



9.1 INTRODUCTION

Surrounded by natural beauty, with hills and creeks within its borders, Murrieta is well positioned to provide opportunities for recreation, outdoor activities, and enjoyment of nature. Parks, recreation facilities, and trails promote health, and community members value them highly. Recreation programs such as classes and events offer a variety of benefits including health, education, and social interaction. Besides promoting aesthetic values, open space management and conservation can provide habitat, contribute positively to air and water quality, and protect residents from hazards such as fires and floods.

The following Community Priorities relate most directly to this Element:

- Protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways.
- Provide abundant parks and facilities for recreational activities, and cultural amenities.
- Provide ample activities for all ages of youth.

9.2 AUTHORITY FOR ELEMENT

California *Government Code* Section 65560(b)(3) stipulates that the General Plan address:

"...Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors..."

9.3 SETTING THE CONTEXT: KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Recreation planning is guided by the *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks Master Plan)*. The *Parks Master Plan* provides information about Murrieta's parks and recreation facilities. It also includes a needs assessment and gap analysis, recommendations for meeting current and future needs, and a financial implementation plan.

PARKLAND

The *Parks Master Plan* indicates that the City has 467.24 acres of parkland in 53 City parks. This total does not include joint use school facilities, some natural areas in Nature Parks, or private facilities. It includes six types of City Parks – City-Wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Play Areas, Special Use Parks, Native Parks – shown in *Exhibit 9-1, Parks*, and listed in *Table 9-1, Recreation Facilities Inventory*. *Table 9-1* reflects several new parks and facilities that have been added since the completion of the *Parks Master Plan*, and which increase the City's parkland acreage total.

The following facilities have been added, are in the design phase, or constructed since adoption of the *Parks Master Plan* in 2009:

- Torrey Pines Park (8.80 acres) – Neighborhood Park
- Vineyards (10 acres) – Neighborhood Park
- Grizzly Ridge Park (0.44 acres) – Neighborhood Play Area
- Murrieta Equestrian Park (21.98 acres) – Special Use Park

These facilities range in size from Neighborhood Play Areas that are at most 5 acres to City-Wide Parks with at least 50 acres of parkland. They include Special Use Parks, which are focused on one type of activity, and Nature Parks, which have limited improvements that provide public access to natural open space. Los Alamos Hills Sports Park is Murrieta's only City-Wide Park, with 45 acres of parkland developed in Phase 1.

Parkland Needs

The City has adopted a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As of June 2009, the City had a deficit of 34 acres according to this standard. The *Parks Master Plan* estimated that 240.3 acres of parkland would be needed for a population of 120,000 to meet identified needs for recreational facilities, in addition to what is needed to meet the parkland standard.



Los Alamos Hills Sports Park is already Murrieta's largest active park, and will become larger as Phases 2 and 3 are completed.



**Table 9-1
Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Recreational Facilities	Parkland Acreage	Passive Amenities											Active Amenities																	
		Amphitheater	Barbeques	Bike Path/Walking Trail	Catch and Release Pond	Community Center/Recreation Room	Dog Park	Open Grass Areas	Parking Lot	Par Exercise Course	Picnic Tables	Restroom/Port-O-Lets	Shelters	Tot Lot/Playground Equipment	Multi-Purpose Trail/Trail Connection	Water Fountains	Baseball Field (with Mound)	Basketball Court	Concession Building	Football Field	Gymnasium	Horseshoe Pits	Skateboard Park	Soccer Field	Softball Field (without Mound)	Spray Turtles	Swimming/Wading Pool	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	
City-Wide Parks																														
1	Los Alamos Hills Sports Park	45.00	•	•			•	•		12	•	3	3	•	•	4L		•	3L					6L						
Community Parks																														
2	Alderwood Park	9.00		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•												•		
3	Alta Murrieta Sports Park	9.76	•				•	•		3	•		1	•	1L		•	1												
4	California Oaks Sports Park	19.99	•				•	•		6	•	1	1	•		2L					1	1P	2L/3		1	2	1			
5	Copper Canyon Park	20.94	•	•	•		•	•		5	•	3	2	•	•	2	4H	•					2P							
6	Glen Arbor Park	18.92					•			2																				
7	Hunt Park	4.72			•		•	•		4	•			•	1L	1L			0.5				2			1L				
8	Mira Mosa Park	8.10	•	•			•	•		4	•	1	1	•	1	2H														
9	Pond Park	14.59		•	•		•			8	•																			
10	Torrey Pines Park	8.00	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•															
Neighborhood Parks																														
11	Barratt Park	8.30		•			•	•					1	•																
12	Firefighters Park	3.21	•	•			•	•		9	•	2	1	•		2H									•				1	
13	Mapleton Park	9.30	•	•			•	•		2	•	1	1	•	•	1H						1P	1						1	
14	Mountain Pride Park	9.64					•	•		1	•												2P							
15	Murrieta Elementary School Park	4.26					•	•		3	•	1	1	•		1						1P	2							
16	Northstar Park	14.00	•				•			4		1	1	•								1P	1P							
17	Pioneer Park	.30	•				•			•	•	•																		
18	Rancho Acacia Park	10.11	•	•			•	•		8		1	1	•	•							1P	1P							
19	Shady Maple Park	4.79					•	•		2		1	1	•								1P	1P							
20	Valley Vista Park	6.50	•				•			6		1	1	•								1P								
21	Vintage Reserve Park	3.83	•				•	•		3			1	•								1P								
Neighborhood Play Areas																														
22	Antelope Hills Park – Active	5.31	•	•			•			11		1	1	•		2H														
23	Antigua Park	2.26					•						1	•																
24	Blackmore Ranch Park	1.14	•				•	•		2		1	1	•																
25	Calle Cipres Park	1.80					•			2			1	•																
26	Calle Estancia Park	2.83	•	•			•			•		1	1	•																
27	Carson Park	0.69					•							•																



**Table 9-1 (continued)
Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Recreational Facilities	Parkland Acreage	Passive Amenities											Active Amenities																	
		Amphitheater	Barbeques	Bike Path/Walking Trail	Catch and Release Pond	Community Center/Recreation Room	Dog Park	Open Grass Areas	Parking Lot	Par Exercise Course	Picnic Tables	Restroom/Port-O-Lets	Shelters	Tot Lot/Playground Equipment	Multi-Purpose Trail/Trail Connection	Water Fountains	Baseball Field (with Mound)	Basketball Court	Concession Building	Football Field	Gymnasium	Horseshoe Pits	Skateboard Park	Soccer Field	Softball Field (without Mound)	Stray Turtles	Swimming/Wading Pool	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	
Neighborhood Play Areas – continued																														
28	Century Park	3.90			•				•		•		4			1	•	•												
29	Creekside Village Green Park	4.00							•				4		1	1	•	•		2H										
30	Crystal Aire Park	1.11		•					•				2																	
31	Eastgate Park	1.50														1	•													
32	Echo Canyon Park	3.07							•				2			1	•													
33	Grizzly Ridge Park	0.44		•					•				1		1	1														
34	Meadowridge Park	4.29		•	•				•				3			1	•	•												
35	Montafino Park	0.76							•							1	•													
36	Monte Vista Park	1.06		•	•				•				2				•		2H											
37	Oak Terrace Park	0.20							•				2			1	•													
38	Oak Tree Park	0.32							•							1														
39	Palomar Park	1.75		•					•				2		1	1	•													
40	Rosewood Park	0.41							•																					
41	Springbrook Park	0.29		•					•				1			1	•													
42	Sycamore Park	2.66							•							1	•		1H											
43	Whitewood Park	1.84							•				5		1		•													
Special Use Parks																														
44	B Street Station	.50							•	•	•	•																		•
45	Murrieta Equestrian Park	22							•					•																
46	Sykes Ranch Park	2.61		•	•				•	•	10					1	•	•												
47	Town Square Park	4.22		•	•		•	•										•												
Nature Parks																														
48	Bear Valley Park 1	20.14			•				•								•													
49	Bear Valley Park 2	3.97			•				•																					
50	Cole Canyon Park	140.00			•												•													
51	Falcon's View Park	9.37			•												•													
52	Oak Mesa Park	5.98																												
53	Warm Springs Park	23.80			•				•								•								•					
Total Acreage		489.68																												
Definitions: L = Lighted; P = Practice Field; and H = Half Court.																														



Access to Parkland

Besides seeking an adequate quantity of parkland, the City seeks to locate parks within convenient distance of neighborhoods throughout Murrieta. There are six residential areas that the *Parks Master Plan* identified as outside the ½-mile service area of any Neighborhood Park or Neighborhood Play Area. However, proximity to joint use school sites was not considered in that analysis, and those sites are located in at least two of the areas indicated as underserved.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Recreation facilities include sports fields and courts, buildings for indoor recreation, and other facilities that accommodate recreation activities. Murrieta’s parks offer a range of recreation facilities, listed in *Table 9-1*. Special Use Parks offer different amenities than other types of parks. For instance, Murrieta Equestrian Park (formerly Murrieta Stud Ranch) has equestrian arenas, a barn, stables, and open pasture.

Additional public recreation facilities are found in school campuses and in community facilities. Murrieta residents also have access to private recreational facilities, some of which are used for City recreation programming.

Joint Use Facilities

A joint use agreement between the City and the Murrieta Valley Unified School District provides a framework for the City to access the recreation facilities of all school campuses except the continuation and independent study high schools; and for the District to access California Oaks Sports Park, Copper Canyon Park, Community Center, and Senior Center. Future facilities acquired or constructed by either party may be added to the list of facilities included in the agreement.

Through this agreement, 11 District sports fields become City parks in evenings and on weekends, and the District has exclusive access to certain City fields and parks adjacent to school campuses during the school day.¹ The agreement also grants the City further use of District sports fields, as scheduled in semi-annual meetings of the two parties. The City and District may use each other’s facilities besides sports fields through an application process, giving each other first priority after their own use (including events that they sponsor, or by affiliated or related groups).



The former Murrieta Stud Ranch, pictured here in 2009 as it was being acquired by the City, has become a Special Use Park for equestrian activities.

¹ “Joint Use Agreement for School and Municipal Facilities between Murrieta Valley Unified School District and the City of Murrieta,” effective August 1, 2009.



The City and District may assist organizations such as youth sports leagues and school booster clubs to access joint use facilities. In addition to the Joint Use Agreement, community sports organizations can make separate agreements with the District to use school facilities.

Community Center

The Murrieta Community Center is located near Town Square at 41810 Juniper Street. This facility, built in 1979, provides office space for the Community Services Department and a 3,600-square foot multipurpose room. The multipurpose room has a theatrical stage and a kitchen, and can accommodate 250 people. However, there are no room dividers, so it can only be programmed with one class or activity at a time.

The need for additional community centers was identified as a key issue in the *Parks Master Plan*. Specifically, the *Parks Master Plan* calls for community centers that serve youth, multi-generational families, and older adults with a variety of activities and programs as well as opportunities for supervised free play.

Senior Center

The Senior Center opened in 2006, and has a 2,000 square foot multipurpose room, 1,200-square foot lounge, educational room with computers, and offices. The multipurpose room is used for classes, workshops, and meals. Visitors can use the computers in the educational room when a class is not in session.²

Besides providing a gathering place for Murrieta's seniors, the Senior Center aims to provide opportunities for learning; workshops on arts, crafts, and other hobbies; exercise programs; and information and services from organizations serving seniors.

Community Event Space

Murrieta offers indoor and outdoor spaces for community events that are held by the City, residents, and organizations. Community members may reserve the Community Center, Town Square Park, and some Library facilities for events, as well as picnic shelters at several City parks. Community Center amenities are described above. Town



Town Square Park has a large lawn and stage that are suited for community-wide events.

² City of Murrieta, "Senior Center," <http://www.murrieta.org/services/senior/senior.asp>, accessed December 10, 2009.



Square Park provides space for community events in its amphitheater and large open turf area. The Library has a community room with adjacent garden that may be reserved for events. There is also an amphitheater at Antelope Hills Park.

Program Space

Recreation facilities make it possible for the City to offer recreation programs. Community Services programs are held at the Community Center and a nearby annex; Senior Center; Youth Center; Hunt Field; Town Square Park; and in Copper Canyon Park, which has classroom space. Programs are also held in Murrieta schools and private facilities.³

Facility Needs

Murrieta has an identified need for the following additional recreation facilities in order to meet current and future demand:

- Swimming pools
- Sports facilities, including:
 - Baseball fields
 - Soccer fields
 - Softball fields
 - Tennis courts
- Off-leash dog areas
- Gymnasiums and indoor basketball courts

Facilities are planned that will help meet the needs for community centers, gymnasiums, and indoor basketball. Future plans for Los Alamos Hills Sports Park call for a 20,000-square foot community center that may include a gymnasium and outdoor facilities, including a swimming pool and tennis courts. The youth center at the California Oaks Sports Park also is planned to include a gymnasium in phase 2.

Recreation Programs

In fiscal year 2018-19, the Community Services Department served over 59,790 participants with its programs and activities. Senior programs drew the greatest number of participants, followed by gymnastics, aquatics, and dance. Other recreation offerings include sports, toddler, art and music, health and fitness, martial arts, camp, and teen programs. The City also holds a number of community events throughout the year, such as celebrations for major holidays.

The *Parks Master Plan* process produced a priority list of recreation program needs but also advised that responding to changing demographics and recreation preferences is an ongoing process that will demand staff's continual attention and resources.

³ *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009.*



Recreation Funding

Funding for capital improvements and additions to park and recreation facilities in the City of Murrieta comes from several sources. Fees on new development (development impact fees and developer special agreements) are a major source of funding to provide parks and recreation facilities for the residents of newly developing areas of the City. Other sources of funding include grant funds (including Community Development Block Grants) and contributions from the City's general fund reserves.

Funding for maintenance and operation of Murrieta park and recreation facilities and programs are provided by Community Services District funds, user fees for recreation programs and facility use, and the City's general fund.

OPEN SPACE

Murrieta had 1,216.95 acres classified as Open Space on the 2006 General Plan/Zoning Map within the City limits, as shown in *Exhibit 9-2, Open Space*.

Lands set aside for protection and conservation of natural resources are designated as open space. This may include steep hillsides with a slope of at least 50 percent, significant habitat areas, and creeks. Additionally, within Specific Plan areas, open space may be set aside to serve as buffer areas and drainage areas.

Some open space is found in conjunction with parkland, especially in Nature Parks. Nature Parks are distinguished from open space because they provide public access via trails. Up to 10 percent of a Nature Park can be improved for active recreation. However, most of the park is undeveloped and contains vegetation, topography, or features that are important to retain in their natural states. Murrieta has seven Nature Parks, the largest of which is Cole Canyon Park.

Trails

There are 16 multi-use trails within the City that provide opportunities to walk and ride through parkland and open space. These trails are shown in *Exhibit 5-1, Trails and Bikeways*, and are described in a guide produced by the City in 2006. Made of asphalt, concrete, native soil, or decomposed granite, these multi-use trails are all open to horses, bikes and pedestrians.



Multi-use trails allow walking, biking, and horseback riding around and through parks in Murrieta.



The *Parks Master Plan* identifies the need to develop an effective, connected, multi-use trail system for walking, jogging, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Community members repeatedly expressed the same sentiment in workshops for the General Plan Update.

9.4 SETTING THE VISION: KEY CONCEPTS AND VISION FOR GENERAL PLAN

PARKLAND

In general, a parkland acreage standard is the ratio upon which development fees and dedications can be based. Establishment of a standard creates an obligation to fund improvements that achieve the standard throughout the City. Murrieta's parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 people is the highest allowed under California's Quimby Act, which gives the City its authority to require fees or dedicated property to offset new development impacts on recreation facilities.

However, this standard will not provide enough parkland to accommodate all the recreational facilities that the General Plan 2035 population is anticipated to demand. In order to plan for future parkland needs, the City will need to look beyond the parkland standard. The City may also consider counting joint use facilities as parkland.

The *Parks Master Plan* identifies a number of undeveloped park sites within the City of Murrieta, as shown in [Exhibit 9-3, Park Site Opportunities](#). Some of these park sites may ultimately be considered Nature Parks, for which a maximum of 10 percent of the park's acreage would meet the parkland acreage requirement and the remainder of the park would be considered open space.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Murrieta has a need for additional recreation and community facilities and will need to keep up with greater demand as the population grows. [Table 9-2, Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs](#), details how current needs for recreation facilities can be accommodated in existing parks, joint use schools, and opportunity sites. Opportunity sites are a combination of parks that have been designed but not constructed, sites acquired by the City but not yet designed, and other sites with the potential for park use; their locations are shown in [Exhibit 9-3](#).

The City will seek to meet needs for recreation and community facilities throughout Murrieta. Satisfaction of these needs can be pursued by acquiring and developing new sites, preferably in partnership with schools or private parties, but also through increased joint use of school sites, renovation and improvement of existing facilities, and building facilities in current or planned parks.

RECREATION PROGRAMS



Murrieta’s recreation programs offer sports, activities, and experiences for participants of all ages. They promote health, provide opportunities to pursue interests and learn, and encourage social interaction. The City’s special events provide opportunities for residents to meet each other and feel that they belong to a community. There is demand for more programming in arts and culture, for community events, and for youth programs, as well as for therapeutic recreation programs.

**Table 9-2
Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current (2009) Needs**

Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs	Passive Facilities					Athletic Facilities						
	Community Center	Dog Park/Off Leash Dog Area	Picnic Tables with Shade Shelter	Playground/Tot Lot	Spray Play Elements	Baseball	Gymnasium	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court
Existing Parks and Facilities												
Antigua Park			4	R								
Barratt Park				R								
Calle Estancia Park			4	1								
California Oaks Sports Park				R	•				1		R	2L
Century Park				R								
Copper Canyon Park					•				1			
Firefighters Park				R								
Glen Arbor Park		•										
Hunt Park							R					
Los Alamos Hills Sports Park (Phase 1)									2AF			
Mapleton Park			4	R	•							
Meadowridge Park			4	R								
Montafino Park				R								
Murrieta Elementary School Park										1L		
Oak Tree Park			4	R								
Rancho Acacia Park				R								
Shady Maple Park				R								
Sycamore Park			4									
Whitewood Park		•										
Subtotal in Existing Parks	0	1*	24	1	3	0	0.5	0	4	0	0.5	2
Joint Use Schools												
Murrieta Elementary School						1						
Warm Springs Middle School						2			2			
Thompson Middle School						1			1			
Murrieta Valley High School												7
Vista Murrieta High School												8
Murrieta Mesa High School						•			•		1	
Subtotal in Joint Use Schools	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	1	16



**Table 9-2 [continued]
Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current (2009) Needs**

Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs	Passive Facilities					Athletic Facilities						
	Community Center	Dog Park/Off Leash Dog Area	Picnic Tables with Shade Shelter	Playground/Tot Lot	Spray Play Elements	Baseball	Gymnasium	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court
Opportunity Sites												
Planned Facilities												
<i>Designed</i>												
California Oaks Sports Park Expansion (Phase 3)	1						1					
Cherry Street Park						4			4			6
Golden Cities Park	0.5			1		1						
Second Avenue Park	0.5		4									
Torrey Pines Park		•	4	1		1						
Vineyards Park				1		1			2			
<i>Not Designed</i>												
Grizzly Ridge Park			6	1								
Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion (Phase 2)				1				1		1		4
Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion (Phase 3)	1	•			•		1				1	
Unplanned Facilities												
Calle Del Oso Oro Site		•										
City Parcel #1 – Nutmeg Site		•										
Town Hall Association Parcel		•										
Acquisition Sites												
Vineyard Specific Plan – developer property	•					•			•		•	•
Subtotal in Opportunity Sites	3	4*	14	5	0	7	2	1	6	1	1	10
Total Recommended Additions:	3.0	5*	38.0	6.0	3.0	11.0	2.5	1.0	13.0	1.0	2.5	27.0
Current Facility Needs From Exhibit 3.3-1 (Deficit):	N/A	3.0	20.0	N/A	N/A	8.7	1.4	1.0	12.9	1.0	1.1	28.4
Total Surplus/Deficit:	N/A	N/A	18.0	N/A	N/A	2.30	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	-1.40
• – Tentative or Unspecific Number												
* – Candidate Locations												
Definitions: AF = Artificial Turf; L = Lighting; R = Renovate/Expand												
Source: City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009.												



The availability of recreation facilities affects the City's ability to offer some types of programming that are in demand, such as swimming lessons and indoor fitness classes. Besides pursuing the construction of new facilities, the City can access additional facilities by working with private partners and through the joint use agreement with Murrieta Valley Unified School District. In locating programs, the City should consider how to make them convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed.

YOUTH

Children under 18 make up about one-third of Murrieta's population, and providing programs and facilities for youth is a community priority. For commuting parents, out-of-school care for children is especially important. The community can promote success in school by providing tutoring through the Library, at other venues such as the teen and senior centers, and on-site at school campuses. Youth programs should provide opportunities for physical activity and team sports, as well as a range of learning experiences including arts and environmental education.

Community members including youth have also asked for job training and jobs for teens. By preparing youth for careers, Murrieta can help maintain its skilled workforce. Youth mentoring programs can also be rewarding volunteer opportunities for the adults doing the mentoring.

For teens, events such as dances and battle of the bands are important social activities, while facilities such as the skate park provide spaces where they have a sense of ownership. The youth center meets a variety of facility and program needs, and teens are involved in overseeing it. Teen demand for a dance club could be met by encouraging a privately operated business or through frequent City- and school-sponsored dances.

Murrieta teens are enthusiastic about providing input to the City, as demonstrated in the General Plan Update youth visioning workshop at Vista Murrieta High School. The City of Murrieta has a Youth Advisory Committee, in which high school students provide input on recreation planning and addressing issues that affect teens in Murrieta. This is an example of the ways in which youth can be engaged in their community, while also developing leadership skills that can prepare them for the workforce.

OPEN SPACE

It is a community priority to protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways in and around Murrieta. Community members consider open space to be a treasure and would like to see natural areas retained in the future, while balancing preservation with development and understanding that some residents are concerned about property rights.

With over one-third of its land undeveloped and natural resources such as creeks and hills within its borders, Murrieta has opportunities to designate additional land as open space. Under the *Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)*, the City sets aside parcels as Conservation Land. These parcels contribute to large "Core Areas" of habitat in the northeast and southwest areas of the City and Sphere of Influence, and create "Linkages" between them along Murrieta Creek and Warm Springs Creek. To the southwest of Murrieta, open space connects to the Santa Rosa Plateau.



Other considerations for planning open space include recreation access and management of wildfire and stormwater.

TRAILS

The ability to bike and walk between Murrieta's multi-use trails, neighborhoods, and regional open space is a community priority and can be provided in different ways. Additional multi-use trails provide connectivity for the greatest variety of users, while off-street paved Class I bikeways accommodate all but equestrian users. On-street bikeways and sidewalks provide connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians, respectively.

The Circulation Element provides goals and policies related to connecting multi-use trails to other paths for pedestrians and bicycles.

9.5 GOALS AND POLICIES

PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL ROS-1 Parkland is provided within a convenient distance from all residential areas, in a range of park types that meet different needs for active and passive recreation.

POLICIES

- ROS-1.1 Maintain a minimum standard of 5 acres of local parkland per 1,000 population.
- ROS-1.2 Create a strategy for providing sufficient parkland to accommodate needed recreation facilities through land acquisition, joint use, partnerships, and other means.
- ROS-1.3 Provide City-Wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Play Areas, Special Use Parks, and Nature Parks in locations appropriate to their intended service areas, so that all residential areas are served by parks.
- ROS-1.4 Involve the community in planning for parks.

GOAL ROS-2 Facilities that support recreation needs, programs, and community events are located throughout the City.

POLICIES

- ROS-2.1 Pursue the development of active recreation facilities through improvements to parks and existing facilities as well as the development of facilities in new parkland.



- ROS-2.2 Provide community centers, gymnasiums, and courts for indoor recreation programs in convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed locations.
- ROS-2.3 Ensure that recreation facilities provide access and accommodations for users with a range of developmental, cognitive, and physical abilities.
- ROS-2.4 Consider the installation of water fountains, toilets, and sinks in parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL ROS-3 City resources for parks and recreation facilities are leveraged through partnerships, joint use agreements, private facilities, outside funding, and community volunteers.

POLICIES

- ROS-3.1 Maintain the joint use agreement with Murrieta Valley Unified School District and look for additional opportunities to partner in expanding resident access to shared facilities.
- ROS-3.2 Continue to cooperate with school districts in locating schools to allow for park development adjacent to campuses.
- ROS-3.3 Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies to provide regional open space and recreation facilities for local residents.
- ROS-3.4 Encourage the development of private and commercial recreation facilities.
- ROS-3.5 Seek agreements and joint ventures with private entities to provide recreation facilities and activities.
- ROS-3.6 Pursue support from federal, state, and private sources to assist with acquisition, design, and construction of parks and recreation facilities.
- ROS-3.7 Promote a sense of community responsibility for maintaining and improving the parks and recreation system, and offer ways for individuals, groups, and businesses to invest time and resources in that effort.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

GOAL ROS-4 Recreation programs enrich the lives of residents across a broad spectrum of ages, interests, and abilities.



POLICIES

- ROS-4.1 Seek resident involvement and feedback to create recreation programming that is relevant to a broad spectrum of community members.
- ROS-4.2 Offer and encourage cultural arts programs and events that provide entertainment, such as concerts, as well as those that develop skills in dancing, drama, music, and the arts.
- ROS-4.3 Use recreation programming to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and other healthy lifestyle habits.
- ROS-4.4 Collaborate with other providers to expand therapeutic recreation programs for residents with special needs.

GOAL ROS-5 Recreation programs foster a sense of community and civic involvement, and promote interaction between residents.

POLICIES

- ROS-5.1 Host special events that become community traditions, appealing to a range of ages.
- ROS-5.2 Encourage events in the Town Square Park and Historic Downtown Murrieta.
- ROS-5.3 Promote opportunities for multi-generational interaction such as youth mentoring by seniors and business people.
- ROS-5.4 Create roles for volunteers to assist with recreation facilities and programs.

YOUTH FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL ROS-6 Youth are a special focus of recreation facilities and programs.

POLICIES

- ROS-6.1 Expand recreation programs for youth and teens, including before- and after-school care, sports and fitness, outdoor activity and excursions, camps, and arts education.
- ROS-6.2 Use recreation programming to promote success in school.
- ROS-6.3 Provide safe places for teens to socialize and participate in recreation activities.



ROS-6.4 Expand opportunities for youth to be involved in planning recreation programs, services, and events for youth.

ROS-6.5 Continue providing the Youth Advisory Committee for high school students.

OPEN SPACE

GOAL ROS-7 Open space areas are planned to protect, conserve, and utilize resources of unique character and value for the community.

POLICIES

ROS-7.1 Preserve and enhance open space resources in Murrieta.

ROS-7.2 Designate open space to preserve habitat and scenic views of natural areas.

ROS-7.3 Seek opportunities to designate open space along waterways, while also providing for the development of trails.

ROS-7.4 When possible, link open space and parks for the movement of wildlife and people.

GOAL ROS-8 New development is part of a coordinated system of open space, parkland, recreation facilities, and trails.

POLICIES

ROS-8.1 Encourage the provision of parks, recreation facilities, and/or open space in new development and redevelopment projects.

ROS-8.2 Ensure that new residential developments provide for recreation needs of residents through development fees and park dedication.

ROS-8.3 Encourage development that promotes outdoor activity.

ROS-8.4 When reviewing new development or redevelopment projects, refer to the Trails Plan to determine whether right-of-way is needed for trails on the project site.



GOAL ROS-9 Public plazas or green spaces provide additional open space opportunities for existing and future residents and employees.

POLICIES

- ROS-9.1 Continue to require that adequate, usable, and permanent private open space is provided in residential developments.
- ROS-9.2 Encourage new and existing commercial, office, and industrial development to provide outdoor green spaces that may be used by employees.
- ROS-9.3 Encourage new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate gardens and green spaces with various cultural influences throughout the community to bridge cultures and provide education opportunities.
- ROS-9.4 Encourage green spaces planted with a diverse plant palette in order to promote natural variety, ecosystem services, and enhance the well-being of community residents.
- ROS-9.5 Review and modify as necessary, open space requirements for different types of development projects.

TRAILS

Refer to the Circulation Element Goal CIR-8 and related policies.

9.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELEMENT

The Recreation and Open Space Element is a policy document that requires the ongoing effort and actions of many segments of the community to implement. The Planning Commission and City Council, as major decision-making bodies, play an important role in its implementation. Other responsible parties include such City departments as the Community Development Department, Building Department, Public Works, and Community Service, whose day-to-day decisions are guided by the public policies in this document and the actions of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The business and development community will do a fair share of the implementation as they incorporate plan policies into their various interests and projects. Murrieta residents should also be engaged in planning and providing for recreation and open space.

The City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the implementation document that will guide City investments in parks and recreation.



Exhibit 9-1, Parks



LEGEND

<p>Citywide Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park <p>Community Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Alta Murrieta Sports Park 3 California Oaks Sports Park 4 Casper Canyon Park 5 Gen Ator Park 6 Hart Park 7 Mesa Mesa Park 8 Ford Park <p>Neighborhood Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Baril Park 10 Finlayson Park 11 Mapleton Park 12 Mountain Pride Park 13 Murrieta Elementary School Park 14 Rancho Acacia Park 15 Shady Maple Park 16 Valley Vista Park 17 Village Reserve Park <p>Nature Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Antelope Hills Park 19 Bear Valley Park 1 20 Bear Valley Park 2 21 Oak Canyon Park 22 Falcon's View Park 23 Oak Mesa Park 24 Warm Springs Park 	<p>Neighborhood Play Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Antelope Hills Park - Active 26 Ariga Park 27 Backmore Ranch Park 28 Calle Opres Park 29 Calle Estancia Park 30 Canon Park 31 Gen Ator Park 32 Century Park 33 Creekside Village Green Park 34 Crystal Acre Park 35 Esmeralda Park 36 Echo Canyon Park 37 Grizzly Ridge Park 38 Madroños Park 39 Mariposa Park 40 Mirra Vista Park 41 Oak Meadow Park 42 Oak Tree Park 43 Northstar Park 44 Rosewood Park 45 Springbrook Park 46 Spangone Park 47 Whitewood Park <p>Special Use Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 Murrieta Equestrian Park 49 Sikes Ranch Park 50 Town Square Park <p>Public Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 Sphere of Influence 52 City Boundary
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0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: City of Murrieta, Murrieta Valley Unified School District, and ESRI - World Shaded Relief.

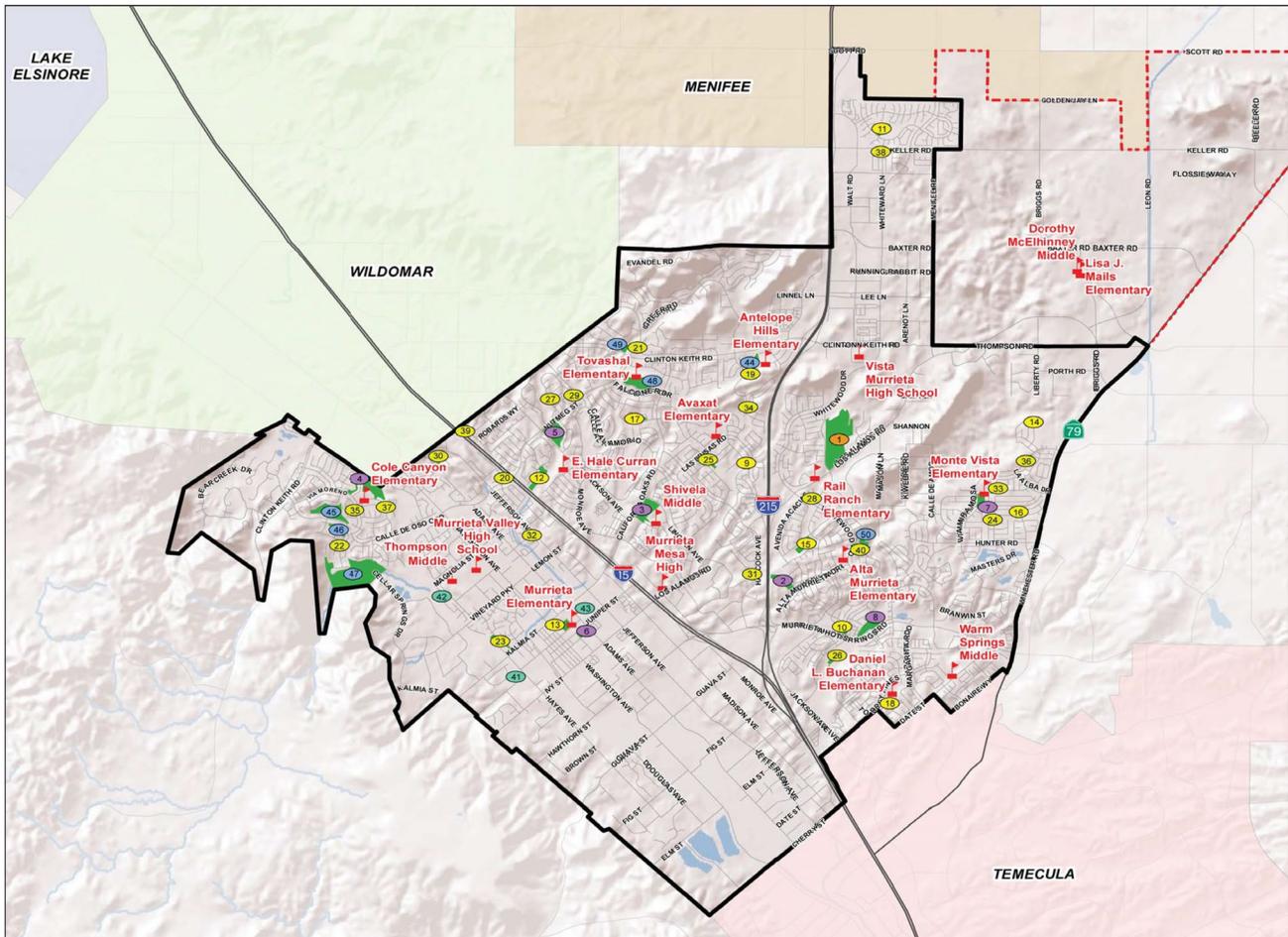


Exhibit 9-2, Open Space

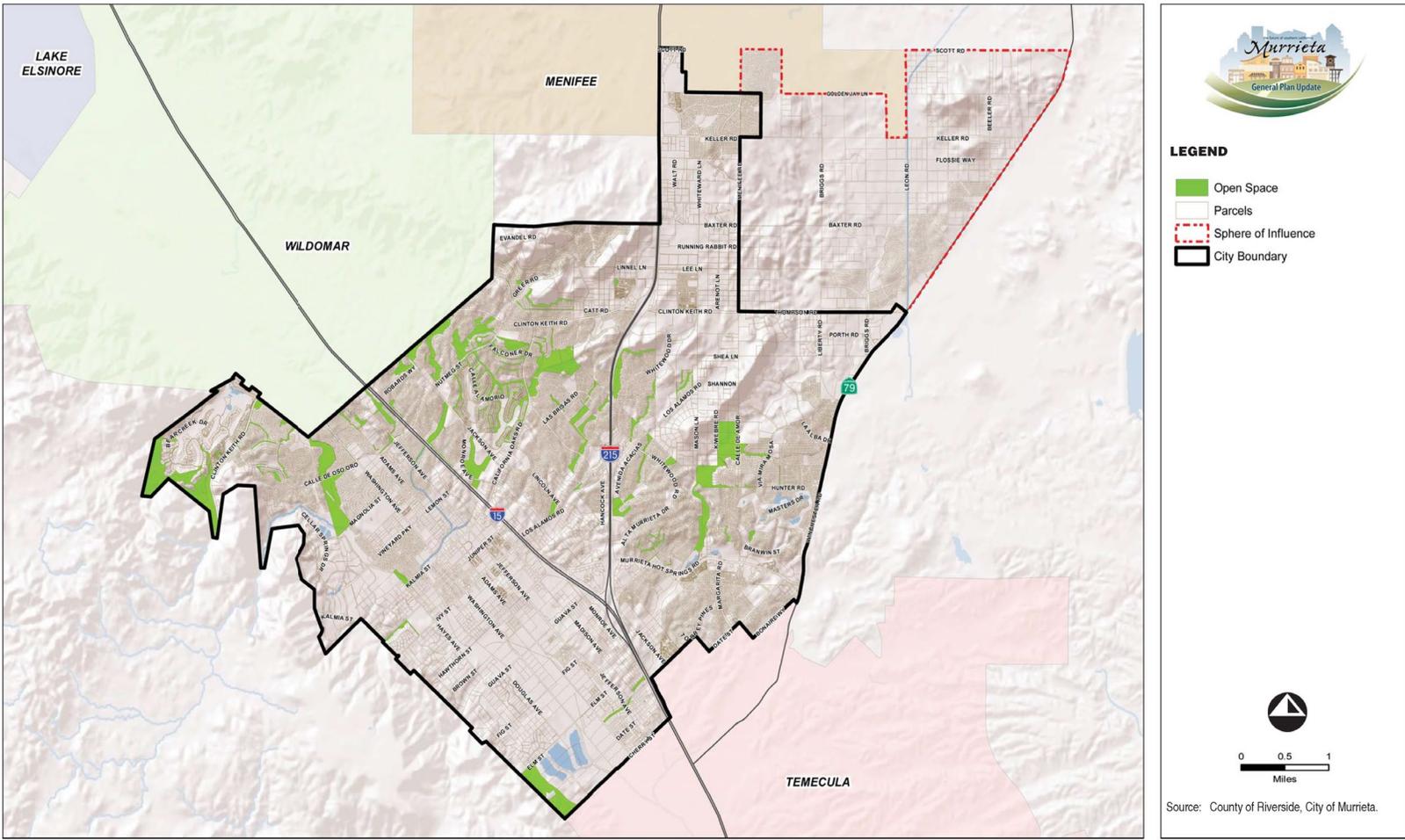
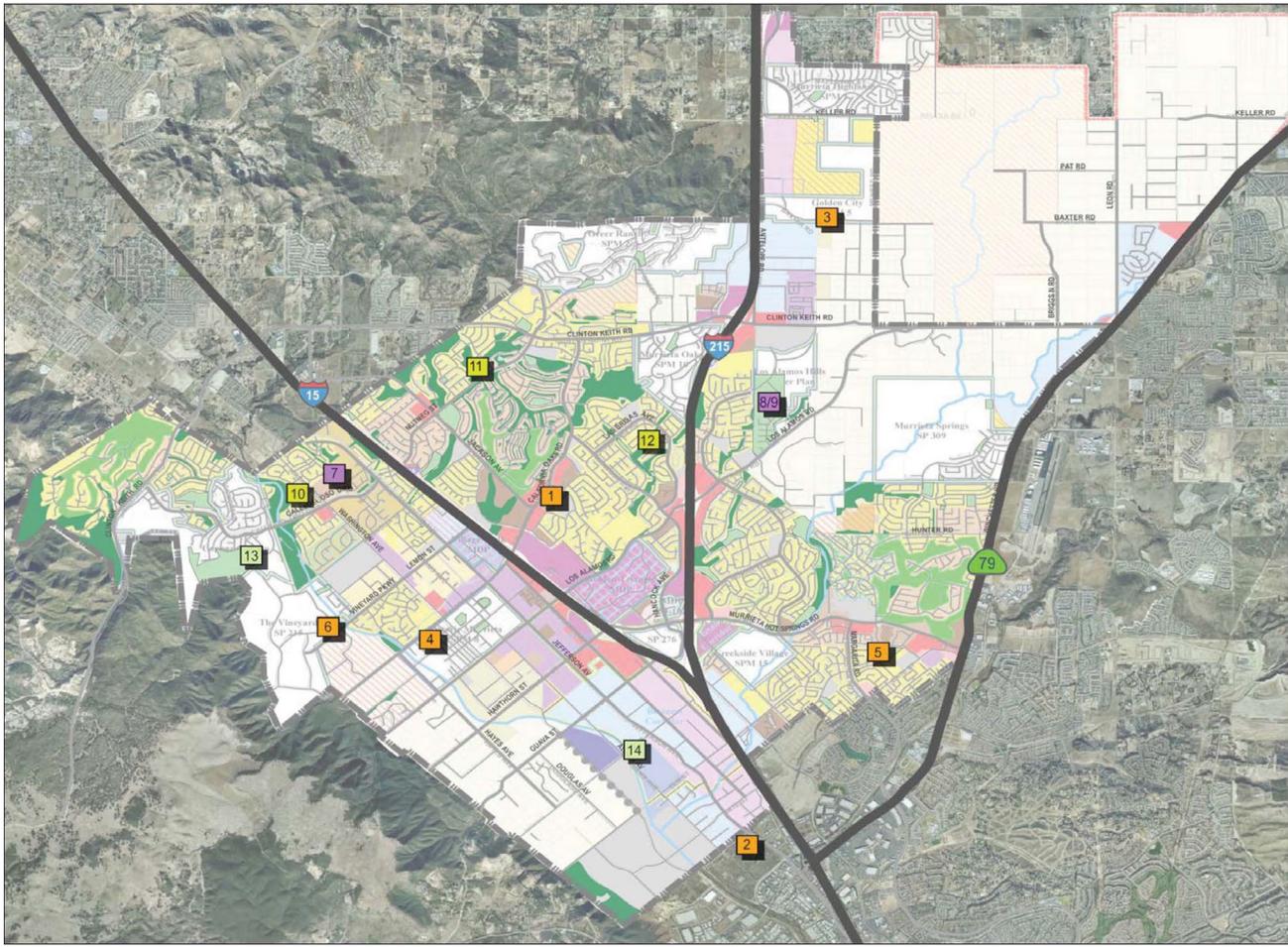


Exhibit 9-3, Park Site Opportunities




LEGEND

PLANNED FACILITIES

Designed

- 1 California Oaks Sports Park Expansion - Phase 3
- 2 Cherry Street Park
- 3 Golden Cities Park
- 4 Second Avenue Park
- 5 Torrey Pines Park
- 6 Vineyards Park

Not Designed

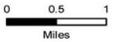
- 7 Grizzly Ridge Park
- 8 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion - Phase 1
- 9 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion - Phase 2

UNPLANNED FACILITIES

- 10 Calle Del Oso Oro Site
- 11 City Parcel/Nutmeg
- 12 City Parcel/Calle San Vicente

ACQUISITION SITES

- 13 Vineyard Specific Plan - Developer Property
- 14 Water District Property - Pony Baseball Fields

Source: RJM Design Group, November 20, 2008

