

5.14 RECREATION

This section of the EIR evaluates the potential for implementation of the general plan update to impact recreation in the City of Torrance. The potential for adverse impacts on recreational facilities, as well as impacts created due to the construction of additional recreational facilities, is evaluated based on current facilities and their usage. This information was obtained from the City of Torrance as well as other agencies.

5.14.1 Environmental Setting

Parks and other recreational facilities provide a multitude of benefits to the community, such as open space, conservation of natural and significant resources, buffers between land uses, preservation of scenic views, trails, and other recreational uses. Active and passive recreational facilities in the City of Torrance include the Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve, the ATTIC Teen Center, Charles H. Wilson Park, Columbia Park, Lago Seco Park, the Las Canchas Tennis Facility, Torrance Beach, and Torrance Park.

Parks

The City's Community Services Department operates and manages 40 parks and recreation facilities for residents of Torrance and the surrounding South Bay. Parks in Torrance range in size from the 0.1-acre John F. Kennedy and Keller Memorial Squares to the 52-acre Columbia Park. Each park offers different levels of recreation use, from purely passive recreation to heavily programmed use.

The City classifies its parks as indicated on Table 5.14-1 and as follows:

- **Mini-Parks:** May be as large as one acre, although they typically occupy infill parcels. These parks are used to address limited recreation needs and generally offer targeted amenities.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** The basic unit of the City's park system. Neighborhood parks range in size from 1 to 10 acres and generally accommodate informal activities and passive recreation.
- **Community Parks:** These parks serve a broader purpose than Neighborhood parks. Community parks meet the City's recreation needs for more formal and highly programmed activities. Amenities may include lighted sports fields, gymnasiums, art venues, and community meeting facilities.
- **Regional Parks:** These parks serve an area larger than the community in which they are located and are usually greater than 40 acres in size. Amenities may be similar to those of Community parks, but on a larger scale that would attract users from a wider area.
- **Special Use Properties/Facilities:** These parks provide more specific park and recreation facilities such as tennis courts or swimming pools.



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**Table 5.14-1
Parks and Recreational Facilities in Torrance**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
Mini-Parks			
Discovery Park	226 th Street and Ocean	0.4	Barbecues, picnic areas, children's play area, handicapped accessible
La Paloma Park	Lomita Boulevard (between Anza and Ladeene Avenue)	0.4	Barbecues, picnic areas, children's play area
Miramar Park	201 Paseo de la Playa	1.1	Handicapped accessible
Osage Park	17008 Osage Avenue	0.2	Picnic areas, children's play area, handicapped accessible
Pequeño Park	Regina Avenue and 180 th Street	0.7	Barbecues, picnic areas, children's play area, handicapped accessible
Riviera Park	Bounded by Catalina and Palos Verde Drive	0.3	
Neighborhood Parks			
Alta Loma Park	26126 Delos Drive	5.5	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, restrooms, children's play area
Delthorne Park	3401 Spencer Street	9.7	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, restrooms, children's play area
Descanso Park	2500 Descanso Way	3.0	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, children's play area, exercise path
El Prado Park	El Prado Avenue south of Cravens Avenue	2.9	
Entradero Park	5500 Towers Street	26.5	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, softball diamond, children's play area, restrooms
Greenwood Park	1520 Greenwood Avenue	3.4	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, basketball courts, children's play area, restrooms
Guenser Park	17800 Gramercy Place	7.8	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Hickory Park	2850 232 nd Street	5.8	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, children's play area, restrooms, lighted tennis courts
La Carretera Park	2040 186 th Street	3.1	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play area
Lago Seco Park	3920 235 th Street	14.7	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, lighted basketball courts, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Los Arboles/Rocketship Park	5101 Calle de Ricardo	6.3	Handicapped accessible, picnic tables, children's play area
Paradise Park	5006 Lee Street	4.7	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, children's play area, restrooms, lighted tennis courts
Pueblo Recreation Center and Park	2252 Del Amo Boulevard	0.5	Barbecue areas, picnic tables, lighted basketball courts, children's play area, restrooms
Sunny Glen Park	5525 Del Amo Boulevard	5.5	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play area, exercise path
Community Parks			
DePortola Park	25615 Lazy Meadow Drive	12.5	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play area, restrooms
El Nido Park	18301 Kingsdale Avenue	12.3	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, lighted softball diamonds, soccer field, basketball courts, children's play area, restrooms

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**Table 5.14-1
Parks and Recreational Facilities in Torrance**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
El Retiro Park	126 Vista del Parque	4.8	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, barbecue areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, children's play area, restrooms
La Romeria Park	19501 Inglewood Avenue	6.6	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, lighted basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, children's play area, restrooms
McMaster Park	3624 Artesia Boulevard	5.5	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, barbecue areas, picnic tables, lighted softball diamonds, lighted basketball courts, children's play area, restrooms
Sur La Brea Park	23610 Cabrillo Avenue	7.4	Meeting rooms, barbecue areas, picnic tables, softball diamonds, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Torrance Park	2001 Santa Fe Avenue	10.2	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, soccer fields, lighted softball diamonds, basketball courts, tennis courts, children's play area, restrooms
Victor Park	4727 Emerald Street	6.6	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, soccer fields, softball diamonds, basketball courts, tennis courts, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Walteria Park	3855 242 nd Street	4.5	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, barbecue areas, picnic tables, soccer field, lighted softball diamonds, lighted basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, children's play area, restrooms
Regional Parks			
Charles H. Wilson Park	2200 Crenshaw Boulevard	44.1	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, lighted softball diamonds, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Columbia Park	4045 190 th Street	52	Handicapped accessible, barbecue areas, picnic tables, lighted softball diamonds, lighted soccer field, children's play area, exercise path, restrooms
Special Use Properties/Facilities			
ATTIC Teen Center	2320 West Carson Street	0.7	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, basketball courts
Estrellita Triangle	Calle Miramar and Via Estrellita	0.4	
John F. Kennedy Square	South side of Marcelina Avenue and Sartori Avenue	0.1	Handicapped accessible
Keller Memorial Square	North side of Marcelina Avenue and Sartori Avenue	0.1	Handicapped accessible
Las Canchas Tennis Facility	25924 Rolling Hills Road	12.8	Handicapped accessible, lighted tennis courts, restrooms
Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve	3201 Plaza del Amo	44	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, restrooms
Sea-Aire Park and Golf Course	22730 Lupine Drive	5.2	Handicapped accessible, meeting rooms, children's play area, restrooms
Torrance Beach	387 Paseo de la Playa	20.3	Restrooms
Victor E. Benstead Plunge	3331 Torrance Boulevard	0.4	Handicapped accessible, restrooms

Source: City of Torrance Community Service Department

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Several park facilities in adjacent jurisdictions are also available for use by Torrance residents, including parks in the cities of Lomita, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Palos Verdes Estates, Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles. Torrance Beach, occupying one mile of coastline, is managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and provides 20 acres of recreation open space. Beach area improvements include five public (including handicapped) access paths, public restrooms, a snack bar, sand volleyball courts, and bike paths.

Open Space

Open space can describe many different resource opportunities—open space that is used primarily for community enrichment; for protection from flood, wildfire, or geological hazards; for preservation of biological habitats; or for enhanced aesthetics. Figure 5.14-1 shows the designated open space resources in the City. Recreational open space is designated in the City for public use. These areas include regional, community, and neighborhood parks, public school grounds, golf courses, and public trails for walking and biking. To a smaller extent, private public space in residential developments and on private property can also be considered as recreational open space but these areas are not included on the City's proposed land use plan.

Madrona Marsh

The 44-acre Madrona Marsh is a remnant of the last natural vernal wetland in Los Angeles County. The marsh itself houses over 110 species of plants, over 65 families of insects, two amphibian species, three species of reptiles, four mammal species, and 160 types of birds. The City owns and operates the 8,000-square-foot Madrona Marsh Nature Center, which hosts educational, art, and science programs.

Joint-Use Facilities

Public school facilities in the City offer additional places where residents can enjoy outdoor recreation. The City of Torrance and the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) have a reciprocal agreement that allows the City to use TUSD facilities for community recreation and allows TUSD to use City facilities that may not be available on school campuses. School grounds in the City encompass over 250 acres of recreational land.

5.14.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project:

- R-1 Would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- R-2 Includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

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Open Space Resources



Source: Torrance General Plan 2005

City of Torrance General Plan Update Draft EIR

The Planning Center • **Figure 5.14-1**

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5.14.3 Environmental Impacts

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the initial study disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

IMPACT 5.14-1: THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS THAT WOULD INCREASE THE USE OF EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. [THRESHOLD R-1]

Impact Analysis: The residential population of a community generally determines park and recreational needs. An increase in population typically results in an increase in park usage. As of 2006, Torrance maintained approximately 353.5 acres of parks and recreation facilities, with an additional 12.7 acres available at community centers, senior citizen centers, libraries, and the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Based on a 2006 population estimate of 147,108 persons, the City of Torrance provided 2.49 acres of recreation per 1,000 residents. The 1992 general plan set a goal of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, a goal that has been retained in this update. Achieving this ratio would require an additional 1,117.5 acres of public recreation land. Part of this goal could be achieved through the development of joint-use agreements with Torrance Unified School District. Additionally, the use of City-owned sump sites, utility easements, rights-of-way, or other marginal lands should be examined as potential recreation use sites. The City intends to increase park space through the development and revitalization of small green and open spaces in local residential areas and communities. For all new development, the Torrance Municipal Code requires that open space be an integral part of a development plan. However, while recognizing the importance of acres per population as a gauge of physical park space provision, the City's commitment to a high level of public services is more accurately demonstrated through the large quantity and variety of programs and activities offered at City facilities, and the ease of access to parks for the majority of Torrance residents.

The extent to which the City of Torrance can plan and implement parks, trails, and other recreational facilities is related to the availability of funding. The Quimby Act is a funding mechanism for parkland acquisition. Under this act, residential subdivisions must dedicate parkland or pay in-lieu fees to enable the City to acquire a ratio of five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Based on the City's anticipated growth, the buildout of proposed residential land uses in the City and its sphere of influence (SOI) would generate a need for approximately 348 acres of developed parkland. The land use element in the general plan update designates approximately 160 developed acres of land in the City and its SOI for public park use.

The general plan update provides land use opportunities for public parks and recreation lands to be implemented in line with future developments. However, the general plan update does not contemplate any specific development project. The proposed community resources element contains relevant objectives and policies that support a regular review of the City's parks and recreational facilities to keep pace with demographic trends and the needs of Torrance residents.

IMPACT 5.14-2: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT RESULT IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO PROVIDE NEW AND/OR EXPANDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. [THRESHOLD R-2]

Impact Analysis: The general plan update is not a development project, and therefore does not include or require the construction of recreational facilities that would result in any environmental impacts. The implementation of the general plan update may result in the construction or expansion of recreational facilities; however, the scope, nature and location of these facilities is unknown at this time. The general plan update contains goals, policies, and actions to mitigate potential adverse impacts to the environment that may result from buildout of the general plan, including expansion of parks and recreational facilities.

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5.14.4 Relevant General Plan Update Policies

Proposed General Plan policies and actions related to parks and recreational facilities include:

Land Use Element

- Preserve, protect and maintain open space, parks, and recreation facilities as desirable land uses, recognizing that such uses contribute to the high quality of life in Torrance. (Policy LU.9.1)
- Provide and facilitate public and quasi-public uses in accordance with the Community Resources Element. (Policy LU.9.3)
- Establish incentives and development standards to encourage development of land uses that provide public amenities and/or desirable facilities or features including amenities such as private open space and recreation. (Policy LU.9.5)

Community Resources Element

- Continue to evaluate the environmental impact of public and private projects on properties that have significant open space value. (Policy CR.1.1)
- Require the provision of on-site open space in new developments. (Policy CR.1.2)
- Require that development projects involving modifications or additions include plans to upgrade or add open space and landscaping. (Policy CR.1.3)
- Assign open space designations and apply preservation policies to significant natural habitat areas. (Policy CR.2.1)
- Maximize open space for active and passive recreational uses at strategic and convenient locations throughout the City. (Policy CR.3.1)
- Cooperate with neighboring communities and County agencies to preserve open space resources, including trails that may lie outside the City's jurisdiction but which are important to meet the needs of Torrance residents. (Policy CR.3.2)
- Pursue grants and loans to fund acquisition and preservation of recreational open space. (Policy CR.3.3)
- Zone publicly and privately owned outdoor recreational open space in a manner that preserves such properties for open space use. (Policy CR.3.4)
- Encourage the multiple use of open space land for recreational purposes. (Policy CR.3.5)
- Require greater creativity and flexibility in the design of residential developments to encourage the provision of more usable on-site open space. (Policy CR.3.6)
- Accommodate the conversion of marginal lands, such as retention and detention basins, to uses such as passive open space, recreational facilities, and habitat protection. (Policy CR.3.7)

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- Look for opportunities to create neighborhood pocket parks and similarly scaled recreation and cultural facilities that complement larger active park areas. (Policy CR.3.8)
- Provide public recreational open space at a ratio of 10 acres per 1,000 residents. (Policy CR.6.1)
- Require developers to dedicate land or pay sufficient in-lieu fees to meet established public recreational open space standards. (Policy CR.6.3)
- Expand joint-use and joint-development of recreational and cultural facilities on Torrance Unified School District properties. (Policy CR.6.4)
- Strive to provide some type of park, recreation, or community facility within a 1/2-mile service area of all residential neighborhoods. (Policy CR.7.1)
- Encourage the multiple use of public utility easements and the conversion of abandoned or out of service railroad right-of-ways for compatible recreational purposes such as trails, bikeways, greenbelts, linear parks, etc. (Policy CR.7.2)
- Identify areas within the City that are currently underserved by open space/parks, and community facilities and develop programs to purchase land and build park and community amenities according to City standards. (Policy CR.7.7)
- Maintain, promote, and enhance programs that provide recreational, educational, cultural, and community services for families and residents of all ages. (Policy CR.8.2)
- Provide additional public indoor recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and gymnasiums, and lighted outdoor sports fields. (Policy CR.8.3)

5.14.5 Existing Regulations and Standard Conditions

- City of Torrance Municipal Code Chapter 23 – Park and Recreation Facilities Tax

5.14.6 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements and standard conditions of approval, the following impacts would be less than significant: 5.14-1 and 5.14-2.

5.14.7 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be required for recreational impacts.

5.14.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No mitigation measures are necessary.

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