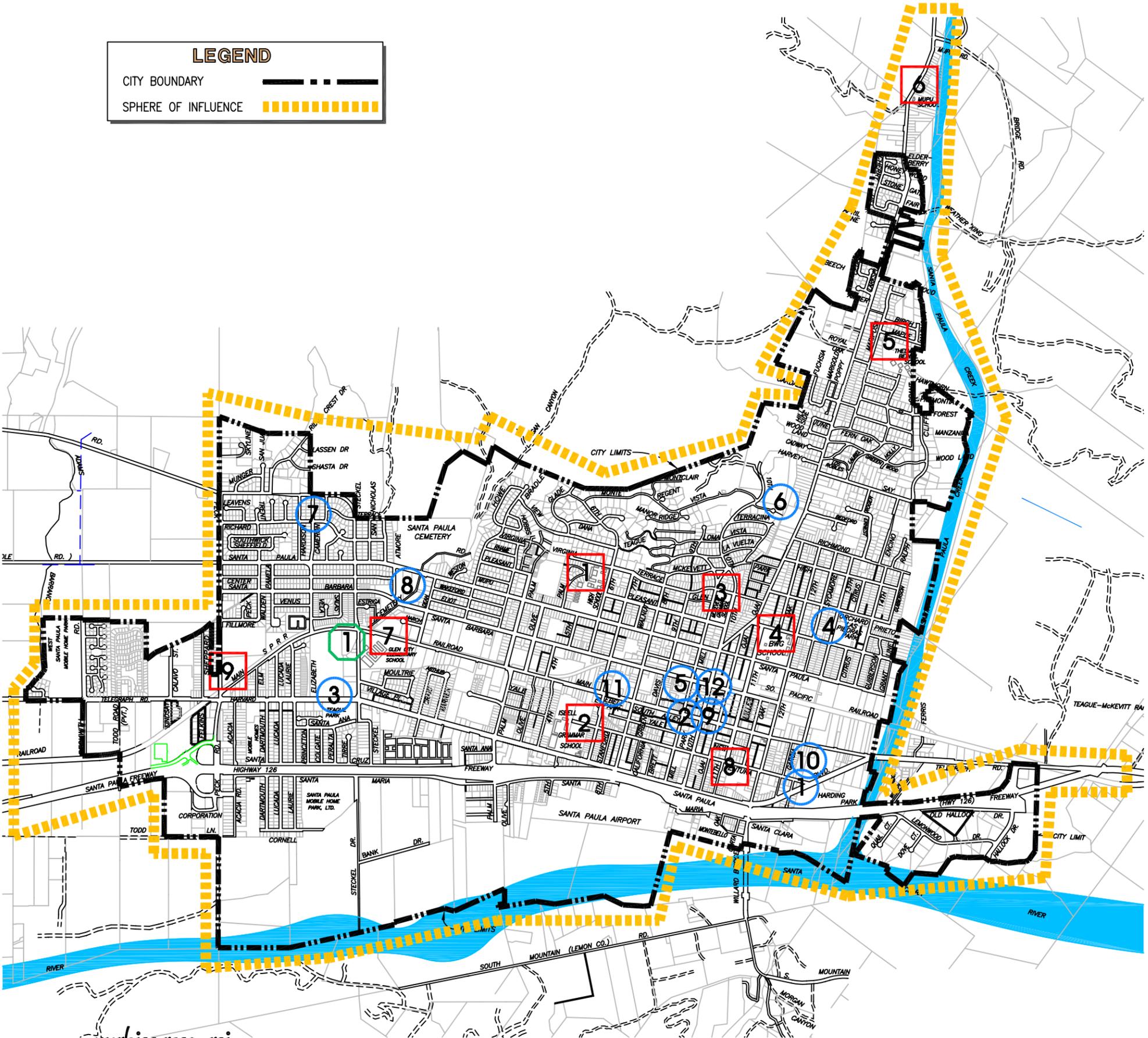


Santa Clara Riverbed Area for Possible Open Space and Trails

**LEGEND**

CITY BOUNDARY 

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE 



## PARKS

### SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS

- ① GEORGE HARDING PARK
- ② VETERAN'S PARK – SKATE PARK

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- ③ TEAGUE PARK
- ④ LAS PIEDRAS PARK

### MINI PARKS

- ⑤ RAILROAD PLAZA PARK
- ⑥ MILL PARK
- ⑦ OBREGON PARK
- ⑧ FAGAN BARRANCA PARK
- ⑨ VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK
- ⑩ RECREATION PARK
- ⑪ EBELL PARK
- ⑫ MORETON BAY FIG TREE PARK

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### RECREATION FACILITIES

- ① SANTA PAULA COMMUNITY SERVICES BLDG.

## SCHOOLS

### HIGH SCHOOL

- ① SANTA PAULA HIGH SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ② ISBELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

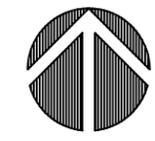
### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- ③ MC KEVITT ELEMENTARY
- ④ BARBARA WEBSTER ELEMENTARY
- ⑤ THELMA BEDELL ELEMENTARY
- ⑥ MUPU ELEMENTARY
- ⑦ GLEN CITY ELEMENTARY
- ⑧ GRACE THILLE ELEMENTARY
- ⑨ BLANCHARD ELEMENTARY



**EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS,  
FACILITIES, AND SCHOOLS**

**CITY OF SANTA PAULA**



SCALE: 1"=200'