

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes implementation of the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan (DFPMP or Plan), and the designation of off-leash dog park areas in up to three different locations around the City (Off-Leash Dog Park Locations Study): the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP), Hale Park, and Shoreline Beach Area. The specifics of the proposed project are described below.

2.1 PROJECT APPLICANT

City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
630 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

2.2 PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS

The locations of the three sites being analyzed in this EIR are described below. The regional and local location is shown on Figure 2-1, and the individual site locations are shown on Figures 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4.

Douglas Family Preserve (DFP)

The Douglas Family Preserve, formerly known as the Wilcox property, is at 2551 Medcliff Road in the City of Santa Barbara, and encompasses 69.8 acres. It is located in the western portion of the City of Santa Barbara, near the intersection of Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road. The DFP is bordered on the north by Cliff Drive and Elings Park, on the south by the ocean; on the east by Arroyo Burro Beach County Park; and on the west by a single family residential neighborhood.

The DFP is zoned Park and Recreation (P-R), and Coastal Overlay (S-D-3). The General Plan land use designations for the site include: Residential, 3 and 5 units/acre; Proposed Park; Open Space (north facing bluff and creek); Creek/Buffer (Arroyo Burro Creek); Vista (eastern point); Bikeway. The existing land use is Open Space/Park, as is the proposed land use.

A small, narrow 1.46-acre parcel (APN 047-140-005) of the DFP along Cliff Drive, while owned by the City, is actually in unincorporated Santa Barbara County jurisdiction. Annexation of this parcel to the City has been initiated as part of the Elings Park annexation. However, the annexation is still in progress, and there is no estimate regarding when it may be finalized. This parcel has no City or County zoning or land use designation.

Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan
and Off-Leash Dog Park Regional and Local Location Map
Figure 2-1



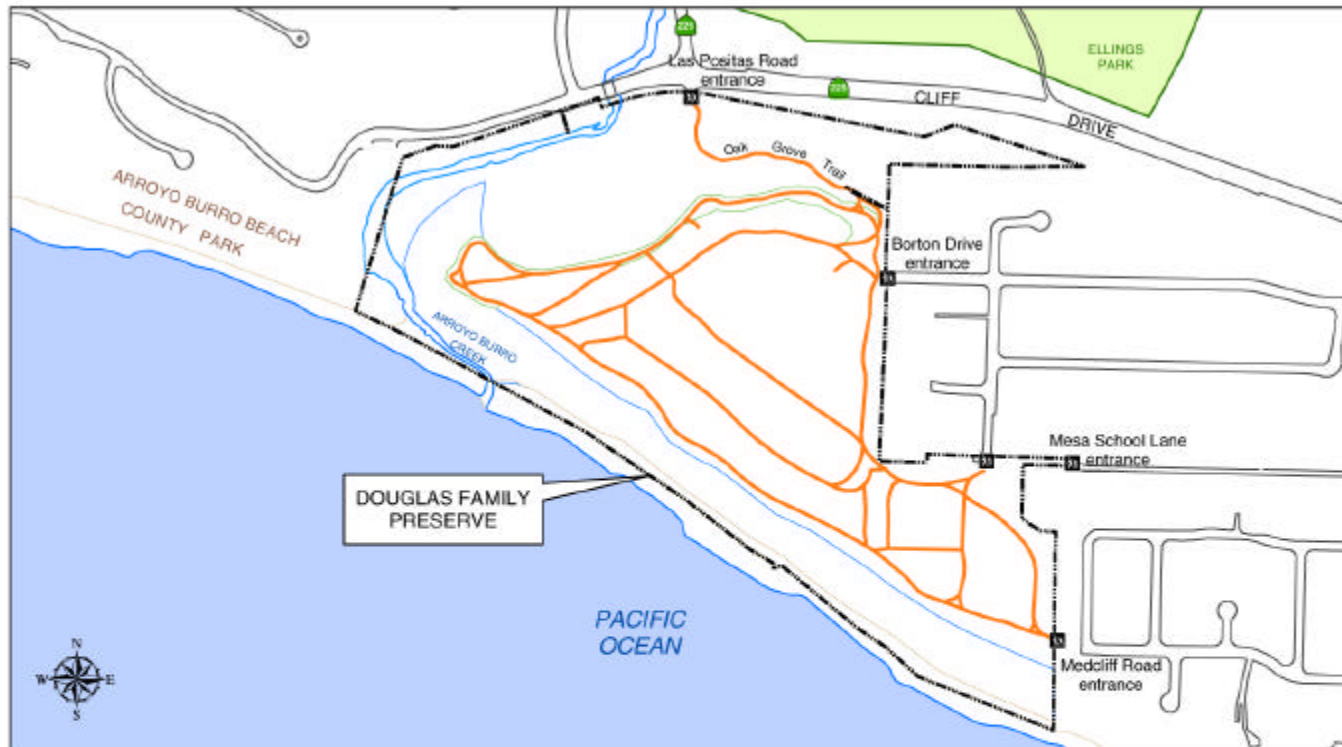


Figure 2-2
City of Santa Barbara
Douglas Family Preserve
Location Map

Other Features

-  Douglas Family Preserve
-  City Park
-  Shore line
-  Road - curb line
-  Trail
-  Access Point



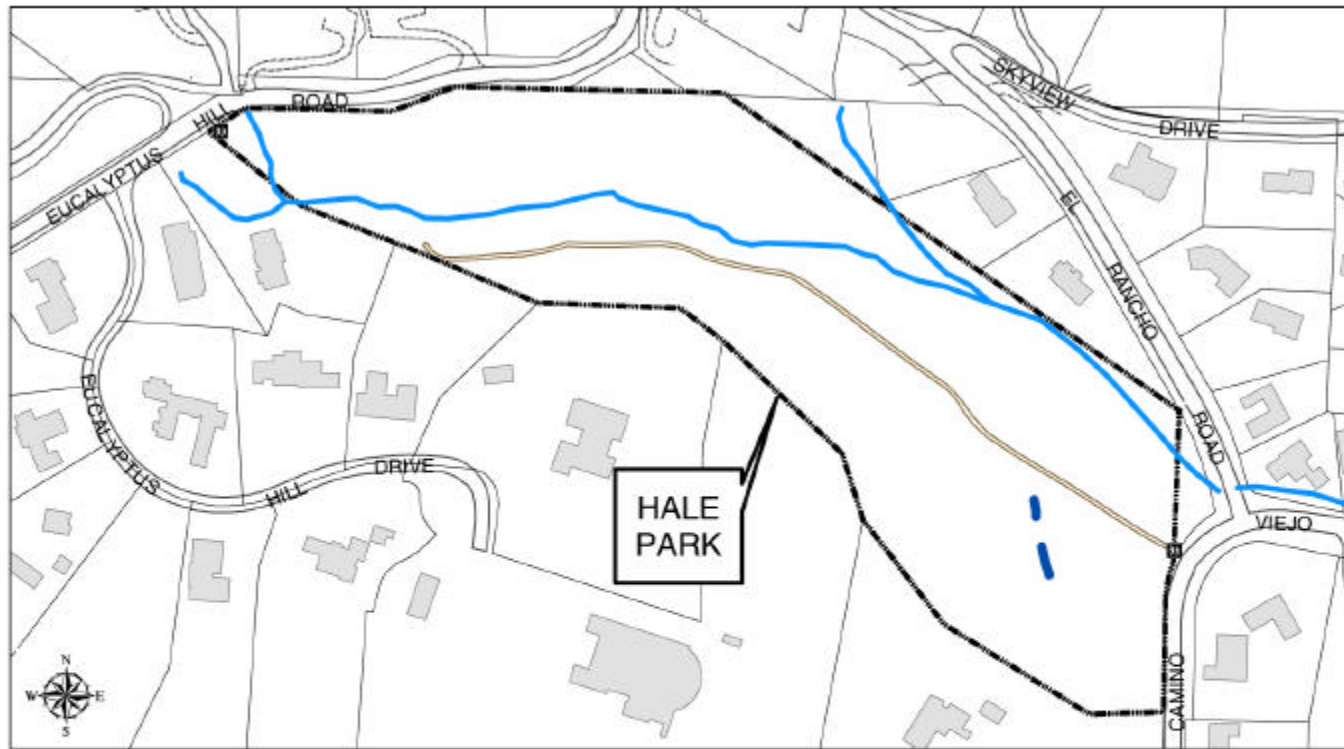


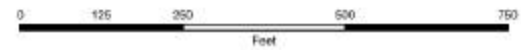
Figure 2-3
City of Santa Barbara
Hale Park
Location Map

Vegetation Type

- Drainage
- Seeps

Other Features

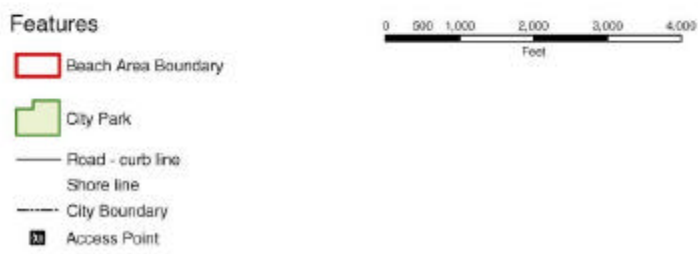
- Hale Park Boundary
- Road - Paved
- Road - Dirt
- Access Point





Source: Jones and Stokes and the City of Santa Barbara

Figure 2-4
 City of Santa Barbara
 Shoreline Beach Area
 Location Map



Hale Park

Hale Park is located between Eucalyptus Hill Road and Camino Viejo, in the eastern portion of the City of Santa Barbara, near the campus of the Brooks Institute. It is approximately 13 acres, and is generally surrounded by residential uses on large lots (ranging from 10,000 square feet to 3 acres in size). To the north are single-family residential uses and the City limits, to the south are single-family residences, to the east is the Brooks Institute, and to the west are single-family residences. The site is bounded by Eucalyptus Hill Road, El Rancho Road, Camino Viejo, and Eucalyptus Hill Drive.

The site is zoned Single Residential (A-2), with a General Plan designation of Open Space, and Proposed Park. The existing and proposed land use is Open Space/Park.

Shoreline Beach Area (SBA)

The original beach location identified in the Off-Leash Dog Park Locations Study Initial Study on October 2000 was about 11,000 feet long. However, as described in Section 1.3 EIR SCOPE AND CONTENT, the City Council approved an extension of the area to nearly 16,000 feet. This approximately 3-mile long beach area stretches from the Shoreline Park staircase, westerly to the City boundary. Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, which is within City limits, is within the Shoreline Beach Area. The Shoreline Beach Area also includes the portion of beach directly below the DFP bluffs. The SBA is bounded by single-family residential uses and the DFP to the north, the ocean to the south, and the beach to the east and west. Access to the beach exists at four points: Shoreline Park Stairs, Thousand Steps, Mesa Lane Steps and Arroyo Burro Beach County Park. There is also access from Leadbetter Beach, and along the beach from the west.

The entire 3-mile long Shoreline Beach Area site is within City limits. However, an approximately 600-foot long stretch of beach is set within the Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, owned by the County of Santa Barbara. The remainder of the SBA is in the City's Coastal Zone. The SBA is designated in the General Plan as Beach, and has the following zoning: Park and Recreation (P-R) and Coastal Overlay (S-D-3) below Shoreline and La Mesa Parks and at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park; Single Family Residential (E-1), Planned Unit Development (PUD), Coastal Overlay (S-D-3) below the residential area east of Arroyo Burro Beach County Park; and E-1 and S-D-3 below the residential area west of the County Park. The existing and proposed land use is Beach.

2.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND USES

The following section describes how the Douglas Family Preserve, Hale Park and Shoreline Beach Area are currently utilized, the types of facilities provided at each site, and existing dog-related regulations and practices.

Douglas Family Preserve (DFP)

The 70-acre DFP site is used primarily for walking, jogging, bicycling, hanggliding, picnicking, recreating with dogs, and other passive recreation uses. Trails of various width and surface materials allow access to a major portion of the property. The primary unpaved trail, referred to as the Loop Trail, that travels along the perimeter of the property, eventually leads into the Oak Woodland and the Oak Grove Trails, and connects with Cliff Drive at the Las Positas intersection. The interior of the site consists of minor unpaved trails and larger paved roads, remnants of past uses on the property. Most people walk the Loop Trail, while others utilize the interior trails.

Dogs are allowed off-leash at the DFP with no restrictions on days and times of use (SBMC 6.08.020). At present, dogs are only restricted via park regulations from veering off the Oak Grove Trail and going down the coastal bluff. A survey of the DFP site users conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (March 2002) (Appendix 1, bound separately) indicates that the majority of the users surveyed (76 percent) was accompanied by dogs, and users indicated their primary use of the site as recreation with their dogs (75 percent). It should be noted that the survey only included people who actually use the DFP. There is likely a population that would like to visit the DFP, but are discouraged from doing so because they are not comfortable with dogs off-leash; this population was not represented in the survey.

The site consists of the following developed elements: a residential trailer serving as a caretaker's residence near the entrance at Medcliff Road; remnants of the former use of the site as a commercial nursery, including a low stone wall and a portion of a road; and concrete garage foundations associated with the beginnings of a prior construction project, a residential retirement community, that was not completed. There is also regulatory signage posted at each of the entrances. A kiosk with site information is provided at the Medcliff Road access point.

Dog owners are required to pick up after their dogs at the DFP (SBMC Section 6.12.020). There are "mutt mitt" stations at each of the following four access points to the DFP: Medcliff Road, Borton Drive, Mesa School Lane, and at the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive. Mutt mitt stations consist of small dispensers for plastic mitts or waste bags to pick up dog feces, and disposal containers to deposit feces. On a daily basis, Parks and Recreation Department staff removes dog waste from the mutt mitt stations and any feces remaining on the ground in the immediate area, as well as replenishing the supply of waste bags or mitts. Parks and Recreation Department rangers patrol the site approximately twice weekly. In the past, there have been a few dog waste pick-up events by volunteers as part of a volunteer-led public education program regarding dog feces pick-up requirements and other issues of dog owner responsibility.

A sign at the Medcliff Road, Mesa School Lane and Borton Drive entrances to the DFP lists a series of regulations and requirements for use of the Preserve, as enumerated below in Table 2.3-1. At each of these sites, there is a sign noting that picking up after one's dog is required, and a sign noting that dogs must be leashed as they leave the property. At the Las Positas/Cliff Drive entrance, there is only a sign indicating that owners must pick up

after their dogs.

TABLE 2.3-1 Regulations Posted at the DFP

WELCOME TO THE DOUGLAS FAMILY PRESERVE

To All Preserve Users: The Parks and Recreation Department would like for all users of the DFP to have a safe and enjoyable visit to the preserve. To do so, we ask all park users to leave the property as you would like to find it the next time you use it, and for everyone's pleasure. Please abide by the guidelines posted below.

PERSONS ENTERING THIS AREA ACCEPT ALL RISKS OF CONTACT WITH UNLEASHED DOGS. ENTRY OF ANY PERSON ONTO AN OFF-LEASHED DOG AREA SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR ANY AND ALL LOSS, INJURY OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE PRESERVE OR ACTION BY ANY DOG OR ANY DOG OWNER RELATING TO DOG. THIS PROVISION IS NOT INTENDED TO ALTER STATE LAW REGARDING LIABILITY OF OWNERS OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS FOR INJURIES TO OTHERS.

We ask that you leave the property as you would like to find it next time you use it, and for every ones' pleasure. Please follow the guidelines posted below. Enjoy yourself. Thank you.

- Preserve closes at 10 pm, and reopens at sunrise SBMC 15:15:250
- No motorized vehicles allowed in Preserve SBMC 10:44:055
- Smoking prohibited on Preserve SBMC 15:16:220
- No open fires allowed on Preserve UNIFORM FIRE CODE 11:113
- Overnight camping is prohibited on Preserve SBMC 15.16.070
- Dogs are allowed unleashed on this property provided:
 - They are licensed & vaccinated SBMC 6:12:0606
 - Not sick, diseased, aggressive, vicious, in heat or under 4 months old SBMC 6:12:030
 - Dog is accompanied by a responsible party 18 years of age or older SB Ordin. 5049 Section C
 - Dog is leashed while entering or exiting property SB Ordin. 5049 Section C
 - Dog is leashed and removed from property at first sign of aggression SBMC 6:12:030
 - Dog does not go down coastal bluff sides due to erosion and safety concerns SBMC 15:16:150
 - Dog does not veer off the oak woodland trail SBMC 15:16:150
- Pick up after your dog, see provided mutt mitt stations at entrances SBMC 6:12:020
- Burying dead animals prohibited SBMC 6:24:020
- Pack out what you pack in...remove your trash SBMC10:40:100
- Please do not walk down coastal bluff sides or off the oak woodland trail due to habitat, erosion and safety concerns. SBMC 15:16:220
- Please do not plant trees or shrubs on the Preserve without prior approval from the Parks and Recreation Department. (Unapproved new plantings will be removed) SBMC 15:20:110
- Creation or use of BMX bike trails are prohibited due to severe disturbance of soils, erosion concerns, and safety SBMC 15:16:150
- Firearms prohibited SBMC 9.34.010

WARNING: OWNERS SHALL STAY WITHIN VIEW OF THEIR PETS FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR DOG AND OTHER PARK USERS (SBMC SECT. 6.08.020)

No habitat restoration efforts now occur at the DFP. However, vegetative fuels management activities are conducted as needed to reduce fire hazards. The outer loop trail is maintained at a 10-foot width, and vegetation on either side of the trail is trimmed with mechanized hand equipment or mowed, providing a 25-foot wide defensible space. The middle loop trail is also maintained, with vegetation removed by hand or mowed on either side resulting in a total defensible space of 17 feet wide. Along the eastern residential side of the DFP, and on the northern side of the property, the required vegetation buffer is 60 feet; vegetation is removed via mechanized hand equipment or by mowers, and debris piles removed. Vertical clearance in this area must be 14 feet, and horizontal clearance must be 16 feet. All fire hydrants at the DFP are cleared of vegetation in a 6-foot diameter, and the soil surface is incised about 6 inches at the valve. Minor trail maintenance, such as filling large ruts, is periodically conducted.

Poison oak is occasionally sprayed with an herbicide in the 6-foot diameter clearance area needed for emergency access to hydrants. The frequency of herbicide use is indicated by the extent of vegetative growth; removal usually occurs once every two years.

Hale Park

This 13-acre park is used primarily by neighbors for walks with and without dogs, some on-leash and some off-leash, and is open at 6:00 AM and closed at 10:00 PM daily. However, due to the lack of knowledge and remote location of the park, the site is not heavily used. There are two entrances to Hale Park: Camino Viejo Road (main entrance) and Eucalyptus Hill Road. One mutt mitt station is located at the Camino Viejo entrance to the park. Approximately once weekly, Parks and Recreation Department staff visits the site to dispose of the contents in the waste container. Additionally, one volunteer helps stock the mitts. The City requires owners to pick up after their dogs (SBMC Section 6.12.020). Dogs are allowed on-leash only at Hale Park (SBMC Section 6.08.020); however, both on-leash and off-leash dog use has been observed here. One sign is located at the Camino Viejo entrance indicating that dog feces must be picked-up and properly disposed of.

Based on a survey of Hale Park users conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (March 2002) (Appendix 1, bound separately), the majority (62 percent) surveyed was accompanied by dogs, and 58 percent of those surveyed indicated that their primary use of the site is to recreate with a dog.

A trail wanders through the Eucalyptus grove and then northwest up the hill parallel to the stream, about 50 to 75 feet from its banks. The path then branches near the upper end of the property, one trail crossing the tributary to go up the open slope to a wall along Eucalyptus Hill Road, and the second bending southwest around the hill to end at Eucalyptus Hill Road. Herbicide is not used regularly at Hale Park. Herbicide was last sprayed three years ago to control the regrowth of Eucalyptus sprouts.

Shoreline Beach Area (SBA)

The use of the Shoreline Beach Area ranges from low to heavy, depending upon the particular location. In many areas of the beach, access is limited by high tides. This, coupled with the difficulty in entering the site via the beaches or stairs, results in a relatively lighter use of this beach compared to others in Santa Barbara. The beach area is not closed at night.

Pursuant to SBMC Section 6.12.020, the City requires owners to pick up after their dogs. No mutt mitt stations exist on the beach, although there are three stations at Shoreline Park, above the beach. The dog waste disposal containers at Shoreline Park are emptied once daily by Parks and Recreation Department staff. At the Mesa Lane steps, there is one waste bag dispenser, but no receptacle. There are no dispensers and no receptacles at 1000 Steps and at the Shoreline Park stairs. There are three mutt mitt stations at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, at the western end of the SBA. Waste is removed and mutt mitt stations replenished daily by County staff. The County Code (Chapter 26, Article III, Section 26-54) requires persons responsible for dogs to pick up after their dogs. If during regular maintenance activities County staff notices dog waste left on the County beach portion, staff will remove it, but there is no regularly scheduled pick-up of dog feces on the ground.

There is signage near the dog waste dispenser and disposal locations at Shoreline Park and Arroyo Beach County Park indicating that owners or other responsible persons must pick-up after their dogs and properly dispose of the waste. Signage identifying various park rules, including leash restrictions, is posted at Shoreline Park (including at the base of the Shoreline Park staircase, on the beach), as well as at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park. At the Mesa Lane stairs leading to the beach, a sign indicates that dogs must be on-leash. However, there is no dog-related signage at the 1000 Steps beach access.

The SBA is used primarily for walking, including walking with dogs, as well as sunbathing, fishing and surfing. Per City regulations (SBMC 6.08.020), dogs are prohibited from all beaches, except in the Shoreline Beach Area (i.e., at any point between the Shoreline Beach stairs and the westerly City limits), where they are allowed on-leash. However, dogs are currently allowed off-leash on the portion of beach directly below the DFP bluffs as part of the DFP area. Per the Santa Barbara County Code (Chapter 26, Article III), dogs off-leash are prohibited on all County recreation areas. This includes the 600-foot long area of beach that is part of the Arroyo Burro Beach County Park. No information has been formally gathered; however, City staff estimates that dog use throughout most of the SBA is off-leash. The City is responsible for enforcing the leash law throughout the SBA area, including the County Park portion, by City and County mutual agreement.

Based on the results of the user survey conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (March 2002) (Appendix 1, bound separately) the majority of users along the stretch of beach were accompanied by dogs (62 percent), and the majority of users (58 percent) reported

that their primary use of the site involves recreating with their dog. It should be noted that the survey only included people who actually use the SBA, which is the only City beach where dogs are allowed. Therefore, people not comfortable with dogs may not use this beach, and so are not fully represented in the survey.

2.4 PROPOSED PROJECT

Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan (DFPMP or Plan)

The DFPMP was prepared in November 1999, and is currently in draft form. The final approval of the Plan by City Council will occur after completion of the environmental review. The primary focus of the DFPMP is to maintain the natural qualities of the site, and to continue and enhance public access to the site. The DFPMP proposes the following actions: habitat restoration, revegetation, vegetation removal, and vegetation/habitat maintenance; trail improvements, removal and maintenance; general Preserve maintenance; installation of minor structures (e.g., signs, benches); vegetative fuels management; and construction of a single public restroom and an optional caretaker's residence. More recent policy additions to the DFPMP that were approved by the City Council in July 17, 2001 include: (1) the planting of native vegetation along the base of the Oak Grove Trail to strongly discourage access by dogs and people to the creek area and the nearby archaeological site; (2) requiring additional archaeological analysis to determine the site boundaries and depth prior to developing a plan for habitat and creek restoration near the site, and requiring that such restoration shall avoid the site and follow all recommendations of the study; and (3) providing daily pick-up of dog feces and daily enforcement patrols to keep dogs out of sensitive areas.

The DFPMP contains several management recommendations for the DFP pertaining to the following: (1) vegetation, (2) wildlife, (3) risk management, (4) signage, (5) dog management, (6) public access and facilities, (7) adaptive management, and (8) other site elements. The key recommendations are described below. Appendix 4 (bound separately) contains the full DFPMP text, including a list of all management recommendations.

Habitat Access/Trail Removal. Entry into the coastal bluff scrub, riparian/estuary, and oak woodland management units would be discouraged through the removal of unauthorized trails. With restricted entry, these sensitive areas would be protected and possibly expanded. Former trail surfaces would be reseeded with native seed mix. To block access, native vegetation would be planted, and downed wood placed strategically.

Trail Improvements. The main loop trail on the mesa of the DFP would be improved sufficiently to allow for universal access (i.e., disabled and able access) to the Preserve. Improvements would be minor. Where the cross-pitch (slope across the trail) is too sloped, some minor grading would reduce the pitch for better access. Some potholes may be filled and compacted to create a smoother trail. However, puddles and pools would not be repaired. Instead, access around such pools would be created by using already worn areas as additional paths. Again, minor grading might be necessary to create proper

cross pitch and smooth the trail. Changes to the Oak Grove Trail would only occur if erosion becomes a problem as the existing asphalt wears away.

Habitat Restoration/ Invasive Plant Eradication. The Plan calls for habitat restoration in several locations. Restoration ranges from eradication of invasive exotic plant species to planting new native vegetation. Exotic plant removal techniques include hand clearing, machine clearing and, where necessary, spraying with herbicides. Invasive exotic plant species would be controlled in the coastal bluff scrub, riparian/estuary, and oak woodland management units. In the mesa management unit, invasive exotic species that are in direct competition with native species would be incrementally removed, except within established windrows and the butterfly grove. This may be accomplished by hand clearing or spraying where necessary, or where plants are particularly stubborn.

Bluff Access. Downed wood would continue to be used to reduce access to bluff edges in selected areas. Access for para-glider and hang-glider launching and sunset and ocean viewing would be maintained at key points.

Fire Management. The Plan provides for typical fire management procedures (mowing grasses and trimming shrubs and trees) within identified buffers. The buffers include a 7.5 foot width on either side of the loop and interior trails, and a 60-foot wide area on the park side of the residential areas that abut the Preserve. Procedures for protecting native species from fire safety mowing would be continued.

Signage. The Plan allows permanent signage near the site entrances and near the buffers identified above in the discussion of fire management, as well as at the intersection of the mesa loop and oak grove trails. Temporary signage located in areas other than the entrances is allowed providing that it is unobtrusive and does not obstruct safety access.

Hang-gliding. The Plan would continue to allow hang-gliders and para-gliders to take-off and land on the ocean bluff in the Preserve. However, in order to minimize bluff erosion at the launch site, revegetation would take place, along with the retention of woody debris or the addition of materials mulched on-site.

Off-Leash Dog Use Alternatives. The Plan calls for allowing dogs to be off-leash in the Preserve five days per week, and requires dogs to be on-leash the other two days of the week, including one weekend day. Dogs and humans are restricted from entering the estuarine/riparian, oak woodland, and coastal bluff scrub management units at all times, except on the Oak Grove Trail, where they are allowed on-leash at all times. It is important to note, however, that City Council requested that a full range of dog-use alternatives be analyzed in this EIR, as described below in the discussion of “Douglas Family Preserve – Dog Use.”

Facilities. Per the Plan, the following facilities may be added to the site in the future: a single toilet facility with a sewer extension near either the Medcliff Road or Borton Drive entrances; trash receptacles; walk-in and emergency drive-in gates at entrances (Medcliff, Borton, Mesa School); backless benches; signage; and “mutt mitt” stations. The

construction of a permanent caretaker's residence to replace the existing trailer is an option provided in the DFPMP. The caretaker's residence would be sited on a foundation set back at least 25 feet from the ocean bluff. Construction of the residence would require the extension of sewer and other utilities onto the property to serve the residence. The DFP calls for the residence to be located at the Medcliff Road entrance or at the Borton Drive entrance. However, due to potential aesthetic concerns, the City Council removed the Borton Drive entrance site as an option for the residence (refer to Section 1.3 EIR SCOPE AND CONTENT). The proposed project includes a caretaker's residence at the Medcliff Road entrance only. It should be noted that Parks and Recreation staff has recommended that before making a final decision about whether or not to build a permanent caretaker's residence, the trailer should be removed. The DFP would then be served by the City Park Ranger Program and the Police Department for at least one year. At the end of that period, the DFP's condition and the number and types of complaints received would be evaluated to determine if it is necessary to have an on-site caretaker.

Implementation of the Plan may result in changes in public usage. The most significant operational change would be related to dog use of the Douglas Family Preserve (see discussion of "Douglas Family Preserve – Dog Use" below). Other operational changes, such as holding nature classes and hikes on-site, are expected to be minimal. There may also continue to be informal gatherings for weddings and similar events. However, the Plan does not call for a formal reservation system for such events. The DFP would not become an active recreational park with organized games and similar activities. The minimal scope of physical improvements would not be expected to substantially influence or change the level of usage of the Preserve.

Off-Leash Dog Park Locations

As noted in Section 1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND, on July 17, 2001, the City Council recommended a series of dog use alternatives to be considered for environmental analysis at each of the three sites identified for possible off-leash dog use: DFP, Hale Park, Shoreline Beach Area. Off-leash dog use is proposed at up to three of these sites. A range of dog off-leash alternatives, and a dog on-leash only alternative, are proposed for consideration. A previous alternative to provide a fenced off-leash dog area was deleted from the list at the July 17, 2001 City Council hearing. The alternatives, which are based on input from the DFP Advisory Committee, the Park and Recreation Commission, and City staff, are enumerated below.

A - Dogs off-leash all the time.

B - Dogs on-leash all the time.

C - Dogs on-leash every day from 10 AM to 3 PM, seven days a week and otherwise off-leash.

D - Dogs prohibited on the Preserve/Park two days a week, including one weekend day; dogs would be allowed off-leash at all other times.

E - Dogs on leash two days a week, including one weekend day, and would be allowed off-leash at all other times.

F- Dogs allowed off-leash on odd days of the month; otherwise they would be required to be on-leash.

Douglas Family Preserve – Dog Use. The proposed action is to allow dogs off-leash at the Preserve, except in the riparian/estuarine, oak woodland, and coastal bluff scrub areas, where both humans and dogs would not be allowed. Dogs would be allowed on-leash on the Oak Grove Trail.

Hale Park – Dog Use. The proposed action at the Hale Park site is to allow dogs off-leash.

Shoreline Beach Area – Dog Use. The proposed action is to allow dogs off-leash throughout the 3-mile stretch of beach. The City may permit dogs off-leash in the 600-foot long section of beach that is part of the Arroyo Burro Beach County Park. However, since this portion is County-owned land, the County would have the discretion to either designate the area for dogs off-leash or to continue to allow only on-leash dogs in this discrete portion of beach.

Use Assumptions for DFP, Hale Park, and SBA. The DFP, Hale Park and Shoreline Beach Area are currently utilized by dogs off-leash, to varying extents, regardless of whether that type of use is allowed at present. If the sites are designated as off-leash dog use areas under Alternatives A (dogs allowed off-leash at all times) and C-F (dogs off-leash with restrictions on times and days), it is assumed that public usage on the whole would not substantially change, since the designation may increase use by some people and may decrease use by others, depending on their preferences for off-leash dogs on the site. However, use by dogs and their owners has the potential to increase substantially.

For the DFP site, at which dogs are currently allowed off-leash, an official designation by the City would create more public awareness and publicity about the availability of the site for this type of dog use. Since dogs are not presently allowed off-leash at Hale Park, such a designation would likely open up the site to new users desiring a place to recreate with their dogs off-leash, resulting in a substantial increase in dog use. The substantial increase in dog use, as compared to the existing scenario, is assumed even considering the fairly remote park location, and the limited available parking near the site to accommodate visitors. With the Shoreline Beach Area, only the part directly below the DFP bluffs is allocated for dogs off-leash; the remainder of the beach area is for dogs on-leash only. Designating the entire beach stretch for dogs off-leash would open up a much larger portion of beach to off-leash dogs, thereby substantially increasing the potential for dog off-leash use. Even though the beach portion directly below the DFP is currently designated for off-leash dogs, this area could see a substantial increase in the number of

dogs, as the adjacent beach areas also become open to unleashed dogs and the official designation by the City creates more public awareness and publicity, possibly making the SBA a more popular off-leash dog destination.

Alternatives that maximize the amount of time dogs are off-leash would probably result in a greater increase in dogs at the sites than alternatives that limit off-leash dog use to specified days and times. So, Alternative A would likely have the most increase in dogs, followed by Alternatives E, then D, and then F and C. Even with these gradations, all of these alternatives could encourage a substantial increase in dogs using the sites.

The assumption of substantially increased use is an educated estimate, since the consequent level of usage cannot be predicted with any certainty at this time, and cannot be definitively quantified. However, the assumption of substantially increased use by dogs and their owners is a reasonable, worst-case assumption (i.e., maximum use scenario that is reasonably foreseeable), which is appropriate to employ when evaluating potential impacts.

It is not possible to determine precisely whether there would be a change in the number of dogs using the DFP with the on-leash dog designation of Alternative B. There are numerous other park sites in the City where dogs are allowed on-leash, such that any increase in DFP usage by dogs under Alternative B would likely be minimal, if at all, and there could be a decrease in usage considering that some of the dogs currently using the site are unleashed, and many of the DFP users favor dogs off-leash (Rincon, March 2002). As previously noted, the Rincon survey only included people who actually use the DFP. There is likely a population that would like to visit the DFP, but are discouraged from doing so because they are not comfortable with dogs off-leash; this population was not represented in the survey. Using a reasonable, worst-case scenario, it is assumed that overall dog use at the DFP would remain the same under Alternative B. As with the other alternatives, public usage on the whole would not substantially change, since the designation may increase use by some people and decrease use by others, depending on their preferences for dogs on-leash.

Both dogs off-leash and on-leash utilize Hale Park at present, although the City requires that dogs be on-leash. Designation of the site as on-leash dogs only would essentially result in no change in the status quo. Some people may continue to recreate with their dogs both on-leash and off-leash. The designation might discourage some owners with dogs off-leash from continuing to use the park; while these users might conceivably be inclined to utilize the DFP or Shoreline Beach Area sites under such a scenario, given the neighborhood park character (used mostly by local residents) of Hale Park (Rincon, March 2002), it is not likely that a substantial number of Hale Park users seeking a dogs off-leash park would shift to the DFP or the Shoreline Beach Area. Therefore, under Alternative B, the dog use and the overall park use at Hale Park are also expected to remain about the same.

Under Alternative B, the Shoreline Beach Area directly below the DFP bluffs would be designated as dogs on-leash only, thereby eliminating the existing use of the area by dogs off-leash. This is currently the only area of beach in the South Coast area where dogs are

allowed off-leash. The change in designation of the beach directly below the DFP would probably not result in an overall change in dog use in this discrete area, since on-leash dogs would continue to use this specific area and may compensate for the reduction in dogs off-leash. Since the remainder of the Shoreline Beach Area is currently allocated for dogs on-leash only, the designation of dogs on-leash only would be status quo. For the Shoreline Beach Area overall, no change in the amount of dog use of the site is expected under Alternative B. For the same reasons noted above for the DFP, the overall use in the entire Shoreline Beach Area is also expected to remain about the same. Designation of the entire Shoreline Beach Area for on-leash dogs only is not anticipated to substantially affect the usage at DFP or Hale Park or any other South Coast facility. Some owners and their dogs desiring an off-leash facility may be more inclined to use another facility, but these numbers would likely be very limited, since the beach provides a unique recreational setting for owners and their dogs that cannot be met by other available sites.

Table 2.4-1 summarizes the use assumptions for DFP, Hale and the SBA under each of the six dog-use alternatives.

TABLE 2.4-1: Facility Use Assumptions Under Dog Use Alternatives

Site	Alternatives A and C-F¹	Alternative B¹
<i>DFP</i>	Substantial increase in amount of dog use. Same overall park usage.	No change in amount of dog use. Same overall usage.
<i>Hale Park</i>	Substantial increase in dog use. Same overall park usage.	No change in amount of dog use. Same overall usage.
<i>Shoreline Beach Area</i>	Substantial increase in dog use. Same overall beach usage.	No change in amount of dog use. Same overall usage.

¹Alternative A - Dogs off-leash all the time. B - Dogs on-leash all the time. C - Dogs on-leash every day from 10 AM to 3 PM, seven days a week and otherwise off-leash. D - Dogs prohibited on the Preserve two days a week, including one weekend day; dogs would be allowed off-leash at all other times. E - Dogs on-leash two days a week, including one weekend day, and would be allowed off-leash at all other times. F - Dogs allowed off-leash on odd days of the month; otherwise they would be required to be on-leash.

Given the different geographical locations and characteristics of the DFP, Hale Park, and Shoreline Beach Area, even if all three sites were designated for dogs off-leash, a substantial increase in off-leash dog use at each site would still be assumed. Each site offers a different recreational opportunity and setting. With all three sites sharing the task of accommodating demand for off-leash dog use, the demand for off-leash dog use would be less at each site than if a given site were the sole facility. However, the demand could still be substantial, relative to each site. Also, such designations might attract other users desiring a dog off-leash facility in the South Coast area that do not currently utilize these sites, so they may be more inclined to visit the DFP, Hale Park and the Shoreline Beach Area once the dog off-leash designation is made by the City. Even with the availability of other dog park facilities besides these three currently existing or being planned on the South Coast, these assumptions would remain (refer to Section 2.7. OTHER RELEVANT

PROJECTS for further discussion).

Utilizing two or more of the potential sites to accommodate the need for off-leash dog use would likely ameliorate impacts to any single site. It would be too speculative to attempt to quantify and then distribute the number of owners and their dogs, as well as other users, who may shift to a different facility given the particular dog use designation for the DFP, Hale Park and the Shoreline Beach Area. Nonetheless, a qualitative discussion of such potential impacts is provided in Section 4.0 ALTERNATIVES.

2.5 DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS REQUIRED

Discretionary actions by the City that are required to allow the project to proceed include:

Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan

The required discretionary action is City Council approval of the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan (with recommendation to City Council made by the Park & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and the DFP Advisory Committee). Individual projects necessary to implement the Plan would require City coastal review, which may or may not include a Coastal Development Permit approved by the Planning Commission. The site is in the Coastal Commission's appealable jurisdiction. Individual projects may also be subject to design review by the City's Architectural Board of Review and the City Sign Committee.

Approval of the individual projects called for in the DFPMP may be subject to review and approval by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The 1.46-acre portion of the DFP adjacent to Cliff Drive is located in the County unincorporated area (APN 047-140-005). Annexation of this parcel, which has been initiated but not completed, does not need to occur in order to implement the project. It is important to note that this parcel would not be used by off-leash dogs. The coastal sage and riparian forest habitat type that dominates this area of the DFP would prohibit dogs off-leash anyway, so there would be no conflict with the County requirement for dogs to remain leashed.

Lastly, the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency, provided funding for the preparation of the DFPMP, and would need to approve the Plan.

Off-Leash Dog Park Locations

Douglas Family Preserve. Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) Section 6.08.020 currently allows dogs off-leash at the DFP, with no restrictions on days or times of the day, and no restrictions on access into riparian/estuarine, oak woodland, and coastal bluff scrub areas. City Ordinance Committee and City Council approvals of an ordinance

amendment would be needed to restrict off-leash dogs from the areas of sensitive habitat for each of the proposed off-leash dog use alternatives. Ordinance amendments would also be needed to restrict dogs off-leash to certain days or times of day, or to completely restrict dogs off-leash, depending on the dog-use alternative selected.

Hale Park. The required discretionary action is approval of an ordinance amendment to SBMC Section 6.08.020 to allow off-leash dog use at Hale Park. The ordinance amendment may stipulate some restrictions on days and times of off-leash dog use, as identified in the various alternatives.

Shoreline Beach Area. According to SBMC 6.08.020, the City currently allows dogs on-leash, with no time or day of the week restrictions, throughout the Shoreline Beach Area (Shoreline Park stairs to westerly City limit), with one exception: dogs off-leash are permissible only within the portion of beach directly below the DFP. There are no restrictions here regarding time or day of the week for the off-leash dog use. In light of the various dog use alternatives, the required discretionary action is one of the following: (1) an ordinance amendment to allow off-leash dog use throughout the entire 3-mile beach stretch, or a portion of this area, or (2) an ordinance amendment to restrict the area below the DFP to dogs on-leash only. The ordinance amendment to allow off-leash dogs may stipulate some restrictions on days and times of off-leash dog use, as identified in the various alternatives. If an amendment is approved allowing off-leash dogs throughout the entire 3-mile beach stretch, the County is not required to make the 600-linear-foot beach area of Arroyo Burro Beach County Park available to dogs off-leash; the County has discretion on whether to open this portion of beach to off-leash dogs.

2.6 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The *CEQA Guidelines* require a statement of project objectives. The City Parks & Recreation Department's objectives for the project are to:

Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan

- Protect and enhance the natural resources for current and future generations.
- Identify and assess biological, physical and cultural factors influencing the property's condition and uses.
- Balance passive/low impact recreation, dog recreation and other public uses with protection and enhancement of the natural resources.
- Provide policies and management strategies that can be successfully implemented and funded.
- Provide recommendations for long-term management, identifying specific elements requiring management.
- Continue volunteer stewardship opportunities.
- Use property for relaxation and passive/low impact recreation (i.e. walking, viewing sunsets, dog walking, etc.).
- Continue and enhance environmental education opportunities.

Off-Leash Dog Park Locations

- Provide one or more park sites for accommodation of recreational off-leash dog use.
- Ensure public safety.
- Protect sensitive resources.
- Minimize conflicts between various recreational uses.

2.7 OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

At present, the only other facility in the City limits that allows dogs off-leash is Elings Park, adjacent to the DFP near the intersection of Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road. The parkland on 230 acres is owned by the City and operated by a non-profit agency. The park is open to dogs off-leash, except specific playing fields and areas closed for special events. Use of the park by off-leash dogs is by membership only to residents throughout Santa Barbara County, with a limit of 500 dogs.

The only dog park in Santa Barbara County is Waller Park, a 150-acre park located on the outskirts of the City of Santa Maria. It is a regional park with a variety of recreational facilities. One area of the park contains a 3-acre fenced area for dogs off-leash. Within this 3-acre fenced area, there is another fence to separate small and large dogs.

The County was considering establishing an off-leash dog area off Kellogg Drive, outside the City of Goleta, in an unincorporated County open space area. However, there was considerable public concern about locating such a use in this area, so the project is not being pursued at this time. Rather, the County is now seeking to establish a pilot project where several parks throughout the County would be available to dogs off-leash. At present, the County Code (Chapter 26. Parks and Recreation, Article III Animal Regulations) does not allow dogs off-leash in County recreation areas; however a proposed amendment to the County Code would enable the Deputy Director of the County Park Department to designate areas for such use. The off-leash dog use would occur during non-peak park use periods (e.g., early morning). There would be a temporal separation of dogs off leash from other park users.

Aside from the sites listed above, there are minimal opportunities for off-leash dog recreation in the South Coast area, including at state or Federal facilities. State Parks in the South Coast area, including Carpinteria State Beach, Gaviota State Park, Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches, and La Purisima Mission State Historic Park require all dogs to be on-leash. In the Los Padres National Forest, dogs are required to be on-leash in campgrounds and designated recreation areas of the National Forest; in “dispersed areas” (i.e., on trails and in the back country) dogs must be “under control” by the owner, which may include being on-leash or may include other means, such as voice control.