

2045 General Plan Existing Conditions Report

Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Findings

EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

1. The City owns and operates seven public parks and several recreational facilities for residents to enjoy passive and active forms of recreation, including opportunities for hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.
2. The City owns and operates the 5-acre Charles Paddock Zoo which is home to hundreds of animal species from around the world. It is the Central Coast's only zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
3. The County of San Luis Obispo (SLO County) owns, maintains, and operates over 300 acres of parks and open space land within city limits, including Chalk Mountain Golf Course and Heilmann Regional Park.
4. Atascadero includes approximately 17 miles of public trails owned and managed by the City, SLO County, the Atascadero Land Preservation Society, the U.S. Forest Service, or the National Park Service.
5. The City does not currently take part in any joint-use agreements with other agencies.

PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) AND ACCESS

1. The 2025 General Plan sets a goal of acquiring and/or dedicating park land at a ratio of 5 acres per 1,000 residents consistent with the Quimby Act. On a citywide scale, Atascadero exceeds its current level of service (LOS) standard.
2. While the overall acreage of parks and open spaces is relatively high, not all Atascadero residents have the same level of access to parks and recreational opportunities. According to the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) ParkServe® data, only 28 percent of Atascadero residents have a developed park within a 10-minute walk from their home. Atascadero's unique blend of rural and urban characteristics calls for a more refined analysis, which will be developed as part of the 2045 General Plan update process.

7.1 Introduction

Public parks and recreation facilities are an important part of the quality of life of a community. Parks provide a variety of benefits to the community in the form of active recreation and passive enjoyment. Active parks include sports fields, play areas, and gathering places that are essential to the physical and social health of residents, both young and old. Passive parks offer access to scenic areas, and they protect sensitive environmental areas and historic sites for the future. Atascadero has a unique variety of park land and facilities that range from the Historic Sunken Gardens to the Atascadero Lake Park and Zoo. In addition to park land, Atascadero has many trails and preserved open space areas that offer recreation activities for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

This chapter is organized into the following sections:

Section 7.1: Introduction

Section 7.2: Regulatory Setting

Section 7.3: Existing Park System

Section 7.4: Trails

Section 7.5: Park LOS and Access

Section 7.6: Capital Improvement Projects

Section 7.7: Sources

Section 7.8: Acronyms and Key Terms

7.2 Regulatory Setting

STATE

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection

The Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) works with landowners, local governments, and researchers to conserve open space resources statewide. DRLP provides information, maps, funding, and technical assistance to local governments, consultants, resource conservation districts, and non-profit organizations, with the goal of conserving the state's agricultural and natural resources.

California Government Code

California Government Code, Sections 65560 to 65570, establish the need for an open space element in a general plan, define the types of open spaces, require an action program for implementing the open space element, and require that city and county actions be consistent with the open space element. Types of open space include those used for the preservation of natural resources; managed production of resources; outdoor recreation; public health and safety; support of the mission of military installations; and the protection of places, features, and objects described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 of the Public Resources Code. Examples of city or county actions that must be consistent with the open space element include the acquisition or disposal of land of interest, restriction or regulation of uses, permitting for construction, approval for subdivision maps, and adoption of open space zoning regulations.

The Quimby Act of 1975 (California Government Code, Section 66477, as amended by AB 1359) authorizes cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. The Quimby Act sets a standard ratio of 3 acres of park space per 1,000 persons. Cities with a ratio of more than 3 acres per 1,000 persons can set a *standard* of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons for new development. The City of Atascadero's *goal* is 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The calculation of a city's park space to population ratio is based on a comparison of the population count of the last Federal census to the amount of city-owned park land. A 1982 State law amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for a recreation facility or park land and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed.

California Street and Highways Code

The California Streets and Highways Code includes provisions for equestrian and hiking trails within the rights-of-way of roads, streets, and highways.

Public Resources Code

The State Public Park Preservation Act (Public Resources Code, Sections 5400 to 5409) is the primary instrument for protecting and preserving park land in California. Under the Act, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any nonpark use unless compensation or land or both are provided to replace the park land. This ensures no net loss of park land and facilities.

Public Resources Code Section 5076 requires counties and cities to consider trail-oriented recreational use demands in developing specific open space programs during the development of a general plan. Cities are also required to consider the feasibility of integrating their trail routes with appropriate segments of the state system.

LOCAL

City of Atascadero General Plan 2025

Adopted in June 2002 and most recently revised in July 2016, the City of Atascadero General Plan 2025 (2025 General Plan) sets the course of all planning efforts both City-initiated and developer-proposed, and includes four chapters:

- Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element
- Circulation Element
- Safety and Noise Element
- Housing Element

The Land Use, Open Space and Conservation (LOC) Element is intended to guide development and revitalization projects consistent with community values. Below are the land use designations, goals, and policies as they relate to this chapter of the 2045 General Plan Existing Conditions Report.

Non-Residential Designations

Public Recreation (REC) This designation is reserved for public park and recreation facilities available for public use and owned by a public entity. Residential subdivisions are not allowed under this designation. Future park sites may be designated with a non-site specific (REC) designation.

Open Space (OS) This designation covers areas with environmentally sensitive natural or cultural resources, areas to be used for the managed production of natural resources, and areas subject to natural hazards such as floods or landslides. Open Space land generally is intended to remain free of structures but may be developed with low intensity recreational improvements such as trails, landscaping and tot lots. Open Space may be developed with public-serving facilities and utilities provided by the City and Water Company including the development, production, treatment and transmission of the public water supply.

Mixed Use Designations

Commercial Recreation (CREC) designation allows private recreational land uses, including private parks for active and passive recreation, playgrounds, playfields, swimming pools, and golf courses as well as tourist recreation such as RV parks. Multi-family uses such as mobile home parks may be conditionally allowed up to a maximum residential density of 20 dwelling units per acre.

Goals and Policies

LOC 11: Provide an adequate supply of City park facilities to all Atascadero residents.

- **Policy 11.1:** Acquire park land needed for future development of park and recreation facilities and ensure that park improvements are consistent with adopted master plans to accommodate future growth.
- **Policy 11.2:** Encourage joint use of school facilities for public recreation purposes.

- **Policy 11.3:** Encourage Park development on or adjacent to schools where appropriate.
- **Policy 11.4:** Encourage cooperative park and facility development programs.
- **Policy 11.5:** Develop a method of financing park and recreational facilities and services throughout the City using a variety of revenue sources.

LOC 12: Provide a wide range of recreational activities and leisure experiences for all age groups, designed to foster a healthy community for residents and visitors.

- **Policy 12.1:** Provide specialized recreation opportunities based on projected needs and standards identified in parks master plans.
- **Policy 12.2:** Emphasize the importance of recreation facilities as community resources.
- **Policy 12.3:** Develop and implement a program to improve water quality in Atascadero Lake with specific water quality standards to be provided in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Additional details, including a complete list and descriptions of the 2025 General Plan land use designations, are included in **Chapter 2: Land Use and Urban Design**.

Atascadero Municipal Code

Two chapters of Atascadero’s Municipal Code have sections relating to parks, recreation, and open space:

Title 9 (Planning and Zoning)

Title 9 (Planning and Zoning) of the Atascadero Municipal Code identifies the following land uses appropriate for park and recreation purposes:

L (Recreation) This zone provides suitable locations and standards for the development of recreational facilities accommodating the needs of the general public.

LS (Special Recreation) This zone provides suitable locations and standards for the development of recreational facilities on land in private ownership. This zone also provides for residential and agricultural uses where intensive recreational activity may not be appropriate.

P (Public) This zone provides suitable locations and standards for the maintenance and development of public and quasi-public facilities and services.

OS (Open Space) This zone is established to cover areas with environmentally sensitive natural or cultural resources and generally is intended to remain free of structures but may be developed with low intensity recreational improvements, where appropriate.

Title 10 (Parks and Recreation)

Title 10 (Parks and Recreation) of the Atascadero Municipal Code outlines rules and regulations pertaining to city parks and Atascadero Lake.

Additional details, including a complete list and descriptions of the current zoning districts, are included in **Chapter 2: Land Use and Urban Design**.

7.3 Existing Park System

The City of Atascadero manages 7 parks providing areas of recreation space and greenspace. City parks vary in size, configurations, intended uses, and level of development, including the numbers and types of facilities and amenities provided. Diversification of park types also allows for better distribution of different recreation experiences across the entire city. Additionally, SLO County manages a regional park and golf course within the city limits; and ALPS manages one nature and one open space preserves. Altogether, 624 acres of parks and open space fall within the city limits

Table 7-1: Existing Park System Summary

Park Name	Address	Owned/ Maintenance	Acreage (Acre)	Facilities	Amenities
Adobe Springs Nature Preserve	3660 Traffic Way	ALPS	5.03		
A-town Park	5493 Traffic Way	City	0.79		Sate and scoot park (indoor)
Apple Valley Park	1980 San Ramon Rd	City	5.51		BBQ grills, Multi-use paths (for pedestrians and bicycles)
Atascadero Lake Park	9305 Pismo Ave	City	52.45	Atascadero Lake Pavilion Charles Paddock Zoo Trails	Multi-use paths (for pedestrians and bicycles), Playground, BBQ areas, Horseshoe pits, Fishing, Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial, Charles Paddock Zoo
Chalk Mountain Golf Course	10000 El Bordo Ave	SLO County	218.3		18-hole golf course
Colony Park	5599 Traffic Way	City	11.13	Colony Park Community Center	Softball fields, Playground, Basketball courts (indoor & outdoor), Pickleball courts, BBQ grills, Picnic areas
Heilmann Regional Park	9400 El Bordo Ave	SLO County	48.91	Trails	BBQ grills, Disc golf, Dog park, Horseshoe pits, Pickleball courts (lighted), Picnic areas, Playgrounds, Public restrooms, Sand volleyball courts, Tennis courts (lighted)
Paloma Creek Park	11665 Viejo Camino	City	22.31		Multi-purpose sports fields, Lighted softball fields, Little-league fields, Sand volleyball court, Playground

Park Name	Address	Owned/ Maintenance	Acreage (Acre)	Facilities	Amenities
Stadium Park	Atascadero, CA 93422	City	139.09	Trails	
Sunken Gardens	6505 El Camino Real	City	1.80		Walking paths, Garden, Fountains
Three Bridges Oak Preserve	9930 Carmelita Ave	ALPS	100.53	Trails	
Total	--	11	624.32	--	--

Source(s): City of Atascadero, 2024.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Adobe Springs Nature Preserve

Five acres located on Traffic Way with historic and natural resources. The nature preserve is not open to the public. ALPS offers educational programs for local school children.

A-town Park

A-town Park is located on the northern edge of Colony Park and is home to the Central Coast’s only indoor skate and scooter park.

Apple Valley Park

Located west of Highway 101 in the northern area of the Atascadero, Apple Valley Park is a 5.5-acre neighborhood park with trees, open fields, barbecue areas, and walking paths. The park is adjacent to a neighborhood on its east side and rural neighborhoods to its west side.

Atascadero Lake Park

Located on the east side of Highway 41 and west of Highway 101, the 52-acre Atascadero Lake Park features a path-ringed lake, a native garden, a baseball diamond, and a day-use area with picnic tables, a children’s play area, and is adjacent to the Charles Paddock Zoo and Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial.

Atascadero Lake Pavilion

The Atascadero Lake Pavilion is a 10,000-square-foot building that serves as a community-oriented facility for the citizens of Atascadero. Fees, charges, and use policies are established to keep the Pavilion affordable and accessible to both non-profit and private groups while offsetting a significant percentage of the operating and maintenance costs.

Charles Paddock Zoo

The Charles Paddock Zoo provides an educational resource for conservation and wildlife awareness and an enriched recreational experience for Atascadero residents and visitors of the California Central Coast. In addition to hosting ticketed and free weekend events,

the zoo's Education Department provides classes, programs, and summer camp for kids and young adults.

Chalk Mountain Golf Course

The 18-hole 218-acre Chalk Mountain Golf Course is located east of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41, just north of Heilmann Regional Park. The golf course is open to the public and has varying fees and rates for youth, adults, and seniors.

Colony Park

Located just north of Sunken Gardens, the 11-acre Colony Park includes two baseball diamonds, basketball courts, a playground, and the Colony Park Community Center. It is located adjacent to neighborhoods as well as industrial land uses.

Colony Park Community Center

Colony Park Community Center is an 18,000+ square foot multi-use facility. It features a full-size gymnasium, teen center, cafe, dance/exercise room, arts and crafts room, and many other amenities. It operates seven days a week, with seasonal hours when school is in/out of session. The Recreation Division is committed to operating the Colony Park Community Center for teens and people of all ages. A diversity of recreation programs and services are offered that meet current community needs. Located next to A-town Park and the Colony Park ballfields, the complex is a hub for youth activities and community programs. Community partnerships are employed to enhance programming and decrease operating subsidies.

Heilmann Regional Park

Heilmann Regional Park is a 48-acre park operated by SLO County Parks. It includes a disc golf course, group day uses areas, children's play areas, volleyball, horseshoe, tennis courts, turf area, and a dog park. The park is located just south of the Chalk Mountain Golf Course east of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41.

Paloma Creek Park

The 22-acre Paloma Creek Park is located at the southern edge of Atascadero's city limit east of Highway 101, and contains baseball diamonds, a playground area, and a large grassy field. The park is located between various communities.



Stadium Park/Pine Mountain

Located west of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41, the 139-acre Stadium Park offers Atascadero residents and visitors trails and vistas.

Sunken Gardens

Located Downtown, across the street from City Hall, the 1.8-acre Sunken Gardens is a historic landmark that dates back to the early days of the Atascadero Colony. Today, there are many events and activities that take place at the Sunken Gardens, including concert series, the annual Tamale Festival, Winter Wonderland, and more.

Three Bridges Oak Preserve

Owned and maintained by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS), Three Bridges Oak Preserve is a 100-acre open space area located on the west side of Atascadero. Facilities include trails of varying lengths and suitable for hiking, cycling, and equestrian uses.

PARK SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

City of Atascadero Community Services Department, Recreation Division

The City of Atascadero's Recreation Division is committed to providing and facilitating programs, special events, and services that enhance the quality of life, well-being, and economic vitality of the community. This is fulfilled through a diversity of recreational, leisure, cultural, social, and educational services, and facilities. The Division resources are managed to promote the value of health and the community and contribute to the City's economic vitality.

City of Atascadero Public Works Department, Parks Maintenance Division

The City of Atascadero's Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of City parks, trees, medians, and grounds. The City maintains the Atascadero Lake Park Complex including playground equipment, barbecues, picnic areas, the lake, and grounds. The City also maintains the Paloma Creek Park Sports Complex and Playground, Colony Park, Sunken Gardens, and City Administration grounds. In addition to the City's parks, the Division maintains City parking lots and planters.

Atascadero Land Preservation Society

The Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve environmental open space, undeveloped land, and native trees in Atascadero. As a land trust, ALPS acquires land through grants, donations, and gifts, and opens its properties to the public for passive recreation and educational purposes.

7.4 Trails

The City of Atascadero and other operating agencies manage just under 20 miles of trails in and around Atascadero. Besides hiking, many of the trails are also open to cyclists and equestrians.

Table 7-2: Existing Trail System Summary

Trail(s)/Park Name	Owned/ Maintenance	Mileage (Mile)
Atascadero Lake Park Trail	City	1.36
Cerro Alto Trail/Campgrounds	U.S. Forest Service	3.03
Heilman Regional Park Trails Jim Greene	SLO County	1.53
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	National Park Service	6.34
Las Lomas Trails	City	1.31
Stadium Park Trails Pine Mountain Blue Oak Marj Mackey Oak	ALPS	1.87
Three Bridges Oak Preserve Trails	ALPS	2.27
Total	--	17.71

Source(s): City of Atascadero, 2024.

Atascadero Lake Park Trail

Approximately one-and-one-half mile (1.36 miles) trail located around Atascadero Lake Park, west of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41.

Cerro Alto Trail/Campgrounds

Located in the Los Padres National Forest, about nine miles west of Atascadero on Highway 41, there are two trails at Cerro Alto Campgrounds. Trails offer expansive views of the Cayucos Bluffs and Nipomo Dunes through a shaded forest and chaparral-covered canyons.

Heilman Regional Park Trails/Jim Greene

Approximately one-and-one-half mile (1.53 miles) of moderate difficulty trail, located in the northern area of Heilmann Park and near the Chalk Mountain Golf Course, east of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41. The trail is open to hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

In partnership with local administering agencies, the National Park Service's Juan Bautista De Anza Trail has sections in Atascadero. About six miles of this historic trail passes through Atascadero along the Salinas River offering abundant wildlife, oak trees, and native plants

located east of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41. The northern trail section, which totals approximately three miles (2.27 miles), is administered by the Atascadero Mutual Water Company.

Las Lomas Trails

The Las Lomas Trails are located on the southern edge of Atascadero's city limits east of Highway 101. Approximately one-and-one-half mile (1.31 miles) of trails offer native plants and are forested with oak and pine trees with a vista point offering views of the Salinas River Valley.

Stadium Park Trails/Pine Mountain

A variety of trails under two miles, with easy to moderate difficulty located at Stadium Park east of Highway 101 and south of Highway 41.

Three Bridges Oak Preserve Trails

Approximately three miles (2.27 miles) of trails provides a scenic overlook with expansive views of the city and a rural hillside and are located west of Highway 101 just south of Highway 41.



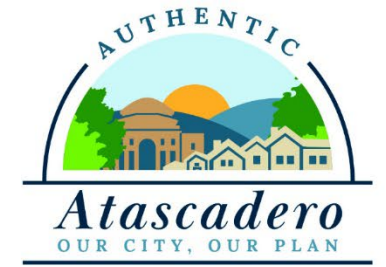
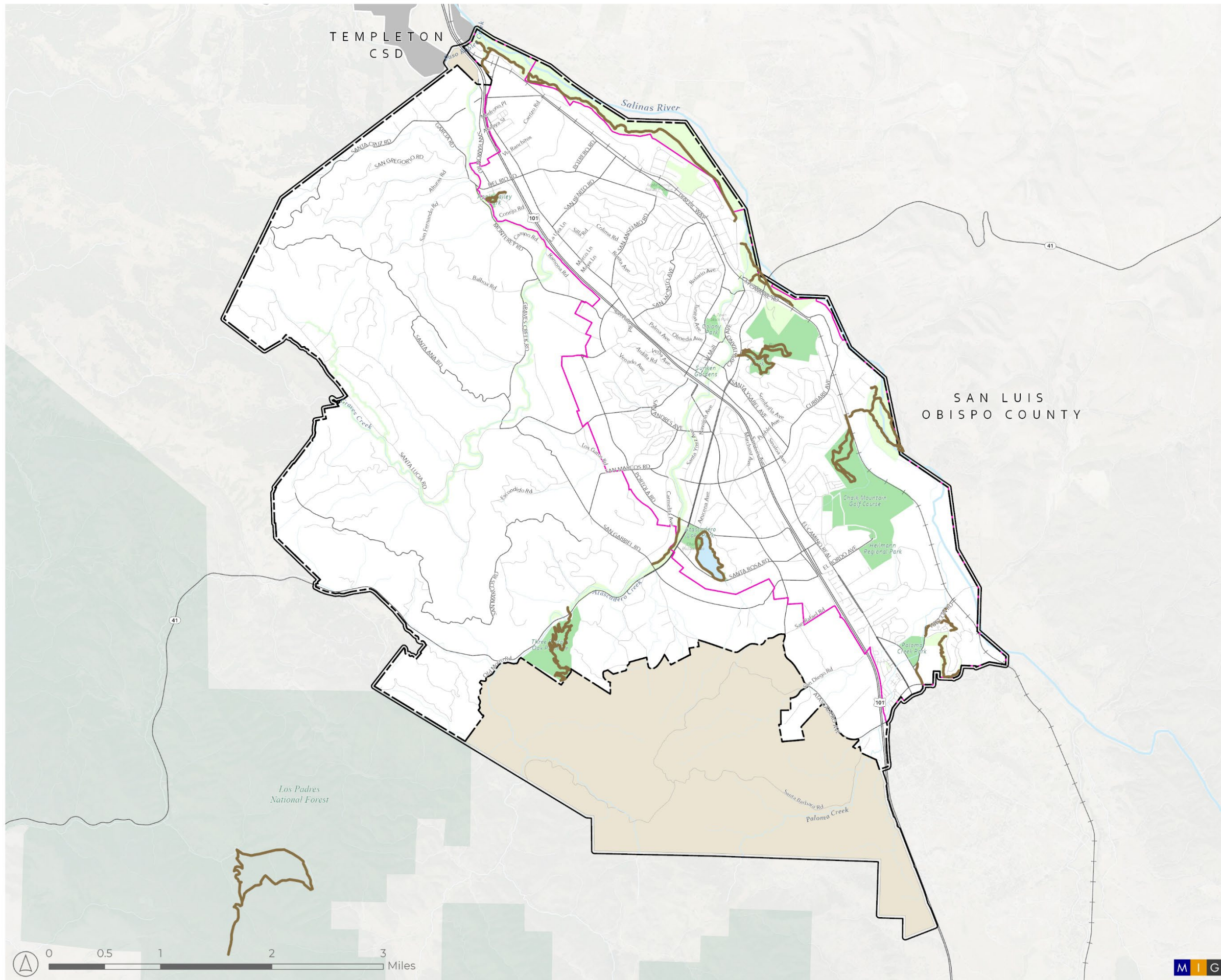


Figure 7-1:
Existing Park and Trails System

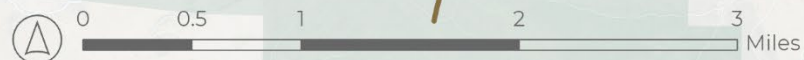


Basemap Features

- Atascadero Planning Area
- Atascadero City Limit
- Urban Services Line
- Sphere of Influence
- Rivers + Waterbodies

Park and Trails System

- Parks
- Open Space
- Trails



Source(s):
 Esri, CA State Open Data, County of San Luis Obispo, City of Atascadero, 2024.

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7.5 Park LOS and Access

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Residential population density influences park needs in several ways. Higher density areas have more people, which may place a greater demand on nearby parks. In contrast, residents in less densely developed areas, such as neighborhoods of mostly single-family homes, may already have landscaped yards with recreation amenities such as play equipment, pools, or gardens. Consequently, there tends to be less demand on parks in lower-density residential areas.

Level of service (LOS) is a metric used to guide the amount and types of parks and facilities provided in a community. For park land, it is typically presented as a ratio of park acres per 1,000 residents served. It is calculated based on the current inventory and population to identify current acreage needs. The City of Atascadero's current standards for park access are based on goal LOC 11 of the 2025 General Plan. A program implementing LOC 11 sets the directive to acquire and/or dedicate park land at a ratio of 5 acres per 1,000 residents consistent with the Quimby Act. On a citywide scale, Atascadero is exceeding its current LOS standard based on a 2024 total population of 30,279.

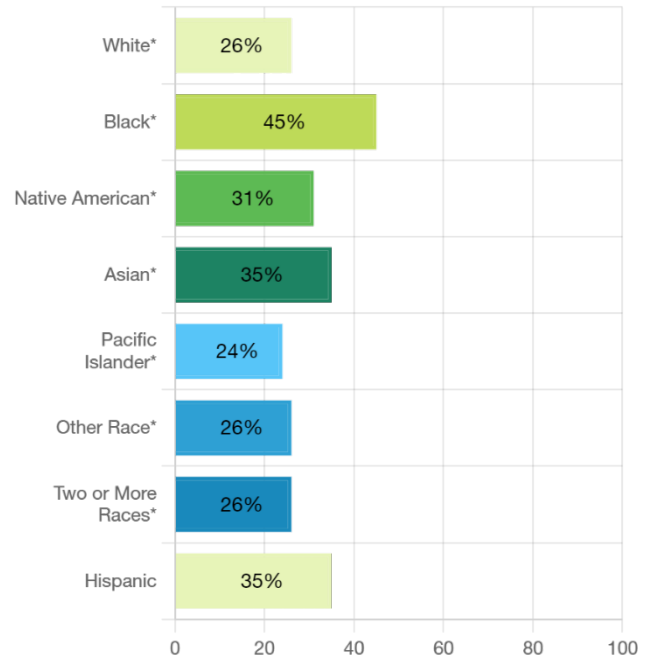
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND PARKSCORE®

Another way to measure the sufficiency of park land is based on the percentage of residents who have access to a park within a 10-minute walking distance from home. This metric has become the industry standard and highlights whether a city offers equal and equitable distribution of parks and recreation to its residents.

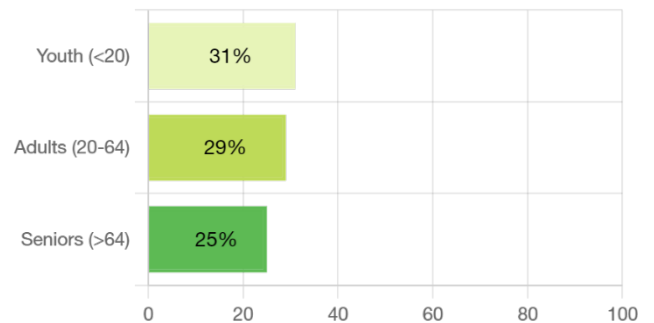
The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting public land; creating parks, trails, playgrounds, and open spaces; and improving park systems by creating more equitable access to green space. TPL developed the ParkScore® index, which evaluates the quality and accessibility of U.S. park systems based on multiple factors including, access, investment, amenities, acreage, and equity.

Figure 7-2: ParkScore® Metrics

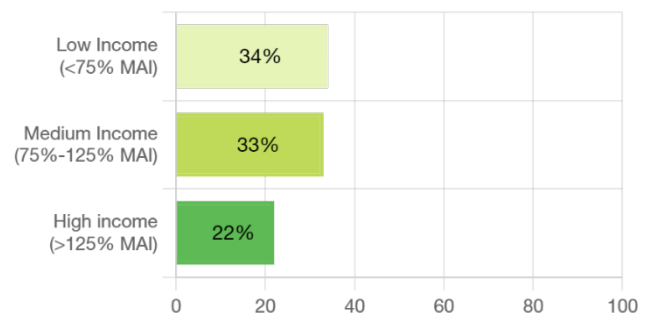
Race/Ethnicity Percentage of people within a 10-minute walk by race/ethnicity.



Age Percentage of people within a 10-minute walk by age group.



Income Percentage of households within a 10-minute walk by income. Median Area Income (MAI) is the median income of the urban area.



Source(s): The Trust for Public Land, 2024.

Research shows that the average distance Americans are willing to walk to reach a destination is 10-minutes, or roughly a half mile. Based on this metric, not everyone in Atascadero has access to parks. According to TPL's ParkScore® index, approximately one-quarter (28 percent) of Atascadero residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Atascadero's unique blend of rural and urban characteristics calls for a more refined analysis, which will be developed as part of the 2045 General Plan update process. The analysis should account for population density, focusing on unserved residential areas within (vs. outside of) the city's Urban Service Line (USL). Many parts of the city, including the western and northern sides, have low density residential land uses and mountainous terrain. Both factors make it challenging to walk to parks and open space areas. However, for the purpose of this report the ParkScore® index is used to create a benchmark for comparison and establish a baseline from which to work from. It can help identify opportunities for new connections within denser areas of the city and along major corridors.

7.6 Capital Improvement Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The capital projects section of the FY 2023-2025 budget details funding for all major construction, improvement, and repair projects. The 2023-2025 capital projects identified are based on priorities established by the City's current Capital Improvement Plan and City staff. Through the Capital Improvement Plan, the City systematically plans, schedules, and finances capital projects to ensure cost-effectiveness and conformance with policy. The following parks projects, identified for repair and enhancements, are included on the 2023-2025 capital projects list.

Atascadero Creek to Lake Pipeline Repairs

Repair and rehabilitation to the 1950's era pipeline that diverts water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake.

Parking Lot and Trail Repairs

Various maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of parking lot and trail pavements at park facilities, including Paloma Park, Skate Park, CPCC, Zoo, Pavilion, SR 41 Multipurpose Trail, and other internal park trails and walkways.

Lake Park Pier and Pedestrian Pathway Improvements

Improvements to the wooden pier and pedestrian pathway between the pier and paddleboat concessionaire. Work includes construction of an ADA compliant stairway/ramp, widening the concrete sidewalk, and replacement of the lake pier railing and decking.

Table 7-3: 2023-2025 Capital Projects

Project Name	Fund	Budgeted (Dollars)
Atascadero Creek to Lake Pipeline Repairs	Parkland Facilities Fees Fund	130,000.00
Parking Lot and Trail Repairs	General Fund	400,00.00
Lake Park Pier and Pedestrian Pathway Improvements	General Fund	268,000.00
Total	-	798,000.00

Source(s): Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Years 2023-2025.

REGIONAL PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING PROJECTS

Templeton-Atascadero Connector

The SLO County Parks Planning Division is responsible for the planning, design, and construction of park and recreation facilities in SLO County. This includes new park and trail projects, renovations, and upgrades to existing county-owned parks and facilities.

The Templeton-Atascadero Connector is a Class I multi-use pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will connect northern Atascadero and southern Templeton. The approximately one-mile non-motorized pathway is proposed to start at Paso Robles Creek and finish at Vineyard

Drive, in the area between the Salinas River and U.S. Highway 101. The project is currently in the final design and engineering phase. Its anticipated completion date is 2025-2026.

Salinas River Trail Master Plan

Funded by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and SLO County partnered on the 2014 Salinas River Trail Conceptual Master Plan. The Master Plan details both short-term and long-term alignments for a 35-mile section of the Salinas River corridor between Santa Margarita and San Miguel. The plan intends to serve as a guide, create cohesion, and encourage partnerships between the construction of individual trail segments over time. It summarizes geographic conditions of the study area, includes recommendations, design standards and guidelines, and cost estimates. This designated trail corridor runs the length of the Salinas River in SLO County. It is also addressed in the County's Parks and Recreation Element.

7.7 Sources

DATA AND REPORTS

City of Atascadero Budget for Fiscal Years 2023-2025.

City of Atascadero General Plan 2025, 2002.

City of Atascadero Trail Guide, 2017.

Northern San Luis Obispo County Salinas River Anza Corridor Trail Master Plan, Prepared by: San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and County of San Luis Obispo, 2014.

Trust for Public Land ParkScore® for Atascadero, CA, 2024. URL:

<https://www.tpl.org/city/atascadero-california>

WEBSITES

Atascadero Land Preservation Society: <http://www.supportalps.org/properties/>

Atascadero Mutual Water Company, Juan Bautista de Anza Trail:

<https://www.amwc.us/anza> Chalk Mountain Golf Course: <https://chalkmountaingolf.com/>

Charles Paddock Zoo: <https://charlespaddockzoo.org/>

Heilmann Dog Park: <http://www.heilmanndogpark.com/>

National Park Service, Juan Bautista de Anza Trail: <https://www.nps.gov/juba/index.htm>

San Luis Obispo County, Heilmann Regional Park: <https://slocountyparks.com/day-use-parks/heilmann-regional-park/>

San Luis Obispo County, Park Planning Division: <https://slocountyparks.com/planning-projects/>

7.8 Acronyms and Key Terms

Amenities Support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. Amenities include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, tables, barbecues, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, signage, etc.

Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) A local non-profit organization land trust whose mission is to preserve environmental open space, undeveloped land, and native trees in Atascadero.

Class I – Separated Right-of-Way A dedicated, paved pathway separated from vehicle traffic with minimal vehicular crossings.

Class II – Designated Right-of-Way Shares the roadway with vehicle traffic but is a designated space separated from traffic by pavement markings.

Class III – Shared Right-of-Way Shares the roadway with vehicle traffic and is not provided dedicated space for bicycles. Class III bikeways are often delineated with pavement markings or signage.

Class IV – Separated Bikeway Also known as protected bike lanes or cycletracks, they include horizontal or vertical elements separating the bikeway from vehicular and/or pedestrian paths.

Facilities Outdoor elements or buildings that provide recreation opportunities in parks. Facilities are classified in five categories: athletic and sports facilities (e.g., sports fields and courts); outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic shelters, dog parks); major and specialized facilities (e.g., community centers, pools, and golf courses); gardens and natural features (e.g., community gardens and river access points), and trails.

General Fund Primary source of revenue for a government entity, used to fund a broad range of essential services and operations.

Level of Service (LOS) A metric expressed as a ratio of the amount of park acreage per 1,000 people.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) NRPA is a national non-profit organization that promoting parks, recreation, and environmental conservation through advocacy, programs, and professional development.

Open Space Natural areas that are set aside for the preservation of natural resources; conservation of the managed production of resources (e.g., agriculture lands); for outdoor recreation; for public health and safety (e.g. water quality basins, flood easements); for public services (e.g., utility easements, community gardens); for urban form/scenic resources (e.g., greenways/highway corridors, urban reserves).

Parks All publicly owned and operated parks that are used, operated, or maintained for recreational purposes.

ParkScore[®] TPL publishes ParkScore index annually to compare the park systems of the 100 most populated cities in the United States. The index ranks city parks and walkability based on five categories: Acreage, Investment, Amenities, Access, and Equity.

Regional Park Regional parks are large parks that protect unique natural or cultural features and/or provide major recreation facilities that attract visitors from across the entire City and beyond. Designed for intensive use, these parks include on-site parking, restrooms, and similar support amenities for longer visits.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) TPL is a national non-profit organization dedicated to working with communities to create parks and protect public land where they're needed most, as a matter of health, equity, and justice.