



TeWinkle Park

Chapter 10: Open Space and Recreation Element

Introduction

Open spaces, recreation programs, and cultural arts contribute significantly to the quality of life in Costa Mesa. With its high-quality park facilities and comprehensive community service programs, Costa Mesa offers many opportunities for residents and visitors to practice healthy living and engage in community-building activities.

Parks and community-serving facilities enhance the quality of life for residents and are important components of complete and sustainable neighborhoods. Accessible parks provide places to play, exercise, spend time with friends and neighbors, or just relax and reflect. This Open Space and Recreation Element provides the policy framework to ensure that open space and recreation

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resources in the City are preserved and maintained. Open space in Costa Mesa includes neighborhood and community parks, County-owned regional recreation facilities, institutional land uses, and golf courses.

Purpose

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Element is to sustain the network of open space and recreation resources for today’s residents and future generations. The goals, policies, and objectives contained in this element aim to protect, maintain, and enhance open spaces for all purposes and to meet recreation needs. This also describes how Costa Mesa can promote the City’s identity as a “City of the Arts”.

Recreational Sites and Facilities

Costa Mesa’s inventory of open space and recreation resources includes a diversity of facilities, ranging from highly developed, active recreation sites to low-activity, passive open spaces. The existing network of open space and recreation facilities is illustrated in Figure OSR-1, *Recreational Sites and Facilities*, and inventoried in Table OSR-1, *Parks and Open Space Inventory*.

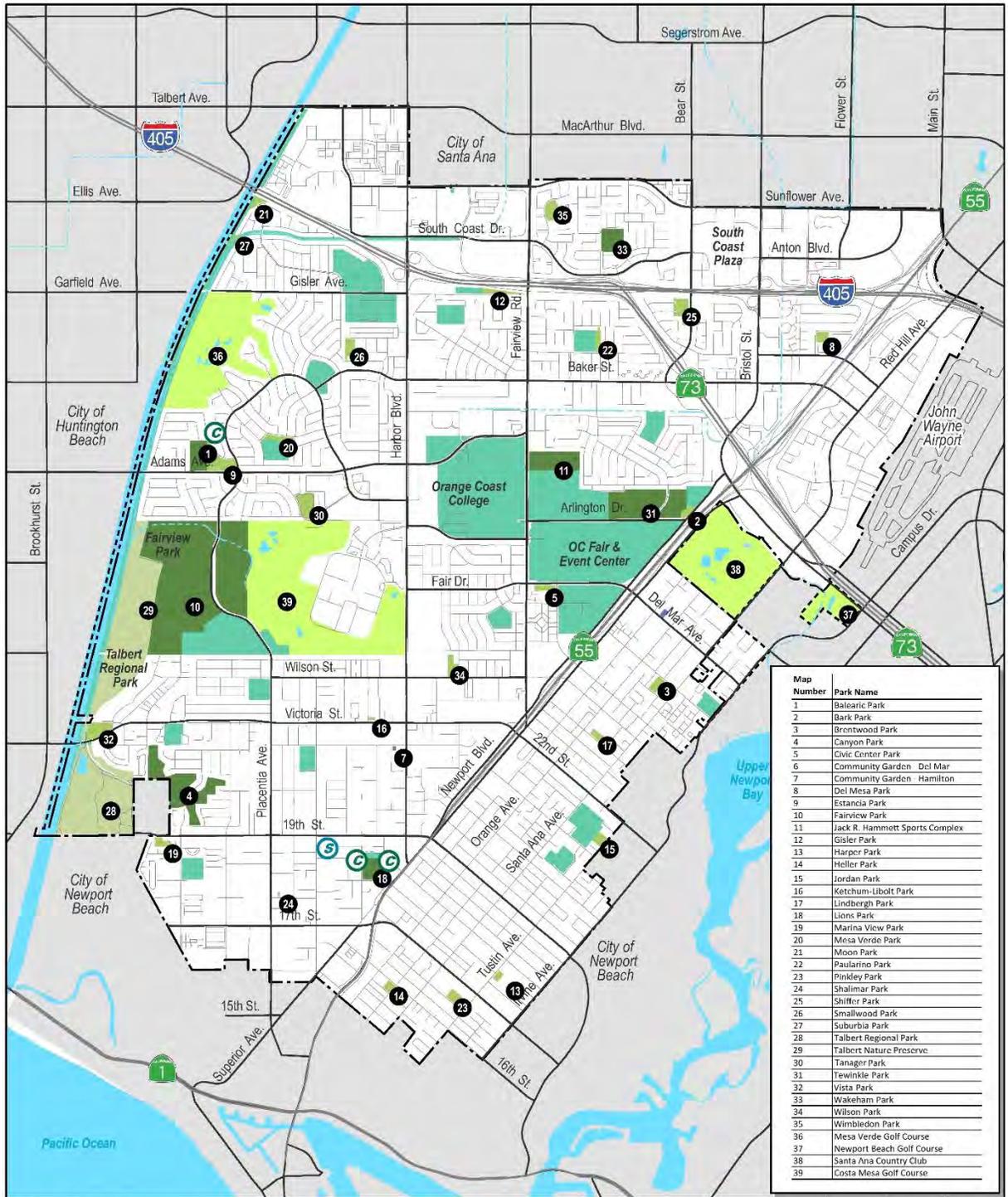
Table OSR-1: Parks and Open Space Inventory

Facility Name	Acreage
Neighborhood and Community Parks	415.19
Regional Nature Preserve (Talbert Regional Park)	244
Institutional Uses ¹	871.94
OC Fair & Event Center	150.04
Open Space Easements	6.19
Golf Courses ²	379.70
Total	2,067.06

Notes: 1) *Includes schools, colleges, public facilities, Civic Center, Santa Ana River right-of-way, Fairview Developmental Center, and other public and institutional uses.*

2) *Includes acres of golf courses within the City of Costa Mesa only. Acreages do not include Santa Ana Country Club and Newport Beach Golf Course.*

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Parks and Open Space Inventory

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Orange County Parks
- Golf Courses
- Community Gardens
- Public Facilities and Institutional Uses

Community Centers

- S Senior Center
- C Community and Recreation Centers

City Boundaries

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence

Source: City of Costa Mesa, 2015.



Neighborhood and Community Parks

The neighborhood and community park system represents the foundation of Costa Mesa’s open space and recreation network. Approximately 415 acres of developed neighborhood and community parks provide places for residents and visitors to enjoy themselves. As shown in Table OSR-2, *Neighborhood and Community Parks Inventory*, Costa Mesa has 25 neighborhood parks and seven community parks. These parks are shown on Figure OSR-1. The largest City-owned park is Fairview Park, encompassing approximately 210 acres. The smallest park is 0.18-acre Shalimar Park. Parks within the City are classified based on size. The classification system is as follows.

- **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks are 10 acres or smaller in size and are intended to serve the daily recreational needs of residents in the immediate park vicinity. Primary uses include passive and active open space, tot lots, and picnic facilities. Community gardens are also included under this classification.
- **Community Parks.** Community parks are 10 acres or larger in size and are intended to provide a wide variety of recreation amenities, including lighted athletic fields and courts and other wide-serving recreational uses.

Fairview Park

Fairview Park is the largest park in the City encompassing approximately 210 acres. This passive open space consists of bluffs, vernal pools, trails, native plant communities, and wildlife. Park visitors can also enjoy special events that occur at the park, as well as take a train ride on the Goat Hill Junction Model Railroad.

In 1998, the City Council approved the Fairview Park Master Plan. Pursuant to the Master Plan, a series of improvements to wetland and riparian habitats were accomplished consisting of enhancement of 17 acres of riparian habitat, rehabilitation of ponds and streams, and installation of a new irrigation system. In 2013, the City restored six acres of wetland ponds, five acres of native grasslands, three acres of native oak trees, and nine acres of coastal sage scrub habitat.

Fairview Park encompasses over 200 acres of open space and passive park areas consisting of bluffs, vernal pools, trails, native plant communities, and wildlife. Park visitors also can enjoy community events, fly model aircrafts, or take a train ride at Goat Hill Junction Railroad Station.



In April 2013, the Costa Mesa City Council voted to reconvene the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee (FPAC) to examine several issues regarding the park, and to evaluate the Fairview Park Master Plan relative to the City's needs. Based on those needs, the FPAC will recommend the addition, reduction, elimination, and modification of park uses and master-planned elements. As part of the citywide Open Space Master Plan of Parks and Recreation initiated in 2015, the community will be engaged in further discussion of improvement plans for Fairview Park.

Costa Mesa Community Gardens

Community gardens provide opportunities for Costa Mesa residents to nurture their physical and social health. As of 2015, the City managed two community gardens. The Del Mar Community Garden has 60 plots, each measuring 15 feet by 15 feet. Hamilton Community Garden has 42 plots with the same dimensions. The City rents garden plots to residents to grow vegetables, flowers, fruits, and plants for personal consumption. Both community gardens are immensely popular and have long waiting lists for new urban farmers to participate.

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Table OSR-2: Neighborhood and Community Parks Inventory

Name	Acres	Baseball	Softball	Soccer Field	Utility Field	Basketball	Playground	Tennis Courts	Handball	Volleyball	Par Course
Neighborhood Parks											
Brentwood Park	2.60						1			1	
Civic Center Park	2.50										
Del Mar Com. Garden	0.77										
Hamilton Com. Garden	0.45										
Del Mesa Park	2.47				1	1	1			1	
Estancia Park	9.03										
Gisler Park	4.59						1			1	
Harper Park	1.06						1				
Heller Park	2.61				1		1				
Jordan Park	2.48				1						
Ketchum-Libolt Park	0.34										
Lindbergh Park	2.00						1				
Marina View Park	2.29				1		1				
Mesa Verde Park	2.73						1				
Moon Park	1.67						1				
Paularino Park	2.23						1			1	
Pinkley Park	2.57				1		1				
Shalimar Park	0.18						1				
Shiffer Park	7.09				1	1	2		2	2	1
Smallwood Park	3.39		1			1	1			1	
Suburbia Park	0.53										
Tanager Park	7.41				1	1	1			2	1
Vista Park	5.92				1		1				
Wilson Park	3.61						1			1	
Wimbledon Park	3.29				1	1	1				1

Table OSR-2: Neighborhood and Community Parks Inventory

Name	Acres	Baseball	Softball	Soccer Field	Utility Field	Basketball	Playground	Tennis Courts	Handball	Volleyball	Par Course
<i>Neighborhood Park</i>	73.81	0	1	0	9	5	19	0	2	10	3
Community Parks											
Balearic Park	10.06			2	1	2	2		2		
Canyon Park	35.96						1				
Jack R. Hammett Sports Complex	18.50			6							
Fairview Park	210.04				1						
Lions Park	12.82						1		6		
TeWinkle Park	43.67	1	2		1		1	12		1	1
Wakeham Park	10.33			1	1	1	1			1	1
<i>Community Park</i>	341.38	1	2	9	4	3	6	12	8	2	2
Grand Total	415.19	1	3	9	13	8	25	12	10	12	5

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council with respect to:

- Park and recreation facility locations
- Park site planning and facility design
- Development, operation, maintenance, and redevelopment of facilities
- Fiscal policy recommendations regarding development priorities, grants, and fees

The Parks and Recreation Commission also advises the City Council on matters pertaining to the provision of quality recreational services and activities

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programs, as well as park and recreation matters referred to the Commission by the City Council or brought to the Commission's attention by stakeholders.

Other Recreational Facilities

Institutional Uses

Costa Mesa is home to many public schools, a community college, and a private university—as well as the OC Fair & Event Center—that have open space and recreational facilities. While not all facilities are available for public recreational use, the inventory of institutional uses is considerable. These facilities contribute substantially to the citywide open space and recreation inventory, and can augment open space provided by the neighborhood and community park system. Although not a party to the use-agreements between schools and sports leagues, the City does provide support to community organizations seeking joint-use agreements and improvements to school sites. Table OSR-3, *School Recreational Facilities*, identifies institutional facilities located within the City, operated by the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD).

As of 2015, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District facilities included 32 utility fields and 18 baseball/softball diamonds. The City utilizes NMUSD elementary and middle school facilities for after-school programs, and all elementary, middle, and high school athletic fields, with the exception of Jim Scott Stadium, for youth and adult sports programming.



Youth Sports. Children participating in a Pop Warner Football game.

Table OSR-3: School Recreational Facilities

School Name	Acres	Baseball	Softball	Soccer	Turf Area	Basketball	Multi-Use Courts	Track	Play Equipment	Handball	Volleyball	Tennis	Swimming Pool
Adams Elementary School	10.36			■		■							
Back Bay High School	6.25		■	■	■	■							
California Elementary School	9.81		■	2	■	■	■		■	■			
College Park Elementary School	7.98		■	■	■	■	■		■	2			
Costa Mesa High School	67.30	4	■	3	■	■	■	■			■	8	■
Davis School	16.64				■	■		■					
Early College High School	10.00												
Estancia High School	39.98	2	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		8	■
Harper Preschool	2.00			2	■	■	■				■		
Kaiser Elementary School	17.76	2		3	■	■	■	■					
Killybrooke School	10.01			■	■	■				■			
Paularino Elementary School	9.07				■	■	■			■			
Pomona Elementary School	7.52			■	■	■	■						
Everett Rea Elementary	13.91												
Sonora Elementary School	10.56				■	■	■			■			
TeWinkle Intermediate School	20.00	3	2	3	■	4		■			■		
Victoria Elementary School	7.37			■	■	■	■						
Waldorf School of Orange County	10.15			■	■	■	■		■		■		
Whittier Elementary School	9.11		■		■		■		■	■			
Wilson Elementary School:	8.93				■		■						
Woodland Elementary School	8.88	■		■		■			■	■			
Total	303.59												

Source: City of Costa Mesa and Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Note: 1) All schools identified in this table are included in the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) between Newport-Mesa Unified School District (UNMD) and the City of Costa Mesa. The JUA pertains to athletic facility use, maintenance, and program oversight, and is updated periodically. Some schools are subject to third-party agreements.

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Surplus School Sites

Student enrollment throughout the Newport-Mesa Unified School District fluctuates over time, and NMUSD makes long-range projections for facility needs. In the past, NMUSD has closed elementary schools due to low enrollment, with the facilities available for many uses.

OC Fair & Event Center

In the late 1940s, the State of California obtained the current fairgrounds property, formerly occupied by the Santa Ana Army Air Base, and used the fairgrounds for over 60 years. In 2010, the County of Orange acquired the site from the State, with the core objective to preserve and promote the fairground and event uses. The OC Fair & Event Center is a major entertainment, recreational, cultural, and educational asset to Orange County. In addition to the OC Fair, which occurs every summer, over 100 events occur every year supporting cultural and nonprofit organizations, and attracting over 4.1 million visitors annually.



Centennial Farm is a three-acre working farm at the OC Fair & Event Center created to educate youth about agriculture and its importance to daily life.

The 150-acre property includes these components:

- **Centennial Farm.** An approximately 3.5-acre outdoor agricultural and livestock area on the southwest corner of the property. This working farm includes livestock barns and fruit and vegetable gardens, and showcases educational programs for school-aged children.

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- **Equestrian Center.** Approximately 14.5 acres, the equestrian center facility provides year-round, privately operated horse boarding and training. The area includes riding arenas, hot walkers, turnout pens, storage lockers, and ample parking.
- **Grandstand Arena.** The Grandstand, per the Master Plan, is anticipated to expand to hold 10,000 seats. The area is used for rodeos, circuses, motorcycles races, and other outdoor events.
- **Orange County Market Place.** A weekly outdoor swap meet held on the property's southeast corner attracts people from throughout the region.
- **Pacific Amphitheatre.** An outdoor arena that seats up to 8,500 patrons, this venue hosts entertainers of local, national and international renown.
- **Showroom Buildings.** Buildings totaling 148,000 square feet are rented for various shows, with the possibility of expanding to 275,000 square feet per the Master Plan.
- **Festival Fields (Multipurpose Area).** The Festival Fields consist of an outdoor theater, camping, and Kid's Carnival.
- **Mall Areas.** Three areas adjacent to the outdoor area are used primarily as show areas for automobiles, outdoor social events, and other similar uses.

Golf Courses

Located adjacent to the Fairview Park is the Costa Mesa Country Club, a municipal golf course with two 18-hole golf courses, a pro shop, coffee shop, banquet facility, and driving range. The Mesa Verde Country Club golf course is a private facility that includes an 18-hole golf course, tennis and pool complex, and club house. Additionally, the private Santa Ana Country Club and Newport Beach Golf Course, both located outside City limits but within the City's sphere of influence, offer additional recreation opportunities.

Dog Park

Bark Park is a two-acre fenced off-leash dog park located at TeWinkle Park, adjacent to the Costa Mesa Tennis Center. The park has a separate area for small, elderly, and disabled dogs. Dog park amenities include trees, benches, water dispensers for dogs, dog waste bags, and a restroom. Bark Park is administered through the non-profit Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation.

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Costa Mesa Country Club is a public golf course with 36 holes of golf, a practice facility and driving range, and a banquet facility.

Costa Mesa Tennis Center

The Costa Mesa Tennis Center is located in TeWinkle Park at 880 Junipero Drive. This special use facility includes twelve lighted courts, fifty-five parking spaces, landscaped walkways, and a pro-shop with professional tennis staff. The Costa Mesa Tennis Center offers lessons, tournaments, leagues, open play, and monthly classes and activities to participants of all ages.

Costa Mesa Skate Park

Built in 2005, the Costa Mesa Skate Park is open daily to skate boarders and inline skaters of all ages. The 15,000 square foot facility is free to the public, although all participants are required to wear their own helmet and pads. This specialty facility is located inside of TeWinkle Park. It features street elements, a kidney-shaped pool, and a bowl. Finally, the facility also hosts the City's Parks and Community Services Department skateboarding classes.

Park Level of Service

Level of Service is a method used to calculate the level of service standards for parks and recreation to determine if it meets the City's needs and expectations.

With a changing population, the City must continually assess how park facilities satisfy the needs of a changing demographic. Park standards determine how many parkland acres the City should develop based on population levels, locations of parks, and existing parks. The City's goal is to attain and maintain a park standard of 4.26 acres of parkland for every 1,000

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residents. Pursuant to State law (State Government Code Section 66477), the City may collect up to 3.0 acres of parkland or in-lieu fees from new residential subdivisions for every 1,000 residents. Accordingly, the City adopted a Local Park Ordinance to implement its park and recreational land dedication requirements (Title 13, Chapter XI, Article 5 – Park and Recreation Dedications). However, to reach the goal of 4.26 acres per 1,000 residents, the City must pursue alternative funding sources for the additional park acreage and/or park improvements that exceed the State standard. Alternative funding sources include general fund revenues, development impact fees, federal and State grants, user group contributions, and school district joint-use contributions. Other methods for supplementing the City’s park system include encouraging the development of private open space and recreational amenities (beyond public park requirements) within large residential projects, and pursuing the joint use (or ultimate use) of utility district lands, such as those owned by County of Orange Flood Control District, for parks and open space.

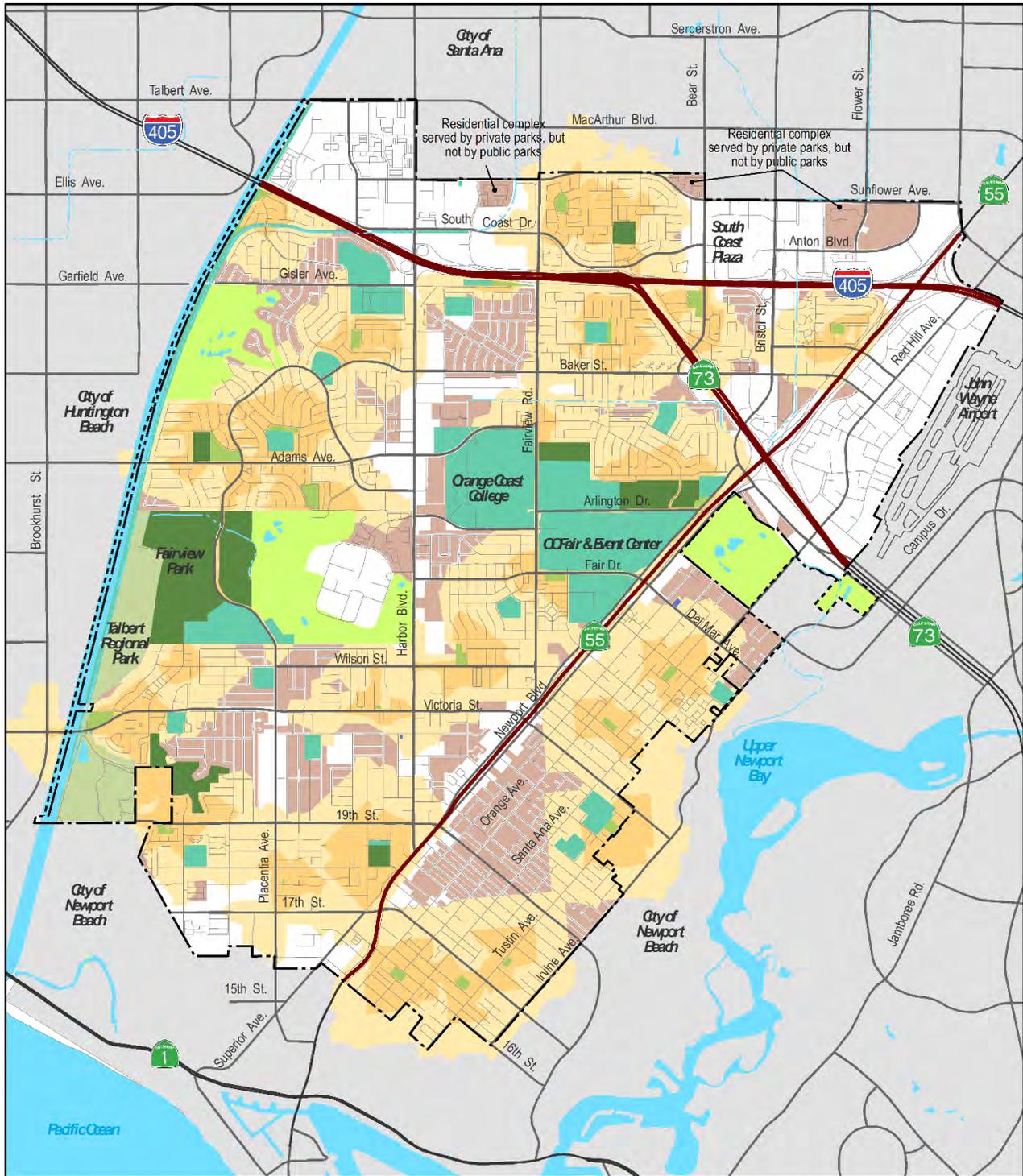
As of 2015, the City had an estimated population of 111,276 residents. Based on the City’s park standard goal of 4.26 acres for every 1,000 persons, approximately 474 acres of parkland are required to meet the City’s goal. Assuming a build-out population of 134,984 residents, 575 acres would be required to achieve the goal.

This total does not include private open space and recreation facilities, golf courses, the OC Fair & Event Center, or joint use of facilities at school sites. The City’s policies and implementation actions emphasize the need to pursue all means to expand and maximize benefits of the parks and recreation system.

Neighborhood and Community Park Accessibility

Figure OSR-2, *Park Access*, utilizes the street network system to identify areas within a one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile walking distance to park pedestrian-access points (service area). The figure identifies areas within neighborhoods that do not have ready access to City parks and thus helps assist in the strategic approach to identify and prioritize locations for parkland to meet the community goals and objectives.

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Parks and Open Space Inventory

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Orange County Parks
- Golf Courses
- Community Gardens
- Public Facilities and Institutional Uses

Walking Shed Analysis

- 1/4 Mile or Less Walking Distance to Park
- 1/2 Mile or Less Walking Distance to Park
- Residential Underserved Areas (Greater than 1/2 Mile Walking Distance)
- Pedestrian Barriers

Source: City of Costa Mesa, 2015; ArcGIS Network Analyst and Costa Mesa street center lines (polylines).

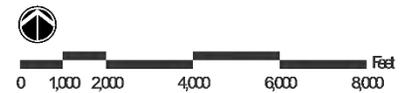


Figure OSR-2: Park Access

Park Level of Service and Accessibility by Planning Area

An estimate of population to park ratios has been conducted by “Planning Areas” to evaluate deficiencies in the City’s allocation of parkland. Table OSR-4, 2015 Park /Population Ratios, indicates these estimated ratios. Planning Area 2 exceeds the park-to-population standard of parkland, but includes some areas that lacks park accessibility. Planning Area 3 is the area with the most deficient neighborhood parkland with a ratio of 0.62 acres of parkland, for every 1,000 persons. Figure OSR-3 identifies the Planning Areas.

Table OSR-4: 2015 Park /Population Ratios

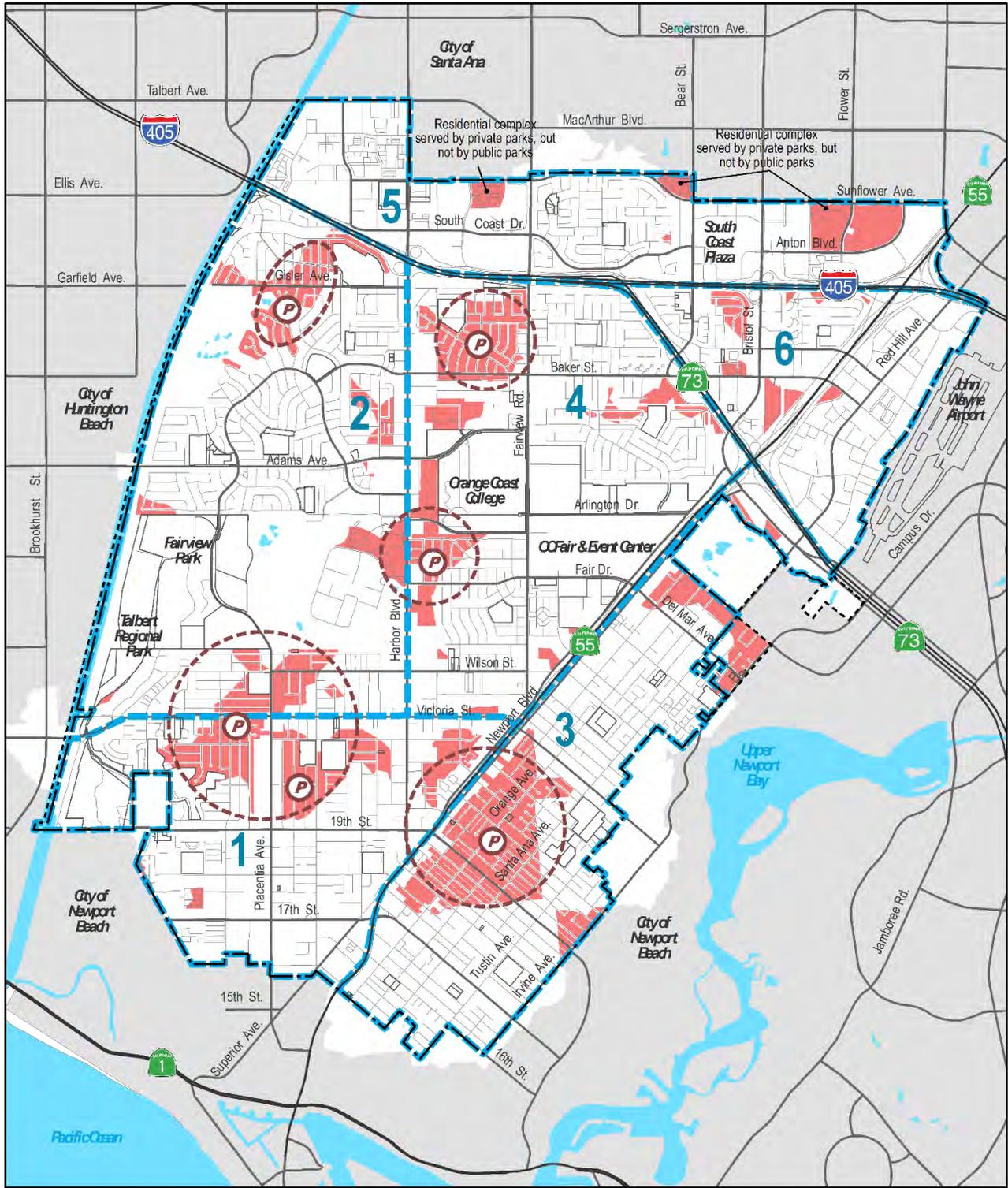
Planning Area	Population ¹	Existing Park Land (2015)	Estimated Park/Population Ratio
1	23,244	54.43	2.34/1,000
2	24,122	248.39	10.30/1,000
3	22,874	14.09	0.62/1,000
4	26,574	75.10	2.83/1,000
5	8,176	13.62	1.67/1,000
6	5,534	9.56	1.73/1,000
Total	110,524	415.19	3.76/1,000

Notes: 1) Population based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates for 2014 by Census Tract and by Table LU-2: Established Land Uses (2015).

Planning Area 1

Planning Area 1 is unique in a number of ways. First, it is the location of major public open space features, including Canyon Community Park and the Talbert Regional Park and it is in close proximity to Fairview Community Park. However, these facilities are located along the easternmost boundary of the planning area, creating an uneven distribution of neighborhood park service. Secondly, the area is the most densely populated and highly developed in the City, leaving very limited opportunities for sites to fulfill this service deficiency. There are several park priority areas within the Westside neighborhood, just south of Victoria Street.

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Underserved Park Areas

- Residential Underserved Areas (Greater than 1/2 Mile Walking Distance)
- Neighborhood Planning Areas

Park Priority Area

P

Source: City of Costa Mesa, 2015; ArcGIS Network Analyst and Costa Mesa street center lines (polylines).

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet

1

Figure OSR-3: Planning Areas and Underserved Park Areas

Planning Area 2

Planning Area 2 is well served and exceeds the park-to-population standard for neighborhood and community. Nearly 250 acres of parkland are provided in this Planning Area. However, the Mesa Verde neighborhood around Gisler Avenue still lacks park accessibility as it is located more than a one-half mile from a park. The Westside neighborhood north of Victoria Street is also identified as being farther than one-half mile walking distance from a park.

Planning Area 3

Planning Area 3 is similar to Area 1 in that it is an older neighborhood which is nearly fully developed without an adequate neighborhood park system. One advantage that the Eastside neighborhood has is the availability of operating school sites and surplus school sites to augment the local park network. Regarding park access, the neighborhood area east of Downtown and along 19th Street is identified as being located beyond a one-half-mile walking distance from a park. This planning area is deficient by both park-to-population standards and accessibility standards.

Planning Area 4

Planning Area 4, although it does not meet the park-to-population standard for parks, it is generally well served by City parks. The acquisition of the Jack R. Hammett Sports Complex helped improve the park deficiency within the entire Planning Area. However, the Halecrest and College Park neighborhoods lie beyond the desired one-half mile.

Planning Area 5

Planning Area 5 is identified as park deficient. Several residential complexes are served by private on-site recreation facilities and open space easements. However, with the development of the Sakioka Farms residential site, this area is expected to have the potential for new residential development that could include new public (or private) park space.

Planning Area 6

Planning Area 6, which consists of the Bristol and Paularino neighborhoods, is identified as park deficient in terms of the park-to-population standard. Park accessibility is generally good to Shiffer Park and Del Mesa Park by surrounding residential neighborhoods. Large residential complexes that are not within a one-half-mile walking distance to a public park generally have

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private park facilities dedicated to their residents. New residential development associated with the SoBECA Urban Plan will also increase the current population in this Planning Area and the need for additional public parks.

Key Park System Issues

Limited Availability of Park Sites

Costa Mesa is a mature, well-developed city with very little land available for new parkland. Few vacant parcels exist, and those that do may not be useful in terms of size, location, or other factors. The few remaining large vacant lands are located north of I-405 and planned for urban-intensity development, as outlined in the *North Costa Mesa Specific Plan*. As part of any master planning process, the City has the ability to require provision of public open space for parks and similar purposes.

The other major potential site for parkland is the Fairview Development Center, which the State may choose to downsize or relocate, thus making these public lands possibly available for transfer to the City. Any new parks the City acquires within established neighborhoods will be small infill parks. Several contiguous sites will need to be acquired to provide an active sports park facility to meet the community's recreational needs.

Further, the demands on capital funds are highly competitive, potentially creating further limitations for acquisition of new City parkland.

Balance of Passive and Active Recreation

As the population in the City continues to change, the demand for parks and open spaces will increase and change based on the population's composition. In response, the City may find it necessary to repurpose current parks and open spaces to accommodate residents' needs. As a result, preserving the established uses of parks and open spaces and balancing between passive and active recreation use may become a challenge. However, a balance between passive and active open space opportunities will continue to be a key consideration.

Demand for Sports Field

Organized sports programs have created a demand for more baseball, softball, and soccer fields. Many neighborhood parks provide space for organized sports but typically have insufficient parking, lighting, and facilities to meet this demand. Sports parks within neighborhoods require a balancing act for the City to meet the needs of private athletic organizations and neighborhood residents. Residents often express concerns regarding parking spillover into neighborhoods, lighting, noise, and the general unavailability of facilities to residents.

Adequate Space for Community Gardens

Costa Mesa owns and operates two community garden sites in the City. As of 2015, long waiting lists to lease garden parcels to community members prevented many residents from having garden plots. As the population and popularity of gardening continues to grow, the demand for community gardens will grow as well.

Park Level of Service

As of 2015, Costa Mesa had 3.66 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (based on population of 111,276 and 415.19 park acres), well under the 4.26 acres per 1,000 persons this element identifies as the minimum parkland ratio. With the planned population growth identified in the Land Use Element, demand per the standard will increase to 575 park acres per 1,000 persons, again below the threshold identified in this element. The City of Costa Mesa will have to acquire additional park acres to meet the citywide goal of 4.26 acres per 1,000 persons.

Park Accessibility

Several residential neighborhoods in Costa Mesa are more than one-quarter and one-half-mile pedestrian walking distance to public neighborhood and community parks. These neighborhoods include the Westside residential district generally along Victoria Street and Placentia Avenue, the Eastside residential district along 19th and 20th Streets, the residential area northeast of the Mesa Verde Country Club, and the Halecrest residential neighborhood. The Halecrest area does include a private park, Halecrest Park, which requires a membership to access the recreation facilities. These areas should be considered priorities areas for future parks. Other small underserved areas

should also be considered as well. Additionally, large apartment and condominium complexes provide private recreational facilities for their residents and are maintained under management groups or homeowner associations.

Recreational Facilities and Programs

Community Facilities

The City operates and maintains four community centers: Balearic Community Center, Downtown Recreation Center, Neighborhood Community Center, and Costa Mesa Senior Center. Each facility provides recreational activities and room rentals.

- **Balearic Community Center.** Located at 1975 Balearic Drive, the facility comprises two rental rooms that can accommodate up to 100 people. Year round, these rooms are used for the City's Day Camp Program, Recreation on Campus for Kids (ROCK) program, and Early Childhood Program. Adjacent to the center is Balearic Park, which features a fenced playground with play equipment, playground, basketball courts, and a large athletic field.
- **Downtown Recreation Center.** Located at 1860 Anaheim Avenue, this center includes an indoor gymnasium, gymnastics room, a 25-yard outdoor pool, and a designated room and office for the Childs-Pace day-care program. The facility offers a multipurpose room equipped with a kitchen, and provides open gym time for youth and adult basketball. During the summer, the multipurpose room is also used as a ROCKS program site.
- **Neighborhood Community Center.** Located at 1845 Park Avenue, this 24,000-square-foot facility consists of a large multipurpose hall, stage, dance floor, and full-service kitchen. Three smaller meeting and conference rooms are available for meetings and classes. In 2015, the City approved a \$34.5 million plan to build a new library building to house the new Donald Dungan Library, renovate the existing Donald

Dungan library to serve as the new Neighborhood Community Center (NCC), demolish the old NCC, and propose parking and landscape developments in several phases. A community-driven process has guided design and service plans.

- **Costa Mesa Senior Center.** Located at 695 West 19th Street, the senior center provides a day facility for Costa Mesa’s older residents to gather and participate in social, recreational, and personal development programs. The facility also provides seniors access to free transportation for medical-related appointments and other transportation needs.

Community Services Programs

Community Services programs encompass the diverse recreational and social services activities provided by the City to residents. These programs can be classified in one of the following categories:

- Recreational and Physical Activities
- Action Sports
- Cultural and Performing Arts
- Youth Programs
- Human Services
- Older Adult Programs and Services

The City provides a diverse selection of recreational and sports activities, programs, and services that utilize the extensive network of parks and recreation facilities. A number of nonprofit organizations within the community also provide programs and services, including the Newport-Mesa Family YMCA, Costa Mesa United, and youth sports organizations such as AYSO, Little League Baseball, and Pop Warner Football. The City facilitates the use of its recreational facilities and outdoor school grounds by these groups.

Youth Programs

The City offers a variety of recreation programs for local youth, including gymnastics, basketball, soccer, tee-ball, skateboarding, martial arts, and horseback riding. The programs aim to provide children and teenagers with effective tools to learn and grow through well-planned curriculum, activities,

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field trips, and socialization. Youth and teen programs include the Costa Mesa Day Camp, Early Childhood Program, Recreation on Campus for Kids (R.O.C.K.S), Recreation Leadership Training Program, and Teen Camp.

Human Services

Human services programs provide social and financial aid to community members, and can enhance quality of life, promote civic involvement and volunteerism, foster partnerships with private organizations, and create a sense of belonging. The City coordinates with a variety of human services providers such as the Orange County Rescue Mission and the Orange County Interfaith Shelter to assist residents and their families.



Costa Mesa's Community Services Department provides a wide range of programs and activities for youth and teens.

Older Adult Programs and Services

Residents over age 50 represent a growing demographic in Costa Mesa. As a result, the City's services and programs need to address the growing demands of residents who are 50+ by providing social events, expressive arts, nutrition, fitness, and educational and recreational classes that focus on health and wellness. Older residents who face mobility, economic, and medical care challenges can find support and referrals through the programs, services, and classes held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. The Costa Mesa Senior Center also organizes activities, trips, and special events throughout the year.

Key Recreational Facilities and Programs Issue

Adequate Community Services to Serve Changing Community

Historically, the City has provided high levels of recreation, community, youth and family, and older adult services that meet changing community needs. Maintaining and improving this level of service may be challenging given limited funding resources and demographic changes.

Open Space

Open space land, as defined by California Government Code Section 65560, is any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use, including open space for the:

- Preservation of natural resources
- Managed production of resources
- Outdoor recreation
- Public health and safety

Preservation of open space resources, including habitat areas, wildlife, and water resources are addressed in the Conservation Element.

Costa Mesa Open Spaces

Canyon Park

Canyon Park's name refers to its location within a canyon just north of 19th Street. This approximately 36-acre natural open space park includes meandering trails which connect to several surrounding neighborhoods, a small playground and picnic green-space, and Talbert Regional Park.

Talbert Regional Park

The County of Orange preserves and maintains the 211-acre Talbert Regional Park, which encompasses the Talbert Nature Preserve. This open space is located in the southwest portion of the City, north and south of Victoria Street

Open Space and Recreation Element

along the Santa Ana River lowlands, and provides passive recreation opportunities, including walking, picnicking, and hiking. The trail system allows for observation of natural resources and links to other parks along the Santa Ana River. Group use within the habitat areas is permitted by guided walks, and individual use is facilitated by interpretive signage. When combined, Canyon Park, Fairview Park, and Talbert Regional Park provide almost 490 acres of restored and enhanced natural open space.

Santa Ana River

The Santa Ana River forms the western boundary of Costa Mesa. Although not included in the open space inventory, the Santa Ana River Trail provides a major recreation and circulation element that extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Inland Empire. The bikeway has been designated by Congress as a “National Recreational Trail.” OC Parks owns and manages the nearly one mile of the mouth of the Santa Ana River, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls the river area above the mouth.



Santa Ana River Open Space includes trails and access to Costa Mesa’s Fairview Park and Talbert Regional Park.

Open Spaces Adjacent to Costa Mesa

Newport Banning Ranch

Newport Banning Ranch is an approximately 401-acre site partially located in unincorporated Orange County and partially within the City of Newport

Beach, adjacent to Costa Mesa. Plans for the property include approximately 174 acres of permanent open space to be reserved and protected for lowland and upland habitat, a nature center, vernal pool interpretive area, and a diverse system of public interpretive trails connecting to the Talbert Nature Preserve and Santa Ana River Trail in Costa Mesa.

Upper Newport Bay

Upper Newport Bay is located just east of Costa Mesa in the City of Newport Beach. It is the largest of only a few remaining natural estuaries in Southern California. An estuary is a coastal wetland where saltwater from the ocean mixes with nutrient-rich fresh water from inland sources to provide a fertile feeding area for birds, fish, and other animals. The Upper Bay is a recreational and educational resource for the area, with a multipurpose trail and many wildlife viewing stations.

Open Space Conservation Efforts

Orange Coast River Park, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit independent organization originally founded as a committee by the Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks (FHBP). Orange Coast River Park’s mission is to facilitate coordination among stakeholders, agencies, landowners, and the public to create a 1,000-acre Open Space Master Plan at the mouth of the Santa Ana River between the Mesa Verde residential community in Costa Mesa and the Pacific Ocean. The organization’s major goals are to “restore the historic ecological staircase, extend a seamless passageway to the coast from inland, and create access for residents and visitors to an oasis of tranquility.”

Key Open Space Issues

Open Space Preservation and Management

Open space lands within Fairview Park, Canyon Park, and Talbert Regional Park need to be managed to prevent impacts to sensitive habitat and wildlife. Wetlands, vernal pools, and other sensitive habitats need to be protected from human activity and accidental and intended damage. Invasive plant and wildlife species and hazardous material from pesticides, pollution, trash, and other toxic materials need to be controlled and/or restricted to prevent

Open Space and Recreation Element

severe damage to these resources. Unauthorized trails by bicyclists and hikers can also damage sensitive habitat areas. Public agencies need to continue to provide and enforce management and educational strategies to protect, preserve, and steward these limited resources.

Open Space Acquisition

As a built-out community, Costa Mesa will face challenges acquiring new open space land due to high land costs and the limited availability of land.

Open Space Access

Open spaces in Costa Mesa are primarily located along the Santa Ana River. Adjoining residential neighborhoods can easily access the Santa Ana River Trail and Banning Channel Bikeway. Eastside Costa Mesa neighborhoods may encounter difficulties in accessing these open spaces through the City's established bikeway system. Talbert Regional Park is primarily accessed by surrounding residential neighborhoods; it can also be accessed through trail connections and access points. Careful consideration must be given to increase access to open spaces while protecting sensitive habitat.

Cultural Arts Resources

Costa Mesa's motto is "City of the Arts." Over the past decades, regionally and nationally recognized organizations have established the City as their home, and they continue to grow. The Segerstrom Center for the Arts, South Coast Repertory Theater, Arts Plaza, and Noguchi Sculpture Gardens are some of the significant cultural resources based in Costa Mesa. The Costa Mesa Playhouse also thrives in the City, along with a wide array of art galleries and a contemporary music scene.

Costa Mesa Theater and Arts District Plan

The 57.3-acre Costa Mesa Theater and Arts District includes high-rise office buildings, internationally recognized cultural facilities, hotels, restaurants, and high-end commercial uses. Located along the Avenue of the Arts and with ready access to I-405, the district attracts visitors from throughout Southern California and beyond. To guide the coordinated development of the district, in 2004 the City the Costa Mesa Theater & Arts District Plan was established.

Cultural Arts Committee

The Cultural Arts Committee coordinates with the City Council to support cultural arts programs and increase awareness of the arts to Costa Mesa residents. The Committee's overarching goal is to establish programs, organize events, and distribute information that promote arts and culture. Programs and events organized by the Committee include the Artist Showcase, Arts in the Park, Art Walk, and Youth Art Gallery.

Segerstrom Hall and the Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall located within the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.



Key Cultural Arts Issue

Limited Public Access to to Public Art

Public art refers to works of art in any media located in a public setting, with the purpose of beautifying public spaces and buildings, drawing attention to the message the artwork may communicate, and educating the public. Public art can increase the intrinsic and monetary values of the places it graces; and it can express a civic and corporate pride. Many of Costa Mesa's public art pieces are located at the Segerstrom Center of the Arts, which has limited public access.

Open Space and Recreation Element



Public art located at the main entrance of the Segerstrom Hall.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

These goals, objectives, and policies guide policy decisions regarding open space and recreation in Costa Mesa, and allow for the continued expansion, improvement, and maintenance of community facilities and services for the enjoyment of current and future residents. Additional opportunities include integrating public art throughout the community to highlight predominant themes in Costa Mesa’s history.

Goal OSR-1: Balanced and Accessible System of Parks and Open Spaces

Provide a high-quality environment through the development of recreation resources and preservation of open space that meets community needs in Costa Mesa.

Objective OSR-1A: Maintain and preserve existing parks, and strive to provide additional parks, public spaces, and recreation facilities that meet the community’s evolving needs.

Adequate Neighborhood and Community Park Recreational Facilities

Policy OSR-1.1: Maintain a system of Neighborhood and Community Parks that provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities throughout the City.

Policy OSR-1.2: Provide parks and recreation facilities appropriate for the individual neighborhoods in which they are located and reflective of the needs and interests of the population they serve.

Acquisition of New Parkland

Policy OSR-1.3: Pursue the acquisition and development of pocket and neighborhood parks within park-deficient areas, as identified in Figure OSR-3: Planning Areas and Underserved Park Areas.

Policy OSR-1.4: Prioritize the acquisition of land for parks in underserved neighborhoods.

Open Space and Recreation Element

- Policy OSR-1.5:** Maximize public space by requiring plazas and public gathering spaces in private developments that can serve multiple uses, including recreation and social needs.
- Policy OSR-1.6:** Provide maximum visibility and accessibility for future public parks by locating facilities in close proximity to public streets.
- Policy OSR-1.7:** Adjust and update development fee programs to accumulate funds for the acquisition and improvement of parks and recreation facilities commensurate with identified need and population growth.

Balance of Passive and Active Recreation

- Policy OSR-1.8:** Require that parks and recreation facilities reflect new trends and population changes, and are developed with facilities appropriate to all ages, including athletic fields, active play areas, passive open space, tot lots, and picnic areas.
- Policy OSR-1.9:** Conduct a sports facility study to review current outdoor facility locations and resources and a demographic study for future facility requirements as they relate to planned growth within the City.
- Policy OSR-1.10:** Pursue additional community garden lots and spaces to meet demand and need by the community.

Park Maintenance and Retrofit

- Policy OSR-1.11:** Perform regular maintenance of facilities to ensure proper working order of all recreation facilities and equipment.
- Policy OSR-1.12:** Retrofit parks and recreation facilities to provide disability access as required by law.
- Policy OSR-1.13:** Design and reform parks to reflect the latest recreational features that respond to demographic changes and community needs.
- Policy OSR-1.14:** Consult with law enforcement agencies, surrounding cities, community policing groups, and OC Parks to create a safe and healthy environment at Talbert Regional Park, Fairview Park, and along the Santa Ana River.

Long-Term Planning of Institutional Uses

- Policy OSR-1.15:** Continue to pursue opportunities to create joint-use community space at facilities owned by private organizations such as private schools, faith-based groups, service clubs, and hospitals.
- Policy OSR-1.16:** Continue to coordinate with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District to supplement City park facilities through joint-use agreements.
- Policy OSR-1.17:** Consult with Orange County Fairgrounds in implementing OC Fair & Event Center Master Plan.

Level of Service and Access

- Policy OSR-1.18:** Provide a minimum of 4.26 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- Policy OSR-1.19:** Update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan every 10 years, as feasible.
- Policy OSR-1.20:** Enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and transit linkages to meet the needs of residents and to provide better access to parks, recreation, and public spaces.
- Policy OSR-1.21:** Provide opportunities for public access to all open space areas, except where sensitive resources may be threatened or damaged, public health and safety may be compromised, or access would interfere with the managed production of resources.

GOAL OSR-2: Community Services Programs Meeting Community Needs

Enhancing the community through the delivery of innovative recreational programs, quality parks and facilities and services that promote social, physical, and emotional well-being. High-quality community services programs demonstrate the City's commitment to providing opportunities for recreational, physical, and educational activities for residents of all ages.

Open Space and Recreation Element

Objective OSR-2A: *Provide activities, classes, and a variety of programs to meet the year-round recreational needs of all residents: children, adult, seniors, and persons with special needs.*

High-quality Community Services

- Policy OSR-2.1:** Provide high-quality community services programs that are flexible and responsive to the community's changing needs.
- Policy OSR-2.2:** Plan and conduct citywide special events that bring residents together to create an enhanced quality of life and promote economic development.
- Policy OSR-2.3:** Continue to consult with nonprofit sports organizations and recreational groups to support their offering of diverse recreational programs that complement and supplement those offered by the City.
- Policy OSR-2.4:** Update existing facilities for senior citizens, youth, adults, and overall community use.

Community Services to Support Community Needs

- Policy OSR-2.5:** Monitor and research the ever-changing community services needs of the community, and develop action plans to address those needs through partnerships with service agencies.
- Policy OSR-2.6:** Continue to provide rental opportunities at community facilities and parks for residents, nonprofit groups, and businesses to meet their recreational and professional needs.
- Policy OSR-2.7:** Continue broad-based public outreach activities that inform residents of all available community services programs, and obtain input from the community regarding program and service needs.
- Policy OSR-2.8:** Encourage resident input and utilize demographic data, partnerships, volunteers, and existing resources to identify the needs of community.
- Policy OSR-2.9:** Identify innovative funding and development opportunities to support and sustain a responsive community services network.

- Policy OSR-2.10:** Continue and expand the development of community partnerships to offer both standard and innovative services to meet residents' needs.
- Policy OSR-2.11:** Develop and implement community services programs and activities that meet the needs of specialized populations through the development of community partnerships.
- Policy OSR-2.12:** Provide support for volunteer groups that conduct special activities open to the entire community.

GOAL OSR-3: Conserved Open Space

Costa Mesa is committed to open space conservation to ensure that the network of parklands, trails, hillsides, and undeveloped natural areas remain viable for supporting biological communities and providing sanctuary for future generations. This commitment includes expanding public access to open space, where appropriate, and acquiring additional lands where feasible.

Objective OSR-3A: Preserve the City's open space lands and provide additional community and neighborhood parkland in underserved areas.

Open Space Preservation and Stewardship

- Policy OSR-3.1:** Preserve open space areas along The Santa Ana River, large open space parks, and along the mesa formations to protect natural habitat and to maintain the integrity of the natural environment.
- Policy OSR-3.2:** Encourage the preservation of coastal views from City and County parkland and public streets within Costa Mesa.
- Policy OSR-3.3:** Identify current open space areas for protection, management, and potential enhancement to maintain and, if possible, increase its value as wildlife habitat.

Management and Maintenance of Open Space

- Policy OSR-3.4:** Encourage the long-term maintenance and management of open space lands through open space easements, development rights transfers or acquisition, zoning regulations, and other incentives.

Open Space and Recreation Element

- Policy OSR-3.5:** Encourage the greening and beautifying of the Santa Ana River.
- Policy OSR-3.6:** Encourage opportunities for recreation, history, education, interpretive materials, and art associated with the Santa Ana River open spaces.
- Policy OSR-3.7:** Promote water quality strategies to improve water quality along the Santa Ana River.

Coordination and Organization Development

- Policy OSR-3.8:** Consult with State and regional agencies and the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), regarding open space planning efforts.
- Policy OSR-3.9:** Consult with the Orange Coast River Park, Inc. and surrounding cities and other government agencies in maintaining and rehabilitating open space lands along the Santa Ana River.
- Policy OSR-3.10:** Consult with OC Parks over the enhancements and management of Talbert Regional Park without adversely impacting surrounding residential neighborhoods.

GOAL OSR-4: Extensive Arts and Culture Programs and Services

Provide comprehensive and multifaceted arts and culture programs and services that provide education and entertainment to the community and a broader audience.

Objective OSR-4A: *Support performing and visual arts programs, facilities, and activities that stimulate the minds and intellectual thinking of community members to increase awareness of the City's motto, "The City of the Arts."*

Cultural Arts Venues

- Policy OSR-4.1:** Continue to support the mission of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and associate venues and facilities.
- Policy OSR-4.2:** Support the development and operations of an arts museum at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Open Space and Recreation Element

Policy OSR-4.3: Encourage additional indoor and outdoor facility spaces citywide to display public art and host arts and culture special events.

Leader in the Arts

Policy OSR-4.4: Expand the City's role as a supporter of the arts.

Policy OSR-4.5: Encourage financial support of the arts by supporting non-profit groups and foundations.

Policy OSR-4.6: Consider preparation of an arts and culture master plan for the City.

Policy OSR-4.7: Consult with local agencies and surrounding cities to address the creation and implementation of arts-friendly policies.

Policy OSR-4.8: Enhance Costa Mesa's position as a leader in the arts in Southern California and its recognition nationally as a city devoted to arts institutions of superior quality.

Policy OSR-4.9: Engage community members in arts activities, and utilize the arts to provide educational and cultural awareness opportunities.

Policy OSR-4.10: Continue the City's commitment to its arts in cooperation with the private sector.

Policy OSR-4.11: Provide opportunities for local artists to create and display their work.

Arts Programs and Events

Policy OSR-4.12: Support arts activities, programs, events, and facilities for patrons to enjoy and share experiences, and that enhance the City's economic vitality.

Policy OSR-4.13: Designate Community Services Department staff with the responsibility for expanding and implementing activities related to recreational arts programming.

Policy OSR-4.14: Pursue cooperative educational cultural programs enlisting the aid of public and private institutions.

Arts in Public Places and in Private Development

Policy OSR-4.15: Continue to review adopting an Arts in Public Places Program.

Open Space and Recreation Element

Policy OSR-4.16: Pursue the placement of public art in prominent locations, particularly along major travel corridors to enliven and beautify the public realm.

Policy OSR-4.17: Develop incentives or programs that encourage art in new developments.