

4.13 Recreation .....4.13-1  
4.13.1 Environmental Setting .....4.13-1  
4.13.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....4.13-8  
4.13.3 References.....4.13-17

TABLES

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Table 4.13-1 UC Santa Cruz Park and Open Space Resources

FIGURES

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Figure 4.13-1 Trails on the UC Santa Cruz Campus  
Figure 4.13-2 City and State Parks Surrounding UC Santa Cruz  
Figure 4.13-3 Trails and Roads in the North Campus Area

This section of the EIR describes the current recreational resources on the UC Santa Cruz campus and surrounding area and evaluates whether population growth and development under the 2005 LRDP could lead to physical deterioration of existing recreation facilities or the construction or expansion of recreation facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

In response to the Notice of Preparation, commentors expressed concerns regarding the effect of the development of the northern portions of the campus on the recreational experience of persons using the trails in those areas. Concern was also expressed by some commentors that, with the construction of the north campus loop road to serve the north campus areas, some of the existing service roads that are presently used for recreational access, especially Chinquapin Road, might no longer be maintained by the campus. This section addresses these comments.

#### 4.13.1 Environmental Setting

##### 4.13.1.1 Study Area

For purposes of evaluating impacts of the population growth and development under the 2005 LRDP on recreational resources, the study area is defined to include all of the UC Santa Cruz main campus; 2300 Delaware Avenue; the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Scotts Valley; and unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

##### 4.13.1.2 Campus Recreation Facilities

UC Santa Cruz offers many amenities for active and passive recreation on the main campus. Facilities for active recreation include playing fields and a swimming pool. Facilities for passive recreation include natural areas, such as trails, paths, and undeveloped open space. About 2,020 acres of existing main campus lands, including undeveloped areas, such as meadows and forests, are available to campus affiliates (spouses, domestic partners and children of faculty, staff and students) and the public during daylight hours. On average, approximately 150 to 200 visitors<sup>1</sup> per day use the campus's formal recreational facilities and attend cultural and athletic events, although some events on campus may attract large numbers of day or evening visitors on any given day.

Table 4.13-1 presents the total acreage of land designated in the 2005 LRDP that is available for recreational uses on the campus. This land area does not include trails located within campus lands designated CNR, SRS, and CRL. Formally designated recreational facilities as well as those that are used informally for recreational purposes are described in the subsections that follow.

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<sup>1</sup> This number includes all visitors, not just UC affiliates, who use campus recreational facilities. This number does not include visitors who use trails.

**Table 4.13-1  
UC Santa Cruz Park and Open Space Resources**

<b>Land Use Category</b>	<b>Existing and Approved Acres (approximate)</b>
Physical Education and Recreation	86
Protected Landscape <sup>a</sup>	925
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,011</b>

Source: UCSC 2005a

**Note:**

(a) Areas designated 'Protected Landscape' in the 2005 LRDP are available only for passive recreation.

### Formal Recreational Facilities

The Office of Physical Education, Recreation and Sports (OPERS) provides an array of recreational activities for students and the surrounding community, including rock climbing, surfing, kayaking, mountain biking, and other outdoor activities. OPERS also manages the formal recreational and athletic facilities on the campus, which include indoor and outdoor facilities that are used for physical education, intercollegiate athletics, intramural sports, sports clubs, and general recreation. Most of the recreation facilities on campus are located south of Cowell College in the area of the East Field House. This complex includes a gymnasium, indoor racquetball and basketball courts, martial arts and dance studios, a swimming pool, tennis and volleyball courts, the Wellness Center, East Field, and East Remote Field. The Wellness Center offers a variety of activities, from equipment orientation to personal training and fitness testing. Another smaller complex of facilities is located near College Eight at the West Field House. This complex includes a gymnasium, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, a weight room, and a playing field. Another playing field is located south of the Family Student Housing complex. UC Santa Cruz provides recreation facilities and constructs new facilities based on demand, and the availability of financial resources and land for the designated use. The general public may purchase a day-use pass for use of these campus formal recreation facilities (UC Santa Cruz 2005b).

With an academic Arts program, the campus also provides recreation related to music, visual, and performing arts, including art exhibitions and stage performances in the Arts area of the campus that are open to the campus and the community. Some of the facilities used for theatrical programs include the Festival Glen and the Mainstage Theater in the Arts area, and the Quarry Amphitheater near Quarry Plaza. The Quarry Amphitheater hosts numerous events throughout the year for students and the public. Festival Glen and Mainstage Theater are used for Shakespeare Santa Cruz productions, which take place in the summer and are well-attended by members of the public.

Indoor and outdoor spaces that students can use for relaxation and recreation are provided at each of the colleges. Each college has a quadrangle and courtyard with outdoor seating, which students use for studying, socializing, relaxing, and dining. Each of the colleges either has or shares game rooms, media rooms, and computer laboratories. These rooms are open during the day and late into the evening, and can be used by any student.

Campus housing, such as the existing Family Student Housing complex, incorporates community open space within the complex for recreational use by the residents. For instance, a playing field is associated

with that housing complex. Existing employee housing near the main entrance includes recreational open space for use by the residents. Ranch View Terrace, a new employee housing complex, will also incorporate recreational spaces for its residents.

#### Arboretum, Chadwick Gardens, CASFS and Historic District

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, located in the southwestern portion of the campus on Empire Grade Road, was established in 1964 with 90 species of eucalyptus. It has become world renowned for its extensive collection of rare species of plants and trees. The Arboretum is open daily to both students and the public for self-guided tours. Throughout the year, the Arboretum holds numerous public events, the majority of which are free. The Lane Library, located in the Arboretum, is also open to the public (UC Santa Cruz 2005c).

The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), formerly known as the UC Farm, occupies 25 acres of land near the main entrance of the campus, south of the Great Meadow. CASFS is used for research, education and public services, and is visited by school children, college students, the community and international visitors for tours throughout the year (UC Santa Cruz 2005c). Chadwick Gardens, a demonstration farm for the biodynamic/French intensive method of organic gardening, occupies two acres of land near McLaughlin Drive. Chadwick Gardens, which is an extension of the CASFS, is open to both the campus and the community for tours and educational activities (UC Santa Cruz 2005c).

The Cowell Ranch Historic District, located at the main entry to UC Santa Cruz, evokes the 19th century history of the campus site. A number of the original buildings remain and have been adaptively reused. These include the Ranch House (now the Women's Center); the Granary (now a child care center); the Cook House (currently housing the Admissions Office); and the bull barn (Barn Theater). Other buildings that have survived the years but are not currently occupied include the Cooperage, and Stone House. The public often visits the historic district (UC Santa Cruz 2005d).

Apart from these facilities, the campus includes undeveloped areas which are used by campus affiliates and the public for informal recreation, such as hiking.

#### Paths and Trails

The campus is crisscrossed by a series of east-west and north-south pathways, trails, and service roads that are used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. The north-south routes cover significant changes in elevation, while east-west routes generally follow topographic contours and cross a number of gulches. Although many of paths within the campus core are designed mainly to provide access to campus facilities, a journey through the campus along one of these pathways can provide a unique recreational experience as the traveler passes through an episodic sequence of developed and natural areas.

Numerous trails are located in the north campus and the upper campus. Some are designated for specific uses and are maintained by the campus. Other trails have resulted from ad hoc use and are not designated or maintained. Mountain biking has become an increasingly popular recreational activity and sport in the past decade, and there is substantial mountain biking use of many campus trails. There are many undesignated bicycle trails in some areas of the north campus.

As shown on [Figure 4.13-1, Trails on the UC Santa Cruz Campus](#), the multi-use Cowell Wilder Regional Trail (open to hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians), located on the north campus, connects Wilder Ranch Park to the west of the campus with Pogonip City Park, to the east of the campus, and to Henry Cowell Park, farther north. The 1-mile long segment of the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail on the campus that follows Chiquapin Road is also known as U-Con. This trail segment was opened in 1999 in order to link the regional parks, and was designed to provide access for mountain bikers and equestrians on the north and upper campus. Other service roads in the north campus and upper campus, such as Fuel Break Road and West Road, are also designated as multi-use trails.

Several designated and undesignated trails cross the Great Meadow, the Porter Meadow, and the East Meadow. A designated bicycle path runs the length of the Great Meadow and connects the Arts area with Glenn Coolidge Drive in the lower campus. Environmental impacts from the use of undesignated trails are addressed in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources* (Volume I).

#### 2300 Delaware Avenue

2300 Delaware Avenue property was recently acquired by UC Santa Cruz. It is located south of Mission Street in the city of Santa Cruz near Natural Bridges State Beach and the Pacific Ocean. Developed recreational facilities on this property include an unpaved public access trail, with benches and trash containers, in a public easement along the western property boundary adjacent to Antonelli Pond. Antonelli Pond and its banks, which are owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, provides wildlife viewing opportunities and links to the Moore Creek Preserve, to the north. The 2300 Delaware Avenue facility includes tennis courts and a volleyball court, located at in the rear (eastern part) of the property, which are also available for public use. Derby Park (a City of Santa Cruz park) and Pacific Collegiate School, with a gymnasium and community room, are located within one mile east of the site.

Although it is not part of the main campus, and is not included in the proposed 2005 LRDP, another UC Santa Cruz facility that provides recreational facilities for both UC and non-UC population is the Seymour Marine Discovery Center at the UC Santa Cruz Marine Science Campus, located just west of the 2300 Delaware Avenue property. The center is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, and is staffed by University staff and volunteer docents. The center provides interpretive exhibits as well as guided tours of on-site research facilities, including marine mammal pools and Younger Lagoon and Pacific Ocean overlooks.

### 4.13.1.3 Off-Campus Recreation Facilities

The Santa Cruz area offers a large variety of both public and privately managed recreational facilities, including neighborhood parks, community parks, and community gardens; regional parks with overnight camping facilities, trails, and picnic facilities; natural areas such as redwood forests, beaches, ocean cliffs, rolling foothills, and other coastal/waterfront facilities such as the Boardwalk, the Wharf, and the Yacht Harbor. Santa Cruz County includes almost 44,000 acres of State Park lands—over 15 percent of all lands in the county—and over 4,500 acres of county and city parks (including land held in partnership with other agencies). There were approximately 55 acres of open space lands in the county that are preserved as parks and land trusts total per 1,000 population in 2004 (United Way of Santa Cruz County 2004). [Figure 4.13-2, City and State Parks Surrounding UC Santa Cruz](#), show the locations of major recreational

facilities in the area surrounding the campus. These facilities are used by both locals and by the numerous visitors to Santa Cruz.

#### City of Santa Cruz Recreation Facilities

The City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department manages 29 neighborhood and community parks, five regional parks, municipal beaches, two city museums, two community centers, a civic auditorium, and a golf course (City of Santa Cruz 2005).

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan/Local Coastal Program (City of Santa Cruz 1994) classifies neighborhood parks as designed to serve the recreational needs of a given neighborhood with facilities such as children's play areas, picnic areas, athletic fields, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's a standard of service for neighborhood parks is 2.0 acres per 1,000 persons within an approximately five-block (3/8 mile) radius. Such parks are usually 3 acres or less in area. According to the General Plan, six city parks and three sites (Pacific Collegiate School, Bayview Elementary, and Westlake Elementary) serve as neighborhood parks for the west side area.

Community parks provide recreational facilities in addition to those supplied by neighborhood parks. These parks are larger than neighborhood parks and offer more recreational facilities such as swimming pools, playing fields, large picnic areas, tennis courts, playground equipment and recreation centers. The City's standard for community parks is 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons, with a service radius of 1½ mile. The city's community parks include Harvey West Park to the southeast of the main campus on Evergreen Street; DeLaveaga Park, north of Highway 1 on North Branciforte Drive; and San Lorenzo Park, along the river near downtown Santa Cruz.

Regional parks serve the recreational needs of a regional population and typically range from 150 to 500 acres in size. The national standard for regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 persons in the service area (City of Santa Cruz 1994). Pogonip City Park, which adjoins the campus to the east, is a regional park for the Santa Cruz area. The approximately 640-acre park is a scenic expanse of open meadows, woodlands, and creeks and is protected as one of the City's Greenbelt properties. The park features about 8 miles of hiking trails, including a one-mile segment of the Cowell Wilder Regional trail that provides a connection between Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park and upper UC Santa Cruz (City of Santa Cruz 2005). Municipal beaches such as the Yacht Harbor and Main Beach and other recreational facilities such as the Santa Cruz Skate Park also serve the regional public.

The City of Santa Cruz General Plan also identifies Antonelli Pond, on the west side adjacent to 2300 Delaware Avenue, as a natural area for formal and informal recreation, and maps it with other natural areas (including Pogonip City Park, Lighthouse Field, and Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge) for passive recreation. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County owns and is responsible for the management and restoration of Antonelli Pond. A recreational trail extends along the east side of Moore Creek from Highway 1 to Antonelli Pond. A less formal trail along the east side of the pond, in a public easement on the margin of the 2300 Delaware Avenue property, has benches and trash containers that are maintained by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Corwin 2005).

In 1998, the City of Santa Cruz acquired the Moore Creek Preserve, which is a 246-acre greenbelt on the west side of the city. The Preserve, which is managed jointly by the City and the Land Trust of Santa

Cruz County, is open to the public and offers hiking trails. Bicycles and dogs are not allowed on the Preserve.

According to the General Plan, the city's projected population for 2005 is approximately 59,500. Its park and recreational service area is estimated to have a population of more than 100,000 people, and there is an annual tourist population in the area of more than 2.5 million people. The General Plan notes that with continuous growth in population and growth in tourism, the need for additional park and recreation facilities will continue to increase. Due to limited availability of suitable land for new recreational development, the City anticipates that existing park facilities will see increasing intensity of use over time.

#### County of Santa Cruz Recreation Facilities

Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services maintains more than 30 parks and other recreational facilities throughout the county. None of the County-owned and operated recreation facilities is within 1 mile of the campus.

In the community of Aptos, which is roughly 9 miles east of the campus, there are two neighborhood parks, two community parks, and two state beaches. Recreational facilities at these parks includes picnic tables, playing fields, playgrounds, trails, RV camping areas, and beach access.

Brommer Street Park and Moran Lake Park can be found in Live Oak. These two community parks, approximately 7 acres and 9.2 acres in area, respectively, have playing fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, and grass fields, as well as beach access, surfing, and fishing. Three neighborhood parks, a County swimming pool, and a skate park are also located in Live Oak.

Soquel is the home of the recently built 95-acre Anna Jean Cummings Park, a community park. This park includes playgrounds, a large pavilion-style picnic area, and multiple athletic fields. Willowbrook Park offers the town of Soquel a 6.3-acre neighborhood park that includes basketball and tennis courts, a picnic area, and playgrounds.

Felton, which is just north of the campus, is home to two community parks. Felton Covered Bridge Park provides walking paths, volleyball courts, a playground, picnic tables, and a large grassy area. Michael Gray Park offers a 3-acre, fully fenced softball field as well as picnic tables (Santa Cruz County 2005).

#### Other Regional Recreation Facilities

According to the City of Capitola's General Plan Open Space, Parks and Recreation Element, five neighborhood parks, a community park (Jade Street Park), and a number of natural areas provide open space and recreation facilities for the residents of the city of Capitola. The natural areas include the Beach and Cliff area, Soquel Creek and Lagoon, and riparian areas throughout the city.

Currently Scotts Valley has five neighborhood and community parks. The City's Parks and Open Space Master Plan calls for an additional 2 acres of parks and open space to complete build-out (Sudduth 2005).

#### State Parks and Beaches

The Santa Cruz district of the California State Park System manages almost 44,000 acres of state parks and beaches located in Santa Cruz County. Those in the vicinity of the main campus include Henry

Cowell State Park and Wilder Ranch State Park. Natural Bridges State Beach is adjacent to the 2300 Delaware Avenue property. These provide recreational facilities for the region and the state.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park adjoins the campus to the northeast and consists of about 4,140 acres of land. The park features about 15 miles of hiking and riding trails through old-growth redwood forests, a picnic area, and a nature center.

Wilder Ranch State Park is located on Old Coast Road (Highway 1) to the southwest of the campus. The park covers approximately 7,000 acres, with 34 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. It also includes several historic buildings associated with the former ranch activities at the site.

The Coast Dairies property, located on the north coast of Santa Cruz County, and currently held by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), includes approximately 7,000 acres of pristine coastlines, redwood forests, and agricultural land. The property begins just north of Wilder Ranch State Park and wraps around the town of Davenport. The *Coast Dairies Long-Term Resource Protection and Access Plan* outlines the TPL's future goals of allowing the public to access designated areas of the Coast Dairies for recreation and enjoyment as well as extensive educational programs (TPL 2005).

Natural Bridges State Beach, another popular recreation area that is renowned for its yearly migration of monarch butterflies, is located immediately south of the UC Santa Cruz 2300 Delaware Avenue property. The park includes meadows, an expansive beach, and tide pools, as well as a number of developed visitor amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas, trails, and a visitor center (Santa Cruz State Parks 2005).

The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park is located 4 miles north of Aptos. This 10,000-acre park offers more than 30 miles of trails as well as picnic tables and barbeque pits.

#### 4.13.1.4 Regulatory Background

As a state entity, UC Santa Cruz is not subject to municipal land use enactments such as the County and City General Plans. Nevertheless, such planning policies are of interest to the University because campus development and local development will be coincident. The University seeks to work cooperatively with the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Santa Cruz in the planning of the campus. It is University policy to seek consistency with local plans and policies, where feasible. Therefore, a summary of City and County policies with respect to recreational facilities is presented in this EIR.

According to the City of Santa Cruz General Plan/Local Coastal Program, providing quality recreational lands, facilities and programs to meet existing and future demands, growth, and changing needs is essential to creating a healthy and well-balanced community. Goals and policies related to recreation contained in the City's General Plan are listed below (City of Santa Cruz 1994).

##### Goals

- *Provide for an adequate and well-balanced supply of parks and recreational lands to meet the needs of Santa Cruz residents.*
- *Ensure that adequate types, numbers and distribution of recreational facilities are available to residents of Santa Cruz.*



- *Provide and support recreational programs, cultural events and festivities that relate to the diverse needs, customs, traditions, interests, and resources of the community.*
- *Establish a City-wide system of pedestrian, bicycling and hiking trails to enhance opportunities for recreational enjoyment.*

#### Policies

- *Review, update, and, if possible, expand recreational joint usage agreements with the Santa Cruz City School District, private schools and UCSC, and also examine the feasibility of making private parks and recreational areas available for public use. (Policy 1.2.3)*
- *Improve access (pedestrian, bicycle, automobile) from existing and proposed residential developments to Harvey West Park and Pogonip. (Policy 1.2.17)*
- *Identify potential sites for providing community park facilities on the west side of Santa Cruz. (Policy 1.2.25)*
- *Expand joint-use agreements with UCSC for use of soccer fields, the swimming pool, basketball, gymnasiums and volleyball courts. (Policy 1.2.26)*
- *Pursue physical expansion, facility improvements and improved access to Harvey West Park. (Policy 1.2.27)*
- *Expand the development and use of community gardens and encourage the developmentally sensitive community gardening practices by providing educational programs and literature related to composting and pest management. (Policy 1.3)*

### 4.13.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### 4.13.2.1 Standards of Significance

The following standards of significance are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. For the purposes of this EIR, an impact on recreational facilities would be considered significant if the population growth and development under the 2005 LRDP would:

- *Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreation facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.*
- *Propose the construction of recreation facilities or require the expansion of recreation facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.*

#### 4.13.2.2 CEQA Checklist Items Adequately Addressed in the Initial Study

The Initial Study determined that all CEQA checklist items required further evaluation.

### 4.13.2.3 Analytical Method

The analysis in this section focuses on (1) the need for new park facilities in the study area as a result of 2005 LRDP-related growth, and (2) the potential for increased intensity of use, due to population growth, to lead to the deterioration of recreational facilities both on and off campus.

Campus development under the 2005 LRDP, and associated population growth, would result in increased demand for recreational facilities, which could require the construction of new recreational facilities or could lead to deterioration of existing recreational facilities from overuse. Impacts that stem directly from activities on the campus or from the new daytime population added to the campus under the 2005 LRDP are addressed in the analysis below as project impacts (LRDP Impacts REC-1 through REC-3).

In addition to the above, LRDP-related population that would live off campus in the study area communities would also use recreational facilities, primarily, although not solely, in the communities in which these persons would reside. The effect on recreational facilities, of the 2005 LRDP-related population that would live off campus is analyzed under cumulative impacts (LRDP Impact REC-4 and REC-5).

Information was gathered from the City of Santa Cruz General Plan and the City's Parks and Recreation Department to determine whether additional parks and recreational facilities would be needed to serve the city's projected population growth and 2005 LRDP-related population projected to reside in the city, and if so, what the environmental effects of park development would likely be. Similar information was also gathered for other study area communities. To evaluate the impact related to increased use, the increase in population expected under the 2005 LRDP was examined for its effects on the use of existing and new recreational facilities, including trails. The population totals used in the analysis include all new population associated with the campus under the 2005 LRDP, including persons who would work at 2300 Delaware Avenue, and considering both on- and off-campus residents.

### 4.13.2.4 2005 LRDP Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**LRDP Impact REC-1:** Increased on-campus population under the 2005 LRDP would result in increased demand for recreational facilities on campus and in the City of Santa Cruz, which would require the construction of new facilities, which would not result in significant environmental impacts.

**Significance:** Less than significant

**LRDP Mitigation:** Mitigation not required

**Residual Significance:** Not applicable

#### Campus Recreational Facilities

The 2005 LRDP land use plan designates almost 86 acres of land for Physical Education and Recreation. Hence, increased demand for recreational facilities on campus is taken into account in the 2005 LRDP. The significant effects on the environment from the designation of Physical Education and Recreation

lands for the construction of new recreation facilities on the main campus under the 2005 LRDP are evaluated in other sections of this EIR. For instance, Section 4.4, *Biological Resources* (Volume I), evaluates the impacts from the development of the areas for physical education and recreation in terms of the potential removal of habitat types that occur in the areas identified for those uses. That section also evaluates biological resource impacts from increased use of undesignated trails in the upper campus. Section 4.1, *Aesthetics* (Volume I), evaluates the potential effects from additional lighting that would be added by the new playing fields that are envisioned in the East Field area under the 2005 LRDP. Environmental impacts from the development of recreational facilities on campus are, therefore, adequately addressed in other sections of this EIR. As shown in the analysis in those sections, all environmental impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the LRDP mitigation measures. No further evaluation of this issue in this section of the EIR is necessary.

#### City of Santa Cruz Recreational Facilities

Because adequate recreational facilities are available on the campus, and new campus facilities would be added as the on-campus daytime and residential population grows under the 2005 LRDP, the on-campus population is not expected to contribute to the need for new recreational facilities in the city of Santa Cruz. Furthermore, the City has indicated that it does not expect to develop substantial new park acreage, because only limited land area is available in the city for this type of development (Harris 2005). Therefore, the growth in the on-campus daytime and residential population would not trigger the construction of new city parks and recreational facilities, which could result in environmental impacts. There would be no environmental impact.

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**LRDP Impact REC-2:** Increased on-campus population under the 2005 LRDP would result in increased use of recreational facilities on campus and in the city of Santa Cruz, which could result in deterioration of the facilities.

**Significance:** Potentially significant

**LRDP Mitigation REC-2A:** The Campus shall ensure that open space, tot lots, and similar facilities for use by families are included in all new family housing developments built on the campus under the 2005 LRDP.

**LRDP Mitigation REC 2B:** The Campus shall implement LRDP Mitigation HYD-3A and HYD-3B.

**LRDP Mitigation REC-2C:** The Campus shall work with the City of Santa Cruz to ensure that adequate signage is installed in Pogonip City Park to discourage the illegal use of bicycles on trails; undertake measures to regularly inform and educate students, faculty and staff about caretaking of the regional trail system and regional open spaces, by working with campus and other local outdoor recreation groups; and revise campus bicycle maps to explicitly identify Pogonip City Park rules regarding bicycle use.

**LRDP Mitigation REC-2D:** The Campus shall coordinate with the City of Santa Cruz's efforts in organizing an annual or semi-annual volunteer trail maintenance day, and shall assist in the recruitment of volunteers for these events from the UC Santa Cruz campus through campus advertising and education efforts.

**Residual Significance:** Less than significant

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#### Campus Recreational Facilities

As noted above under LRDP Impact REC-1, the 2005 LRDP designates land in the north campus as well as additional land in the East Meadow for the development of new recreation fields and facilities. This land would be set aside to allow for the campus athletics and recreational programs to grow commensurate with the increase in student population. While these facilities would be available to all students, employees, and the community, these types of facilities would not meet some of the needs for facilities such as neighborhood parks, tot lots, and similar family recreation facilities. If such facilities are not provided on the campus, the need would either remain unmet, or could lead to overuse of those family recreation facilities that are currently on the campus or to spillover use of such facilities in the city of Santa Cruz. The impact associated with accelerated deterioration of the existing family recreation facilities would be potentially significant. To address the impact, in compliance with LRDP Mitigation REC-2A, as and when a new on-campus family housing project is proposed, the Campus shall ensure that appropriate family recreational facilities are included in the project. This measure would reduce the impact of recreational demands related to new campus housing to a less-than-significant level.

In addition, increased on-campus population at UC Santa Cruz is expected to result in increased demand for and usage of all recreational facilities, including unpaved fire roads that are used as trails and undesignated, unauthorized trails. Significant increased use of such facilities could result in degradation of soils and vegetation. The impact would be potentially significant. In compliance with LRDP Mitigation REC-2B, the Campus shall implement LRDP Mitigation HYD-3A and HYD-3B. In accordance with this measure, the Campus will implement control measures to reduce erosion along new or existing unpaved roads that may experience increased use, including but not limited to water bars to redirect flow off the road, and dispersion of runoff from trails. The campus will also increase public education efforts regarding the need to stay on approved trails to prevent vegetation disturbance and soil erosion. This measure will reduce to a less-than-significant level the potential for erosion and impacts to biotic resource from increased recreational use of the campus fire roads, and from increased creation and use of undesignated, unauthorized trails.

#### City of Santa Cruz Recreational Facilities

The campus provides an adequate number and range of recreational facilities for its students and employees and also offers the use of its facilities to the public. Therefore, the growth in the campus's daytime population under the 2005 LRDP is not anticipated to contribute significantly to deterioration of city of Santa Cruz recreational facilities. The City of Santa Cruz has, however, expressed concern that campus-related population, especially students, would extensively use Pogonip City Park trails, the new Skate Park, Derby Park, Harvey West Park, and the city beaches, and that this use could lead to the

physical deterioration of these facilities (Harris 2005). There is no reason to expect that students and campus employees would extensively use city parks such as Derby Park or Harvey West Park, because equivalent recreational resources would be available on the campus. Skateboards and in-line skates are not permitted on campus, and only about 20 percent of the current users of the “Funspot” skate park are reported to be of “college age” (City of Santa Cruz 2005). There is no indication that this facility is over capacity, and UC Santa Cruz students, as a subset of the user group, are not expected to make up a significant percentage of any increased use of the city’s skate park. The city beaches would undoubtedly experience increased use by LRDP-related population. However, because Santa Cruz beaches are also used extensively by non-local persons, the effect of the 2005 LRDP-related population cannot be easily isolated, and the LRDP-related population, in any case, would represent a small portion of the overall population expected to use the beaches. The impact of the 2005 LRDP daytime and residential campus population on these facilities therefore is considered less than significant.

Because of the proximity of the campus to Pogonip City Park and because of the presence of trail connections between the campus and the park, the use of the Pogonip City Park trails and open spaces would be expected to increase due to growth in on-campus daytime and residential population. This increased use could lead to the physical deterioration of these facilities. In particular, the use of off-road bicycles on and off trail in the park could lead to increased erosion and deterioration of the vegetation cover. Bikes are prohibited in the park, with the exception of the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail connection, but the illicit use of bicycles on park trails, to which UC Santa Cruz students, faculty, staff and affiliates may contribute, is a long-standing issue. This problem could be exacerbated by population growth associated with the 2005 LRDP. This would be a potentially significant impact. To reduce the impact on the Pogonip City Park trails to a less-than-significant level, the Campus shall implement LRDP Mitigation REC-2C. Under this measure, the Campus will work with the City to ensure that Pogonip City Park has adequate signage to inform users that bicycling is prohibited; will notate campus maps to indicate the bicycle use policies in the park; and will work with campus outdoor activity groups to encourage trail stewardship. The potential impact to Pogonip and other city parks would also be reduced through implementation of LRDP Mitigation REC-2D, under which the Campus would coordinate with City efforts in recruiting volunteers for an annual or semi-annual trail maintenance day. These measures would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Because of the proximity of the 2300 Delaware Avenue property to Antonelli Pond, it is considered likely that the trails and open space areas around Antonelli Pond would be increasingly used by campus employees who would work at 2300 Delaware Avenue. That potential impact of the 2300 Delaware Avenue Project is addressed in Chapter 4, *2300 Delaware Avenue Project* (Volume III). The implementation of LRDP Mitigation REC-2D, above, would further reduce the impact of the project on recreational facilities in the City of Santa Cruz.

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**LRDP Impact REC-3:** Development in the north campus under the 2005 LRDP would not result in the fragmentation of or other changes to the designated trails on the north campus.

**Significance:** Less than significant

**LRDP Mitigation:** Mitigation not required

**Residual Significance:** Not applicable

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The north campus is crisscrossed by a number of service roads and trails. The service roads primarily provide access for emergencies and fire suppression. However, some of these service roads are part of the designated trail system. Chinquapin Road, one of these service roads, is a segment of the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail, a major designated regional trail in this part of the county. Similarly, Fuel Break Road and West Road are designated multi-use trails. However, several of the service roads are not designated trails and are used as recreational trails on an informal or ad hoc basis.

Concern was expressed by some commentors that, with the construction of the north campus loop road to serve the north campus areas, some of the existing service roads may no longer be maintained for purposes of fire suppression access by the campus, as fire crews could access the north campus areas via the north campus loop road and thus might become unavailable as recreational trails. While it is correct that some of the service roads would not be maintained once the north campus loop road is constructed, these service roads are not designated trails or recreational facilities; therefore, if these roads were removed and became unavailable as trails, this would not represent a significant impact associated with the loss of a recreational facility. Erosion and damage to biotic resources is a major concern with respect to these undesignated trails. The elimination of such trails, therefore, would provide an environmental benefit. The Campus would continue to maintain designated trails on the campus.

Another potential impact on the trail system relates to possible displacement of segments of both designated and undesignated trails as a result of north campus development. Under the 2005 LRDP, the Campus would construct new facilities in some areas where the north campus trails are currently located, which would require the removal of the affected trail segment. Even if the trail segments within the development areas were to be preserved in place, the recreational experience of the trail users would change, because trail users would travel through developed areas instead of the natural undeveloped areas that currently surround the trails (see [Figure 4.13-3, Trails and Roads in the North Campus Area](#)). All development areas in the north campus would affect Chinquapin Road and Fuel Break Road. The Employee Housing development area would affect several of the service roads, including Red Hill Road, which provides a link between the central campus and the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail. The 2005 LRDP Colleges and Student Housing development area just north of Crown and Merrill Colleges could be developed in such a way that the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail would be cut off. However, the 2005 LRDP anticipates the effect on the Cowell Wilder Regional Trail, and would relocate the affected portion of the trail to the north, prior to development in this area. Furthermore, it is anticipated that some of the existing service roads in this area would be maintained, and would continue to provide access to Cowell Wilder Regional Trail from locations on the central campus. Additional paths and pedestrian bridges

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would be constructed between the central campus and the north campus development, which would also help provide access to the regional trail. While some of the undesignated trails would be removed by new development and would not be replaced or relocated, because the use of these undesignated trails by recreational users is unauthorized, the loss or impairment of these undesignated trails is not considered a significant impact. No mitigation is required.

#### 4.13.2.5 Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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**LRDP Impact REC-4:** Cumulative growth in study area population, including 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population, would result in the development of new off-campus recreation facilities, the construction of which would not result in significant environmental impacts.

**Significance:** Less than significant

**LRDP Mitigation REC-4:** The Campus will continue to make campus recreational facilities available to the public, and will provide casual recreation amenities, such as walking paths and picnic tables, that will be available for public use.

**Residual Significance:** Not applicable

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Cumulative impacts on recreation facilities would be expected to occur in the communities where the new 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population would reside. This LRDP-related population would place a demand on existing recreation facilities in the affected communities, which would combine with effects stemming from other regional growth. The potential cumulative impacts of this combined growth on recreation facilities in the affected communities are examined below.

Section 4.0, *Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation* (Volume I) and Section 4.11, *Population and Housing*, describe the methodology used to develop the locations in which the 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population would be expected to reside. Based on the projected population distribution, the highest potential for effects to recreational facilities off campus would occur in the City of Santa Cruz because about 32 percent of the new students and 28 percent of the new employees would be expected to reside in Santa Cruz. About 8 percent of the new students and 37 percent of the new employees would live in other communities within Santa Cruz County.

The General Plans of the City of Santa Cruz and the County were reviewed to determine the demand that projected growth would place on the city's and the county's recreation facilities, and whether that demand would require new or modified facilities that could result in environmental impacts. The results of this analysis are presented below.

##### City of Santa Cruz

The City is currently preparing an update to its General Plan. According to the City's 1994 General Plan, the city is expected to attain a population of 59,500 by 2005, and for that projected population, the General Plan indicated that an additional 28.6 acres of neighborhood and community parks would be needed

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during the General Plan period. Since 1994, the City has developed additional parks. Furthermore, the City has grown at a slower rate than envisioned in 1994. As of 2004, according to the Department of Finance estimates, the city had a population of 56,300 persons, or about 94 percent of the population projected in the General Plan. Therefore, this EIR assumes that, for the city as a whole, there is currently no park acreage deficit. The City has indicated, however, that there is a deficit of park acreage in the west side area of the city (Hammock 2005).

As discussed in Section 4.11, *Population and Housing*, based on AMBAG forecasts without LRDP-related growth the population of the city of Santa Cruz is expected to increase by about 2,970 persons between 2005 and 2020. Based on the city standards of 2 acres of neighborhood parks and 2.5 acres of community parks for every 1,000 residents, about 13 acres of neighborhood and community parkland would be needed to serve the projected new population. The 2005 LRDP would result in an additional 3,514 persons in the city of Santa Cruz in addition to the City's population projection. With the addition of this population, the additional park acreage needed in the city of Santa Cruz would increase to about 30 acres.

As noted above, currently there is substantial recreational acreage in Santa Cruz County, including about 1,526 acres in the city of Santa Cruz (United Way of Santa Cruz County 2004). For the projected city population of about 60,000 in 2020, this existing parkland provides about 25 acres of recreational land per 1,000 residents (although not necessarily in the form of neighborhood and community parks). Even if the 3,514 LRDP-related persons were incrementally added to the city's 2020 population, there would be about 24 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. In addition to these designated parklands and open space areas available to residents, the City's General Plan identifies the UC Santa Cruz campus as an important recreational facility that provides both neighborhood and community park facilities.

Furthermore, there are significant recreational facilities on the west side of Santa Cruz, including two state parks and beaches, nature preserves, and a City park. The UC Santa Cruz Marine Science Campus has recreational facilities that are open to the public, and there are tennis and volleyball courts at 2300 Delaware Avenue that are also open to the public. In light of the abundance of such facilities, existing parklands in this area will be sufficient to meet the recreational needs of future populations through 2020.

Because the city is largely built out, a large increase in parkland within the city is not feasible, even should the City identify a need for new facilities. The City has indicated that it does not expect to develop substantial new park acreage, because only limited land area is available in the city for this type of use (Harris 2005). According to the City Parks and Recreation Department, the City at some time in the future will examine the possibility of developing a new 2- to 3-acre neighborhood park on Shaffer Road and will also make improvements to Derby Park, to increase the availability of park lands to serve population on the west side (Hammock 2005). The potential park site on Shaffer Road is currently a vacant field with extensive prior disturbance, and the potential for significant environmental impacts through possible future development of the site for a park is low.

Pursuant to LRDP Mitigation REC-4, development of new publicly available recreation facilities on campus, and the continued availability of existing campus facilities for use by off-campus population, will help meet potential increased future demand. The impact would be less than significant.



### Other Regional Communities and Unincorporated Santa Cruz County

The number of LRDP-related persons that would be added to the populations of Capitola, Scotts Valley and each of the unincorporated communities is a small proportion of the projected future populations of these communities. The contribution of the 2005 LRDP-related growth to the demand for new facilities in these communities, and to potential environmental impacts of any new park development in these communities, therefore would be small. Furthermore, as noted above, the Santa Cruz region as a whole has a large number and variety of state, county and municipal recreational facilities, and abundant open recreational lands. In addition, campus recreational facilities are and would continue to be open to the persons living in these communities as well as to the campus population. The proposed project, therefore, would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to the impact associated with potential new park development.

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**LRDP Impact REC-5:** Cumulative growth in study area population, including 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population, would result in increased use of regional recreational facilities, which would not result in deterioration of most facilities. The contribution of the project to this impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

**Significance:** Less than significant

**LRDP Mitigation REC-5:** The Campus shall implement LRDP Mitigations REC-2C, REC-2D and REC-4, above.

**Residual Significance:** Not applicable

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The direct project-level impact of campus growth on recreational facilities in the city of Santa Cruz related to overuse and potential deterioration is addressed under LRDP Impact REC-2 above, and would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by the implementation of LRDP Mitigations REC-2C and REC-2D, which would assist in the control of illicit bicycle use in the Pogonip City Park, educate the UC Santa Cruz population on appropriate use of facilities, and provide for collaboration with the City in volunteer trail maintenance efforts. The analysis below examines the potential for significant cumulative impacts on recreational facilities of the study area overall, due to growth in regional population, including the 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population.

#### City of Santa Cruz

The demand for use of park facilities would be expected to increase as a result of population growth, including population growth related to the 2005 LRDP, and it is likely that there would be increased use of some facilities. However, there are abundant recreational facilities and lands in and near the city and on the campus, and additional facilities are proposed under the 2005 LRDP. The availability of a wide variety of facilities and a large amount of recreational land in the region likely would minimize potential effects of overuse within the City because the uses would be distributed among a large number of park facilities, such that the potential increased use of any given facility would be anticipated to be small. The impact, thus, would be less than significant.

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Furthermore, while the 2005 LRDP-related campus population, in conjunction with population increase related to other study area development, would use city parks and beaches in the study area, and some of these facilities would experience deterioration related to overuse, these facilities serve the wider region, and not just Santa Cruz County, and are used extensively by visitors and tourists. The effect of the 2005 LRDP-related population cannot be easily isolated. Because the 2005 LRDP-related population would represent a small portion of the overall population expected to use the city parks and beaches, the contribution of the project to the cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

#### Other Study Area Communities

With respect to the potential for a significant cumulative impacts due to overuse and deterioration of recreational facilities in other study area communities where 2005 LRDP-related off-campus population would reside, a significant cumulative impact is not anticipated in any of these communities. Most of the study area communities are not projected to grow substantially in the next 15 years. In addition, the campus population would comprise a small proportion of the growth of these communities. Therefore, the use of recreational facilities would not increase greatly over existing conditions, the contribution of proposed 2005 LRDP-related population growth to the impact would not be cumulatively considerable; and the impact would be less than significant.

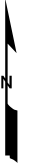
#### State Parks and Beaches

The 2005 LRDP-related campus population, in conjunction with other study area population, would use state beaches and parks in the study area, and some of these facilities could experience deterioration related to overuse. However, as these facilities serve much wider areas and not just Santa Cruz County, and are used extensively by visitors and tourists, the effect of the 2005 LRDP-related population cannot be easily isolated. Because the 2005 LRDP-related population would represent a very small portion of the overall population expected to use the state parks and beaches, the contribution of the project to the cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

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**Henry Cowell  
Redwoods State Park**

**Wilder Ranch  
State Park**

**Pogonip City  
Park**

*Cowell Wilder Regional Trail/Chinquapin Road*

*Empire Grade Road*

*McLaughlin Dr*

*Hellen Dr*





*Meyer Dr*

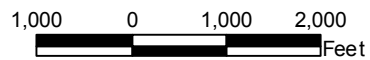
*Glenn Coolidge Dr*

*Hagar Dr*

U-Con

**Legend**

-  Trails
-  Undesignated Trails
-  Roads
-  UC Santa Cruz Boundary



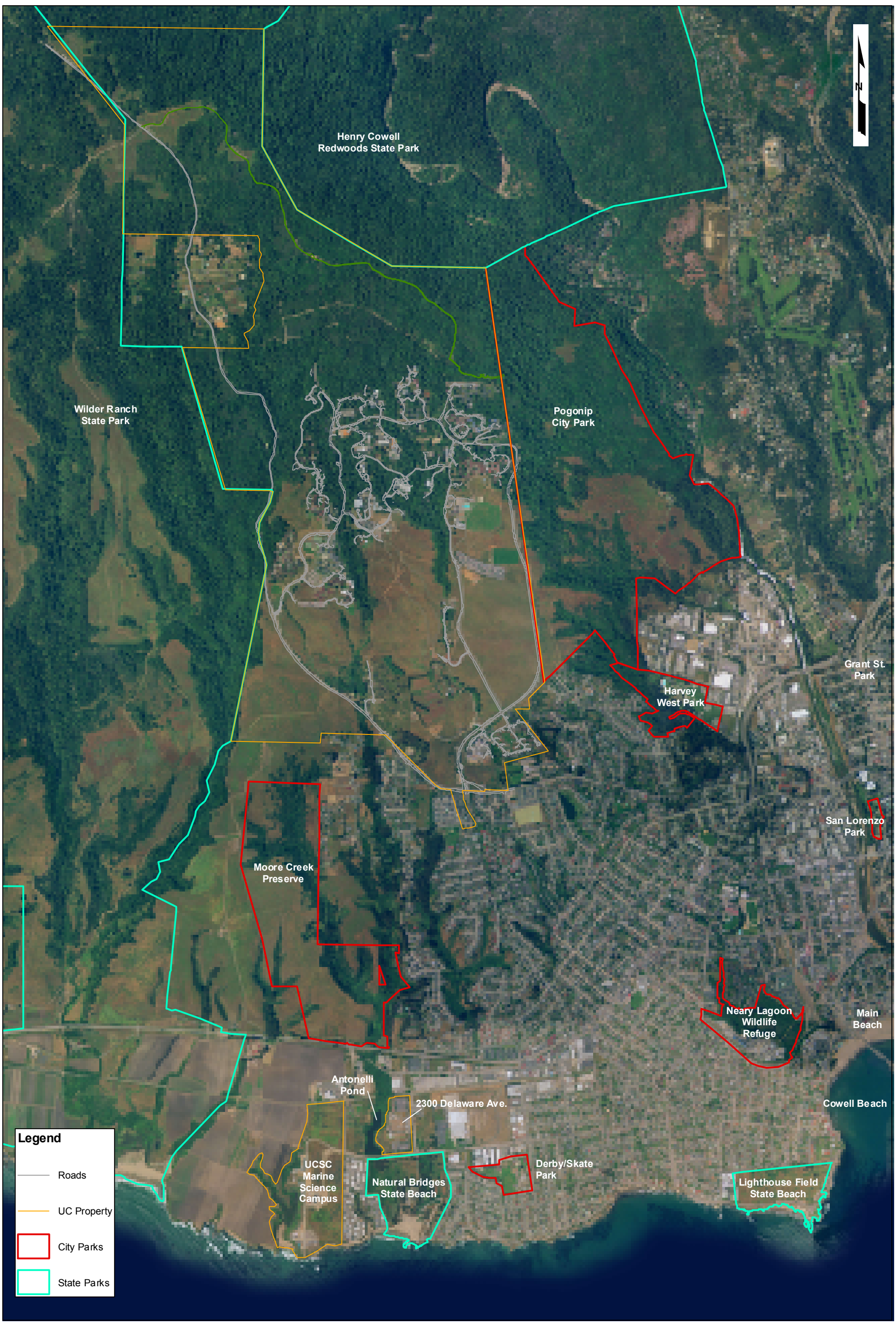
**TRAILS ON THE  
UC SANTA CRUZ CAMPUS**

October 2005  
28649607

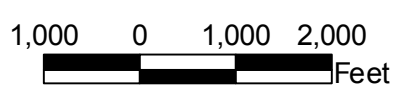
UC Santa Cruz LRDP EIR  
Santa Cruz, California



FIGURE 4.13-1



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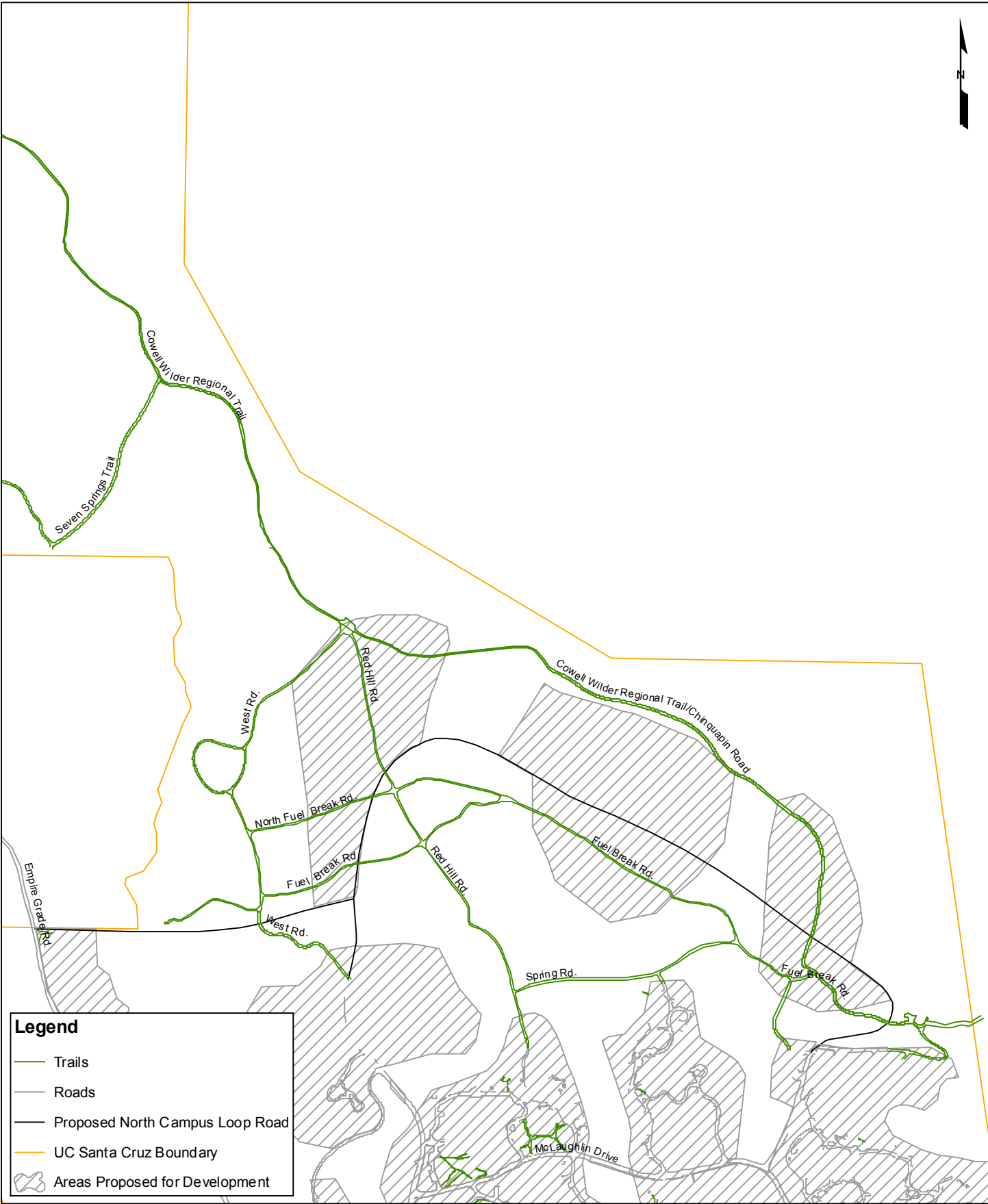
**CITY AND STATE PARKS  
SURROUNDING UC SANTA CRUZ**

October 2005  
28649607

UC Santa Cruz LRDP EIR  
Santa Cruz, California



FIGURE 4.13-2



**Legend**

- Trails
- Roads
- Proposed North Campus Loop Road
- UC Santa Cruz Boundary
- Areas Proposed for Development

**TRAILS AND ROADS IN THE NORTH CAMPUS AREA**

October 2005  
28649607

UC Santa Cruz LRD P EIR  
Santa Cruz, California



FIGURE 4.13-3



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