

Caldwell Ranch, Uhland ETJ Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan

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Parks and Open Space

Adequate parks and open space programmed for a variety of uses in close proximity to residents is a requirement of a successful and sustainable community. The types of parks vary with their purpose and location within the community. To meet the needs of Caldwell Ranch residents, there are four types of parks and open space proposed; a neighborhood park, pocket parks, Paseos/open space, and detention basins/open space. Within the Uhland ETJ area of 380.2 acres, the Minimum Open Space provided shall be 5% (per City of Uhland Standards), or 19.0 acres.

Neighborhood Park

This park serves as the gathering space and recreation center for the surrounding neighborhoods. It shall be a minimum of four (4) acres and contain a combination of turf, landscape and groundcover, and hardscape areas. On-site parking may be provided, as well as parking on adjacent streets. Facilities may include a hardscaped plaza, shade structures, restrooms, basketball court(s), picnic tables, and playground equipment.

Pocket Parks

These parks are dispersed throughout the community to meet the daily recreational needs of families; particularly those with small children. They are generally located adjacent to Paseos within or between individual neighborhoods, with a minimum size of one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) acre. They will contain a combination of turf, landscape and groundcover, minor hardscape, and softscape around play equipment. They are pedestrian in nature, but parking will be available on adjacent streets. Facilities may include small turf areas for passive play, small shade structures, picnic tables, and playground equipment primarily for young children.

Paseos/Open Space

These areas lie within, between, or adjacent to the various neighborhoods. They are linear in nature and provide both pedestrian access and stormwater conveyance, as shown on the Caldwell Ranch Trails, Parks, & Open Space Plan. Meandering trails within Paseos connect residential streets within neighborhoods to pocket parks, other trails, and surrounding destinations. They will contain a combination of native landscape and groundcover, minor turf areas, and benches.

Detention Basins/Open Space

These facilities lie at the perimeter of the community to provide active and passive recreation opportunities, as well as stormwater detention prior to runoff exiting the site. The bottoms of these basins may incorporate multiple elevations to provide turf areas that are less frequently subjected to inundation. These areas may contain ballfields for soccer, football, baseball, or softball. Basins will contain a combination of native landscape and groundcover and turf areas for active or passive recreation opportunities.

Trails

Creating a community that promotes walking or bicycling requires opportunities to choose these alternatives to the automobile to meet a family's daily mobility needs. The trail network knits Caldwell Ranch together; both neighborhood to neighborhood and neighborhood to destination.

Trail types vary with their purpose and hierarchy of importance. Trails adjacent to major roadways serve as expedient routes to meet daily needs, such as waking to school, the store, a community meeting, or work. Trails within open space Paseos serve as the "scenic route", offering a more relaxing experience by combining exercise with the enjoyment of the country setting.

A designated route within the proposed trail system provides a jogging circuit. This route can be surfaced with material other than concrete to provide an appropriate jogging surface. The route of the circuit begins at the Neighborhood Park, and circulates through the community as shown on the Caldwell Ranch Conceptual Trails, Parks, & Open Space plan. The route of this circuit within the Uhland ETJ is approximately 3.3 miles.

The three types of pedestrian routes within Caldwell Ranch are described as follows:

Trails adjacent to major roadways

The primary pedestrian routes within Caldwell Ranch provide opportunities for exercise and are the main linkages and most direct routes from trip origins within neighborhoods to the school, parks, commercial sites, and external destinations such as downtown Uhland. These are located parallel to the major road in the community on one or both sides of the travel lanes, but are enhanced to provide a safer and more enjoyable experience. These are also located within widened parkways along the project side of SH21, Old Spanish Trail, and FM2720. The trails lie within parkways of varying widths; meander within the parkways; are separated from the street; may be concrete, decomposed granite, or other surfacing material; and connect to adjacent neighborhoods at intermittent points along their routes. Total trail length of this type in the Uhland ETJ is approximately 3.6 miles.

Trails within Paseos/Open Space

These trails provide a secondary pedestrian route, offering a more relaxing experience from those along the major street. These provide the opportunity to enjoy the open space amenities and are for exercise and enjoyment, as well as getting between origins and destinations within the community. These trails may be surfaced in concrete, decomposed granite, or other material and are aligned within Paseos between or adjacent to neighborhoods. Total trail length of this type in the Uhland ETJ is approximately 3.1 miles.

Sidewalks adjacent to streets

This is the most prevalent level of pedestrian routes within the community along all residential streets. These are non-contiguous concrete sidewalks to provide the initial connection between the individual homes within neighborhoods to destinations and other levels of pedestrian circulation. Total trail length of this type in the Uhland ETJ will be dependent upon the ultimate street layout within the various planning areas.