

PARK AND RECREATION ELEMENT



Riverside prides itself on its numerous parks and open spaces and the diverse offering of recreation activities and resources. Residents use the park and recreational services extensively for active and passive leisure pursuits. As the City grows, these parks and recreation programs will continue to play a vital role in the lives of Riversiders by providing open space areas for:

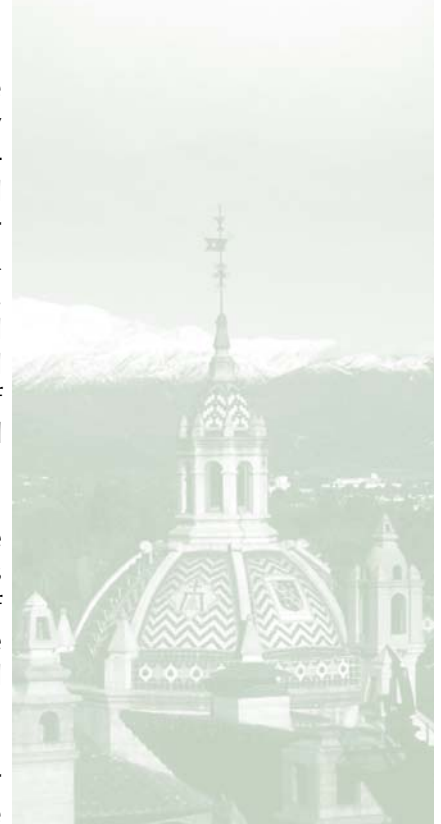
- ❖ Active recreational pursuits
- ❖ Passive enjoyment
- ❖ Enhanced quality of life
- ❖ Enhanced community image

Riverside's setting among the hills provides a visual backdrop that greatly adds to the overall aesthetic value of the City. The hills, the Santa Ana River, the arroyos and citrus groves act as natural boundaries that buffer Riverside from adjoining communities and reinforce a unique sense of place. Open spaces provide habitat and protection for threatened and endangered species, unique natural and cultural resources and critical habitat linkages. These open spaces also enable natural outdoor experiences for residents in close proximity to where they live.

Parks contribute to this network of open spaces and enhance the quality of life for Riversiders in numerous ways. Green spaces, healthy trees and plant life soften urban development and add visual enhancements to the City. Park facilities enable residents to be active and engaged in many recreation activities and outdoor pursuits, from senior citizen fitness classes to youth soccer. Recreation programs provide a focus for youth activities, including juvenile diversion programs. Community centers serve as focal points for senior citizen and neighborhood activities, reinforcing cohesiveness in the community and attracting neighborhood events. In recognition of the importance of parks and community centers, the City has adapted a Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Parks reflect how a neighborhood regards itself, and they can be objects of community pride. Distinctive signature parks such as Fairmount Park and White Park give Riverside character and a sense of place in the region. Parks also define neighborhoods throughout the City and serve as buffer zones between urban development and residential enclaves and agricultural preserves.

Parks, trails and open space areas add value to the community. For example, parks — and especially open space preserves — can add to the





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assessed value of adjacent and nearby properties by making these areas more desirable places to live. Visitation and tourism to City attractions such as the California Citrus State Historic Park and the Orange Blossom Festival directly add to the appeal of the City and provide venues for sporting activities and special events. Special purpose venues encourage people to visit and stay in Riverside. These visitors generate revenue by filling hotel rooms, dining out and participating in other activities that support the local economy.

Caring for and preserving these resources, as well as adapting to the changing recreation needs of the community, is an essential component of Riverside's future health and wealth. As the City changes and develops, the community looks to maintain a balance between the urban environment and landscaped oases where Riversiders can relax and recreate. The objectives and policies in this Park and Recreation Element focus on the enhancement and appropriate use of Riverside's park and recreational facilities and programs to meet the changing needs of Riverside's diverse population.

RIVERSIDE PARK: A NECKLACE OF OPEN SPACE

Refer to the Land Use and Urban Design Element for a complete discussion of "Riverside Park."

As discussed in the Land Use and Urban Design Element, Riverside envisions a "necklace" of parks and open space that exists on and/or defines the edges of the City with connectivity occurring between these spaces and Riverside's neighborhoods with landscaped parkways and trails accessible to pedestrians and cyclists alike. Together these parks and open spaces embody a broader concept of "Riverside Park", a citywide park that provides places to find the peace and harmony of nature within or on the edges of the City's urban fabric. Major components include Riverside's diverse array of parks, as well as elements of its natural environment including major hills such as Mt. Rubidoux, arroyos and the Santa Ana River watercourse and riverbed, the Greenbelt including the California Citrus State Historic Park and historic parkways such as Victoria Avenue.

PLACES FOR ALL TO PLAY

Park development in Riverside began with the City Beautiful Movement at the turn of the twentieth century. During the late 1800s throughout America, city populations increased due to in-migration and immigration. City planners of this era helped create lushly landscaped parks with amenities for the enjoyment of all citizens as well as to provide natural breaks in the dense urban environment. The great parks built in Riverside in reaction to this movement included Fairmount Park near



the Santa Ana River, designed by Frederick Jr. and John Olmstead, sons of the famed New York Central Park landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, and White Park, designed by landscape architect Franz Hosp, in the Downtown.

Despite Riverside’s rapid population growth since 1965, hundreds of acres of open space have been preserved through City and county efforts, including Box Springs Mountain Reserve and Sycamore Canyon Park, numerous acres of citrus groves and the Santa Ana River.

PARKS

The City maintains fifty-two public parks and additional open space areas encompassing more than twenty-three hundred acres. Larger parks contain features such as sports facilities, picnic areas, restrooms and playgrounds. Smaller parks typically include basic landscaping, playgrounds and picnic facilities. Figure PR-1, Parks, Open Space and Trails Map, shows the location of Riverside’s public parks and open space areas.

Park Classification System

The Riverside park system consists of local parks, regional/reserve parks and signature parks categories. Table PR-1, Park and Recreation Facilities, lists all parks within the City limits as of 2004, including associated facilities. Numbers listed with each park in the table correspond to the locations identified on Figure PR-1 (Parks, Open Space and Trails).

Local Parks

These parks provide both passive and active recreational opportunities to residents of relatively small service areas, with such facilities as playgrounds, basketball courts and picnic areas.



The local parks category includes the following four park types:

Passive and Active Parks

Passive/casual parks do not include facilities for "active recreation," such as basketball courts, soccer fields, or baseball diamonds. They are intended as public green space where city dwellers can escape from the rush of urban life. Passive parks may include such amenities as large open green spaces, meadows, meandering pathways, ponds and gardens.

Active parks, on the other hand, include a variety of facilities for recreation. Baseball and softball diamonds, basketball courts, horse shoe rings, football fields, playgrounds and swimming pools are examples of facilities often found in active parks.

The trend cities have followed is providing recreational facilities, but many other cities have recognized the importance of creating passive recreation spaces as well. While passive parks do not contain active recreational facilities, they can also entertain active activities such as kite flying, pick-up football games, Frisbee and other activities on a non-programmed basis. Riverside’s goal is to provide a balance for both passive and active recreational parks that meet the demands of their residents.





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Insert Figure PR-1: Parks and Recreation Master Plan map





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**TABLE PR-1
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Total Acres*
City-Owned/Maintained Facilities				
1	Ab Brown Soccer Complex	3700 Placentia Lane	Soccer fields	55.5
2	Agricultural Park	Jurupa Ave. at Van Buren Ave.	Undeveloped	63.2
3	Andulka Park	Chicago Ave. at Central Ave.	Undeveloped	37.9
4	Arlington Park	Van Buren Blvd. at Magnolia Ave.	Lighted basketball courts, tennis courts, covered picnic area, swimming pool, roller hockey court and playground	4.3
5	Bergamont Park	Bergamont Dr. at Cole St.	Basketball court, playground, picnic tables and exercise course	5.0
6	Bobby Bonds Park	University Ave. at Kansas Ave.	Lighted softball field, lighted basketball/tennis courts, sports field, soccer field, social service center, olympic pool, picnic tables, restrooms, child care, indoor gymnasium with weight room and on-site parking	15.1
7	Bordwell Park	MLK Blvd. at Kansas Ave.	Lighted softball field and basketball court, community center, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms and on-site parking	23.0
8	Boy Scout Camp Site	4785 Indian Hill Road	Undeveloped	2.6
9	Bryant Park	Philbin St. at Van Buren Blvd.	Lighted softball fields and basketball, tennis courts, community center with gymnasium, playground, picnic tables, barbecue, covered picnic areas, and restrooms, child care, social services center and on-site parking	22.1
10	Carlson Park	Buena Vista Dr. at Mission Ave.	Picnic tables and off-leash dog area. Historic site (City entry way)	1.8
11	Castleview Park	Via Vista Dr. at Century Dr.	Playground and picnic tables	26.6
12	Challen Hill Park	Challen Ave. at Calmhill Dr.	Undeveloped park	34.0
13	Collett Park	Collett Ave. at La Sierra Ave.	Volleyball court, playground, horseshoe pit, picnic tables, and covered picnic areas	5.6
14	Dewey Site	4962 Dewey Avenue	Undeveloped	6.87
15	Don Derr Park	Monroe St. at Lincoln Ave.	Lighted softball fields, basketball court and sports field, soccer field, playground, picnic table, barbecue, covered picnic areas, restrooms, and on-site parking	23.6



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TABLE PR-1
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Total Acres*
16	Fairmount Park	Fairmount Blvd. at Market St.	Lighted tennis courts, two playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, barbecue, covered picnic areas, and restrooms. Historic site, Boathouse, Izaak Walton Building, Bandshell nine-hole golf course, 50 acre lake system, and fishing and boat launch	191.3
17	Golden Park	Golden Ave. and Campbell Ave.	Undeveloped park	22.0
18	Harrison Park	Harrison St. at Lincoln Ave.	Volleyball court, playgrounds and picnic facilities	6.2
19	Highland Park	Glenhill St. at Sugarloaf St.	Basketball court, two playgrounds, picnic facilities, covered picnic area and on-site parking	7.1
20	Hunt Park	Jackson St. at Garfield St.	Lighted softball field and basketball court, sports field, volleyball court, community center, playground, pool, picnic tables, barbecues, a covered picnic area, skateboard facility, restrooms and on-site parking	13.7
21	Hunter Park	Iowa Ave. at Columbia Ave.	Softball fields, picnic facilities, Riverside Live Steamers, restrooms and on-site parking	45.8
22	Islander Park	Mt. Vernon St. at Big Springs Rd.	Existing community pool with on-site parking and undeveloped park site	40.2
23	Don Jones Park	Jefferson St. at Sycamore Ave.	Lighted softball and soccer field, picnic tables and restrooms	6.0
24	La Sierra Park	La Sierra Ave. at Gramercy Pl.	Lighted softball fields, basketball and volleyball courts, sports field, community center with gymnasium, playground, picnic facilities, covered picnic area, restrooms and on-site parking	28.1
25	Lincoln Park	Park Ave. at 14 th St.	Lighted basketball court, volleyball court, community center, playground, horseshoe pit, picnic tables, barbecue and restrooms	3.7
26	Don Lorenzi Park	Jackson St. at California Ave.	Lighted sports field, restrooms and on-site parking	9.1
27	Loring Park	Buena Vista Dr. at Mission Blvd.	Open space	2.8
28	Low Park	Magnolia Ave. at Arlington Ave.	Picnic facilities	1.23
29	Mt. Rubidoux	Mt. Rubidoux St at 60 Freeway	Open space with rock formations, jogging/running paths, three+ miles of trails and historic site	152.9
30	Mt. Vernon	Blaine St. and Mt. Vernon Ave.	Undeveloped park	8.3
31	Mountain View Park	Wiehe at Cover St.	Basketball court, playground, picnic tables, barbecue and exercise course	5.7
32	Myra Linn Park	Meredith St. at Cook St.	Lighted tennis courts, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area, restrooms and on-site parking	8.5

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TABLE PR-1
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Total Acres*
33	Newman Park	14 th St. at Market St.	De Anza Statue - Historic site	0.4
34	Nichols Park	Dewey Ave. at Streeter Ave.	Two lighted softball fields, basketball and volleyball courts, and sports field, community center with gymnasium, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms and on site parking	16.6
35	North Park	Mission Inn Ave. at Vine St.	Historic site with arbor structure	1.4
36	Orange Terrace Community Park	Orange Terrace Pkwy. at Deer Creek	Lighted softball fields, restrooms, playground, picnic shelters and on-site parking	30.0
37	Patterson Park	Linden St. at Ottawa Ave.	Lighted softball field and sports field, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms and on-site parking	4.6
38	Parent Naval Orange Tree	7101 Magnolia Avenue	Developed with tree and fencing	1.0
39	Rancho Loma Park	Rancho Loma Dr. at Golden Ave.	Basketball court, volleyball court, playground, picnic table, barbecue and covered picnic area	6.5
40	Reid Park	North Orange St. at Columbia Ave.	Lighted softball fields, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts, lighted sports field, soccer field, community center with gymnasium, playground, pool, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area, restrooms and on-site parking	53.1
41	Riverside Sports Complex	Blaine St. at Canyon Crest Dr.	Lighted softball and sports field, restrooms and on-site parking	17.7
42	Rutland Park	Rutland Ave. at Arlington Ave.	Basketball court, volleyball court, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area and exercise course	8.8
43	Sam Evans Sports Complex	4557 Magnolia Avenue	Sports complex	12.0
44	Shamel Park	Arlington Ave. at Brockton Ave.	Lighted softball field, tennis courts, unlit softball field, playground, pool, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area, restrooms and on-site parking	10.0
45	Streeter Park	Sierra Ave. at Streeter Ave.	Senior and handicapped citizens center with on-site parking	4.6
46	Swanson Park	Glenhaven Ave. at Alessandro Blvd.	Picnic tables	1.2
47	Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park	5300 block of Central	Wilderness reserve, SKR habitat (core reserve) with on-site parking (Central Avenue) and more than three miles of bike and hiking trails	2100.0



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TABLE PR-1
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Total Acres*
48	Sycamore Highland Park	Fair Isle Dr. at Lochmoor	Undeveloped park	10.5
49	Taft Park	New Ridge Dr. at Mission Grove Pkwy.	Basketball court, tennis court, playground, picnic tables and barbecues	7.0
50	Tequesquite Park	Tequesquite Ave. at Palm Ave.	Undeveloped park	42.9
51	Thundersky Park	Thundersky Cir. at Digger Pine Dr.	Volleyball court, playground, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area and exercise course	12.2
52	Dario Vasquez	14 th St. at Sedgewick Ave.	Basketball court, playground, and barbecue	1.8
53	Victoria-Cross	Victoria Ave. at Cross St.	Undeveloped park	7.2
54	Villegas Park	Marguerita St. at Washington Ave.	Lighted softball fields, basketball court, sports field, soccer field, community center with gymnasium, playground, pool, picnic tables, barbecues, covered picnic area, restrooms, and on-site parking	18.9
55	Washington Park	Mary St. at Lincoln Ave.	Playground, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms and on-site parking	4.1
56	White Park	Chestnut St. at Market St.	Senior center, administrative offices and Botanic Garden (historic site)	6.0
Non-city Owned/Maintained Regional Parks and Facilities				
County Parks				
57	Box Springs Mountain Reserve Park	Pigeon Pass Rd. off Hwy 60	Equestrian and hiking trails; interpretive trail	1155.0
58	Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park	5900 Jurupa Avenue	More than twenty miles of hiking and equestrian trails, picnic areas, fishing lakes and playground	40
59	Rancho Jurupa Regional Park	Crestmore Rd. off Mission Blvd.	More than ten miles of hiking and equestrian trails, fishing, horseshoe pits, picnic facilities and campgrounds	350
60	Santa Ana River Wildlife Area	Santa Ana River, northwest of City limits	Undeveloped	2290.74
State Parks				
61	California Citrus State Historic Park	Dufferin Ave. one mile east of Hwy 91	Visitor center with gift shop, exhibits, hiking trails, picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, Sunkist Center, historic site, and small amphitheater with on-site parking	377



TABLE PR-1
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Total Acres*
62	Lake Perris State Recreation Area	17801 Lake Perris Drive	Water skiing, boating, sailing, windsurfing, more than five miles of hiking trails, and more than twelve miles of equestrian and biking trails and campgrounds	8,800

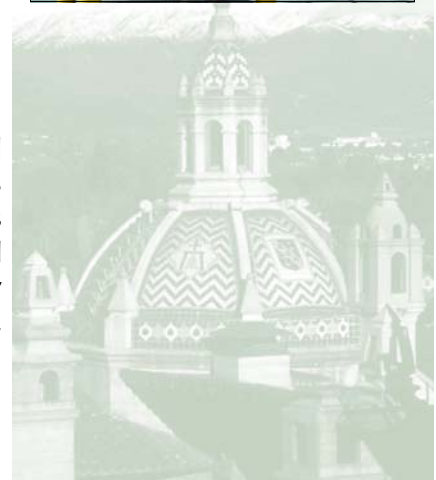
* Includes developed and undeveloped acres.

Pocket Parks. These parks are miscellaneous urban open spaces and include historical sites or other small developed green spaces in neighborhoods. A pocket park’s shape may vary considerably, and its size is typically less than two acres. Pocket parks may include special historical or recreational features, but are typically too small for the more intensively programmed features found in neighborhood parks. Landscape features of a pocket park vary and can contain tot lots or be passive park areas.

Neighborhood Parks. These parks satisfy non-programmed recreational and open space needs at locations within convenient walking distance (one-half mile) of the population they serve, estimated at three to five thousand residents. These parks typically encompass approximately ten acres of land.

Community Parks. Community parks are intended to meet the recreational and open space needs of the larger community, as well as those of the adjacent neighborhoods. Most of a community park’s service population of twenty to thirty thousand people should live within one mile of the park. These parks typically are twenty to thirty acres in size and provide all of the facilities included in a neighborhood park, plus facilities for more structured activities, such as swimming pools, lighted athletic complexes, community centers, restrooms, parking and group picnic areas. Since they provide similar facilities to neighborhood parks, community parks serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents.

Special Use Parks. These sites are generally dedicated to a specialized use or a group of related uses that serve the entire City. Major sports complexes, golf courses and hobbyist parks are examples. These parks can also have joint-use management structures between the City and another entity, whereby the other entity owns the property and the City maintains it in exchange for use of the facility. Sports organizations, universities and colleges are examples of non-City entities.





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Regional/Reserve Parks

The use of these open space and wilderness areas is not programmed and structured like local parks. They are intended to provide an alternative to more intensely used parks. Such parks offer a more natural setting for limited recreation activities, such as trails for hiking and off-road cycling and selective other amenities. They can also support habitat and important natural resources within the Riverside region. The larger urban parks like Fairmount also provide open space, but generally contain more amenities for park users, such as designated picnic areas, pavilions and restrooms.

Signature Parks

These parks have special attributes and importance to the community. The specific characteristics of signature parks are highly variable in terms of size, programming and concept, but their unifying theme is based on their ability to contribute to the City's image. Acting as focal points in the City, these unique parks help define the overall City image by highlighting and presenting special historical, natural and/or recreational features. These spaces often include the same facilities as neighborhood parks, but differ in that they serve residents from a larger area and usually include additional facilities such as large athletic fields, swimming pools or community centers. The signature park designation is intended as an overlay to existing park categories, and in most cases does not necessitate changing a park from its current category.

County and Other Parks

Complementing the park facilities managed by the City of Riverside, exceptional recreational opportunities are available to residents at nearby state and county facilities, including:

- ❖ California Citrus State Historic Park
- ❖ Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
- ❖ Santa Ana River Trail
- ❖ Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park
- ❖ Box Springs Mountain Reserve
- ❖ Lake Perris State Recreation Area

Besides shaping and defining the character of Riverside, the county and state park sites in and near Riverside offer natural open spaces, community centers, trails and educational and historic programs. Although not managed by the City, these facilities enrich the recreational opportunities for Riversiders.



California Citrus State Historic Park



State and County regional parks enhance the City's park system. The presence of regional parks can increase the value and functionality of City parks by providing links between destinations and offering complimentary amenities. By combining resources, City and county agencies can develop park and recreation facilities that would be more difficult to build as a singular agency. The California Citrus State Historic Park is an excellent example of collaboration between the City and State. The proposed park at the Savi Ranch Site is another example of a potential dual agency alliance.

Joint-Use Facilities

The City also has various joint-use agreements with Riverside County Flood Control District, Alvord Unified School District, Riverside Community College and University of California Riverside. Shared Facilities include ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools and the sports complex.

In response to an increasing demand for more amenity-rich neighborhoods, developers are building subdivisions with "livable community" elements such as parks within walking distance of the homes. Orange Terrace Community Park - Phase I (only) is an example of a turn-key park built by a developer of the adjacent subdivision. To fulfill the parkland needs of the new subdivision, a fixed-fee assessment rate was negotiated with the developer in exchange for a built park phase to be completed at the time of the subdivision completion.

DIVERSE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the developed and undeveloped park sites located throughout Riverside, the City offers a number of recreational programs and opportunities to enrich resident's quality of life. Opportunities include municipal golf courses, community centers, trails, parkways, cultural and historical recreation sites and recreational partnerships.

GOLF COURSES

The City manages operating agreements for two public golf facilities. Fairmount Golf Course is a nine-hole course, and the Riverside Golf Club provides eighteen holes of golfing enjoyment. In addition, two long-established private golf courses – Canyon Crest Country Club, established in 1968, and the Victoria Country Club, established in 1903 one of Southern California's oldest private membership clubs – offer superb facilities. A third private facility just west of the Riverside Airport offers additional golf opportunities. With the growing interest





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in golfing throughout the nation, Riverside has the potential to support additional golf facilities.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

See the Land Use and Urban Design and Public Facilities Elements for a discussion of community centers.

In particular review Objectives LU-22 and PF-10.

The City operates a number of community centers, gymnasiums and activity centers. Located throughout the City, these facilities act as hubs for the activities and interests of the local neighborhoods. These facilities allow the Park and Recreation Department to provide a wide variety of recreational, educational and human service programs for a diverse population. To appeal to this rich diversity, the programs are tailored to specific age groups, interests and abilities. In addition to functioning as a recreational resource, community centers also provide a wide variety of life enrichment and cultural programs ranging from music programs and foreign language courses, to dog obedience classes.

TRAILS

Refer to the Air Quality Element under “Land Use Strategies – Housing Strategies” for more information on trails.

In particular review Policy AQ-1.9.

For those people who like to get out of their cars and experience the sights and sounds of Riverside, the City has a Master Plan for multi-purpose recreational trails for equestrian, biking, hiking and pedestrian use. Trails provide connections to open space areas and to key cultural destinations such as signature parks and historic sites throughout the City, and provide recreational opportunities. Hiking and biking trails are discussed in detail within the Circulation and Community Mobility Element.

PARKWAYS

Refer to the Land Use and Urban Design Element under “Parkways” for more information on parkways.

In particular review Objectives LU-11 through LU-19.

Similar to open space and wilderness areas, parkways function as specialized open spaces that offer limited recreational uses. Even though parkways have park-like attributes, they are not parks and therefore are not defined as part of any of the above categories. However, park-



ways like Victoria (City Council has directed staff to analyze a proposal to designate Victoria Avenue as a “linear” park) and Magnolia Avenues are valuable City assets, and they provide safe and aesthetically pleasing corridors for pedestrian, cyclists and equestrians.



CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RECREATION

Riverside is home to many museums and cultural facilities that exhibit the arts, history and nature. While not specifically parks, these cultural resources fit into an overall collection of leisure and recreation sites. In addition to creating a sense of place, they offer local enrichment and serve as a foundation for the tourism market. Many of these venues are located in the Downtown area and complement the parks and recreation facilities of Riverside. Historic and cultural facilities include Heritage House, Main Street Pedestrian Mall, Mission Inn and the UC Riverside Botanic Gardens.

RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS

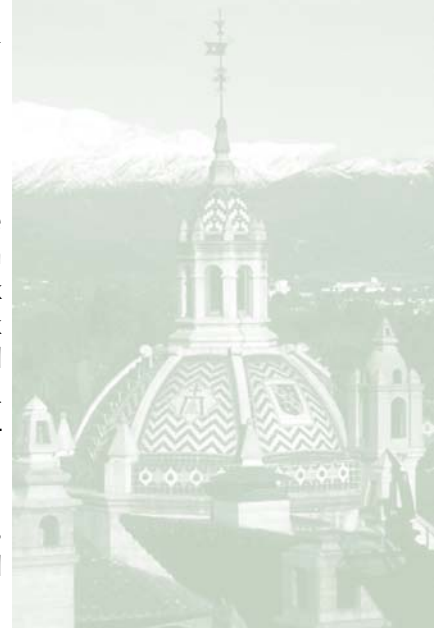
Partnerships between non-profit groups and the City provide additional recreational opportunities. The partnership between the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department was formed in response to a shortage of youth soccer fields. Other recreational partnerships include Riverside Aquatics Association, All American Tackle Football, Riverside Girls' Softball Association, National Junior Basketball League, Pop Warner Football, Victoria Pony League, Riverside Rugby League and Casa Blanca Youth Soccer. Under the Live Steamer Partnership, train hobbyists are replacing and adding railroad track and a storage unit in Hunter Park. Friends of Mt. Rubidoux help with maintenance and monitoring of the trails on Mt. Rubidoux. Other partnerships include Friends of White Park, Victoria Avenue Forever and the Non-Profit Management Corporation for the California Citrus State Historic Park.

PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

NEEDS AND SERVICE AREAS

The City has adopted a standard for developed park acreage of three acres per one thousand residents. The standard is further broken down to favor neighborhood parks, with two acres of neighborhood park provided per one thousand persons, and one acre of community park land per one thousand persons, for a 2:1 ratio. However, the Park and Recreation Master Plan — and, in turn, this General Plan — sets forth a standard of two acres of community park and one acre of neighborhood park per one thousand residents.

Based on adopted classifications and standards, neighborhood parks should be located within a one-half-mile radius of every residence and community parks within a two-mile radius. The Park and Recreation





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Master Plan identifies shortages of neighborhood park coverage throughout the City. The distribution of community parks is more widespread, but neighborhood park deficiencies exist in Sycamore Highlands, Canyon Springs, Arlington Heights, La Sierra and La Sierra South. Future expansion of the City's boundaries may create further parkland shortages.

Due to the parkland shortage, selected facilities and parks are often overused. Residents speak of the need of various improvements such as safety lighting, replacement of children's play equipment and refurbishment of ball fields and other sports fields. In other parks, the public perception of lack of safety discourages their use. On a citywide level, Riversiders take part in outdoor recreation activities at rates below statewide averages. The City has noted that when parks are refurbished, usage increases dramatically. Furthermore, the lifestyles, work patterns and home lives of Riversiders are constantly evolving. Family and group activities are increasing, as are extreme sports such as rollerblading, skateboarding and rock climbing.

PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

To address the issues of parkland shortage, overuse of facilities, deferred maintenance, and negative public perceptions, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan calls for the following primary actions:

- ❖ Revise the City's park standards to reflect the current ratio of 1.0 to 2.0 in favor of community parks.
- ❖ Establish new park designations and categories to eliminate redundancy and confusion.
- ❖ Acquire key remaining open space areas, including La Sierra/Norco Hills, Alessandro and Prenda Arroyos and wildlife corridors.
- ❖ Create seven new park sites in underserved areas of the City, as shown on Figure PR-1, Parks, Open Space and Trails Map.
- ❖ Revitalize existing parks, including Fairmount Park.
- ❖ Consider Tequesquite Arroyo for a potential neighborhood park site and Arlington Heights for a potential community park site.
- ❖ Partner with schools to increase the areas served by recreation programs.





- ❖ Improve and create connections between park facilities and increase the safety of the bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian trails system.

Enhancing Riverside’s existing park and recreation facilities, as well as creating new recreational opportunities, will be carried out through the following objectives and policies. The City will continue to maintain its existing recreation programs and facilities, as well as making those resources accessible to all Riversiders. Access to park facilities and connections between open space resources through pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian trails are important to enhancing Riverside’s recreational experiences.

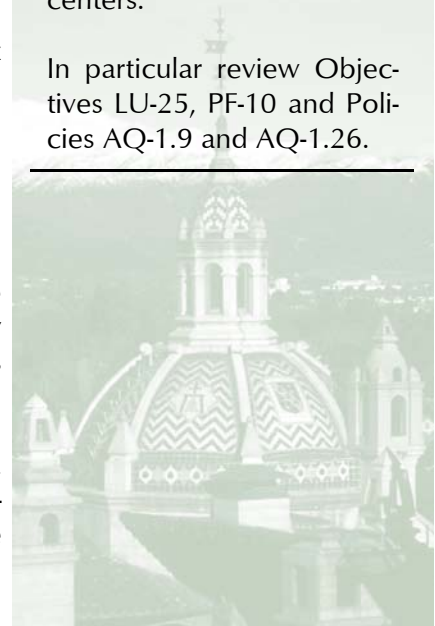
The City is committed to alleviating parkland shortages and providing park facilities in underserved areas of the City. The City also strives to preserve its natural resources and open spaces of the highest quality and in a cost-effective manner to enhance the living environment of all residents.

Objective PR-1: Provide a diverse range of park and recreational facilities that are responsive to the needs of Riverside residents.

- Policy PR-1.1: Implement the policies of the City of Riverside Park and Recreation Master Plan. Revise the neighborhood/community park ratio standard to two acres of community park and one acre of neighborhood park per one thousand residents.
- Policy PR-1.2: Distribute recreational facilities equally throughout Riverside’s neighborhoods.
- Policy PR-1.3: Encourage private development of recreation facilities that complement and supplement the public recreational system.
- Policy PR-1.4: Work with the County in sphere areas to require sites for parks as an integral component for new residential development, particularly in Riverside’s Sphere of Influence.
- Policy PR-1.5: Locate parks adjacent to compatible use areas, such as residential uses, greenbelts, bicycle corridors, schools and natural waterways to minimize the negative impacts of adjacent land uses.

See the Land Use and Urban Design Element under “City-wide Objectives – Community Facilities,” the Public Facilities Element under “Community Centers” and the Air Quality Element under “Land Use Strategies – Housing Strategies” for more information on community centers.

In particular review Objectives LU-25, PF-10 and Policies AQ-1.9 and AQ-1.26.





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Policy PR-1.6: Develop standards to design park facilities and landscaping that enhance and preserve natural site characteristics as appropriate, to minimize maintenance demands and to incorporate xeriscape (low-water demand) principles where feasible.

Objective PR-2: Increase access to existing and future parks and expand pedestrian linkages between park and recreational facilities throughout Riverside.

Policy PR-2.1: Integrate public transportation routes when locating regional reserve parks, community parks and community centers.

Policy PR-2.2: Implement the revisions to the City's trails system as identified in the 2003 Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy PR-2.3: Improve and create more connections and increase the safety of the bicycling, equestrian and pedestrian trail system within the City.

Policy PR-2.4: Create a primary trail loop to connect signature parks, county and state open spaces and parks.

Policy PR-2.5: Develop more recreational opportunities for the secondary trail and pedestrian system in Riverside. Opportunities could include walk-a-thons, 10K-and-over runs, triathlons and bike races.

Policy PR-2.6: Provide greater amenities and access points and trail hubs. Including identification and directional signs, marked parking stalls, water facilities for equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians, hitching posts, shade and trash receptacles. Additional amenities at trail hubs could include picnic tables and rest rooms.

Policy PR-2.7: Pursue partnerships with the County, Federal Transportation Funds, the State Bicycle Account and State park bonds.

Objective PR-3 Engage Riverside residents and the business community in planning for recreation and service needs.



PARK AND RECREATION ELEMENT



- Policy PR-3.1: Consider the needs of all age groups, abilities, disabilities and special interest groups in park, recreation and community services planning and design.
- Policy PR-3.2: Establish programs that allow local residents and neighborhood organizations to "adopt" and take pride in protecting and maintaining local parks.
- Policy PR-3.3: Continue to work with the Office of Neighborhoods and hold planning meetings at the neighborhood level to review, evaluate and adopt designs for new park and recreation facilities.
- Policy PR-3.4: Periodically review the City's existing community center programs and infrastructure to ensure that the facilities are safe and adequately meet the need of the neighborhood served.
- Policy PR-3.5: Continue to promote community awareness and stewardship of parks, open spaces and trails through activities such as the Adopt-A-Park program, public outreach and education, beautification projects, neighborhood watch and other special events.

