Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Prepared for County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared by
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT REPORT PURPOSE

As the culmination of the first phase of the master planning process, this Program Development Report creates the framework to develop the Calero County Park Trails Master Plan (Trails Plan). This Report outlines existing County policies that will guide the process, establishes the project goals, provides an inventory of existing conditions, presents key issues, establishes design program elements, identifies areas for additional study, and analyzes user feedback data obtained to date.

The purpose of the Trails Plan is to explore opportunities to expand sustainable trail use at Calero County Park for a diversity of users, consistent with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan, consider potential trail alignments for regional trails identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan, and plan for new trails in the portions of the park not yet open to the public.

EXISTING SETTING

Calero County Park is located in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains approximately 10 miles south San Jose’s city center. It is defined by its scenic reservoir, rolling terrain, open grass and oak woodlands. While Calero Reservoir has supported active water-related recreation for County residents since 1968, the Park’s many trails serve an expanding community of hikers, runners and equestrians. Neither bicyclists nor dogs-on-leash are currently permitted. As backcountry trails meander along crests, spectacular vistas open to the Santa Clara Valley and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Wildlife abounds and breathtaking displays of wildflowers draw visitors in spring time. At its current size of 4,442 acres, Calero County Park is a favorite among trail users that search for the remote, natural experience.

EXPANDING PARKLAND

Major changes and expansion has occurred within the park since the last full park planning effort was suspended in 1992 when the Santa Clara Valley Water District reconsidered overall watershed issues. In 1995, the County completed the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update to the General Plan that outlined an interconnected trail system for the entire County. Also, in the intervening years, a new partner agency, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, was formed to assist in the preservation of county open space. Together, the County and the Open Space Authority purchased the former Rancho Canada
Del Oro in 2003. This acquisition expanded the Calero County Park by 943 acres and moved the park’s southern boundary to Casa Loma Road. It also provided direct access to trails in the Rancho Canada Open Space Preserve operated by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority for public use since 2004. The acquisition of the 966-acre Rancho San Vicente in November 2009 from the Peninsula Open Space Trust significantly expanded Calero County Park to the northwest. Today, the Rancho San Vicente portion of the park only has limited public access through docent-led tours, pending completion of the Trails Plan. With the closure of Calero Ranch Stables in 2010, equestrian boarding and horse rentals are no longer available at Calero County Park.

**KEY ISSUES**

The following is a summary of key issues that will define the Calero Trails Master Plan. These key issues are gleaned from:

- A trails policy framework established in County Parks and other documents, such as the *Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan, Countywide Trails Master Plan, County General Plan* and other County Parks trails plans. (Chapter 3)
- Past trails design, construction and operations experience at Calero and other County parks.
- Site visits by the project team. (Appendices A & B)
- Existing Site Conditions (Chapter 2)
- Public input through two online surveys, as well as past customer comment card reports (Chapter 4)

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Related Issues</th>
<th>Policy Guidance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Users</td>
<td>Historically, trails at Calero have been open to equestrians and hikers only. Consistent with the Strategic Plan’s guidance “to identify opportunities to increase multiple-use trails,” should trail use be expanded to accommodate bicyclists and/or hikers with dogs on leash? If so, should this be permitted on all trails, certain designated trails, or within a designated area of the park?</td>
<td>Maintenance; Enforcement; Trail Design Standards; Natural Resource Management; Signage</td>
<td>Strategic Plan; Countywide Trails Master Plan; Intercorporate Trail Design Guidelines; Dog on Leash Policy</td>
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<td>Regional Trails</td>
<td>Proposed regional trails extend through Calero County Park. How should proposed regional trails (including connector trails) in Calero be accommodated and designed?</td>
<td>Maintenance; Enforcement; Trail Design Standards; Natural Resource Management; Signage</td>
<td>Countywide Trails Master Plan; Interjurisdictional Trail Design Guidelines</td>
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<td>Issue</td>
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<td><strong>Adjacent Trail Uses</strong></td>
<td>Adjacent Open Space Lands (such as Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve) have publicly accessible trails that are open to bicyclists. Should there be compatible uses on trails within Calero that connect to Canada del Oro to create a seamless trail experience?</td>
<td>Maintenance; Enforcement; Trail Design Standards; Natural Resource Management; Signage</td>
<td>Strategic Plan; Countywide Trails Master Plan; Interjurisdictional Trail Design Guidelines</td>
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<td><strong>Maintenance Roads</strong></td>
<td>Unpaved maintenance roads also serve as trails. Many of them are very wide and would not necessarily be conducive to current multi-use trail design concepts. Reconsider where maintenance roads are needed versus other types of maintenance/operations access (quads) that could result in narrower trails.</td>
<td>Maintenance; Emergency Services; Natural Resource Management; Trail Users</td>
<td>Interjurisdictional Trail Design Guidelines; Natural Resource Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trail Conditions</strong></td>
<td>Some trails require considerable and frequent maintenance due to steepness and/or unfavorable soil conditions. Other trails require long seasonal closures due to wet, muddy conditions. Consider trail realignments to reduce seasonal closures and/or high operational costs.</td>
<td>Trail Users; Trail Design Standards</td>
<td>Trail Maintenance Manual</td>
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<td><strong>Trail Experience</strong></td>
<td>Trail users’ abilities vary greatly. Some require a shorter, less steep trail, while others prefer longer trails with more elevation difference. In the winter, some might prefer trails with sun, while in the summer, trails with shade may be more desirable. A variety of destinations and scenery add interest. Consider trails to meet diverse user needs.</td>
<td>Trail Users; Trail Design Standards;</td>
<td>Interjurisdictional Trail Design Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whole Access</strong></td>
<td>Due to topographic conditions, it is not possible to design all trails within Calero to be whole access trails that are compliant with current ADA guidelines. However some trails could be designed for better access to people of all abilities.</td>
<td>Trail Users; Trail Design Standards</td>
<td>State and Federal ADA guidelines</td>
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<td>Issue</td>
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<td>Related Issues</td>
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<td><strong>Trail-Dependent Uses</strong></td>
<td>While this is a Trails Master Plan and not a full Park Master Plan, consideration of some uses may influence trail location, trail type and facilities associated with trails. These uses may include: back country camping; equestrian camping; interpretive programs; picnicking, public boarding stables.</td>
<td>Trail Users; Maintenance and Operations</td>
<td>Strategic Plan; Equestrian Facility Feasibility Study</td>
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<td><strong>Natural Resource Management and Grazing</strong></td>
<td>Natural Resource Management objectives and techniques, such as protection of sensitive habitats, protection of endangered species and grazing, may influence trail locations and trail types.</td>
<td>Trail Users; Maintenance and Operations</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management Plan; Grazing Management Plan</td>
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<td><strong>Rancho San Vicente Trail Development</strong></td>
<td>As a recent acquisition to Calero County Park, Rancho San Vicente is not yet open to the public. The Trails Master Plan is an excellent opportunity to define public access to this significant property.</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management; Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan; Trail Design Standards</td>
<td>Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan; Strategic Plan</td>
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<td><strong>Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan</strong></td>
<td>Santa Clara County is a local partner in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. The Habitat Plan may influence type and location of trails within or near habitat lands associated with the Habitat Plan.</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management; Rancho San Vicente</td>
<td>Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan; Strategic Plan</td>
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<td><strong>Trail Design Standards</strong></td>
<td>County trail design preferences for multiple users has evolved with accumulated experience. (For example, trail design for bicyclists used to consider wider trails with fewer curves to accommodate longer site lines for all users. However, bicyclists can also go faster on these types of trails.) Current thinking is that narrower trails with more variations in both horizontal and vertical alignment slow bicyclists down and reduce hazards for all users. If trails will be open to bicyclists, such design standards should be considered.</td>
<td>Maintenance and Operations; Trail Users</td>
<td>Interjurisdictional Trail Design Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Signage</td>
<td>A common comment by Park users is that trail signage is confusing and at times inadequate. Consider revisions to the County’s trail signage standards to enhance use and experience on trails.</td>
<td>Maintenance and Operations; Trail Design Standards</td>
<td>County Parks Trails Signage Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Maintenance</td>
<td>The Trails Master Plan needs to take into account long-term departmental resources available for operations and maintenance of the trails system, including design, construction, maintenance, and enforcement. The Plan should be sustainable for the long-term.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flexibility</td>
<td>Build flexibility into the Plan to allow for unforeseen future conditions or opportunities</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
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**TRAILS PLAN PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS**

To date, this Program Development Report has been compiled by the project team, consisting of County Parks staff and consultants. Initial community input has been gathered through two web-based questionnaires, yielding over 1,000 responses. Following completion of this phase, Trail Plan alternatives will be developed under the guidance provided by the Program Development Report. The alternatives will also be guided by further input from the community and support from a technical advisory committee of open space and regulatory agency partners. Through this process, a preferred alternative will emerge for trails at Calero County Park that will propose uses, alignments, access points, and trails management objectives for the entire park.
INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT REPORT

This Program Development Report (Program Report) creates the framework to develop the Calero County Park Trails Master Plan (Trails Plan). This Report outlines existing County policies that will guide the process, establishes project goals, presents an inventory and analysis of existing site conditions, begins to identify opportunities and constraints regarding the development of new trails and the modification and relocation of existing trails, and outlines potential program elements which will be further explored in design alternatives in the next Trails Plan phase. The Program Development Report concludes the first phase of the master planning process. The second phase of the process will be to develop alternative trail plans based on guidance provided by the Program Report and community input.

Purpose of the Calero Trails Plan
According to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System’s Strategic Plan (approved 2003), the purpose of a park-specific Trails Master Plan is “to identify opportunities to increase multiple-use trails and to ensure consistency with the Countywide Trails Master Plan and Strategic Plan.” With this direction, the Calero Trails Master Plan will explore opportunities to expand sustainable trail use for a diversity of users, and consider potential trail corridors for regional trails identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan.

The Trails Plan will provide a planning framework for the Park’s trail system development and use over a 15 to 20-year time period, while also supporting protection and enhancement of the sensitive cultural and environmental resources known to occur in the park. This framework will allow the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department (County Parks) to provide a variety of recreational trail opportunities in an environmentally sound and sensitive manner, compatible with operations and maintenance resources, and will identify partnership opportunities with others to implement common objectives.

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Situated in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, at the southern end of the Almaden Valley, the 4,442 acre Calero County Park is part of the rolling hill country that dominates the eastern and
western edges of Santa Clara County. Located approximately 10 miles south of San Jose’s city center, the park is within easy reach of a major metropolitan center. Its proximity to the South Valley Freeway (Hwy 101) makes it easily accessible and places it within arm’s reach of San Jose’s southern suburbs and to communities further south such as Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Two other County Parks are located near Calero County Park. The 3,977-acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park, with over 33 miles of trails and the Casa Grande Historic House and Mining Museum, is located to the west. Santa Teresa County Park, with over 14 miles of trails, is located to the north. In addition, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s 3,882-acre Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve abuts the southern boundary of Calero County Park and the Midpeninsula Open Space District’s vast 17,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve lies just beyond the western edge of Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

CHARACTER

Despite its proximity to urban development and its active water-oriented recreation components at Calero Reservoir, Calero County Park’s ‘Back Country’ has maintained its natural qualities, offering experiences of tranquility and solitude along its many trails. From its ridgelines, spectacular vistas open unto southern Santa Clara County and the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountain range. The 4,442-acre park is well known for its spectacular displays of spring wildflowers and also for the beauty of its expansive grasslands, stands of California oak woodlands, and chaparral and riparian plant communities. The variance of topography, soil type, and vegetation also supports diverse and abundant wildlife.

PARK SITE HISTORY

During the era of Mexican colonization, portions of the lands that constitute Calero County Park today belonged to the Pueblo of San Jose, to the Rancho Canada de Oro, and the large Rancho San Vicente. The early Californios both grazed and farmed the fertile lands of the area. Before colonization, the lands where inhabited by Native American peoples associated with several of the Ohlone Indian tribal groups. Many archaeological sites are known to exist within the park and the surrounding vicinity.

Connected to the more recent history of the area, the Bailey-Fellows house, a historic “Italiante” Victorian house bears witness to the Bailey family’s ownership and activities on Calero County Park lands from 1867-1903. The same ranch lands were owned and operated by the Newman Brothers from 1905-1935, at which time the property was known as the Newman Ranch. In 1935 the property was sold to the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the proposed Calero Reservoir so as to expand groundwater recharge and drinking water supplies for the growing county. Subsequently a levee was built around the Bailey house,
ranch and orchards to protect it from eventual inundation by the lake. In 1938, Judge Edward Fellows purchased the 2,000 acre “Calero Ranch,” including the Bailey House and surround farm complex. Upon the death of Judge Fellows in 1965, some of Calero Ranch, the house now known as the Bailey-Fellows House, and stables were sold to the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Until October 2010, the Bailey-Fellows house and adjacent structures has served as the headquarters for Calero Ranch Stables.

Since 1968 the County has leased the reservoir lands from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and has developed water-oriented recreation facilities along its shores. The County acquired most of the lands known as the ‘Back Country’ from the Fellows family in the late 60’s and 70’s. With the assistance of other agencies, the County also purchased a portion of the 2,428 acre Rancho Canada del Oro in 2003. From that purchase, 943 acres were added to the park, with the remainder being owned and managed by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. In 2009, 966 acres were added to the park when the County purchased the Rancho San Vicente from the Peninsula Open Space Trust. Continuously in grazing since the early days of Mexican colonization, Rancho San Vicente was originally part of a 4,400 acre land grant given to Jose de los Reyes Berryessa in 1842. Berryessa was the son of an early Spanish settler of the Santa Clara Valley, had previously served at the Presidio of San Francisco, and married a daughter of another local family, the Bernals of the Santa Teresa area.

EXISTING TRAILS SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Existing Trails
Approximately 18.6 miles of back country trails stretch across the park’s rolling terrain. They are open to hikers and equestrians almost year round. While dogs on leash are allowed in the Reservoir recreation areas, neither bicyclists nor dogs are permitted on trails. The majority of trails are linked to create loops of varying lengths and degree of difficulty. A number of facilities offer picnic opportunities, education and information via displays and interpretive signs, and seating opportunities to enjoy views and observe nature.

Staging Areas
Calero County Park currently has one large trail staging area, located adjacent to the Ranger Station off of McKean Road. This staging area includes picnic tables, portable restrooms, and water troughs. The area can also be reserved by permit for equestrian group camping and special events. A staging area on the adjacent Rancho Canada del Oro property owned by the Open Space Authority is also used to access Calero County Park trails from Casa Loma Road.
**Trail Types**

All Calero County Park trails are dual use trails, allowing for hiking and equestrian uses. A few trails are suitable for horse and cart activities by permit only. Cart users are advised at time of registration which trails might be used for this specific experience.

Trail width and grades vary greatly throughout the park, ranging from flat to over 20% in a few spots and from less than three feet wide to over twelve feet wide. All trails surfaces are compacted native soil, susceptible to inclement weather impacts that require seasonal closure of some trails. Currently, there are no ADA-compliant trails.

**Regional Trails Interface**

Calero County Park is part of the larger Santa Clara County park system. Calero County Park abuts the Open Space Authority’s portion of Rancho Canada del Oro and is in proximity to Almaden Quicksilver County Park and Santa Teresa County Park. A few trail connections exist between Calero Park and Rancho Canada del Oro. Proposed regional trail connections are outlined in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan Update, which is an element of the County’s General Plan, and includes regional trail routes, sub-regional trail routes and connector trail routes.

**MASTER PLAN GOALS**

The following preliminary goals guide the program development of the Trails Plan. They were compiled by the project team, after reviewing a variety of sources, as noted in Chapter 3, and comments from the first user surveys recently conducted as part of this project. The goals will be refined based on community input and review of the trails alternatives.

1. Ensure consistency with 2003 Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System to “identify opportunities to increase multiple-use trails.”
2. Ensure consistency with 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan Update to identify corridors for proposed regional trails through and adjacent to Calero County Park.
3. Comply with natural resource management goals and practices, including managed grazing, as were established in relevant natural resource and grazing management plans for the park.
4. Coordinate with the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan requirements for defined habitat areas in Calero County Park, including the Rancho San Vicente addition.
5. Incorporate site-appropriate standards and guidelines for trail design, construction and maintenance, staging areas and access points, and trail related amenities such as signage, shade, seating, water, restrooms, etc.
6. Evaluate existing trails relative to natural resources, operations needs, and maintenance considerations. Re-route trails where necessary to assure long-term sustainability.

7. Evaluate opportunities for new trails to expand the variety of trail user experiences and to meet other functional park operations needs.

8. Integrate with long range use and management goals of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the City of San Jose and the Open Space Authority for lands under their jurisdiction in or adjacent to Calero County Park.

9. Identify partnership opportunities with adjacent landowners and other agencies to implement the Trails Plan.

10. Consider implications of the Trails Plan recommendations in relation to existing and future operations and maintenance resources.

TRAILS MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The Trails Plan Process has included the following steps to date:

- Review of existing County Parks and other documents (including the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan) that define policies, goals and standards that will influence the Calero Trails Plan.
- Compilation of GIS mapping layers that define the Park and its surroundings, and help to establish opportunities and constraints for trails development.
- Park site visits by County Parks staff and consultants (the project team) to see first-hand existing trails and potential areas for future trails and to better understand on-site trail management issues.
- Regular project team meetings to review policies, data and issues.
- Completion of two on-line surveys (through the County Parks website) assessing the opinion of trail users both specifically at Calero County Park and throughout the County Parks system. Combined, the two surveys resulted in over 1,000 responses.
Future phases of the Trails Plan process include the following:

- Development of trails alternatives based on the information compiled in the Program Report.
- Public engagement to provide input into the alternatives and to further refine project goals and program elements.
- Preliminary environmental screening and refinement of the alternatives.

Out of this process, a preferred alternative for the Calero Trails Master Plan will emerge.
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Topography and uses divide Calero County Park into two zones. Calero Reservoir and its active water sports related facilities occupy approximately one third of the park's northern site while meandering trails span the rolling hills south of the reservoir. Analysis of the park's physical features reveals a diverse environment with steep slopes, potentially unstable and erodible soils, streams and tributaries, fault lines, rare plant communities and wildlife habitats, and visually sensitive hillsides. Maps of the site features described below are found at the end of this chapter.

EXISTING SITE INFORMATION SOURCES

Existing site information has been compiled from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data provided by County Parks. This includes information from multiple sources, including Santa Clara County, US Geological Survey (USGS), previous park studies and acquisition-related studies for Rancho Canada del Oro and Rancho San Vicente, information compiled from the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan, and field review of trail conditions by County Parks staff.

Information in GIS format allows for consistent digital mapping and analysis of physical and environmental conditions related to trails. In the long term, this information will be a tool for resource managers to make informed decisions about future trail management.

LAND USES

Land use in the northern third of Calero County Park is defined by Calero Reservoir and facilities associated with active recreational water use. Calero Reservoir and its surrounding shoreline is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Recreational use in this area is provided by County Parks through a long-term lease between the two agencies. Much of the water from Calero Reservoir is provided directly to drinking water treatment plants. Recreation uses in this area, though important, must be balanced with the reservoir's primary role as a source of safe drinking water. The remainder of the park is made up of rolling grasslands and wooded hillsides known informally as the ‘Back Country’ and is primarily used for trails and open space. The Back Country section of the park is accessed by the park entrance road off McKean Road, south of Bailey Avenue.
Calero County Park and lands immediately adjacent to it lie completely within the city limits of the City of San Jose but are outside the boundary of the City’s Urban Service Area. Except for the 3,882-acre Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve which abuts Calero Park on its south west border, the park is entirely surrounded by private property, designated as Non-Urban Hillside in the City of San Jose’s General Plan, and made up of small ranches and rural residences. Calero County Park is less than one mile from the City of San Jose’s South Almaden Valley Urban Reserve and the Coyote Valley Urban Reserve. The Cinnabar Hills Golf Course abuts the southern end of park lands that lie east of McKean Road.

The recently acquired Rancho San Vicente portion of the park is leased for grazing to a private operator. Access for the grazing operation is from McKean Road. Atop the major knoll within Rancho San Vicente, a small portion of land is leased to a private entity for a radio transmission tower. Access to the radio tower is by the same service road as the grazing operation. The Rancho San Vicente portion of the park is also bisected by the Almaden Calero Canal. Owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, this concrete-lined canal is part of the District’s raw water distribution system and transports water from the Almaden Valley Watershed into Calero Reservoir. The canal is fenced and no public access is allowed along its service road. San Jose Water Company has a 2.8 acre in-holding on the western edge of the park, above the Almaden Calero Canal. Two power transmission lines cross the Rancho San Vicente area. The Canada del Oro portion of Calero County Park is slated for grazing operations starting within the next two years. Fencing to facilitate grazing is currently being installed.

Between 1985 and 2010, a private entity named Calero Ranch Stables operated and maintained public boarding stables at Calero County Park under a lease agreement. The stables were located north of the ranger office complex, in the vicinity of the Bailey-Fellows House historic complex. Calero Ranch Stables offered boarding for 110 horses, riding lessons, and a summer riding camp program. In addition, they provided horses for rent on guided rides to park visitors. In 2006, it was determined that Calero Ranch Stables operation was within the 1,000 ft. setback area of the reservoir and therefore is not compatible with recently amended public health guidelines for protection of municipal drinking water sources. In October 2010, the final extension of the lease expired, the property was vacated, and all facilities not related to the historic areas associated with the Bailey-Fellows house were removed. As the underlying land is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and is subject to potential inundation should there be a failure of the dike that surrounds the area, no new land uses for this area or long term plans for the Bailey-Fellows House have yet been identified by the District.
SLOPE

Topography within Calero County Park varies greatly. Generally the flatter lands are found adjacent to the north and east shores of the reservoir. Slopes within the Back Country vary from flat to very steep. For GIS mapping analysis, slopes are broken into four categories with 0-5% slopes, 6-12% slopes, 13-20% slopes and slopes 21% and steeper. Trail development is directly related to the limitations presented by degree of slope. While trails can be developed along steep slopes by aligning switchbacks perpendicular to the slope, the cost of implementation increases with degree of slope. In addition, land disturbance associated with trail implementation increases with degree of slope and with it, the potential for erosion and increased maintenance needs in the future. As land disturbance is also directly related to potential habitat disturbance, trail development along steep slopes is minimized in Calero County Park. Only sections of the Pena Trail and Chisnantuck Peak Trail are constructed on extremely steep slopes. They require additional maintenance and reconstruction as a result of trail use and associated erosion.

ASPECT

Aspect can be described as the direction to which a slope faces. The majority of ridges in Calero Park run east to west, with the majority of trails following this alignment. While trails with southern exposure dry out faster during the wet season, they can become uncomfortably hot for the trail user during the summer season. Many existing trails vary in exposure along their alignments and take advantage of tree cover where available. Trail aspect also affects vistas. Trails with more northern exposure open up to views onto Calero Reservoir and the Santa Clara Valley and trails with exposures to the south and west focus on the majestic landscape and peaks of the Santa Cruz Mountain range.

LAND COVER AND HABITATS

Due to the wide range of habitats it contains, Calero County Park is one of Santa Clara County’s most diverse regional parks, with a large number of distinct native plant communities. Most prevalent are non-native annual grasslands and Coast Live Oak Woodlands, which are found throughout the park. Other Calero plant communities include Serpentine Bunchgrasses, Valley Oak Woodlands, Central Coast Live Oak Riparian Forests, Serpentine Outcrop/Serpentine Chaparrals, Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub and Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marshes.

Information for these land covers and habitats was developed as part of the baseline biological information collected for the park in 1991, in conjunction with the park master planning effort underway at that time.
Additional information was gathered in 2005 after the acquisition of Rancho Canada del Oro properties. See Appendix D for a detailed description of land covers, habitat types, and associated wildlife from these sources.

Using a slightly more refined naming system and more current data sampling, these land covers, their ecosystem functions, and common wildlife associations are also described in detail in the Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Valley Habitat Plan) Chapter 3 “Physical and Biological Resources.” While the Valley Habitat Plan’s vegetation plan mapping was not ground-truthed specifically for Calero County Park, the Valley Habitat Plan contains the most recent compilation of vegetation mapping available for the Rancho San Vicente portion of the park. Thus, for preliminary planning purposes, the consolidated mapping available from the Valley Habitat Plan was used to depict unified land cover designations for the entire park in this Program Report.

In particular, land covers associated with serpentine soils form considerable communities in the park that are considered sensitive. As they contain rare and endangered species habitat, they are of special concern when planning new trail alignments in Calero County Park. The recently acquired Rancho San Vicente mirrors much of the habitats found throughout the rest of the park. However, this area has a higher concentration of serpentine grassland than the rest of the park. Most of these serpentine grasslands are found above the Almaden Calero Canal and trail alignments will need to be considered carefully. Additional information related to land cover and associated habitats may be developed as part of the Trails Plan Alternatives.

**VIEWS**

Many of the Calero County Park trails are defined by the spectacular vistas they offer along their way. From higher elevations, trail users can see the Loma Prieta Mountain, Bald Peak, and Mt. Umunhum to the west. Coyote Ridge and Mount Hamilton are visible to the east. Views to the north open upon the Calero Reservoir and the Santa Clara Valley beyond, with views of some of San Jose’s residential development approaching from the northwest. Even the Sierra Azul Mountains in the distance to the southwest are visible from some vista points. More intimate views of the varied landscape and habitats define the lower trail elevations. Picnic stations at Fish Camp and Los Cerritos Pond allow for close-up observations of pond turtles and water birds.
BUILT SITE FEATURES

Physical site features associated with park development within Calero County Park are extremely limited and for the most part, do not intrude upon the tranquil natural character of the park. These features are noted below.

- **Park Entrance Gate Pillars** are the only remaining structures outside the Bailey-Fellows House that are associated with the recent history of the park before it was purchased by the County. Made of simple brick construction and painted white, they form an iconic entrance feature to the park.

- **A Ranger Station/Visitor Center** is located along the main park entry off a short park road from the main entrance on McKean Road on the north-eastern side of the park. Here, park visitors can register for activities, speak to park rangers, obtain park information, and view displays. Park maintenance activities are staged from the adjoining equipment yard.

- **A Park Staging Area** adjacent to the park office for up to 50 vehicles with trailers can be reserved for gatherings and organized special events. More typical uses include staging for equestrian trail activities and back country hikers. Portable restrooms are part of the services offered at this site. Another staging area located along Casa Loma Road is owned and operated by the Open Space Authority. While this facility is not part of Calero County Park, access into the park is available from this staging area. Many Calero trail users utilize this facility to access the park from its southern side.

- **Calero Reservoir Launch Ramp and Parking Lot** offers access to many types of water recreation including fishing and year-round use by power and non-power water vessels. Picnic areas along its northern shore are available on a first-come first-served basis while a group picnic area is available by reservation.

- **The Bailey-Fellows House and barns** is a historic site owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. At this time the site is not open to the public.

- **Casa Loma Barn** is a historic barn is located off of Casa Loma Road and associated with the former Rancho Canada del Oro. At this time the site is not open to the public.

- **Calero Bat Inn** is located high above Cherry Cove, along the Javelina Loop Trail. Visitors can observe the nightly emergence of native bats who hunt over Cherry Cove Creek and Calero Reservoir. It is estimated that thousands of bats use this nesting station.

- **Radio Transmission Tower** - Located in the middle of the Rancho San Vicente site of Calero Park a radio tower stands tall above Calero Reservoir amidst serpentine outcroppings. Accessed by a gravel ranch road off McKean Road, the site is not open to the public.

- **Water Tank** - A 100,000 gallon water tank with pump house and propane tank, located along Pena Trail, stores water for park use and fire suppression.
• **Cottle Rest Site** - The Cottle rest site along Chisnantuck Peak Trail provides a picnic facility, and a horse trough.

• **Fish Camp and Los Cerritos Pond** (formerly grazing stock ponds) both offer picnic facilities including a horse trough at Fish Camp. Interpretive signs educate visitors and pond life invites nature observation while resting on benches under oak canopies.

• **Power Transmission Lines** cross the Rancho San Vicente area at two locations; one large overhead line parallels the Almaden Calero Canal and one smaller line serves the radio tower.

### CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Before Spanish and Mexican colonization in California, the lands where inhabited by Native American peoples associated with several of the Ohlone Indian tribal groups. A number of archeological sites relating to Native American site use are known to exist within Calero County Park and in the surrounding vicinity. Locations of sites are not publicly disclosed. Further investigation may be needed to determine if there are any sensitive sites.

The Bailey Fellows house, a historic “Italiante” Victorian house located on the eastern edge of Calero reservoir is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and is included in the Inventory of Historic Structures of Santa Clara County. The house was built between 1867 and 1870 and was owned and occupied by a number of families who farmed the surrounding lands. The house was acquired by the Water District in 1965. At this time, there is no public access to the house. See the Park Site History section of Chapter 1 for additional information.

Casa Loma Barn is a historic barn located off of Casa Loma Road. While the actual date of construction is unknown, it is the only remaining building on Calero County Park property associated with the former Rancho Canada del Oro. At this time the site is not open to the public.

No known structures associated with the recent habitation of Rancho San Vicente are still in existence. However, remnants of building foundations are known to occur in areas below the Almaden Calero Canal.

### HYDROLOGY

Calero County Park comprises over 50% of the land area within the 6.9 square mile Calero Reservoir watershed. Average annual precipitation with the watershed is 24.5 inches, with an average range from
20 to 28 inches. Calero watershed receives more rain than the Anderson Coyote watershed to the east and slightly less than the Almaden Valley watershed to the west. The majority of the park drains into the reservoir and down through Calero Creek to the Guadalupe River. Portions of Rancho San Vicente drain west to Alamitos Creek, which also enters the Guadalupe River. Portions of the former Rancho Canada del Oro property drain south to Llagas Creek and eventually enter the Pajaro River.

Calero Reservoir, with a maximum surface area of 347 acres and 10,054 acre-feet capacity, defines the northerly edge of Calero County Park. The reservoir was constructed in 1935 and surrounding lands are owned by the Santa Clara Water District. Cherry Canyon Creek, Calero Creek, and a number of seasonal tributaries feed the reservoir. While the reservoir is supplied mostly by local runoff, the Almaden Calero Canal facilitates inflow from Almaden Reservoir on its western end. The primary functions of the reservoir are groundwater recharge and municipal drinking water supply. Much of the water from Calero Reservoir is provided directly to drinking water treatment plants and then distributed to water retailers to be sold to the County’s residents. A number of seeps are known throughout the park, some of which affect trail performance during the wet season and occasionally lead to trail closures. A number of man-made ponds exist, constructed primarily for cattle grazing operations.

The source of potable water for park facilities is limited to small wells on both Water District and County Parks property. A 100,000 gallon water storage tank is located adjacent to the Pena trail that is used to store water for both park use and limited fire suppression.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

No hazardous materials are known to be present on the site.

TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

McKean Road is an undivided two-lane road that bounds the site on its northern and eastern edge, with Bailey Avenue intersecting McKean from the east, near the main park entrance. Bailey Avenue connects the park to Hwy 101 and provides for easy access. To the west of the park, McKean Road connects to the Almaden Expressway, a major collector road into the City of San Jose. To the east and southeast of the Park, McKean Road remains rural and eventually becomes Uvas Road. Casa Loma Road intersects with McKean Road and provides park access along its southern edge. Under the Regional Parks, Trails, and Scenic Highways Element of the Santa Clara County General Plan, McKean Road, Bailey Avenue, and Casa Loma Road are all designated as a Scenic Rural Routes. A number of private roadway easements not open to the general public provide access from Bertram Road from the south/west but do not penetrate...
the park boundary. A gravel service road leads from McKeans Road to the radio tower on Rancho San Vicente (closed to the public). Throughout Calero Park many of the trails also function as maintenance roads.

**TRANSIT CONNECTIONS**

Currently Calero County Park cannot be reached via public transit.

**GEOLOGY/SOILS**

Information provided in this section is extracted from the Santa Clara County Interim Natural Resources Plan (2005). An in-depth review of recently updated geologic and soils information for the park will be assessed during the alternatives development phase of the Trails Plan.

Calero County Park is located in the Calero Creek Valley on the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, just south of the Santa Teresa Hills. The site is located within the Coast Ranges physiographic province, an area characterized by a series of northwest-trending ridges and narrow valleys, which are controlled by complex folding and faulting. The park is located within the Los Capitancillos Block, the major structural feature of the region. This block is bounded on the south by the inactive Ben Trovato Fault Zone and on the north by the potentially active Shannon Fault. The bedrock materials at the site are highly folded, fractured, and faulted into complex stratigraphic relationships.

The active San Andreas Fault System, located approximately 7 miles southwest of Calero Reservoir, is the dominant tectonic feature structurally influencing the Santa Cruz Mountains. The shape of the reservoir and topography of the surrounding area has partially developed as a result of the northwest-trending inactive Calero Fault Zone, which crosses the site. The site has a rugged topography with ground surface elevations ranging from approximately 450 feet near the northwest corner of the reservoir to greater than 1,400 feet near the southern edge of the site.

The geologic formations within the project area predominately consist of Jurassic to Cretaceous age (65 to 160 million years old) Franciscan Formation rocks with lesser amounts of younger Cretaceous to Holocene age (65 million years old to recent) igneous and sedimentary formations. The geologic formations from oldest to youngest include:

**Franciscan Formation (K)** - The Franciscan Formation rocks consist predominately of greywacke sandstone with minor inter-bedded siltstone and shale. Lesser amounts of greenstone, chert, and limestone units are found at various locations around the reservoir.
Serpentinite (sp) - The serpentine rocks consist of altered untramafic rocks, which are generally sheared and associated with the Franciscan Formation. Serpentinite rocks outcrop mostly in the area west and southwest of the reservoir.

Silica Carbonate Unit (Tsc) - The silica carbonate geologic unit consists predominately of quartz and magnesite that was formed by hydrothermal alteration of serpentine. This unit is the host rock for most of the quicksilver (mercury) ore mined in this region. The silica carbonate unit is found along linear zones in and adjacent to the serpentinite rocks. This unit outcrops predominately north of the reservoir.

Alluvium (Qal) - The alluvium consists predominately of unconsolidated sand and gravel with fewer amounts of silt and clay deposited along stream channels.

Landslides (Qls) - The landslide materials consist of disturbed soil and rock. The landslides are active to inactive and include some areas with debris flows and soil creep. The park is located in a seismically active region that has been subjected to several large earthquakes during historic times. Major active northwest-trending right-lateral shear faults located in close proximity to the site include the San Andreas, Hayward, and Calaveras Fault Systems occur as the result of seismic activity. Numerous landslides exist around the perimeter of the reservoir, particularly in the southwest portion along Cherry Canyon. Since the start of reservoir operation in 1935, approximately 6 landslides have developed around the perimeter of the reservoir. The combination of highly sheared unstable bedrock (mostly serpentinite) and adverse dipping of bedding planes (predominately Franciscan Formation) are responsible for the majority of the landslides in the Calero Reservoir area. Existing landslides are very prone to renewed movement, since zones of weakness exist as a result of previous land sliding. The natural undercutting of the lake banks in areas where landslides exist may reactivate sliding.

The soils at the Calero reservoir site generally consist of a thin veneer (1 to 5 feet thick) of clayey soil overlying bedrock. The soils are well to excessively drained and generally have a moderate to high erodability (SCS, 1968). The major soils associations located on the south side of the reservoir consist mostly of Montara clay loam (15 to 50 percent slopes), and lesser amounts of Vallecitos loam (15 to 30 percent slopes), and Los Gatos, and Maymen soils (50 to 70 percent slopes). The major soil associations located on the north side of the reservoir consist predominately of Vallecitos loam (15 to 50 percent slopes), Gilroy clay loam (30 to 50 percent slopes), and Cropley clay (2 to 9 percent slopes). Calero soils
have a moderate to high erodibility character. The soils on the south side of the reservoir generally have a very high erodibility.

Much of Calero is situated on the Franciscan Formation with serpentine intrusions; a type of untramafic rock which has a high level of ferromagnesium-silicates. Soils weathered from Serpentinite or serpentine rock possess unusual concentrations of minerals, such as low levels of calcium, and high levels of magnesium. Serpentine soils are shallow, erode easily, and have poor water holding capacities. These soils are also low in other essential nutrients necessary for plant growth, such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, and too high in heavy metal for normal plant growth. It is thought that these extremes of mineral concentration enable the survival of only those species able to tolerate the harsh conditions of untramafic soils. Serpentine-based rock represents approximately one percent of California’s geologic base, yet contains 10% of the native flora and high numbers of rare species.
Maps

Legend
- Calero Boundary
- Regional Roads
- Park Roads
- Service Roads
- Unpaved Trails
- Paved Trails
- Proposed Regional Trails
- Creeks

Slope
- 0 - 5
- 5.1 - 20
- 20.1 - 30
- 30.1 - 40
- 40+

Data Sources: Basemap derived from USGS Digital Elevation Model (DEM) acquired from www.seamless.gov
Calero County Park data courtesy of Santa Clara County
Bellinger Foster Steinmetz 2011

Terrain Slope

Calero Reservoir
Uvas Road
McKean Road
Bailey Ave
Casa Loma Road
Fortini Rd
Calero County Park
Trails Master Plan

Bellinger Foster Steinmetz 2011
Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Legend

- Calero Boundary
- Regional Roads
- Park Roads
- Service Roads
- Unpaved Trails
- Paved Trails
- Proposed Regional Trails
- Creeks

Aspect

- N-NE
- NE-E
- E-SE
- SE-S
- S-SW
- SW-W
- W-NW
- NW-W

Data Sources: Basemap derived from USGS Digital Elevation Model (DEM) acquired from www.seamless.gov
Calero County Park data courtesy of Santa Clara County

Rancho Canada del Oro
(Open Space Authority)
EXISTING BACKGROUND AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

A number of relevant documents influence the development of the Calero County Park Trails Master Plan. These documents fall into three categories:

Countywide or Park system wide Documents – these documents provide a regional context, policies and standards to guide the Calero Trails Master Plan. These include:

• Santa Clara County General Plan (1995-2010).
• Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update (1995)
• Santa Clara County Interjurisdictional Trail Design, Use, and Management Guidelines (1999)
• Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System Strategic Plan (2003)
• Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Trails Maintenance Manual (2005)
• Santa Clara County Ordinance, Division B14-Parks and Recreation, Article 4. Animals, Pets and Horses
• Santa Clara County Park Naming Policy (includes trail naming policies)

Trails Master Plans from other County Parks – some of the approaches from previous master plans have been reviewed for consideration of criteria that may be applied to the Calero Trails Plan. These include:

• Sanborn County Park Trails Master Plan (2008)
• Almaden Quicksilver County Park Trails Master Plan (1998)

Background information related to Calero County Park or User feedback – this information may or may not be specific to the project area but may influence trail locations, trail types and other aspects of the Calero trails plan. These Include:

• Calero County Park Canada del Oro Grazing Management Plan (2004)
• Calero County Park Interim Natural Resources Management Plan (2005)
• County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department Equestrian Stables Location Feasibility Study (2009)
• County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department Customer Comment Card Report (2007)
• County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department Needs Assessment Survey (2007)
• City of San Jose Greenprint (updated 2009)

Only some of the most relevant information found in many documents has been summarized here in the Program Report, though all applicable policies apply. Additional information will be disseminated from these and other source documents throughout the project. This summary is not intended to serve as the sole source of background data. The summary is intended to assist in applying regional context, policies, site data and best practices to the Trails Plan.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN, (1995-2010)

The Santa Clara County General Plan is the overarching policy document which provides the vision, planning and implementation policies for the countywide system of trails, which include: trails within and between parks and other publicly owned open space lands; trails that provide access from the urban area to these lands; trails that connect to trails of neighboring counties; trails that connect to transit facilities; trails that give the public environmentally superior alternative transportation routes and methods; trails that close strategic gaps in non-motorized transportation routes; trails that offer opportunities for maintaining personal health; trails that offer opportunities for outdoor education and recreation; and trails that could serve as emergency evacuation routes (see Policy C-PR 20).

Relevant General Plan policies applicable for the Calero Trails Plan include:

C-PR 20.1 Trail access should be provided for a range of user capabilities and needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations.

C-PR 23 Trail routes shall be located, designed and developed with sensitivity to their potential environmental, recreational, and other impacts on adjacent lands and private property.

C-PR 24 As provided for in the Resource Conservation Chapter, trails shall be located to recognize the resources and hazards of the areas they traverse, and to be protective of sensitive habitat areas such as wetlands and riparian corridors and other areas where sensitive species may be adversely affected.

C-PR 30 Trails shall be temporarily closed when conditions become unsafe or environmental resources are severely impacted. Such conditions could include soil erosion, flooding, fire
hazard, environmental damage, or failures to follow the specific trail management plan (see Countywide Trails Master Plan – Design and Management Guidelines).

C-PR 30.1 Levels-of-use and types-of-use on trails shall be controlled to avoid unsafe use conditions or severe environmental degradation.

C-PR 30.2 The County Parks and Recreation Department shall provide adequate ongoing maintenance of its trail system.

C-PR 30.3 Neighborhood volunteers and other groups should be encouraged to provide trail support services ranging from “trail watch” and clean up activities to annual maintenance and construction.

C-PR 31 Use of motorized vehicles on trails shall be prohibited, except for wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles.

C-PR 32 All trails should be marked. Signed information shall be provided to encourage responsible trail use. Appropriate markers should be established along historically significant trail routes.

C-PR(i) 19.8 Clearly sign trails. Provide trail users with information regarding property rights in order to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY COUNTYWIDE TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE, (NOVEMBER 14, 1995)

The 1995 Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update is an element of the Santa Clara County General Plan and includes Countywide Trail Strategies, Trail Planning Policies, Trail Implementation Recommendations, Trail Priorities, Trail Design and Management Guidelines and a Countywide Trails Master Plan Map. Design Guidelines depict optimum characteristics for siting and designing trails, where Management Guidelines outline optimum scenarios for directing use, operations, and maintenance of trail routes for the entire trail system.

The Countywide Trails Master Plan identifies hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling trails that support a myriad of trail-related uses. These guidelines provide direction to the County for the implementation of new trails, where the guidelines serve as a general guide rather than a specific recommendation.
Trail routes that are identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan within Calero County Park include:

S6  West Valley Trail: from Almaden Lake Park to the southern county link of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (R5-E) (Alternative Highway 152 alignment).
C18  Guadalupe / Calero Trail: connecting Guadalupe Reservoir and Almaden-Quicksilver County Park with Calero Reservoir County Park.
C19  Calero / Santa Teresa Trail: connecting McKean Road / Calero Reservoir County Park with Santa Teresa County Park.
C20  Bailey Road Trail: connecting Calero Reservoir County Park with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (R1-A) and the Bay Area Ridge Trail (R5-C).

S = Sub-Regional Trail Route, C = Connector Trail Route
(from Pages 43-45, Countywide Trails Master Plan Map)

The Calero/ Santa Teresa Trail route (C19) from McKean Road to Santa Teresa County Park is identified as a high priority trail route within the unincorporated County area (from Page 56, Trail Priorities).
Santa Clara County Countywide Trails
Master Plan Update

Proposed Trail Routes
Trail routes, with the exception of on-street bicycle routes, are generally envisioned as shared use trails to accommodate a variety of users.

- On-street Bicycle Route Within Road Right-of-way
- On-street Bicycle Route with Parallel Trail; Route Within Road Right-of-way
- On-street Bicycle Route with Parallel Trail; Route Within Road Right-of-way and Within Private Property Parallel to the Road

Note: Unincorporated County Jurisdiction — Proposed trail route to be considered when landowner is a willing participant — see Trail Policies

- Trail Route Within Other Public Lands
  - For Example: Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Open Space Preserves, Flood Control Projects
- Trail Route Within Private Property

Note: Unincorporated County Jurisdiction — Proposed trail route to be considered when landowner is a willing participant — see Trail Policies

Staging Areas
- Existing Staging Area
- Planned Staging Area
- General Area of Evaluation for New Regional Staging Areas

Note: Planned Staging Areas shown are based on information contained in existing or proposed Master Plans for parks, recreation, or open space areas

Trail Routes
- S6 West Valley Trail
- C18 Guadelupe/Colero Trail
- C19 Colero/Santa Teresa Trail
- C20 Bailey Road Trail
The Strategic Plan for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System ("Strategic Plan") is a visionary plan that presents a road map to guide the acquisition, planning, development, programming, management and funding of regional parks and recreation in Santa Clara County. This plan identifies how the regional parks and open spaces of the County, the outdoor recreation opportunities these places provide, and their resources may be managed and enhanced to meet the needs of a growing population.

Vision Statement: “We create a growing and diverse system of regional parks, trails and open spaces of Countywide significance that connects people with the natural environment, offers visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, and balances recreation opportunities with resource protection.”

The basic Vision Statement is also expanded with five additional summary statements that, when taken as a whole, provide a panoramic snapshot of what the future of regional parks in Santa Clara County should be:

- The Emerald Web: consisting of a continuous, interconnected network of parks, trails and open space areas
- An Opportunity to Escape: that counterbalances the pace and technological atmosphere of Silicon Valley
- A Quality Park Experience: that begins at home and is composed of opportunities for the general public to safely explore the outdoors while renewing the human spirit
- A Seamless Program: that offers easy access to outdoor recreation and interpretation opportunities
- Resource Protection: that balances resource conservation, recreation opportunities, and park management to assure the existence of vibrant, quality parks for future generations.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework to address regional park and regional issues – that include a series of eight system-wide Strategic Goals and 56 Strategies that outline how to go about implementing the Vision.

**Strategies**

STRATEGIC GOAL #3: An interconnected system of regional parks and trails that are accessible, of the highest quality, and community-supported.
STRATEGY AREA #3.1: System Accessibility: A system of regional parks and trails should be maintained that provides all County residents with access to the system in terms of affordability, physical access, range of activities and hours of operation.

Strategy #3.1.1: Parks and trails and related recreational facilities should be affordable to all County residents.

Strategy #3.1.2: Existing parks, trails and related facilities should be inventoried to assess adequacy and accessibility relative to the most current Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for outdoor recreation.

Strategy #3.1.3: Future master plans for specific sites should evaluate the accessibility of all users and make recommendations for improving accessibility in terms of affordability, physical access, proximity to mass transportation, range of uses, and hours of operation.

Strategy #3.1.4: Existing park and trails should be inventoried to assess the availability of public transit service and, where appropriate, the expansion of public transit routes and serve to regional parks and trail staging areas.

Strategy #3.1.5: Regional parks or trails should be distributed to ensure ease of access in terms of closeness to home or work for all County residents.

Strategy #3.1.6: Future trails should be provided to link public transportation to park and recreation areas.

(from Page 47, Regional Strategies)

STRATEGIC GOAL #4: A system of regional parks and trails that is balanced with resource protection.

STRATEGY AREA #4.1: Balance Recreation and Resources: The potentially conflicting objectives of providing for public recreation, and preserving and enhancing the natural environment, should be carefully balanced by providing a regional parks and trails system that incorporates:

- Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities that appeal to a broad group of user interests.
- Natural and cultural resource conservation and interpretation.
- Jurisdiction rules, regulation and management.
- Respect for the neighboring property owners’ use of their land, their privacy, and their liability concerns.

Strategy Area #4.1.1: A regional parks and trails system should be designed that is consistent with the County General Plan and other County policies associated with protecting and enhancing natural resources, including but not limited to: rich biological habitat areas including wetlands, baylands, and riparian areas; areas of serpentine geology; natural, cultural, and historic areas; and other significant natural features.

Strategy Area #4.1.2: Park and trail use levels and a monitoring system should be developed to ensure recreation and biological resources are balanced in a manner that protects resource qualities.

Strategy Area #4.1.3: Recreational uses and facilities should be planned and located on suitable lands to avoid impacts to rich biological habitat areas.

(from Page 49, Regional Strategies)

**Countywide Trails Action Plan Priorities**

The Countywide Trails Action Plan is a component of the Strategic Plan, which identifies policies and priorities related to the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan, an element of the County General Plan. The development of the Calero Trails Master Plan would fulfill the following action priority identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Identify 2-3 County parks for developing site-specific Trails Master Plans to identify opportunities to increase multiple-use trails and to ensure consistency with the Countywide Trails Master Plan (e.g. Almaden-Quicksilver County Park Trails Master Plan).

(from Page 66, Actions)

**Countywide Trail Classification**

Countywide trail routes are linear routes of non-motorized travel. Four classifications for the components of the Countywide Trail System were identified in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan. One emphasis of the Countywide Trails Master plan is shared-use trails. While the Countywide Trails Master Plan identifies and addresses trails of countywide significance, it does not apply to all trails within individual parks. The classification and use of internal park trails is determined through master plans that are prepared for each park.

(from Page 35, Regional Recreation)
The Trail Maintenance Manual was developed as a field guideline and procedure manual for Park staff responsible for the maintenance, construction, and operation of the Santa Clara County Parks trail system. It is intended to provide guidelines for Park staff charged with trail maintenance and construction responsibilities, and provide base knowledge of trail management and construction practices for the inexperienced trail worker. The guidelines within this manual address all types of trails including single-track, dual purpose, multi-use, paved trails, and service and fire roads. This manual complies with the Santa Clara County Parks, Countywide Trails Master Plan and uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design, Use and Management Guidelines-1999.

The goals and objectives of the Trail Maintenance Manual is to provide standards and guidelines for trail design, maintenance, construction and management so trails are sustainable over the long-term, require low maintenance, allow for safe public access, protect the natural and cultural resources and meet recreational needs of the park user.

“Trails are park facilities similar to restrooms, campsites, parking lots, and roads. They are developed to provide access to the natural, cultural and scenic resources of a park and to enhance the visitor’s enjoyment of those resources.”

“The resource values of a park always take precedence over facilities. All decisions regarding design, layout, and construction of trails should be based on what is best for the park’s resources. If a compromise is to be made, it should be with the trail’s design not with the park’s resources. Sensitive natural or cultural resources should never be jeopardized by a trail facility.”

(from Page 1, Introduction)

The Sanborn County Park Trails Master Plan provides a comprehensive long-term plan for management of a multiple use trail system within Sanborn County Park. The plan provides trail opportunities for all self-propelled trail users, including hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and dog walkers, in keeping with the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan and the 2003 Strategic Plan, which both promote an increase in multiple use trails. The Trails Master Plan approximately doubles the length of the existing trail system from 19 miles of trails for hikers and equestrians to 38 miles of trails for hikers, dog walkers,
equestrians and mountain bikers. Three regional trails are planned within Sanborn County Park: the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Saratoga to Sanborn Trail, where these trails support dual use or multiple use. The plan opens the park to new trail user groups, dog owners with dogs on-leash and mountain bikers. Dogs on-leash are recommended on all trails with the exception of those that pass through sensitive resource areas. Mountain biking is opened along Skyline Ridge and on several planned long-distance trails.

Trail Design Guidelines developed as part of this Trails Plan included extensive recommendations for Trails in Steep Terrain, Trails in Riparian Zones, Trails on Erodible Geology Units, Trails in Landslide Areas, and recommendations for types of creek crossings for site specific conditions (Chapter 5).

**ALMADEN QUICKSILVER COUNTY PARK FINAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN REPORT (OCTOBER 1998)**

Completed in 1998, the Almaden Quicksilver County Park Trails Master Plan was the result of extensive public outreach and input whereby the new uses of dogs on leash and bicyclists were introduced on trails formerly limited to only hikers and equestrians. This Trails Plan developed a system of trails use evaluations and implementation strategies that helped determine the final mix of approved uses.
PUBLIC OPINION

Two on-line questionnaires were developed to assess existing and potential future Calero County Park trail user preferences as they relate to trail use and associated facilities. Both questionnaires were accessed through the County Parks website and were also made available in hard copy for those without computer access. One of the questionnaires was focused on current users of Calero County Park and was advertised to patrons visiting the Park. The second questionnaire was for users of all County parks and was advertised to the County Parks’ electronic contact list and social media websites. A total of 290 people responded to the Calero survey and 742 people responded to the Countywide survey. Summaries of responses to both surveys are found in Appendix C. Below are some salient points from both surveys that may influence the Trails Plan. Where percentage responses are given (97%/98%), the first number is for the Calero survey and the second number is for the Countywide survey.

1. In both surveys, walking/hiking is the most popular trail activity. When using a trail at Calero, most people take a fairly long trip (six miles or more), while County-wide, the average trail trip is 2-5 miles. This might reflect a higher level of equestrian respondents to the Calero questionnaire.

2. Nearly everyone (97%/98%), drives to the Park. This suggests the importance of staging areas within the Park to accommodate trail users.

3. A strong majority rates their trail experience at Calero County Park as adequate or better. Generally speaking, existing Park users appreciate the trail experience currently available at Calero and throughout the County Parks system. In both surveys, Almaden Quicksilver ranked as the most popular County Park for trail use.

4. The most important factors in determining which County Park to visit for trail use are having a variety of trails, and scenic views and vistas (if responses of 4 and 5 are combined, where 5 is “very important”).

5. Calero Park users would like to see more back-country trails and more loop trails. There was also interest in lakeside trails.

6. Most respondents (97%/92.5%) have used multi-use trails. Of those, most (60.5%/73% in the Countywide survey) have not had a conflict with other users.

7. Of those who have had a conflict, in the Calero survey, 61% were equestrians and in the Countywide survey, 58% were hikers/runners. In both surveys (91%/75%) the conflict occurred with a bicyclist. In most cases (73%/89%) the conflict did not result in injury. While user safety is certainly an issue, it does appear that trail sharing is feasible for most users provided that trails
are designed properly and users obey trail safety etiquette and rules. In conflicts, equestrians are
the most prone to serious injury of themselves or their animal. Based on individual comments
received, many equestrians seem to be accustomed to the concept of shared trails. Beginning
equestrians and equestrians on horses that have not been trained on trails with bicyclists are the
most likely to be uncomfortable on trails shared with bicyclists.

OTHER PUBLIC OPINION DOCUMENTS

Other documents prepared by County Parks contain public opinion information that is relevant to the
Trails Plan. Some of this information is summarized below.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN
(2003)

The most popular and demanded recreation activities are intrinsically related to a classic regional park
development formula: access, water features, places to congregate and picnic, and trails to be used for
a variety of purposes. (Page 12)

That trail use of all types ranked high in popularity in Santa Clara County is not new. In the recreation
needs assessment associated with the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan, walking was consistently
ranked the highest in terms of participation. Bicycling, and in particular mountain bicycling, continues
to increase in popularity. Though not ranked high in terms of total population use, horseback riding has
been, and continues to be, a strongly supported heritage of Santa Clara County. This is particularly true
for the rural residents of the unincorporated areas of the County who rely heavily on County Park for
riding opportunities. (Page 12)
Summary of Findings from User Survey and Community Meeting (excerpt)

8. Expanded Day Use: People are interested in opportunities for a wider range of equestrian experiences in the parks, including enclosed areas/arenas for drop-in use, more challenging guided rides, destination rides, trails for cart/carriage driving and equestrian camping. In addition to exploring potential sites for boarding, County Parks may wish to consider a day use facility, for arena use, summer camp, and rentals.

9. Sharing Access: Access to trails and staging areas is important. However, sharing trails with bicyclists is a problem with many riders. Shared trails may impact the popularity of the facility. This should be taken into account when evaluating potential locations. At the same time, shared trail use was identified as a priority in the 2003 Parks Strategic Plan and will continue to be incorporated in County Parks. Perhaps more can be done in terms of educating both equestrians and bicyclists on how to share trails through outreach, improved signage, and enforcement of rules. Training programs have been successful in raising awareness for both bicyclists and equestrians on shared trail use in other jurisdictions.

(from Page 5 of 7, Summary of Findings from User Survey and Community Meeting)

Description of Concerns:

Trails: Label trails with the degree of difficulty and provide mileage markers.

(from Page 5, 6. Summary of Comments, Table 4: Clustering of Comments)

7.2 Operations (excerpt)
The majority of comments were in regard to trail signage and trail maps. Some hikers were confused by inconsistency with the map and the trail signage because some got lost when following the maps. Trail signage was found to be missing on some trails. In some parks no maps were provided. A few visitors commented that the Parks’ website needs improvement in the area of providing accurate maps and current updates regarding trail conditions, opening of the park, water level, construction and maintenance
in the parks. Customers were also frustrated with poor performance of pay-stations in some parks and the reservation system being off-line for number of weeks. These issues have been already addressed.

Next on the list is the enforcement of bicycle speed control. Many walkers and joggers complained that they were nearly run over by bicyclist or had to give way to speeding bikers. A few proposed to separate the trail users or at least widen the trails.

(from Page 10, Operations)

7.4 Park Usage (excerpt)
Almost a quarter of respondents (24%) identified walking as the preferred recreational activity. Other popular activities included: fishing, picnicking with (6%) respondents; boating (5%); biking and camping (4%); dog lovers (3%); equestrians, photography and target practice represent (2%) of all activities in our parks. Specialized summer activities such as: music in the park, historic van tours, movie nights, ranger guided hikes, kayaking and many more interpretive events have attracted 11% or the respondents. Many respondents pursued leisure activities such as reading a book, riding a train, or just enjoying nature.

(from Page 12, Park Usage)

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY 2007

Equestrian activity was listed as a favorite activity by 1% of respondents; 2% would like to see equestrian facilities added.
PROGRAM ELEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Program Elements, which have been compiled here for further consideration in the next phases of the Trails Plan, are based on the research to date that is summarized in this Program Development Report, including the following sections:

- Key Issues, as found in the Executive Summary,
- Project Goals, as found in Chapter 1,
- Existing Site Conditions, Chapter 2, and Appendix D
- Existing Background and Policy Framework, Chapter 3, and Appendix F
- Public opinion gathered to date, Chapter 4 and Appendix C, and
- Site visits, Appendices A and B

“Program Elements” are descriptions of uses and features that may be incorporated into the Trails Plan. In this project, they can be divided into the following categories:

- Trail uses and users (such as hikers, equestrians, cyclists, dogs on leash, etc.)
- Trail types and characteristics (such as width, surfacing, etc.)
- Trail amenities (such as seating, signage, etc.)
- Trail-related facilities (such as staging areas, restrooms, etc.)
- Trail-related operations (such as maintenance roads, ranger facilities, fencing, etc.)

EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAILS PLAN PROGRAM ELEMENTS

As Trail Plan alternatives are developed, they will need to be evaluated by a series of criteria or considerations in order to determine a preferred alternative. The Trails Plan will need to be compatible with and support multiple County Parks objectives, including management and protection of sensitive resources, established County policies related to trails and recreation, and user needs and safety. And in order to be truly sustainable, the Trails Plan will need to take into account the resources available to maintain and operate trails over the long term.
The following evaluation considerations were used to establish the program elements noted below, and will also be used again in future project phases to develop and evaluate trails alternatives.

1. **Resource Management policies and practices, including grazing infrastructure requirements**
   Protection and enhancement of sensitive resources is an essential element of County Parks’ mission. Trails will need to support this mission. Managed properly, grazing has become an increasingly effective resource management tool that is currently in practice at Calero County Park and Rancho San Vicente. Successful grazing requires infrastructure considerations, such as staging areas for cattle operations, fencing, and water for cattle. The Trails Plan needs to take these and other resource management considerations into account as it proceeds.

2. **Operations and Maintenance policies, practices and available resources**
   County Parks has well-established policies and practices for operations and maintenance. However, increasingly limited financial resources will impact long-term operations. The Trails Plan must consider long-term sustainability of proposed trails from an operations and maintenance perspective.

3. **Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan policies and objectives**
   While still in its draft form, the Valley Habitat Plan sets goals for habitat preservation through a system of conservation strategies and establishes policies and guidelines for long-term management of lands within a reserve system. Proposed policies will clearly define recreational use of these lands. With portions of Rancho San Vicente anticipated to be part of the Valley Habitat Plan’s reserve system, the Trails Plan will need to be consistent with these policies and guidelines.

4. **Compatibility with adjacent land owners and land conditions**
   County Parks strives to be a good neighbor. Calero County Park abuts both property open to public trails use (the Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve) and private property. Trail alignments and uses should be compatible with adjacent uses.
5. **Environmental suitability criteria (GIS mapping) / protection of sensitive resources**

The County’s ample resource data, compiled in GIS format, will be used to establish and analyze a range of suitability for trail type or use based on numerous attributes, such as slope, aspect, soil type, vegetation, and potential for sensitive habitat. In addition, GIS-formatted data can be used to identify opportunities for trails, such as special features, vista points, and other potential trail destinations. Suitability and opportunity maps will be further developed during the trail plan alternatives phase.

6. **County trail standards, policies and guidelines**

The Trails Plan needs to be consistent with and serve to implement established County trails policies. These have been summarized in Chapter 3.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

These program elements should be considered preliminary only. They will be explored and refined further through the Trails Plan alternatives and with additional public input.

1. **Determine trail user types to be accommodated at Calero County Park: Hiker; Equestrian, Hiker with Dog on Leash; Bicyclist**

Systemwide County Parks Trails Policies, as adopted in the *County General Plan, Parks System Strategic Plan*, and the *Countywide Trails Master Plan* call for exploration of opportunities to expand trails for multiple uses. Regional trails and connecting trails identified in the *Countywide Trails Master Plan* are intended to serve multiple types of users, including hikers, equestrians and bicyclists, where feasible. Historically, Calero County Park trails have been for hikers and equestrians only, with no use by bicyclists and hikers with dogs on leash, while trails in the adjacent Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve, operated by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, are open to equestrians, hikers and bicyclists.

Therefore, an important aspect of the Trails Plan will be to determine if multiple trail users will be accommodated, and if so, how? On all trails, only on designated trails that may traverse the park, or only in designated areas of the park? Naturally these decisions will have implications for both trail design and
long-term trail management and enforcement. The Trails Plan alternatives should explore various scenarios of how trails accommodating multiple users might be incorporated into the park, taking into account user safety, resource protection, and long-term trail management.

2. **Determine additional trail uses by permit: horse with cart; equestrian camping; back country camping**

   The Draft Equestrian Facility Feasibility Study identified trail-dependent uses of interest to the equestrian community, including equestrian camping and use of horse-driven carts. While horse-driven carts are currently an allowed use with permit at Calero County Park, there may be an opportunity to design additional trails that are suitable for this use. Through site visits, areas for potential back country camping, either by equestrians or hikers, were identified and may be considered as an additional trail-dependent use.

3. **Regional trail routes and connections**

   As noted in Chapter 3, the Countywide Trails Master Plan identifies regional connector trails and subregional trails that pass through or near Calero County Park. Where feasible, these trails are intended to be for multiple types of trail users. Preliminary corridors for these trails have been identified, but trail alignments have not been finalized. The Trails Plan alternatives should explore alignments for these trails, taking into account the intent for these trails to be multi-use and the implications for safety, resource protection, and long-term trail management noted in Program Element 1 above.

4. **Trail access/connections from adjacent public open space properties**

   As noted above and in Chapter 2, the Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space, operated by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, is open to public use. Some of the Open Space trails connect with Calero County Park Trails, and some Calero trail users access Calero trails from the Open Space staging area off of Casa Loma Road. While Open Space trails are open to multiple users, including bicyclists, Calero trails are limited to hikers and equestrians only. The Trails Plan alternatives should explore both where trail connections are made between the two properties, and also the types of users to be permitted on Calero trails.
5. **Improvements to existing trail staging areas/new trail staging areas, including support features, such as restrooms, signage, shade, equestrian parking and support facilities**

Public opinion surveys have shown a high level of satisfaction with the trail experience throughout the County Parks system and specifically at Calero County Park. With no transit access to Calero and most residential areas some distance away, nearly all current trail users drive to access the Park. With this in mind, staging areas, along with their associated support facilities, are extremely important to successful trail use. In addition to the current trail staging area off of McKean Road, the trail plan alternatives will explore additional trail staging for the Rancho San Vicente property and possibly off of Casa Loma Road.

6. **Additional and some shorter trail loops to increase variety of trail experiences**

While many of the current trails at Calero are loops, most of the loops are fairly long and not conducive to a shorter hike. Additional trail loops, some of which are shorter, would enhance the variety of trail experiences at the Park.

7. **Whole access trails**

Trails policies in the General Plan call for trails to be accessible for all physical abilities where feasible. “Whole Access” trails allow for users of all abilities, including people in wheelchairs, by limiting the trail gradient and incorporating all-weather surfaces that stay compacted even in rainy weather. While topography and site conditions do not allow most trails in Calero to achieve whole access standards, some areas within the park may be conducive to such trails.

8. **Relocated trails to address maintenance and resource management issues**

Site visits, assessments of existing trails, and County Parks staff knowledge have identified existing trail segments that should be closed and relocated to address issues of erosion, long seasonal closures due to trail moisture or poor drainage, safety and/or protection of natural resources. The Trails Plan alternatives will explore trail relocations to address these issues.

9. **Trail reconfigurations (reduction in trail width, realignments) to address maintenance, resource management and user safety**

In some areas, old ranch roads serve as trails and maintenance roads. However, large maintenance vehicles are no longer needed in some areas due to changes
in operations (such as expanded use of quads). These wide trails are unsightly and susceptible to erosion. In addition, current County Parks practices and experience indicate that narrower trails with more curves and shorter sight lines result in fewer conflicts between trail users when properly designed. With this in mind, the Trails Plan alternatives will look at narrowing and/or realigning some trails to enhance the user experience and safety, reduce long-term maintenance, and protect natural resources.

10. **Rancho San Vicente access, trails, and connections to existing Calero trails**
The acquisition of Rancho San Vicente and subsequent expansion of Calero County Park affords new opportunities both for resource protection and for trail use. Since it is anticipated that some of the property will be incorporated into the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan reserve system, trails use with those areas will need to be consistent with the Valley Habitat Plan’s guidelines for recreational use within the reserve. Other areas of Rancho San Vicente may not be within the reserve system and therefore could be considered for staging areas and other trail dependent uses. Naturally, in all areas, protection of sensitive natural resources will be essential.

11. **Consideration of trail dependent uses and amenities: Picnicking; Water (for people and animals); Seating; Camping; Interpretive Programs; Wildlife viewing; Vistas**
As noted above, current trail users value their trail experience at Calero and other County Parks. Trail destinations, such as vista points and unique areas for wildlife viewing, contribute to the trails experience, as do the provision of trail amenities, such as “rest stops” with seating, tables for picnicking, and water for both people and pets. In addition, destinations for interpretive programs, (such as the Calero Bat House), need to be considered as a part of the Trails Plan.

12. **Calero Reservoir perimeter trail**
County Parks staff have indicated that many users have requested a trail along the perimeter of Calero Reservoir. Site investigation and topographic analysis indicate that due to steep slopes it would be difficult to maintain a trail immediately adjacent to the reservoir, but a perimeter trail could be considered at higher elevations and further distance from the reservoir edge with views of the reservoir.
13. Trails/Roads for emergency access and safety/operations needs, including fire breaks
As noted in Program Element 9 above, some roads that serve as trails may be narrowed and/or realigned. At the same time, road access is needed to some areas of the park for regular park operations (such as servicing of water tanks) lease agreements (such as the radio tower at Rancho San Vicente), and emergency access. The Trails Plan will indicate road locations and widths, and whether or not each road can also serve as a trail.

14. Trail names and signage
Customer comment card responses indicate that many trail users find trail signage to be confusing and inconsistent. The Trails Plan should indicate trail signage guidelines for directional, regulatory, and interpretive signs, consistent with County Parks policies. In addition trail naming should be consistent with existing County Parks trail naming policies, subject to approval by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission.

15. Planning for long-term flexibility
While plans provide guidance for the future, they also need to build in flexibility. Recent trails master plans, such as at Sanborn County Park, have incorporated flexibility into the plan to accommodate future unknown conditions. This may include: changes in sensitive resource status that require changes to trail type or location; changes in resource management practices that affect trails, such as grazing infrastructure; and changes in user safety that require trail use designations to be changed. The Trails Plan will incorporate policies for regular review and ability for change to adapt to the future.
STUDY AREAS

To assist in focusing design efforts in the Trails Plan alternatives, the following study areas have been identified. Naturally, the Trails Plan will be comprehensive and include the entire park, but many of the proposed program elements discussed above will be focused in one or more of the study areas noted below. These study areas are also indicated on the map found at the end of this chapter.

1. **Park Entrance/Staging Area**
   - Pena Trail Realignment
   - Whole Access Trail

2. **Reservoir Vista**
   - Reservoir Loop Trail

3. **Casa Loma**
   - Whole Access Trail
   - Staging Area Consideration
   - Status of Barn as destination or viewpoint

4. **Cottle/Chisnantuk**
   - Cottle Trail connection to Rancho San Vicente
   - Realignment of Chisnantuk Peak Trail
   - Connections to Canada del Oro trails

5. **Rancho San Vicente**
   - Cottle Trail connection to Rancho San Vicente
   - Whole Access Trail
   - Staging Area
   - Alternative road to radio tower
   - Cherry Cove Trail connection to Rancho San Vicente
As previously noted, this Program Development Report concludes the first phase of the Calero County Park Trails Master Plan process. The next phases of the process include the following:

- Further site evaluation, including geological and soils analysis related to trails suitability, using available GIS data and site observation.
- Refinement and application of trails suitability criteria that can be mapped using GIS data layering to further establish areas of trail opportunities and constraints.
- Development of trails plan alternatives based on trail opportunities and constraints, as well as the policies, goals, issues and program elements that are summarized in the Program Development Report.
- Review and comment on the above through community input and by a technical advisory committee representing partner agencies with an interest in Calero County Park trails.

While there will be special focus on the five Study Areas identified, comprehensive design solutions will be developed that address the needs of the entire park.

**ADDITIONAL SITE INVESTIGATION**

During these next steps, additional site investigations will be conducted to verify the feasibility of proposed alignments that are developed in the Trails Plans alternatives. These investigations will be limited to broad evaluations that meet the goals of the Trails Plan. Detailed evaluations of trail alignments that address specific or evolving site conditions will be undertaken once a trail project has been slated for implementation.
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