SANTA TERESA COUNTY PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FINAL MASTER PLAN REPORT
APRIL 1992
SANTA TERESA COUNTY PARK
FINAL MASTER PLAN REPORT

April 1992

Prepared for: County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared by: Tito Patri & Associates

In Association
With: Applied Earth Technology
Archaeological Resource Management
Alton and David Lee
Habitat Restoration Group
Pang and Associates
Robinson and Associates
SANTA TERESA PARK PROJECT TEAM

PROJECT MANAGER

Mark Frederick, Park Planner
Parks & Recreation Department, Santa Clara County

Douglas Gaynor, Director of Parks & Recreation
Santa Clara County
Alan la Fleur, Deputy Director
Parks & Recreation Department
Donna Logan, Senior Real Estate Agent
David Pierce, Regional Park Planner
Ray Garcia, Regional Park Manager
Ben Assenza, Park Manager
Denis Besson, Senior Ranger
Bob Dennis, Parks Maintenance Worker III
Mike Bomberger, Associate Real Estate Agent
Bill Ventura, Park Manager

CONSULTANTS

Park Planning: Tito Patri & Associates
Tito Patri – Principal-in-Charge
Burt Tanoue – Project Manager
Heather Rae – Document Processor
Traffic Engineering: Pang and Associates
Civil Engineering: Robinson and Associates
Historic & Prehistoric Resources: Archaeological Resource Management
Architecture: Alton and David Lee
Wildlife: Habitat Restoration Group
Geology: Applied Earth Technology
SANTA TERESA PARK TASK FORCE

Mr. Jerry Shrum, President
Almaden Homeowners Association

Ms. Chere Montgomery
Almaden/Quicksilver Endurance Riders

Mr. Dinesh Desai
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

Mr. Ben Rogers
Black Mountain Bowman

Mr. Mark Bisenius
Heritage Cablevision

Mr. Ray Dias
IBM - Almaden Research Center

Mr. Dick Dickenson
IBM - Santa Teresa Lab

Mr. David Williams
KSJ0/KFJC

Dr. Stanley J. Baran
KSJS/San Jose State University

Mr. Al Ding, Probation Dept.
County of Santa Clara
Muriel Wright Residential Center

M/M R. Hunter
Neighboring Land Owners

Mr. Matt Hurley
Neighboring Land Owners

M/M E.J. Lagattuta
Neighboring Land Owners

M/M Daniel Rossetto
Life Estate Holders

Ms. Kitty Monahan, President
New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Assoc.

Mr. Loren Loo
PG&E

Ms. Darcy Becker
Rancho Santa Teresa Pueblo Assoc.

Mr. Mike Britton
ROMP

Mr. Joel Slavit
City of San Jose Recreation, Park & Community Services

Chief Osby
City of San Jose Fire Department

Officer Galvan
City of San Jose Police Department

Sergeant Ron Tannehill
City of San Jose Police Department

Ms. Janice Frazier
Santa Clara County Horseman's Assoc.

Garnetta Annable
Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Commission

Lt. Keenan Kirby
Santa Clara County Sheriff

Mr. William Hoeft, Senior Civil Engineer
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Mr. Mike Rawitzer, Concessionaire
Mr. James McGrath
Santa Teresa Golf Course

Ms. Kathy Ming-Hyde Board Aide
Supervisor Mike Honda's Office

Mr. Bob Kelly
Mr. Don Axtell
Trail Advocacy Committee

Ms. Marta Stewart
Mr. Eric Jorgensen
U.C. Cooperative Extension
Mr. W.R. Webster
Western Union Corp.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ................................................................. 1

II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ........................................ 4
    A. LOCATION ............................................................................. 4
    B. PARK HISTORY ............................................................... 5

III. COUNTY GOALS ........................................................................... 7
    A. PRESERVATION 2020 REPORT ........................................... 7
    B. COUNTY GENERAL PLAN ................................................. 9

IV. MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ............................................. 10

V. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS .......................................................... 11
    A. EXISTING URBANIZATION AND FUTURE GROWTH ............... 11
    B. RESOURCE VALUES ....................................................... 13
    C. UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS ........................................... 24
    D. EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND USES ............. 27
    E. TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION .......................................... 32
    F. MAINTENANCE ............................................................. 33
    G. REVENUE GENERATION .................................................. 37
    H. PARK BOUNDARIES ....................................................... 39

VI. ISSUES AFFECTING THE MASTER PLAN ........................................... 42
    A. RECREATIONAL USE AND COMPATIBILITY ......................... 42
    B. ENVIRONMENTAL RECREATIONAL USE COMPATIBILITIES .... 45
    C. SECURITY ................................................................. 47
    D. OPERATIONS ............................................................. 48

VII. SYNTHESIS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS ................................ 49
    A. INTEREST GROUPS AND USE PROJECTIONS ....................... 49
    B. RESOURCE SENSITIVITIES .............................................. 53
    C. PLANNING AND DESIGN ................................................ 56

VIII. MASTERPLAN ............................................................................ 64
    A. RECREATIONAL NODES .................................................. 64
    B. TRAILS ........................................................................... 81
    C. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ............................................. 93
    D. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ..................................... 98
    E. ACQUISITION POTENTIALS ............................................ 101
    F. COST ESTIMATE .......................................................... 103
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1   Park Location Map  5
Figure 2   Boundary Map  5
Figure 3   Regional Trails & Circulation Map  8
Figure 4   Zoning Categories  12
Figure 5   Adjacent Land Uses Map  12
Figure 6   Views and Site Character  14
Figure 7   Joice Bernal Ranch Caretakers House  16
Figure 8   Joice Bernal Ranch House  16
Figure 9   Archaeological Resources Map  18
Figure 10  Vegetation Map  20
Figure 11  Wildlife Areas of Concern Map  22
Figure 12  Geologic Units Map  22
Figure 13  Slope Stability Map  22
Figure 14  Soils Map  22
Figure 15  Erosion Potential Map  22
Figure 16  Utilities and Easements Map  26
Figure 17  Existing Recreation Features and Uses Map  28
Figure 18  Established Trails Map  30
Figure 19  Traffic Counts - North  32
Figure 20  Traffic Counts - South  32
Figure 21  Revenue Generation Comparison  37, 38
Figure 22  Multi-use Trails Comparison  42
Figure 23  User Survey Summary  51
Figure 24  Physical Sensitivities Map  54
Figure 25  Shelter Zones Map  54
Figure 26  Shelter Zones Sections  54
Figure 27  Erosion Categories - Existing Trails Map  56
Figure 28  Physical and Visual Impacts Summary Chart  58
Figure 29  Proposed Modifications - Bernal Gateway  60
Figure 30  Phasing Diagram  67
Figure 31  Recreation Nodes Map  79
Figure 32  Proposed Trails and Canal Modifications  81
Figure 33  Trails, Roads and Parking Map  91
Figure 34  Centers and Access Points Map  92
Figure 35  Resource Management Zones and Goals Map  97
Figure 36  Acquisition Priorities Map  102
IX. APPENDIX (SUBMITTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

A. User Survey Information

B. Multi-use Trail Policy Survey

C. Utilities Information
   Prepared by: Robinson & Associates

D. Relative Slope Stability Map
   Prepared by: The Habitat Restoration Group

E. Santa Teresa County Park Biotic Resources
   Prepared by: The Habitat Restoration Group

F. Cultural Resources Report
   Prepared by: Archaeological Resource Management

G. Historical Architecture Report/Joice Ranch
   Prepared by: Alton and David Lee Architects

H. Traffic Counts: Bernal Avenue at Heaton Moore and Fortini Road near McKean Road

I. Memo from Traffic Consultant
   Re: Existing Traffic Condition

J. San Jose Municipal Code: Maximum Street Gradient Design Standards

K. Public Workshop Announcement & Workshop Survey

L. Form Letter from Multi-use Trail Proponents
   (1 of 7 received)

M. Letters, Article & Public Announcement
   Sent by: Multi-use Trail Proponents
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a brief description of the location of the Park and the assemblage of the parcels in the 1950's and 60's, the Master Plan identifies background goals for the Park based on community and staff input and on environmental constraints. From these, consultants, staff, Task Force, and public workshop participants together formulated Master Plan goals (Chapter IV, "MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES").

A major portion of this report is devoted to the inventory and analysis of physical and visual resources of the Park and its immediate surroundings. Chapter V, "INVENTORIES AND ANALYSIS", addresses man-made factors such as urbanization, utilities, and traffic circulation, as well as such natural factors as vegetation, wildlife, geology and soils, and historic, prehistoric, and architectural resources. Each is mapped and described. This chapter also describes current maintenance policies which, due to limited staffing, result in minimal operational and maintenance capabilities. Potentials for revenue generation based on existing facilities are also examined. Very little in the Park, with its current amenities, generates substantial revenue. Use permit areas, namely in the Pueblo group picnic area provide some revenue. The major revenue source is the Santa Teresa Golf Course which is operated by a concessionaire under a 25 year lease. The income, however, does not go directly to the Santa Teresa Park but rather to the Park's Department's general fund.

The report then discusses a variety of issues that may affect the master planning process. Issues of concern are operations, security and compatibility. Operations and security problems focus primarily on the current lack of adequate staffing for the Park. Compatibility issues are two-fold: the competing and sometimes conflicting uses in parks; and the notable impacts on the physical and visual environment. Several significant compatibility questions are highlighted in this report, such as: trail use, trespassing and encroachment on/from neighboring properties, security and access control for the Park, and the addition of private and commercial utility structures within the Park.

Chapter VII, "SYNTHESIS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS", focuses on opportunities and constraints, and discusses the range of uses appropriate for the study area and those formal and informal groups which regularly use, or anticipate using, the Park. Material for this topic was generated by a survey and input received at four public meetings. The range of uses most preferred do not vary widely from those which are associated with the Park up to about 1980.

The natural resources analyzed in Chapter VII reflect a sensitive and, in some places, fragile, physical environment because of a combination of plant and wildlife communities (largely associated with serpentine soils and riparian corridors) as well as a notable and widespread occurrence of significant historic and prehistoric sites. Lastly, because of the proximity of urbanization to the steep Santa Teresa Hills, much of the site is visually sensitive and cannot accommodate massive change to existing vegetation or in terms of the development of new structures. Such changes would, in any case, conflict with the County's park and open space goals and, most likely, the interests of the general public which is familiar with the Park.

This chapter concludes that adding appropriate uses which generate revenue involve either significant changes to existing facilities (primarily along the northern perimeter of the Park) or through the acquisition and development of adjacent parcels such as the Norred and Rossetto Ranches. These could, notwithstanding traffic and other impacts, be converted to major activity centers possibly making use of reservation group picnic facilities. During the preparation of the report, negotiations with the owners both of the Buck Norred Ranch and the Rossetto Ranch were completed and these parcels became part of the Park.

CHAPTER I
The widely varying character of appropriate uses for the Park suggests continued and potential conflict unless the Park is improved. Growth projected in the Almaden Valley area will probably impact the Park due to increased demand for recreational areas, and facilities. Given the wide ranging character of some of these uses (e.g., equestrian activities and trail riding, mountain bike riding, long distance or cross country running, hiking, jogging, walking) and the distribution of sensitive resources within the Park, the potential for increasing negative impacts on the environment is relatively strong. Recreational centers, or concentration of trail uses, must be carefully located and designed reflecting a knowledge of the character of the use and the visual and environmental capacity of the land. Acquisition of additional land, (for purposes of increased recreational opportunities, revenues and open space acreage for environmental and visual protection) is one solution and should be a high priority for the Park.

Chapter VIII, "MASTERPLAN", identifies proposed new and improved recreational nodes and trails (along with preliminary cost estimates), maintenance and management concepts as well as future acquisition/Park expansion possibilities. The specific improvements are described in six sections. The first two sections describe recreation nodes and trails in detail with references to implementation over three phases. The next two sections address the operations and maintenance, and management aspects. Future acquisitions are briefly discussed in the next section, establishing priorities for potential expansion. The final section presents a preliminary cost estimate summary, by phases, and by item for each recreation center and trail. With the ultimate implementation of the Master Plan, the Park will offer five major recreation nodes with potential for revenue generation, 21 named trails covering over 20 miles, two major entrances, and several smaller recreation centers (often simply a trail stop with interpretive signage) throughout the Park. Improvements are scheduled for implementation over three phases; each phase roughly corresponding to a 5 to 10 year period.

Generally Phase 1 improvements, concentrate on major recreation nodes (including Joice-Bernal Ranch and Buck Norred Ranch) and associated trails. In addition, the current Bernal Entry should be developed as a gateway in this phase together with the well used, and highly visible, Pueblo Picnic Area. It is critically important that the public is provided with visible site improvements prior to the imposition of fees at the entry. In the next two phases, two other major recreation nodes are scheduled for development, notably the Rossetto Ranch in Phase 2. Trail development in these phases focuses on rehabilitating existing routes to better accommodate the proposed use designations.

Trail improvements are related to two principal use designations: multi-use and selective use. Multi-use trails permit all users, selective-use trails have restrictions on one or more user group. Only a few particular selective-use trails have been identified as pedestrian-only. A whole access designation is applied under some circumstances to both trail types to enable disabled and wheelchair bound visitors access around the Pueblo Picnic Area. Test trails have been identified which would be monitored to evaluate compatibility and feasibility of shared uses. Ultimately, this data will be used to resolve issues, refine trail designations and to minimize both environmental and user conflicts.

This report proposes the establishment of eight Resource Management Zones within which respective management policies and maintenance operations might take place. The establishment of a combined ranger or operations center/corporation yard is proposed for the Rossetto Ranch in Phase 2. An interim operations center/corporation yard should be developed in Phase 1 at the Norred Ranch. A full time staff assigned exclusively to Santa Teresa Park is required in Phase 1. In addition to facilitating operations and maintenance of the improvements a full-time ranger can improve public relations with the Park's neighbors. By Phase 3, staffing levels should increase to a total of two full-time equivalent rangers, 2.5 full-time maintenance and 5 seasonal personnel.

From a circulation standpoint, no through (north-south) public vehicular traffic will be allowed between the Santa Clara and Almaden Valleys. A controlled entry gateway should be established at both the northern (Bernal Road) and southern (Rosetto Ranch) entry points in
the Park. Both gateways should include a special kiosk and gate complex that would 1) collect day-use entry fees, and 2) control access when the Park is closed. The Bernal Entry Gateway should be implemented in Phase 1. It is very important that its configuration is coordinated and agreed upon by those entities/operations (IBM and the Muriel Wright Rehabilitation Center) that require 24-hour access. The Rossetto Entry Gateway should be implemented in Phase 2, concurrently with the improvements for the Rossetto Ranch. No general roadway improvements, other than the entry gateways and road-trail crossings, are necessary for Bernal Road. The roadway access to Rossetto Ranch and interior access roads and parking to the recreation nodes will need to be developed, generally modifying existing roads or tracks. The increased public use of the new facility in the Park is not expected to substantially increase nor negatively impact the vehicular capacity (as defined by the City of San Jose's street classifications of the existing roads. Adjacent parcels which may be impacted or impact the Park environment significantly are discussed in terms of their potential for acquisition or in relation to possible scenic or trail easements. They are listed by priority, without a direct relationship to the phasing.

Finally, a preliminary master plan level cost estimate is provided listing improvements to each recreation node and trail with 1991 unit prices. The total cost, irrespective of phasing, for all improvements is approximately $9.21 million in 1991 dollars.
II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION
II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. LOCATION

The Almaden and Santa Clara Valleys are separated by the Santa Teresa Ridge within which Santa Teresa Park is located. The Park is situated towards the southern end of Santa Teresa ridge between Bernal Road in the Santa Clara Valley and Fortini Road off McKean Boulevard in the Almaden Valley. The Park lies approximately 10 miles south of downtown San Jose. The major access into the Park is provided from an extension of Bernal Road from the Santa Clara Valley on the north, along a two lane paved road. The Park’s 1463 acres of largely steep hilly terrain vary in elevation from about 400 feet at the Santa Teresa public golf course to nearly 1,100 feet at Coyote Peak which is the Park’s highest feature Bernal Hill just outside the western periphery of the Park is at an elevation of approximately 1000 feet. The steep slopes of Santa Teresa Ridge, made up predominantly of the Bernal formation, exceed 30% over much of its length. The Park’s unique location in the South Bay Area, as well as its geologic formations, support a variety of wildlife species and is characterized by oak forests, barren serpentine rock outcroppings, seasonal boggy areas, arroyos, year-round creeks, native grasslands and seasonal wetlands and riparian habitats. Currently, the most popular recreational gathering spot other than the golf course is the Pueblo group picnic area located at the center of the Park. The two lane paved county road connection to Bernal Road provides access from the north. Other important Master Plan areas include the Muriel Wright Residential Center adjacent to the Pueblo area, the Norred and Rossetto ranches and the historic Joice-Bernal Ranch. The Joice-Bernal Ranch structures and the nearby historic Santa Teresa Springs are located at the northwest periphery of the Park and the Rossetto Ranch on the south abuts the Almaden Valley floor.
B. PARK HISTORY

Although some of the land constituting the Park officially became a County park in 1958, the 466 acre Fitzgerald Ranch was originally purchased in 1954 with plans to provide a jail/farm site. By 1960 the County contracted with a golf course designer, purchased an additional 56 acres from the Goss family and began plans to construct the 18 hole Santa Teresa public golf course located in the northern portion of the current Park. The Muriel Wright Residential Center was born of the 196 acre condemnation of the Martin property in 1961 and is now located in the center of the Park on a hill above the Pueblo picnic area. In the 60's and 70's a thirty thousand gallon storage tank located above the Muriel Wright Residential Center provided water for the ranch and the Pueblo area from wells located in the golf course. By 1985, an additional thirty thousand gallon water tank was installed adjacent to the Muriel Wright Residential Center and Santa Teresa Parks’ water supply was connected to the San Jose Water Company system. In addition 346 acres were purchased from the Gomes family by Santa Clara County in 1973 just west of the previously acquired Martin property. This completed the purchase of the gently sloping center of the Park known as the Pueblo area. The Joice family, previous owners of the historic Joice Ranch north of the Park, sold approximately 100 acres to IBM Corporation as part of the proposed development of the Almaden Research Center (ARC) in the early 1980's. By 1986 the historic buildings and most of the Joice property was obtained from IBM by the County of Santa Clara. A thirty acre recreational and open space easement was also granted by IBM as a condition for development of ARC. The Bernal Road extension, a county road, was also constructed at this time for access through the Park to the new IBM site.

In the complex exchange of property between IBM and the County, the Corporation relocated and constructed a two lane extension of Bernal road for the County up and into its Almaden facility from Santa Clara Valley at the base of the Santa Teresa Hills.

More recently the County completed negotiations with the Wilets family and purchased a 217 acre parcel to the south of Coyote Peak. With the addition of the Wilets property, the 44 acre Lagatutta property becomes entirely enclosed within Park property. The Buck Norred and Rossetto Ranches were also purchased during the studies for this report.

Past Uses and Planning Efforts

The history of planning efforts within Santa Teresa Park include the plans drawn up by County staff in 1975 outlining proposals for the Pueblo area and adjacent hiking and equestrian trails. The plan included several acres of irrigated turf, planting of non-native trees, and both active and passive recreation areas. A lake and brook aligned with the current fresh water seepage (west of the large parking area) were also indicated on plans for Pueblo area. The lake was never built, but in 1976, engineering consultants investigated the feasibility of a dam and reservoir downslope of the seepage area and astride the Park’s common boundary with the Rossetto Ranch. Due largely to adverse topography and limited reservoir capacity, the idea was not considered cost-effective and was abandoned. Scheduled operation of the turf irrigation systems has been discontinued since 1983 and the arid and hot nature of the Pueblo area in summer months has resulted in a noticeable decline of public use there. Equestrian trails proposed in 1983 connected the Buck Norred Ranch facility with the Pueblo area. The current alignment of the loop road and the exotic plantings surrounding the Pueblo area reflects these planning efforts. Prior to the construction of the Pueblo group picnic area, the White Oak group picnic area (adjacent to the pond above the golf course) was the site of extensive group picnicking and recreation by residents in nearby neighborhoods. A comfort station and a number of picnic benches were located at the White Oak group picnic area which must have been a pleasurable space considering its proximity to shade and vegetation. This site was converted to a driving range with
expansion of the golf course. There has been a drowning accident in the nearby pond where swimming has always been prohibited.

Recently, County Parks developed a Mountain Bicycle Policy as a response to the increasing popularity of mountain biking and the demand for incorporation of mountain bike trails into the County Parks system. Santa Teresa Park was selected by staff and a task force (comprised of trail users and interest groups) as one of seven of the twenty-four County Parks for mountain bike trail use. The policy was approved by the Board of Supervisors and designated trails have since been dedicated including one in Santa Teresa Park. The selection of parks for mountain bike trail designation was based on dividing the County into four regions with each region providing at least one mountain bike recreational area.
III. COUNTY GOALS
III. COUNTY GOALS

A. PRESERVATION 2020 REPORT

While the relationship of Santa Teresa Park to the entire County system is generally illustrated in the County’s General Plan, it is useful to review the fundamental reasons for such a system. The report of the Preservation 2020 Task Force (1987) entitled "Open Space Preservation: A Program for Santa Clara County", provides a good starting point.

In Chapter 1 "Why Preserve Open Space?", undeveloped open space is looked upon as providing functional benefits for the community at large, meaning current and future generations. These include:

- Provision of space for recreation
- Control of urban sprawl
- Definition of urban form
- Protection of viewsheds and scenic vistas
- Protection of watershed lands
- Avoidance of hazardous areas
- Preservation of valuable natural areas and rare and endangered plants and animals
- Preservation or enhancement of cultural resources

While the community may look to a variety of sources to provide for the physical system to accomplish these goals, the relative level of responsibility will vary from region to region. In Santa Clara County, the City of San Jose, the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, the State of California, and the Federal Government are among the major players who share this responsibility with the County.

In terms of land mass, the Federal Government, with its San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the State with Henry Coe State Park and Nisene Marks State Park, among others, provide access to areas or resources of national and statewide significance. Those lands under the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District are clustered in the Santa Cruz Mountains, providing recreation for San Mateo as well as Santa Clara Counties.

The County is left with the very important role of providing for parks of County-wide significance, for the linkages between these and the Park and open space areas of the other jurisdictions. It’s focus is the important interface zone between the urbanized and incorporated areas and their unincorporated surroundings. Because of the pressures of increasing population and the intensity of urban impacts on park lands (including the price of open space lands), the County’s role could be seen as among the more difficult and challenging.

The Santa Teresa Ridge covers an area of approximately 7,500 acres. The Park shares characteristics of many other County parks in that it is situated in steep foothill and ridge areas. Because of steepness, presence of landslides, and difficulty of access, the ridge has remained relatively open even while the urbanization has extended entirely across the flat valley plain to the base of these steep grassy and wooded slopes. This situation is typical and occurs directly to the north of Santa Teresa Park where urbanization has essentially provided a complete blanket southwest of Highway 101 to the base of the Santa Teresa Park hills. To the south of the ridge, and to the west in the Almaden Valley, urbanization has extended as another solid blanket as far as Harry Road and is destined to continue primarily as residential urbanization, in a southeasterly direction up to the Calero Reservoir foothills. This area is currently under County jurisdiction but has been identified as the Almaden Valley Urban Preserve by the City
of San Jose and will some day be annexed into the City. Given these existing and inevitable conditions, Santa Teresa Park fulfills a very important role mentioned in the 2020 Task Force report.

Mentioning that "the most important benefits we derive from open space are of a personal nature", the 2020 report points out the basic reason for the proximity of undeveloped open areas to urban areas as follows: "...the sense of relief a tired commuter feels upon coming home and staring out the window at the green hills surrounding the valley." The function of these rugged hills is to provide the individual with at once a sense of orientation and a sense of scale (the world does not consist of totally unlimited urban sprawl) and the sense of security that these green hills are physically accessible now and into the future. Santa Teresa Park's role in this important function is underscored in Chapter 4 (Priorities for Open Space Preservation) of the 2020 report. It is given top ranking in terms of access and location, and at the same time its vulnerability to development. The report points out the important role in connecting Calero and New Almaden Quicksilver County Parks with the Coyote Creek chain and fishing lakes not far to the north; this could be accomplished by completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (see Figure 3).

The report also refers to the important role of Santa Teresa County Park in helping to create linkages between the Coyote Creek and Los Alamitos Calero Creek Chain.

Under the Open Space Acquisition priorities, the Park is listed as having the following resources identified for protection:

- View shed
- Buffer; open space serves as a border to urbanization
- Archeological resources
- Historical Sites
- Natural habitats of State and County designation
B. COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The County's General Plan, amended December 15, 1981, accompanies the Regional Park Trail and Scenic Highways element published in October of that year. In scenic terms Santa Teresa Park clearly fulfills many of the County's goals and criteria for a park or facility of county-wide interest. Relevant general goals include:

- Preservation of the County's cultural, historical, and archeological and natural heritage
- "An element in an integrated system of accessible...wilderness regional parks...and trails and recreation facilities..."

While referring to the great diversity of scenic beauty and the preservation of this "environmental heritage", there is recognition of the importance of having such natural settings close to urban areas for citizens to "relax and enjoy closer contact with nature". These areas must also be within close driving or transit distance, contribute to a balanced geographical distribution of open spaces and give "structure and livability to the urban community". It should also provide opportunities for bicycling, hiking, equestrian use, and designated marked historic trails. Finally the County would attempt to coordinate its public works improvements to enhance hiking, bicycling, and recreational corridors where they form linkages between County parks.

In an attachment to the General Plan, the Board of Supervisors passed a series of County goals and policies relating to the natural and recreational environment on November 3, 1981. It included an important glossary which defined such key phrases as "functional value of the natural environment", "ecological value of the natural environment", and historic resources. County regional parks are defined as "regional parks and recreation which are areas that have County wide significance". "They are generally larger than City parks, possess special or unique resources or facilities, occupy sites in particular, natural beauty, and serve residents throughout the county."

The plan, in distinguishing community goals from County government policies, points out that the County government should protect open space lands for these functional, ecological, and scenic values (mentioned earlier), encouraging the use of open space land consistent with care and management of a fragile ecological environment and equally fragile heritage resources such as historic and archaeologically significant sites.

The high skyline silhouette of Coyote Peak, the ridges toward the north as well as the steep slopes often exceeding 30% which rise abruptly from the valley floor are the essential visual elements which can be associated with the Park's role in the County wide system. While these steep flanks are well defined when seen from Almaden Valley to the south, the ridgetops and peaks are no less important. The treatment of these ridges and peaks as well as their steep flanks is critical to the Park's function in a sub-regional, visual sense, and thus must be given careful consideration in the preparation of the Master Plan.

CHAPTER III
IV. MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
SANTA TERESA COUNTY PARK
FINAL MASTER PLAN REPORT

IV. MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After public presentation of a detailed set of preliminary goals the Task Force agreed on the following simplified version. Subsequent modifications have been made to goals 7, 9 and 12.

Introduction

Basic County-wide goals for Parks and Open Space are described in the County General Plan, Amended 12/15/81 and the 2020 Preservation Plan. They can be summarized as follows:

- Preservation of the County's Cultural, Historical, Archaeological, and Natural Heritage
- County Parks Should be Integral Parts of a System of Accessible Wilderness, Regional Parks, Trails, and Recreational Facilities

Specific goals which apply to Santa Teresa Park can be derived from these basic "building blocks". The goals are of two kinds; those relating to the uses (present or proposed) to which the site could be put. There is no implied importance in the order of the goals listed below:

Goal 1 Maintain county-wide significance.
Goal 2 Use open space to help define urban form.
Goal 3 The Park's unique visual character, viewsheds and vistas should be protected and enhanced.
Goal 4 Natural resources should be protected and/or enhanced.
Goal 5 Historic/pre-historic resources should be protected and enhanced.
Goal 6 Provide recreational facilities reflecting community needs and the unique constraints and opportunities of the Park.
Goal 7 Locate and design uses and facilities to avoid sensitive or hazardous areas.
Goal 8 Watershed functions should be protected and enhanced.
Goal 9 Where feasible, the Park should be accessible to all persons including the physically disabled.
Goal 10 Insure integration with county-wide trail systems.
Goal 11 Provide for maintenance and security approaches and facilities matching current and projected County Park Department capacities.
Goal 12 Seek to provide reasonable security from all types of unauthorized entry to the Park and for its neighbors.
Goal 13 Support the purchase of parcels and/or easements which may optimize the future potentials evolving from the master plan.