

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS INVENTORY



Town of Los Gatos | May 16, 2008



DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT



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*Submitted to*

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*As one of the oldest communities in Santa Clara County, Los Gatos has maintained its unique, village-like character since it was first settled in 1840. Located at the edge of the Santa Clara Valley, Los Gatos is framed by the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and surrounded by a diverse and scenic landscape. The area's natural beauty remains an important amenity for the Los Gatos community, and recreational opportunities are essential to the quality of life for many Los Gatos residents.*

The Town of Los Gatos has a distinct and attractive built environment, with a vibrant downtown and historic core. The Town is dedicated to preserving and enhancing its open space areas, establishing a system of regional and neighborhood parks, developing trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as providing playing fields and other facilities for community use. All of these amenities are in high demand, well-used and loved by Los Gatos' active population.

This report provides a comprehensive inventory of the parks, open space areas, trails and other public, as well as private, recreation facilities that are currently available within the community. A summary of each facility's size, amenities, programming, user groups, use restrictions and other key information, as well as the facility's type of ownership is provided.

The report begins with a summary of athletic playing fields, as this is a top priority for the Los Gatos community. Following the fields summary, facilities are organized by public, quasi-public and private ownership. Additionally, following a summary of all the facilities within Los Gatos, a list of local recreation leagues and organizations is provided. For an expanded list of sources and ad-



ditional descriptions and definitions for the terms used in the report, please refer to the end notes at the conclusion of the inventory.

Facilities owned by a public agency or entity, such as the Town or County, have the greatest amount of public access and are listed first in the report. Quasi-public facilities, such as community- or faith-based organizations, generally have more limited public access and may require a reduced fee or affiliation with the facility's ownership organization for use. Private facilities, such as athletic clubs, have the most restrictive use policies and require membership fees or formalized affiliation with the organization for use of their facilities.

*This section describes those facilities within Los Gatos which currently contain athletic playing fields that can accommodate organized recreational activities.*

A number of recreation facilities in Los Gatos include sports fields that can accommodate organized athletic activities. These facilities include practice fields, game fields and other field areas that are appropriate for a range of age groups, skill levels and activities. Due to the variety of sizes, shapes and locational requirements for such fields, those included in this report were largely identified by the field’s owner and by the types of activities currently permitted on-site.

In cases when individual facilities or ownership entities contacted were unable to provide the specific dimensions or total size of field areas, estimates were made based on descriptions from the ownership entity or user groups, aerial photographs and other available information. Therefore, for the purposes of this report there is not a specific dimension or size requirement for the classification of a “field.” In general, baseball fields are defined as having bases and a batting area with a back-stop that are appropriate for group baseball games or practices. Multi-use fields are defined as relatively flat, grassy areas that are suitable for scheduled league or team activities such as soccer. There are several



facilities that contain both baseball and multi-use field areas. At some of these facilities the fields are either in close proximity to each other or have portions that overlap, and the risk of injury is too high for both activities to occur simultaneously. Therefore, most facilities host baseball from February to July and soccer from August to January.

Additionally, several facilities, with or without formal field areas, include space that is appropriate for “pick-up” games and other informal recreation activities. These facilities allow for unscheduled athletic activities and contain relatively level, unobstructed areas that can accommodate a small-group activity. Pick-up games include a wide range of activities, such as Frisbee, soccer, football and tag, and may have as few as two participants. Generally, however, pick-up games are defined as any unscheduled athletic event that does not have a formal referee and is not associated with an organized team or league. Again, due to the range of activities that constitute pick-up games, as well as other factors such as the age of participants, there is not a specific size requirement for such areas. Therefore, park amenities and site characteristics were used to determine whether or not a facility could accommodate pick-up activities. Facilities that contain areas that meet this definition are noted below.

Table 1 provides an overview of the facilities within Los Gatos that contain fields that are considered suitable for organized athletic league practices or games and currently allow such activities to be scheduled on-site, and Figure 1 identifies their location. The currently-scheduled activities for each field are provided in the description of each facility in the following chapters.

TABLE I **PARK FACILITIES WITH SPORTS FIELDS**

| Name of Facility   | Total Size (Acres) | Type of Field             |  | League and Other Organized Use <sup>c</sup> |          |          |          |          |              |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|--|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
|  |                    | Number of Baseball Fields | Size of Multi-Use Field Area (Square Feet) | LGS Rec                                     | LGUSL    | LGLL     | LGSGSA   | LGPL     | Other League |
| Balzer Field   | 0.9                | 1                         | 0  |   |          | X        |          |          |              |
| Blossom Hill Park  | 9.2                | 1                         | 11,000                                     | X   |          | X        |          |          |              |
| Live Oak Manor Park  | 4.1                | 0                         | 17,000                                     | X   |          |          |          |          |              |
| Oak Meadow Park  | 12                 | 0                         | 33,600                                     |   | X        |          |          |          |              |
| Blossom Hill Elementary School                                     | 3                  | 3                         | 36,000                                     | X   |          | X        | X        |          |              |
| Daves Avenue Elementary School                                     | 2                  | 2                         | 36,000                                     | X   | X        | X        |          |          |              |
| Louise Van Meter Elementary School                                 | 2.5                | 2                         | 21,600                                     | X   | X        | X        |          | X        |              |
| Raymond J. Fisher Middle School                                    | 9                  | 1                         | 59,400                                     | X   | X        |          |          | X        |              |
| Los Gatos High School  | 25                 | 2                         | 213,000                                    | X   |          |          |          |          | X            |
| Alta Vista Elementary School                                       | 8.2                | 4                         | 0  |   |          |          |          |          | X            |
| Mulberry School  | 6.8                | 2                         | 0  |   |          |          |          |          |              |
| Stratford School   | 7.3                | 2                         | 49,500                                     |   | X        |          |          |          | X            |
| Jewish Community Center of Silicon Valley (JCC)                    | NA                 | 2                         | 30,600                                     |   | X        | X        |          |          | X            |
| Venture Christian Church & Los Gatos Christian School <sup>a</sup> | NA                 | 1                         | 45,000                                     |   |          |          |          |          |              |
| Hillbrook School <sup>a</sup>                                      | 14                 | 1                         | NA   |   |          |          |          |          |              |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>104</b>         | <b>23</b>                 | <b>516,700<sup>b</sup></b>                 | <b>7</b>                                    | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b>     |

<sup>a</sup> Facilities not available to public.

<sup>b</sup> Does not include square feet of baseball fields.

<sup>c</sup> LGS Rec: Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation

LGUSL: Los Gatos United Soccer League

LGLL: Los Gatos Little League

LGSGSA: Los Gatos-Saratoga Girls Softball Association

LGPL: Los Gatos Pony League

FIGURE I

