



FACT SHEET

Urban Open Space (20% Funding)

The Program

Urban open space provides a place near their homes for people to connect with nature and for natural habitats to thrive. Since 1997 the Open Space Authority (OSA) has set aside 20 percent of its net capital funds each year to help the county and participating cities achieve their open space goals.

Funds are allocated to the cities and county twice annually based on each jurisdiction's percentage of the

parcels within the two OSA assessment districts. Balances may accumulate from year to year.

How It Works

The cities and county are invited each year to submit project proposals for funding. To be eligible projects must be consistent with OSA's acquisition criteria and definition of open space.

Trails, overlooks, observation blinds, benches, interpretive signage and other works that enhance public awareness and appreciation of open space are suitable for funding. Projects that convert surplus or abandoned lands to open space or restore degraded ecosystems are also eligible.

Participating jurisdictions submit applications that OSA staff process and forward to the Citizen's Advisory

Committee (CAC) and Board of Directors for review and approval.

Upon receiving invoices or receipts OSA reimburses qualified expenses up to the approved project amount. Funding provided by OSA is recognized through appropriate site signage.

Total Funding Allocations as of 6/30/2009

City	Assessment District 1	Projects Funded	Funding Balance
Campbell	345,754	(282,021)	63,733
Milpitas	466,773	(356,837)	109,936
Morgan Hill	192,872	—	192,872
San Jose	6,911,504	(5,215,284)	1,696,220
Santa Clara	835,051	(512,953)	322,098
County	695,526	(450,000)	245,526
Total	\$9,447,481	\$(6,817,095)	\$2,630,386

Participation

The cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, Campbell, San Jose and Morgan Hill and Santa Clara County take part in the Urban Open Space Program. Seven projects have been completed and several others have received approval and are in the process of development.

Sample projects include work at the Ulistac Natural Area in the City of Santa Clara and at Edith Morley Park in the City of Campbell. Both parks support habitat restoration and provide facilities for visitors to explore and learn about native environments.

Also, Santa Clara County is developing Martial Cottle Park, which will showcase the county's agricultural history and offer a place for hiking and other forms of passive recreation.

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