

CITY *of* CALABASAS  
**2030 General Plan**

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**X – Parks, Recreation, & Trails  
Element**



# CITY *of* CALABASAS

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# CITY *of* CALABASAS

## 2030 General Plan

### **X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT**

Calabasas is committed to ensuring that its citizens have ample access to high quality spaces for leisure and active recreation. Despite constraints on land available for active use parks, the City has acquired or built a wide array of recreational facilities. Calabasas has also been an active steward of the natural environment, acquiring open space and partnering with other agencies to preserve natural resources. The City also provides a variety of recreation services such as sports leagues, education classes, cultural events, entertainment experiences, and other leisure activities for the community.

Many recreational facilities in and around Calabasas, but not operated by the City are also available to Calabasas residents. These include Malibu Creek State Park, the Headwaters Corner Education Center, King Gillette Ranch, Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) sites, and private facilities such as Calabasas Golf Course and multiple homeowner association–operated play areas, sports fields, and pools.

Calabasas’ environmental setting is ideal for the development of trails and passive recreational opportunities. However, because of topographic and land constraints, it is not necessarily suitable for the development of active sports facilities such as soccer and baseball/softball fields. The City operates three sports fields: two with multi–use backstops (De Anza and Creekside parks) and one youth T–ball field (Grape Arbor Park). The City is strongly committed to developing and maintaining facilities that support the range of recreational activities desired by community residents in a manner that is in harmony with the sensitive nature of Calabasas’ environment.

In 2004, Calabasas adopted a Park & Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) that identifies existing and future park and recreation service needs as well as ways in which these needs can be met. The Master Plan identifies and evaluates existing park and recreation areas; assesses the need for additional park land, open space and specialized facilities; establishes criteria and standards for site selection, design, and management; and recommends an approach to implementation. A Recreation Needs Assessment conducted as part of the Master Plan concluded that the City has sufficient neighborhood park acreage, but is deficient with respect to community parks.



## X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT

Consequently, the Master Plan recommends the development of two additional community parks that would provide a community park within 1.5 miles of every Calabasas resident. The Recreation Needs Assessment also reported unmet demand for soccer fields, aquatic facilities, a teen center, a senior center, and cultural arts facilities. These needs as well as the need for additional recreational facilities, such as indoor and outdoor basketball courts, have been confirmed through community surveys that have consistently indicated a desire for more recreational facilities in Calabasas.

### X.A Active Use Facilities

#### Objective

Provide active parks and sports fields that meet the recreational needs of Calabasas residents.

#### General Plan Approach

The biggest challenge for Calabasas with respect to the provision of sports fields is identifying space for expansion of facilities to meet currently unserved recreation demand. In addition to statistical evidence that the community is underserved in select sports facilities, the community has expressed a need for additional facilities, such as sites for sports fields, public pools, a teen center, and performing arts facilities.

As of 2014, the City of Calabasas owns and operates 56.6 acres of developed park land, or about 2.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Among the facilities operated by the City are two mini-parks, two neighborhood parks, one community park, five special use areas and one undesignated/undeveloped park site. Existing City park facilities are summarized in **Table X-1** and mapped on **Figure X-1**.

Calabasas will continue to augment its inventory of City-owned and operated recreational facilities as circumstances allow. The City will strive to achieve a target of three acres of active parks per 1,000 residents and will develop new active parks as opportunities arise. However, topographic constraints and lack of vacant land within the City are significant constraints to the development of new sports fields, particularly facilities that require large, areas of flat land. Consequently, the City will continue to expand its partnership with the public school system to develop joint use of existing schools and other facilities to meet its recreational needs.



**X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT**

<b>Table X- 1 Summary of Parks and Recreational Areas By Type</b>		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Mini Parks</b>		
Freedom Park	1.7	Playground Only
Highlands Park	0.5	Playground Only
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2.2</b>	
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Gates Canyon Park (includes Brandon's Village playground)	7.0	2 lighted tennis courts Universally accessible playground 1 lighted basketball court
Grape Arbor Park	3.0	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10.0</b>	
<b>Community Parks</b>		
Juan Bautista de Anza Park	8.0	Multi-use game court
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>8.0</b>	
<b>Special Use Areas</b>		
Community Center	4.5	Health memberships
Creekside Park	11.8	Pre-school operation
Calabasas Bark Park	0.8	Heavily used
Tennis & Swim Center	7.5	Health/tennis memberships 6 lighted tennis courts
Wild Walnut Park	10.0	Passive use
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>34.6</b>	
<b>Undeveloped/Undesignated</b>		
Las Virgenes/Lost Hills (Juan Bautista de Anza)	1.8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56.6</b>	



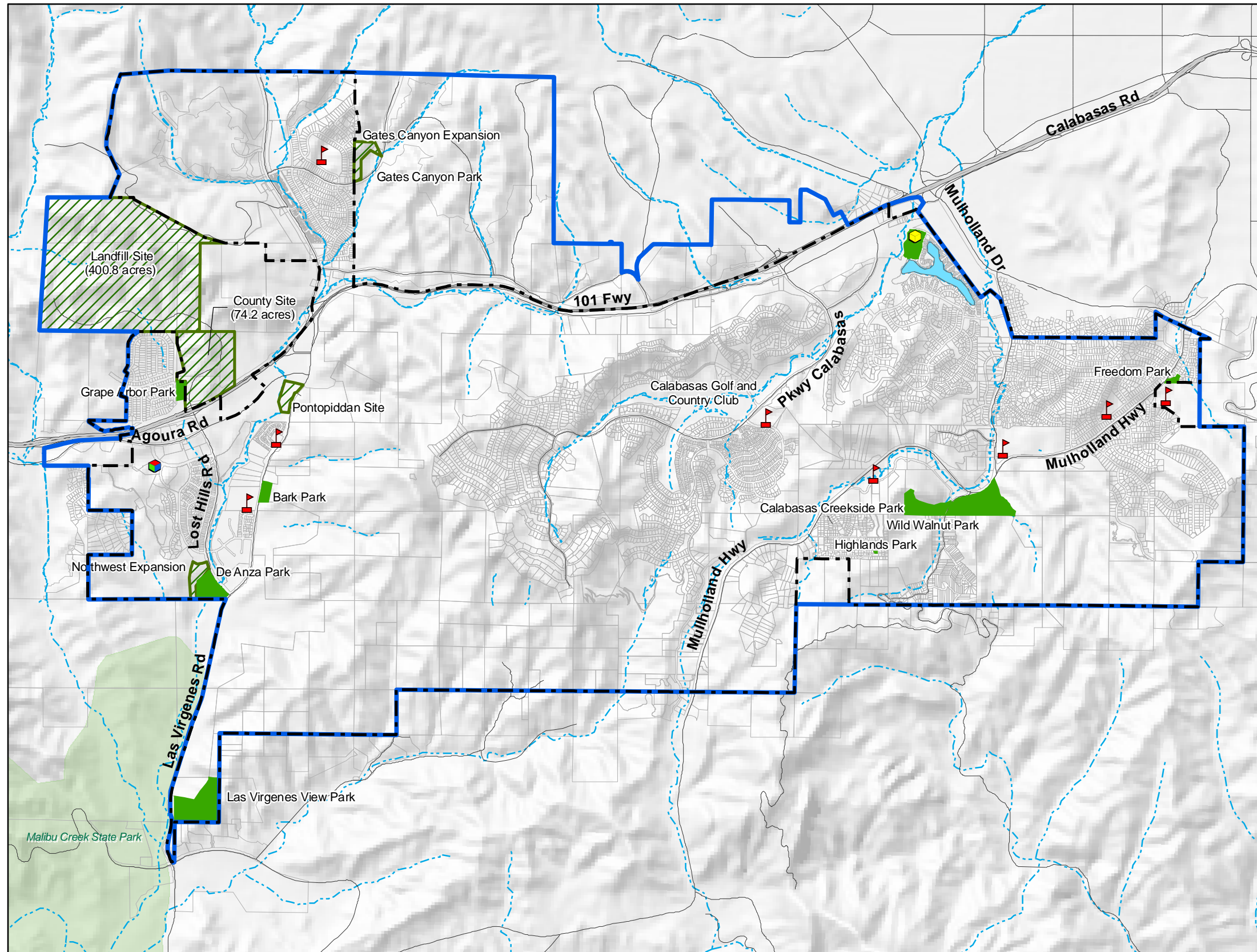
## X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT

Calabasas has established successful joint use agreements with the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) and other arrangements by which LVUSD facilities are used for non-school recreation functions since incorporation in 1991. **Table X-2** lists the LVUSD schools and facilities currently being utilized for non-school recreation functions. These agreements are a partnership where the City pays for upgraded fields and maintenance on those fields in exchange for public use outside of school hours. The relationship has been beneficial to both the LVUSD and the City and is popular with residents. To alleviate the lack of sports fields, the City will continue to seek to establish joint use agreements at LVUSD sites within the city limits. LVUSD school sites that could potentially provide additional sports fields include Calabasas High School, A.E. Wright Middle School, Bay Laurel Elementary School, Chaparral Elementary School, and Lupin Hill Elementary School (some of these schools are already used for City recreational activities, but have the potential for expanded use).

Partnering with neighboring communities also allows Calabasas to satisfy community recreation needs despite the City's land constraints. The Community Center is jointly owned and operated by the joint powers authority with the City of Agoura Hills. Residents of both communities can access and utilize the facilities. The 30,000 square foot facility features tournament-level basketball courts, a full-service fitness studio, a 35-foot realistic rock climbing wall, a multi-purpose activity room with a patio, a dance/exercise studio, and a large banquet hall for special events and rentals. The joint powers agreement between Agoura Hills and Calabasas successfully provides recreation opportunities that both communities would not be able to satisfy alone. The City will continue to work with neighboring communities to establish and maintain joint use programs in order to support a wide range of quality recreational activities, and to maintain the facilities needed to support those activities.







**LEGEND**

- Major Roads
- - - Calabasas City Boundary
- ▭ Plan Area Boundary
- 🚦 School
- 🏊 Calabasas Tennis and Swim Center
- 🏠 Agoura Hills Calabasas Community Center
- 🌳 City Park
- 🌿 State Park
- ▨ Potential New or Expanded Park Site

N  
0 0.5 1 Mile

Figure X-1  
Existing and Potential  
Recreational Facilities

Source: City of Calabasas, 2007, USGS, 2002, and Rincon Consultants, 2008. Updated March 2014.



**X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT**

**Table X- 2  
Existing LVUSD Facilities Used for Non- School Recreational Activities**

School	Acres	Facility
Calabasas High School	40.0	Track, lighted football field, 8 tennis courts, 4 outdoor basketball courts, 1 outdoor pool (25 yd, 6 lane), 1 practice football/ soccer field, Overlaid fields: 2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, 1 soccer field – all unfenced and unlighted. Gymnasium with two full basketball courts and dance studio
Indian Hills High School	1.5	Turf playfield – not large enough to provide an athletic field
A.E. Wright Middle School	19.0	6 outdoor basketball courts, gymnasium with one full basketball court, and large grass areas (~6-8 acres)
Alice C. Stelle Middle School*	15.2	3 soccer fields overlaid on 3 multi-use backstop fields, 1 softball field, 8 outdoor basketball courts, gymnasium, multi-purpose room
Bay Laurel Elementary	8.0	1 soccer field, 1 youth baseball field
Chaparral Elementary	4.5	Open turf area, used as 1 soccer field
Lupin Hill Elementary	14.5	2 basketball courts, 4 baseball fields (3 youth, 1 adult)
Round Meadow Elementary *	7.0	Youth baseball field overlaid on soccer field

*\* These two schools are outside the Calabasas city limits, but may be considered for future annexation.*

Beyond joint use agreements, one site within the current corporate boundary and two sites adjacent to the corporate boundary could potentially serve a wide range of quality recreational activities if successfully acquired and developed. Though increased use of existing facilities is the highest priority option for meeting the community’s recreational needs, the City will monitor the possibility of acquiring sites for the development of new parks. Potential park sites are listed on page X-9. The locations of potential park sites





## X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT

as well as potential expansion areas for Juan Bautista de Anza and Gates Canyon parks are shown on **Figure X-1**.

The only public swimming pool in Calabasas is located at the Calabasas Tennis and Swim Center (TSC). The TSC includes an 8-lane, 25-yard, heated outdoor lap pool as well as a teaching/therapeutic pool. It is heavily used by TSC members and drop-ins, and is the site of the City's popular Calabasas Lagoon swim instruction and swim team programs. Aquatic exercise also occurs in the pools. In addition, the TSC pools are used by the City and other day camps in the summer time, which adds to the volume. The swim lessons program is extremely popular.



Since the TSC is an enterprise fund, revenues generated from the facility completely cover the cost of operations, including the cost of operating the pools. To help alleviate continued demand at the TSC pool, the City may pursue a joint use agreement for the pool at Calabasas High School. The City may also consider a new aquatic facility in western Calabasas. Land availability, the availability of funding for this type of capital project, and operations funding will be important factors in the decision of whether to add new aquatic facilities and which type to add.

### Policies

- X-1 Work to provide adequate facilities to support a wide range of recreational activities for children, adults, families, senior citizens, and area employees and businesses, as outlined in the 2004 Park & Recreation Master Plan.
- X-2 Pursue expansion of joint use/park facilities with the Las Virgenes Unified School District as the highest priority for meeting demand for sports fields and other selected recreational facilities.



**X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT**

*Potential Future Park Sites*

Pontopiddan Site

*This 7.5-acre site located along the west side of Las Virgenes Road is designated Residential-Single Family. However, acquisition of the entire site for development of a park facility remains a possibility. This site is likely too small to accommodate sports fields, but could accommodate various smaller scale facilities, such as basketball or tennis courts, a skateboard park, aquatic facilities, a playground, and/or picnic facilities.*

County Site

*An approximately 74.2-acre property in unincorporated Los Angeles County north of U.S.101 and east of Lost Hills Road is a possible near-term location for limited development of sports fields. Although much of this site would require substantial grading to accommodate sports fields, flat areas present in portions of the site could potentially accommodate 1-2 fields while the remainder of the site could facilitate passive recreational activities.*

Calabasas Landfill Site

*The 400.8-acre Calabasas Landfill is a potential long-term solution to the City's sports field needs as it offers the best opportunity for a large park and sports complex. The site is not scheduled for closure until 2022 and would require time for post-closure procedures. Despite the potential drawbacks of the landfill site, it is the only large site convenient to Calabasas that has the potential to be developed into an attractive sports complex. The City will monitor the opportunity to either acquire the site for future development as an active use recreational facility or enter into a joint use arrangement with the County of Los Angeles and/or the City of Agoura Hills.*

- X-3 Pursue establishment of joint use park facilities with neighboring communities to provide land for active recreational opportunities for selected programs.
- X-4 Pursue acquisition of sites that could be utilized as active recreational facilities in the future.
- X-5 Expand City-operated recreational facilities to the extent that such facilities can be developed without unacceptable environmental impacts.
- X-6 Pursue the development of an additional aquatic facility either through a joint use agreement with the LVUSD or through development of a new facility in western Calabasas.



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X-7 Pursue the establishment of teen social and development centers, a senior center, and cultural/performing arts facilities.

### X.B Trail System

#### Objective

Maintain a system of trails that provides recreational opportunities.

#### General Plan Approach

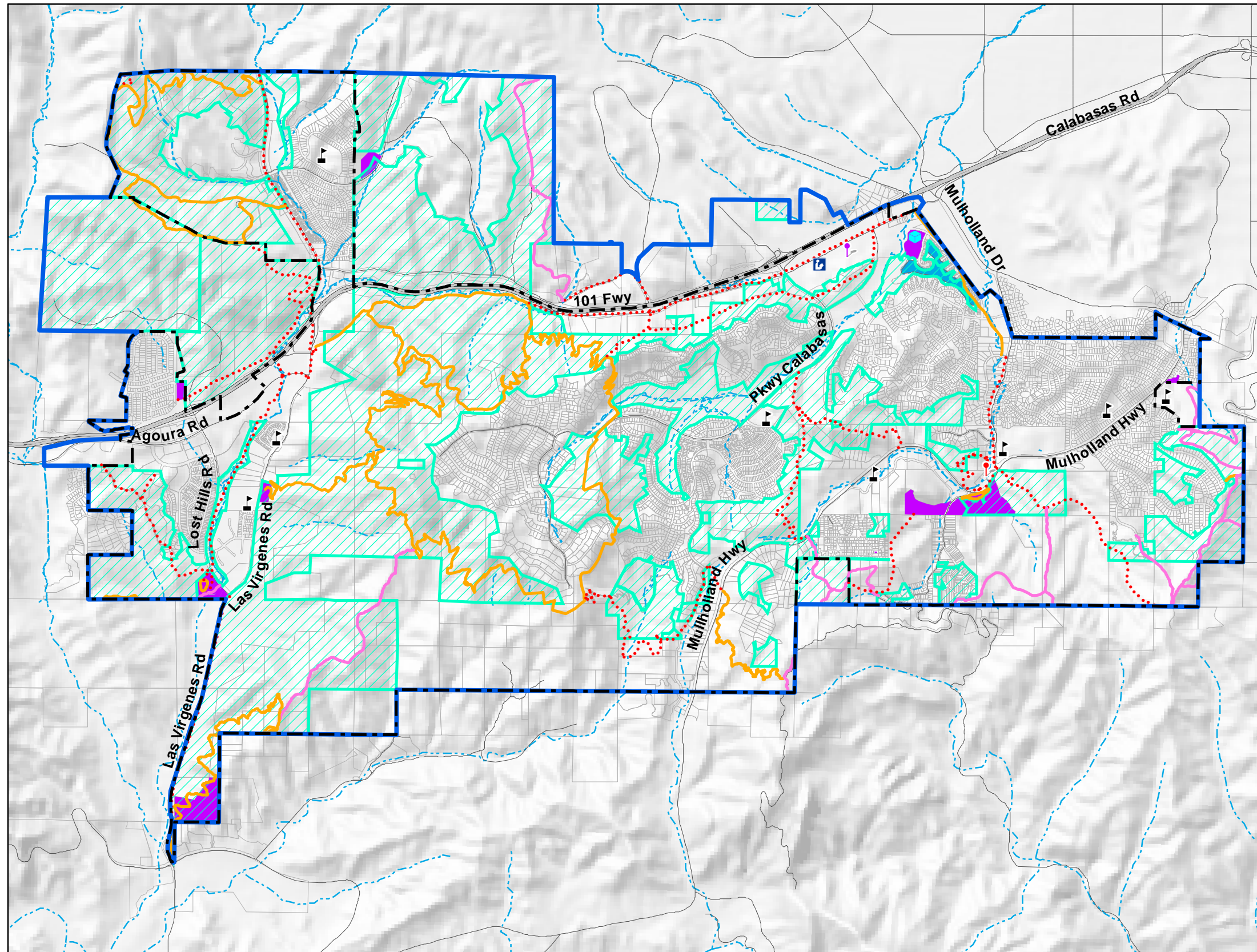
Trails in Calabasas accommodate a broad variety of interests and abilities, from hiking, mountain biking, horse riding, jogging, or simply walking. The Calabasas Trails Master Plan, adopted in 2007, provides a blueprint for the development of community trails. Trails in Calabasas accommodate a broad variety of interests and abilities. The Master Plan identifies a trail network serving virtually every neighborhood, and providing local and regional connections. Calabasas' open space and trail system is shown on **Figure X-2**.

Calabasas is fortunate to be surrounded by open space and park land owned by a variety of national and state agencies, including the National Park Service (NPS), State of California, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This open space and park land is part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. In addition to the publicly-owned open space surrounding the City, the City has more than 3,000 acres of protected open space within its boundaries, including land owned by the City of Calabasas, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, and many of the homeowners associations in the City.

Calabasas recognizes the importance of the open space and trail system as a unifying element that ties the diverse areas of the community together. A community survey indicated that six of the top ten preferred recreation activities in Calabasas are trail-related. There is also a desire for a variety of trail types and distances, trailheads and trail amenities, in addition to better integration and connections of neighborhoods with open space and trails. Thus, the connectivity of the trail system in neighborhood and urban areas will be expanded through use of urban connections, parks and trails and rural connections. A range of trail types will continue to be provided to address a variety of needs, including loop trails, 30-minute hikes, and all day hikes. Trailheads







LEGEND

- Major Roads
- - - Calabasas City Boundary
- ▭ Plan Area Boundary
- Calabasas Tennis and Swim Center
- Community Center
- Headwaters Corner
- The Commons at Calabasas
- Library
- School
- Trail - Existing Official (EO)
- Trail - Existing Make Official (EU)
- ⋯ Proposed New Trail (PT)
- ▨ Open Space
- City Parks

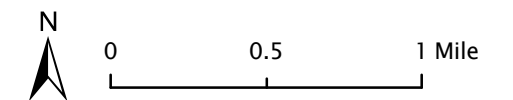


Figure X-2  
Existing and Planned Trail System

Source: City of Calabasas, 2007, USGS, 2002, and Rincon Consultants, 2008. Updated March 2014.



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will be enhanced and clearly defined, promoting better access by those walking or bicycling. The City will also continue to integrate the trail system with support facilities (such as trash receptacles, benches, signage, and restrooms) that weave to and through active and passive open spaces and parks.

### Policies

- X-8** In coordination with Los Angeles County, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the State Parks Department, and the National Park Service, continue to develop and maintain a system of hiking and riding trails that provide safe, enjoyable access into the area's natural environment.
- X-9** Locate and construct trails in such a manner as to minimize maintenance requirements and maximize access.
- X-10** Make trails and staging areas easily accessible to the public in order to facilitate their use.
- X-11** Connect trail systems with existing open space areas and community activity centers.
- X-12** Incorporate trail design into plans for natural drainage channels, street rights-of-way, landscape corridors, utility rights-of-way, public easements, and open space areas.
- X-13** It is the policy of the City to: 1) require recreation and trail planning and construction as conditions of approval for future development projects on land adjoining trails or where proposed new trails are planned; and, 2) require all project plans to provide access to trail heads located on adjacent public lands. This policy must be achieved within the legal limitations of the City's land use power and with due respect for private property rights.
- X-14** Retain existing City-owned rights-of-way that have potential to assist in the implementation of the trail system. Obtain rights-of-way from other entities (e.g., utility districts) that assist in the implementation of the trail system.
- X-15** Implement trailheads and signage where roads intersect trails and a suitable pull-out or curb cut can be attained, especially in rural areas.



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X-16 Consider privacy and security of neighboring residents when designing and developing recreational trails.

### X.C Recreation Programs

#### Objective

Provide recreational programs to meet the changing needs of all segments of the community.

#### General Plan Approach

The City of Calabasas operates a wide range recreation programs for residents of all ages. The City offers a variety of sports programs, including youth and adult sports programs, classes, aquatics, and workshops. City-sponsored senior programs include art classes, writing seminars, and golf lessons. Youth programs include seasonal camps, parent and child participation classes, after school programs, music instruction and art classes. The City also hosts a number of special events throughout the year, including seasonal festivals and holiday celebrations. Some programs currently offered by the City are listed below.

- *Sports and Athletics Programs: Basketball leagues, T-Ball /coach pitch leagues, swim lessons, recreation swimming, swim team, after school tennis program, summer youth tennis program, private tennis lessons, All Starz Basketball Program (for people with disabilities), personal training, fitness classes, sports camps.*
- *Youth Care: Klubhouse (preschool), Enrichment (Lupin Hill Elementary), after school programs, and summer camps.*
- *Cultural Arts: Fine Arts Festival, orchestra concerts*
- *Special Events: Egg-Stravaganza, Arts & Crafts Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Pumpkin Festival, Movie Nights, and Snow, Snow, Snow.*

Calabasas is committed to providing ample recreational programs for all residents. As funding allows, the City will continue to offer a variety of recreational services and to improve and expand services to meet the recreational needs of the community. As part of its recreation programs, the City will strive to create a system of indoor and outdoor community gathering places for community activities. In addition, the City will continue



## X. PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ELEMENT

to provide a broad range of activities that cater to a wide variety of interests for residents of all ages, while offering constructive and meaningful activities for youths.

### Policies

- X-17 Provide a wide range of recreational activities for children, adults, families, senior citizens, and area employees and businesses, along with adequate facilities to support those activities.
- X-18 When feasible, raise revenues from recreational activities to make them as financially self-sufficient as possible and to subsidize activities that do not generate revenues.
- X-19 Pursue a variety of funding sources for City recreational programs, including but not limited to federal, state, and private grants.
- X-20 Address the development of additional recreational programs for people with disabilities.





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