

FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

El Capitán State Beach

El Capitán SB is a perfect setting for camping, swimming, fishing, surfing, hiking, and picnicking!

To ensure a sustainable future, the General Plan update will identify and address land management and operational challenges.

Access throughout the park is vulnerable to damage, does not meet accessibility standards and is unsafe in some areas

Existing trails lack connectivity to regional trails

More than 2,500 acres of backcountry are not included in park plans and are vulnerable to wildfire

Beach erosion and flooding

Camping infrastructure is not up to date and cannot adequately support RV hookups

Utility systems (water, sewage, electricity) are at capacity and vulnerable to damage and outages

Current site conditions and challenges (Spring 2024)

Refugio State Beach

Refugio SB offers excellent camping, coastal fishing, trails, and picnic sites. It's also home to an underwater park popular with divers, anglers, and educational groups.

To ensure a sustainable future, the General Plan update will identify and address land management and operational challenges.

Access throughout the park is vulnerable to damage, does not meet accessibility standards and is unsafe in some areas

Drainage systems are inefficient and contribute to flooding, especially during storms

Beach erosion and flooding

Recreation demand often exceeds park capacity

Wildfire threatens infrastructure, averaging 1,000 acres burned in the vicinity every two years

Utility systems (water, sewage, electricity) are at capacity and vulnerable to damage and outages

Current site conditions and challenges (Spring 2024)

Gaviota State Park

Gaviota SP's recreational opportunities include camping, trails, picnicking, fishing, snorkeling, surfing, and more. It is ecologically diverse, with habitats ranging from grasslands to marshes.

To ensure a sustainable future, the General Plan update will identify and address land management and operational challenges.

Access throughout the park is vulnerable to damage, does not meet accessibility standards and is unsafe in some areas

Existing trails lack connectivity to regional trails

Utility systems (water, sewage, electricity) are at capacity & vulnerable to damage & outages

Beach erosion and flooding

Erosion along Gaviota Creek destabilizes banks, impacting natural and recreational resources

Current site conditions and challenges (Spring 2024)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve trail system, including connectivity to Los Padres National Forest
- Provide sustainable beach access
- Modernize visitor-serving facilities
- Create new interpretive opportunities

- Provide sustainable beach access
- Maintain current level of visitor day-use capacity
- Modernize visitor-serving facilities

- Improve trail system, including connectivity between trails
- Improve vehicular access from highway
- Create new interpretive experiences
- Support boat access

Increase adaptive capacity

Modernize utility infrastructure

Formalize tribal access

SYSTEM-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES