



CITY OF CUPERTINO

Parks & Recreation System Master Plan



BIG MOVES HANDOUT

February 2018

INTRODUCTION

This handout will be supplemented by a Study Session presentation on February 28, 2018. It provides information regarding potential major plan recommendations (“Big Moves”), including proposed projects and potential sites affected.

The purpose of this meeting is to get Council and Commission direction as to what options should continue to be considered in the planning process. These decisions will help determine what potential projects will be presented to the public for prioritization and carried forward in developing the Park and Recreation System Master Plan.

This handout defines the Big Moves, details the options for locating the Big Moves, and identifies park opportunity site considerations.

WHAT ARE BIG MOVES?

The term “Big Moves” is used to describe identified community needs or desires that:

- Are major facilities or buildings;
- Have significant budget, staffing and spatial impacts;
- Require major investments; and/or
- Make commitments of precious park land.

Four big moves are identified for discussion. These consist of the following:

- Adding new parkland to meet neighborhood needs;
- Adding multiple smaller facilities and refreshing/renovating parks to create “uniquely Cupertino” sites and experiences;
- Adding major facilities to expand recreation options; and
- Protecting natural areas and improving access to nature in City parks and across the City.

Each of these moves could be accomplished in different ways. During the meeting we’ll discuss what options are “on the table” and what opportunities if any should not be considered further.

The high cost and low availability of vacant land in Cupertino affects the ability to provide new parks to meet all recreation needs. Cupertino has very few large parks that could accommodate a new major facility and no site that can accommodate all the Big Moves. New uses will also increase parking needs; parking is already an issue at several of the sites.

Using existing City parkland is only one option for locating Big Moves. There are potential public partners inside and outside the City, opportunities for public/private development, and a variety of out-of-the-box options that may support some of the Big Moves. Joint-use facilities are one possible means to provide some of the noted facilities. The City already has a joint-use agreement in place with Cupertino Union School District, and such partnerships could be revisited and perhaps expanded. The joint development of a new facility should consider whether the facility should be on City property or the joint party's property. Repurposed commercial buildings may be a viable alternative to new facility construction for some of the identified facility needs.

Key Big Moves

1. NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK(S)	Potentially several parks to meet the needs of nearby neighbors in underserved areas of the city (areas not within ½ mile or a 10-minute walk of parks)
2. PARK ENHANCEMENTS	A variety of amenities, facilities and park enhancements to diversify recreation options and create a uniquely Cupertino character to the park system
3. MAJOR FACILITIES	One or more large facilities that meet specialized recreation needs. These potentially include an Aquatic Facility, Performing/Fine Arts Center, Technology Center/Incubator Hub/Maker Space, Gymnasium/Recreation Center, Senior Center (expansion of services), Relocated Teen Center, and Cricket/Multi-use Sports Field
4. NATURE INVESTMENT	A variety of improvements for both nature protection and nature access

“BIG MOVE” OPTIONS

	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>New Neighborhood Park(s)</i>	<p>Strive for minimum 3+ acre size where possible to provide opportunities for social gathering, play and active recreation [Existing neighborhood parks include large (varying between 4 acres and 13 acres in size) or small (typically less than 3 acres) providing a range of passive and active recreation opportunities for surrounding neighborhoods.]</p> <p>Consider minimum design standards to include play area, open lawn, benches/seating, shade, picnic /tables and sports court/sports activity.</p>	<p>Geographically located to provide 10-minute walk access to neighborhood parks from underserved areas</p> <p>Large enough to meet site goals, serve nearby neighbors with a variety of uses, and help achieve City’s park land standards</p> <p>May include school JUAs or school joint use parks if these include public access to play areas, sports courts, and other rec options in addition to sports fields</p>	<p>May be difficult or expensive to acquire in targeted locations given limited land availability</p>
	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>Park Enhancement</i>	<p>Wide variety of small and large moves system-wide to be completed at several key sites and under-performing areas</p> <p>Increase the diversity of recreation opportunities</p> <p>Create a uniquely Cupertino character for each park with site themes, special elements, art, color and material palettes</p>	<p>Can be developed within existing park areas that are not ecologically sensitive</p> <p>Should consider natural/topographical aspects of site, neighborhood character, site history and desires/ demographic characteristics of service area to promote unique park character</p> <p>Locations dispersed throughout City and interconnected through inviting walking biking routes, or ideally through green space or greenways</p>	<p>Types of amenities and facilities will vary, include but not limited to: fitness opportunities, nature play, universal/inclusive play, water play, amphitheater, hookups/area to support neighborhood programming and events (such as movies/concerts in the park, yoga), basketball courts (full or half court), pickleball, badminton, tai chi court, outdoor table tennis, pickleball, bocce, social hubs and shaded seating/ gathering spaces. May include challenge elements such as zip lines and climbing spires, bike skills course / pump track, skate park, parkour (obstacle course)</p>

	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
MAJOR FACILITIES			
<i>Aquatic Facility</i>	<p>Year-round swimming facility designed for a full aquatic program (such as recreation, instructional swimming, aquatic exercise and lap swimming).</p> <p>Outdoors or indoors if combined with another facility</p> <p>Revenue generation options include concessions, all-purpose space for party rentals, ample deck space or lawn, and lighting; potential rentable cabanas and private dressing rooms</p>	<p>2.5-3 acres needed</p> <p>In community park, special use site or suitable large neighborhood park</p> <p>Sufficient parking available</p> <p>Access via arterial or collector street and transit desirable</p> <p>Ideally connected to other sites via off-street trail</p> <p>Could be co-located with another identified proposed or existing facility</p>	<p>Will require annual operating funding from the City budget, even if it is designed to minimize net operating cost.</p> <p>Existing facilities (Blackberry Farm, Sports Center) are not recommended for expanded operations</p> <p>Potential for public/private partnership</p>

	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>Performing/Fine Arts Center</i>	<p>Indoor or indoor/outdoor venue to support programs and participation in cultural and performing arts, literary arts, fine arts and media.</p> <p>Scale and amount of programmable space will depend on partners involved and target size for audiences (black box/flexible performance space to mid-size theater and stage for larger performances of 300-1,000)</p> <p>Potential considerations for revenue generation include studio rooms, recording studio, dance floors, kiln/crafts room, reservable multi-use banquet room, art display space, coffee shop/café</p>	<p>In community park, special use site, or a joint use facility</p> <p>Sufficient parking available</p> <p>Access via arterial or collector street and proximity to transit recommended</p> <p>In a centralized or easily accessible location</p> <p>Could be provided by adding onto an existing building, designing a new building at a site that already has classrooms/recreation programs/other spaces, or constructing a standalone facility</p>	<p>Program needs need further definition</p> <p>Potential equity partners should be identified and involved in defining facility needs</p> <p>Evaluate potential for joint-use facility</p> <p>Could include technology center/incubator space as a hub for creative endeavors</p> <p>Could include teen space</p> <p>This facility may allow Cupertino to remove or repurpose the older stand-alone ceramics building at Wilson</p>
<i>Technology Center/Incubator Hub/Maker Space</i>	<p>Indoor facility to support STEM, STEAM and incubator programs for youth, teens, and adults</p> <p>Includes classrooms, computer labs; maker spaces could include recording studio, graphics/computer animation studio, industrial shop, tool library, 3D printers, CNC (computer numeric control) machines, laser cutters</p> <p>Needs indoor or indoor/outdoor space for programs</p> <p>Could include meeting or event space</p>	<p>Centrally located</p> <p>Nearby transit access desirable</p> <p>Wifi or high-speed internet</p> <p>Sound attenuation for maker space (noise reduction)</p> <p>Siting should take into account existing teen room at Library (either partner or seek different area)</p> <p>Adjacent outdoor work “yard” desirable</p> <p>Electrical outlets and power including 220v</p>	<p>Could be combined with a gymnasium/ recreation center</p> <p>Could be combined with performing/fine arts center</p> <p>Could be combined with a relocated teen center</p> <p>Local foundations or tech companies may be potential partners or sponsors; could be a public-private partnership</p> <p>Could be tested as a joint-use pilot project with FUHSD to serve as an innovative teen center</p> <p>Could be a joint-use with De Anza</p>

		capacity	Could explore repurposed commercial or industrial building
	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>Gymnasium/Recreation Center</i>	<p>At minimum should include indoor multi-use sport courts for basketball, pickleball, badminton, volleyball, etc. Should include locker rooms, storage, office space, and may include fitness center, dance/yoga studio, and classrooms.</p> <p>If built as a larger recreation center, it would include gymnasium space (see above) as well as multi-purpose rooms, childcare rooms/preschool, event space, and a range of meeting and programming rooms</p> <p>Needs indoor/outdoor space for programs</p>	<p>Centrally located</p> <p>Transit accessible desirable</p> <p>Minimum 12,000 - 16,000 sf for gymnasium and associated space</p> <p>At least 40,000-60,000+ sf for recreation center (not including parking or grounds)</p> <p>Community park, large neighborhood park, or special use site</p> <p>Could consider school or other partnerships</p>	<p>Could be combined with a technology center/incubator hub/maker space, or an aquatics facility</p> <p>Is not recommended to be built as a stand-alone gym facility; should be built as a larger recreation center, or could be associated with the Sports Center</p> <p>This facility may allow Cupertino to repurpose the older stand-alone building used for gymnastics and co-sponsored clubs at Monta Vista Park</p>
<i>Senior Center (expansion of services)</i>	<p>Additional classrooms, fitness/wellness/active recreation space and multi-purpose rooms</p> <p>Trends favor supporting uses for older adults and seniors in a multi-purpose, multi-generational recreation facility, but space could be accommodated at existing senior center or at other new or expanded facilities</p>	<p>Expansion of existing center which is centrally located is an option, & is transit accessible (parking and access improvements would be needed)</p> <p>Availability of convenient nearby parking</p> <p>Transit proximity desirable</p> <p>Vehicle access from a collector or arterial street</p>	<p>Existing Senior Center parking and circulation could be revisited to aid in bus/shuttle load/unloading</p> <p>Since Senior Center visitors have access to the nearby Sports Center, on-site fitness, wellness and activity space at the Senior Center could target fragile and frail seniors, while Sports Center facilities could support more active, higher impact uses</p> <p>Expanded senior or multi-age programming can be initiated at other venues</p>

	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>Relocated Teen Center</i>	<p>Range of spaces that provide social and activity-based activities including but not limited to classrooms, computer lab rooms, maker spaces, active use and challenge spaces, social gathering areas and other specialized activities depending on programming</p> <p>Trends favor incorporating teen space in a multi-use, multi-generational facility or school site rather than a stand-alone site</p>	<p>Centrally located is recommended or near schools, library or other draw, including coffee shops/ restaurants</p> <p>Nearby transit access desirable</p> <p>Wifi or high-speed internet</p> <p>Siting should take into account existing teen room at Library (either partner or seek different area)</p>	<p>Could be combined with a gymnasium/ recreation center</p> <p>Could be combined with performing/fine arts center</p> <p>Could be combined with a technology/incubator/maker space</p> <p>Local foundations or tech companies may be potential partners or sponsors; could be a public-private partnership</p> <p>Could be tested as a joint-use pilot project with FUHSD to serve as an innovative teen center</p> <p>Could explore repurposed commercial or industrial building</p>
<i>Cricket / Multi-use Sports Field</i>	<p>A community-oriented flexible use or multi-use sports field that supports cricket for all ages plus other programmed uses</p> <p>May consider a youth-sized field if space is a limitation</p> <p>May consider dedicated cricket field if space is available</p>	<p>Sun exposure</p> <p>Transit accessible desirable</p> <p>On arterial/collector desirable</p> <p>66 ft x 10 ft pitch surrounded by level turf area; consider at maximum 390 x 420 ft diameter</p> <p>Parking for 25-40 cars to support community use and game; if just a practice field, then less parking would be needed</p> <p>Community park, large neighborhood park, special use site, school</p>	<p>Library Field location is youth-sized and has seasonal outdoor volleyball overlay</p> <p>Public Works developed recommendations for an international caliber cricket field and potential location but no discussion of other sizes or means to address the impacts to existing uses that would be displaced</p> <p>City should not consider international scale (ICC) field unless completed in partnership and located in non-City park to avoid placing regional scale facility in neighborhood or community park</p> <p>A smaller than ICC-sized field and/or a batting cage could</p>

		partnership, County park partnership	potentially be accommodated in a variety of locations including in City parks; partnerships with schools, neighboring cities or the County could also be considered/ pursued
	DESCRIPTION	SITE CRITERIA	HIGHLIGHTED CONSIDERATIONS
<i>Nature Investment</i>	<p>Wide variety of moves, some small and some large to provide improved access to nature</p> <p>Nature protection options include but are not limited to riparian corridor protection/ enhancement, natural area restoration, invasive species removal, bank stabilization and improving water quality and flood capacity.</p> <p>Nature access options include but are not limited to community gardens and agriculture, orchards, bee hives, bird baths and houses, pollinator gardens/paths, turf reduction/replacement with native plantings, etc.</p>	<p>Key riparian corridors / greenbelts including Stevens Creek and segments of Regnart, Calabazas and Saratoga Creeks as well as Junipero Serra Channel. Coordinate opportunities with trail development plans and appropriate public access</p> <p>Existing orchards</p> <p>Areas with unique topography, tree canopy and natural features (to maximize and protect these)</p> <p>Nature access elements would need sun exposure (5+ hours/day); geographically dispersed; potable water access needed for gardens, orchard and birds and bee hives</p>	<p>The opportunities for both nature protection and access are greater along those sections that connect to and through City parks – from Jollyman to City Hall to Wilson and Creekside Parks – and where continuous sections of habitat are more likely to be achieved and City property can be best leveraged</p> <p>Potential for partnerships (churches, schools, etc.) along pollinator pathways, greenbelts or adjacent to other natural areas to increase contiguous areas/ natural resource value</p>

CITY PARK OPPORTUNITY SITE CONSIDERATIONS

<i>Larger Park Sites</i>	<i>On arterial/collector street</i>	<i>Centralized or easily accessible location</i>	<i>Parking</i>	<i>Under-utilized space or building</i>	<i>Notes/Comments</i>	<i>“Big Move” Compatibility</i>
Memorial Park	Yes	Both	Several parking lots and on-street parking; City has agreement with De Anza College for parking to support events (must be scheduled around school events). Additional parking will likely be needed depending on what is built	Yes	Existing large events location with additional space/improvements anticipated to support events/outdoor performances Could also be site for new universal play area	Aquatic Facility, Performing/Fine Arts Center, Gymnasium/Recreation Center, Senior Center (expansion of services), Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
Jollyman Park	Yes	Both	Parking lot off S. Stelling Road, parallel parking on De Foe Drive and angled parking on Dumas Drive & Tuscan Place edges; street parking; additional parking may be needed depending on what is built	Yes	Could also be site for new universal play area	Aquatic Facility, Gymnasium/Recreation Center, Cricket, Park Enhancement, Nature Investment

Larger Park Sites	On arterial/collector street	Centralized or easily accessible location	Parking	Under-utilized space or building	Notes/Comments	“Big Move” Compatibility
Creekside Park	Yes	Accessible	Central parking lot; depending on what is built, additional parking may be needed	Yes		Aquatic Facility, Gymnasium/Recreation Center, Relocated Teen Center, Cricket, Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
Civic Center/Library	1 block from De Anza Blvd. arterial; access via neighborhood connector streets Rodrigues Ave. and Pacifica Dr.	Both	Existing parking lots are frequently at capacity; recent master planning identified structured parking as a potential need/ solution; any additional features in the complex will require parking	Yes	Existing events location	Performing/Fine Arts Center, Technology Center/Incubator Hub/Maker Space, Relocated Teen Center, Nature Investment
Wilson Park	No (access via South Portal Ave. is a neighborhood connector)	Central	No lot, but angled parking on Parkside Lane and Rodrigues Avenue; street parking along S. Portal Avenue and Wintergreen Drive; improvements on east side of park may require	Yes	Existing ceramics building will eventually need replacing or more expensive repairs than its worth; use could be moved to other location or building; existing play areas surrounded by large open lawn space on east side of site – this area could accommodate additional use or better use of existing space but location in residential	Aquatics, Gymnasium/Recreation Center, Cricket, Park Enhancement, Nature Investment

<i>Larger Park Sites</i>	<i>On arterial/collector street</i>	<i>Centralized or easily accessible location</i>	<i>Parking</i>	<i>Under-utilized space or building</i>	<i>Notes/Comments</i>	<i>“Big Move” Compatibility</i>
			additional parking		area needs to be consideration	
<i>Stevens Creek Corridor</i>	Yes/No	Portions accessible; use restricted in places	Parking lots at McClellan Ranch, Blackberry Farm Park, and Blackberry Farm Golf Course	Yes	Nature/rural preserve character does not align with expanded active recreation	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
<i>Portal Park</i>	No	No (but VTA bus service on Stevens Creek Blvd. 2 blocks away)	Limited street parking	Yes	Underutilized building and lawn area; lack of parking and poor sight lines into park limit programming and require additional staffing to use	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
<i>Monta Vista Park</i>	Yes	No (but VTA bus service nearby on Foothill Blvd. at Stevens Creek Blvd. 2 blocks away)	Parking lot and street parking	Yes	Repurposed buildings have limited functionality in comparison to new facility; a new gymnasium/recreation center could better accommodate programming; cost of maintaining versus functionality of the space at some point will not balance out the costs - site use could be reconsidered	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
<i>Linda Vista Park</i>	No	No (Neighborhood)	Parking lot; additional parking is challenging due to topography.	Yes	Large open lawn area, relatively level portions could accommodate additional use; location is a limiting consideration	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment

<i>Larger Park Sites</i>	<i>On arterial/collector street</i>	<i>Centralized or easily accessible location</i>	<i>Parking</i>	<i>Under-utilized space or building</i>	<i>Notes/Comments</i>	<i>“Big Move” Compatibility</i>
Hoover Park	No	No (Neighborhood)	Angled parking on Leeds Avenue and Donegal Drive edges, street parking	Yes	Multi-use fields host predominantly soccer but otherwise limited activity in the park; location is a limiting consideration	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment
Varian Park	No	No (Neighborhood)	Small parking lot and street parking	Yes	Large open lawn area, relatively level could accommodate additional use; location is a limiting consideration	Park Enhancement, Nature Investment