



Section 5.20:

# Parks and Recreational Facilities



## **5.20 PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

This section identifies existing parks and recreational facilities within the City of Murrieta and provides an analysis of potential impacts to parks and recreation facilities that could result from the implementation of the proposed General Plan 2035. The analysis is based on information obtained from the Murrieta Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks Master Plan (2009), and Recreation and Open Space Element of the proposed General Plan 2035.

### **5.20.1 REGULATORY SETTING**

#### **QUIMBY ACT**

Originally passed in 1975, the Quimby Act (*California Government Code* Section 66477) allows cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. This act allows local agencies to establish ordinances requiring developers of residential subdivisions to provide impact fees for land and/or recreational facilities. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. In 1982, the act was substantially amended, further defining acceptable uses of or restrictions on Quimby funds, provided acreage/population standards and formulas for determining the exaction, and indicated that the exactions must be closely tied to a project's impacts. Local ordinances must now include definite standards for determining the proportion of the subdivision to be dedicated and the amount of the fee to be paid.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

A Community Services District (CSD) provides services for parks and recreation within the City limits.

#### **CITY OF MURRIETA PARKS MASTER PLAN**

The City of Murrieta recently adopted an updated Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan in June 2009. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a realistic guide for the creative, orderly development and management of recreation facilities and programs for the City, now and into the future. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) is based on the guiding principle that recreation facilities, programs, trails, and open space are important resources within the City of Murrieta.



## CITY OF MURRIETA MUNICIPAL CODE

Chapter 16.106.030 of the *Murrieta Municipal Code* specifies Parks and Recreation Facility dedications or fees that must be paid to the City when development occurs. Chapter 16.106.030 is written in compliance with the Quimby Act. Additionally, Chapter 16.36.020 of the *Municipal Code* states that a developer shall pay a public facilities development impact fee for each building which is part of a residential development, in an amount established by resolution of the city council, upon issuance of a building permit for that building. However, if a residential development contains more than one dwelling, the Development Services Director may determine whether the fees or charges shall be paid on a pro rata basis for each dwelling when it receives its building permit, on a pro rata basis when a certain percentage of the dwellings have received their building permits, or on a lump-sum basis when the first dwelling in the development receives its building permit.

### 5.20.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

In June 2009, the Community Services Department was responsible for approximately 1,350 acres of open space, streetscape, slope, trails, and parkland. This included 48 parks and recreation facilities on 467.24 acres.

#### PARKLAND<sup>1</sup>

The 2009 Master Plan counts 467.24 acres of parkland in 48 City parks. This total does not include joint use school facilities, private recreation facilities, or some natural areas in Nature Parks.

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. Additional acreage is required in order to meet identified needs for recreation facilities such as sports fields and courts; the Master Plan estimates a need for 240.3 acres at buildout, assuming a population of 120,000, to accommodate these facilities. For this reason, the Master Plan suggested establishing an acreage goal higher than 5 acres per 1,000 residents.

#### REGIONAL PARKS

There are no County of Riverside or other regional parks within the City boundaries. Regional recreation areas near Murrieta are described below in Recreational Facilities.

#### MURRIETA'S CITY PARKS

The Master Plan lists six categories of City Parks: City-Wide Parks; Community Parks; Neighborhood Parks; Neighborhood Play Areas; Special Use Parks; and Nature Parks; described below. Murrieta's parks are listed in *Table 5.20-1, Recreational Facilities Inventory*, and shown in *Exhibit 5.20-1, Recreational Facilities*.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid



**Table 5.20-1  
Recreational 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
<b>City-Wide Parks</b>																													
1	Los Alamos Hills Sports Park	45.00	•	•			•	•		12	•	3	3	•	•	4L		•	3L					6L					
<b>Community Parks</b>																													
2	Alta Murrieta Sports Park	9.76	•				•	•		3	•		1	•	•	1L		•	1										
3	California Oaks Sports Park	19.99	•				•	•		6	•	1	1	•	•	2L					1	1P	2L/3		1	2	1		
4	Copper Canyon Park	20.94	•	•	•		•	•		5	•	3	2	•	•	2	4H	•					2P						
5	Glen Arbor Park	18.92					•			2																			
6	Hunt Park	4.72			•		•	•		4	•			•	•	1L	1L			0.5				2			1L		
7	Mira Mosa Park	8.10	•	•			•	•		4	•	1	1	•	•	1	2H												
8	Pond Park	14.59		•	•		•			8	•																		
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																													
9	Barratt Park	8.30		•			•	•					1	•															
10	Firefighters Park	3.21	•	•			•	•		9	•	2	1	•	•	2H								•				1	
11	Mapleton Park	9.30	•	•			•	•		2	•	1	1	•	•	1H							1P	1				1	
12	Mountain Pride Park	9.64					•	•		1	•												2P						
13	Murrieta Elementary School Park	4.26					•	•		3	•	1	1	•	•	1						1P	2						
14	Northstar Park	14.00	•				•			4		1	1	•	•								1P	1P					
15	Rancho Acacia Park	10.11	•	•			•	•		8		1	1	•	•								1P	1P					
16	Shady Maple Park	4.79					•	•		2		1	1	•	•								1P	1P					
17	Valley Vista Park	6.50	•				•			6		1	1	•	•								1P						
18	Vintage Reserve Park	3.83	•				•	•		3			1	•	•								1P						
<b>Neighborhood Play Areas</b>																													
19	Antelope Hills Park – Active	5.31	•	•			•			11		1	1	•	•	2H													
20	Antigua Park	2.26					•						1	•	•														
21	Blackmore Ranch Park	1.14	•				•	•		2		1	1	•	•														
22	Calle Cipres Park	1.80					•			2			1	•	•														
23	Calle Estancia Park	2.83	•	•			•			•		1	1	•	•														
24	Carson Park	0.69					•							•	•														
25	Century Park	3.90		•			•	•		4			1	•	•														
26	Creekside Village Green Park	4.00					•			4		1	1	•	•	2H													



**Table 5.20-1 [continued]  
Recreational 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
27	Crystal Aire Park	1.11	•							2																		
28	Eastgate Park	1.50										1		•														
29	Echo Canyon Park	3.07								2		1		•														
30	Grizzly Ridge Park	0.44	•							1	1	1																
31	Meadowridge Park	4.29	•	•						3		1	•	•														
32	Montafino Park	0.76										1		•														
33	Monte Vista Park	1.06	•	•						2				•		2H												
34	Oak Terrace Park	0.20								2		1		•														
35	Oak Tree Park	0.32										1																
36	Palomar Park	1.75	•							2	1	1		•														
37	Rosewood Park	0.41																										
38	Springbrook Park	0.29	•							1		1		•														
39	Sycamore Park	2.66										1		•		1H												
40	Whitewood Park	1.84								5	1			•														
<b>Special Use Parks</b>																												
41	Murrieta Equestrian Park <sup>1</sup>	22.00								•			•															
42	Sykes Ranch Park	2.61	•	•						•	•	1				1	•	•										
43	Town Square Park	4.22	•	•	•					•	•			•														
<b>Nature Parks</b>																												
44	Antelope Hills Park	0.00		•																								
45	Bear Valley Park 1	20.14		•										•														
46	Bear Valley Park 2	3.97		•																								
47	Cole Canyon Park	140.00		•										•														
48	Falcon's View Park	9.37		•										•														
49	Oak Mesa Park	5.98																										
50	Warm Springs Park	23.80		•										•								•						
Total Acreage (2009)		467.24																										
Total Acreage with Murrieta Equestrian Center(2010/2011)		489.68																										
* Numbers correspond to those in Exhibit 5.20-1, Recreational Facilities.																												
Definitions: L = Lighted; P = Practice Field; H = Half Court																												
Notes: 1. The property for the Murrieta Equestrian Center was acquired by the City after adoption of the 2009 Master Plan. The Center is anticipated to open in 2010/2011.																												



**Parks and Recreational Facilities**



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## **City-Wide Parks**

The Master Plan classifies parks with 50 acres or more of parkland as City-Wide Parks. Los Alamos Hills Sports Park is considered Murrieta's only City-Wide Park with 45 acres of parkland built in Phase I. City-Wide Parks provide recreation facilities or open space for a larger service area than other types of City Parks.

## **Community Parks**

Community Parks have up to 50 acres of parkland and serve neighborhoods within a 2-mile radius. Their primary purpose is to provide active recreational opportunities. Community Parks may include facilities for special events as well as recreation centers, sports fields and courts, and group picnic areas. There are seven Community Parks in Murrieta providing over 95 combined acres of parkland.

## **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood Parks have up to 15 acres of parkland and are considered to serve the daily recreation needs of residents within a convenient walking distance of approximately one-half mile. Full sports fields are less common in parks of this size; instead, amenities may include practice sports fields, open turf areas, playgrounds, picnic tables and shelters, walking paths, attractive landscaping and smaller recreation features such as basketball courts. The Master Plan states that a park of 5 acres or more is appropriate to serve 5,000 residents within this service area. Murrieta has 10 Neighborhood Parks providing over 72 combined acres of parkland. In addition, Community Parks are considered to serve as neighborhood parks for the residents who live within walking distance.

## **Neighborhood Play Areas**

Neighborhood Play Areas provide similar amenities as Neighborhood Parks and have the same service area, but have only as much as 5 acres of parkland. There are 21 Neighborhood Play Areas in Murrieta providing over 35 combined acres of parkland.

## **Special Use Parks**

In 2009, Murrieta had two Special Use Parks, distinguished from other types of parks by being focused on a single type of activity. Service areas are not defined for this type of park. Sykes Ranch Park and Town Square Park are Special Use Parks. The recently-acquired 22.00 acre Stud Ranch equestrian center will be the City's third such park, which is anticipated to open in 2010/2011.





### 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, including Cole Canyon Park with 140 acres of parkland.

### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES<sup>2</sup>

Murrieta's parks offer a range of recreational facilities. The Master Plan provides an inventory of these park amenities, as shown in Table 5.20-1.

As Murrieta's City Park, Los Alamos Hills Sports Park boasts a large collection of facilities: Phase I includes six soccer fields, four ballfields, and three football fields, all with nighttime lighting; there are also picnic areas, trails, and three tot lots. Plans for Phase II include a 20,000 square foot community center building. The Master Plan recommends additional sports facilities.

The Master Plan identified the following facility deficits for 2008:

- Adult softball (1 field)
- Baseball (9 fields)
- Soccer Fields (13 fields)
- Indoor Basketball (3 courts)
- Picnic Tables
- Swimming Pool (1 recreation pool)
- Tennis Courts (28 courts)
- Indoor Basketball Courts (1 court)
- Walking/Jogging Paths
- Bicycling Paths
- Skateboard Park (1 area)
- Dog Parks (3 areas)

### JOINT USE FACILITIES

The City's Joint Use agreement with the Murrieta Valley Unified School District is authorized pursuant to *California Education Code* Section 10905, to promote the health and general welfare of the community and contribute to the attainment of the general recreational objectives for children and adults within the community.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid



The agreement provides a framework for the City to access the recreation facilities of 18 school campuses, and for the District to access California Oaks Sports Park, Copper Canyon Park, the Community Center and Senior Center. 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.<sup>3</sup>

Joint Use Agreements describe general responsibilities and benefits of each party regarding the use of both City and District facilities. The Agreement and State law allow the school district and the City to cooperate with each other for the purposes of improving facilities and for organizing, promoting, and conducting recreation and education programs for children and adults. Currently, the City and the District are each responsible for the regular maintenance and repair of their respective properties and facilities. Each party has first priority for use of its sites, giving second priority to the other party.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the Joint Use Agreement, community sports organizations have separate agreements with the School District to use school facilities.<sup>5</sup>

## NEARBY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Within approximately six miles of the City boundary, Murrieta residents have access to open space in the Santa Ana Mountains and three lakes. Lake Elsinore is a natural freshwater lake in the City of Lake Elsinore.<sup>6</sup>

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California operates two drinking water reservoirs, Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Lake. All three lakes are open for a variety of recreational uses including fishing and boating; however, swimming is not allowed.<sup>7</sup> Diamond Valley Lake has a separate aquatic facility.<sup>8</sup> Farther away to the southeast, Vail Lake is a privately operated recreation facility.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “Joint Use Agreement for School and Municipal Facilities between Murrieta Valley Unified School District and the City of Murrieta,” effective August 1, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> (City of Lake Elsinore: “Lake and Aquatic Resources,” <http://www.lake-elsinore.org/index.aspx?page=172>, accessed 11/11/09)

<sup>7</sup> (City of Lake Elsinore: “Lake Use Regulations,” no date). (The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: “Diamond Valley Lake: Diamond Valley Lake Boating Guide,” <http://www.dvlake.com/rules01.html>, accessed 11/11/09)

<sup>8</sup> (The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: “Diamond Valley Lake: Home,” <http://www.dvlake.com/index.html>, accessed 11/11/09)

<sup>9</sup> (Vail Lake Village & RV Resort, “Vail Lake Membership,” [http://www.vaillakeresort.com/index.php?p=3\\_4\\_Vail-Lake-Membership](http://www.vaillakeresort.com/index.php?p=3_4_Vail-Lake-Membership), accessed 12/9/09)



The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, just outside the city boundaries in the Santa Ana Mountains, provides trails in a portion of its 8,300 acres of open space.<sup>10</sup> Outside Lake Elsinore and Wildomar, the Cleveland National Forest offers trails and campgrounds.<sup>11</sup>

### PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES<sup>12</sup>

Private recreation facilities in Murrieta include three homeowners association parks, and recreation facilities in the gated communities of Bear Creek and Warm Springs, including a members-only golf course in Bear Creek. The Master Plan does not count private facilities toward the City's goals for parks and recreation.

Commercial recreation facilities that are open to the general public include three golf courses, a golf range, a roller hockey rink, a bowling alley and the Mulligan Family Fun Center.

### RECREATIONAL SERVICES<sup>13</sup>

In fiscal year 2007, the Community Services Department served over 8,436 participants in its programs and activities. Senior programs drew the greatest number of participants, at 2,061. Three other programs each drew over 1,000 participants: gymnastics (1,662), aquatics (1,150), and dance (1,028). Other types of recreation offered 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.

The Master Plan identifies the following top program needs:

- Aerobics/Spinning/Fitness Classes
- After School Programs
- Baseball/Softball Programs
- Cooking Classes
- Health and Wellness Programs
- Hobbies/Self Improvement/Career Development
- Music/Concerts
- Nature Education Programs
- Senior Programs
- Special Needs Programs
- Swimming Lessons/Aquatics Classes

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<sup>10</sup> (Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District: "Santa Rosa Plateau," <http://www.riversidecountyparks.org/locations/nature-historic-centers/santa-rosa-plateau/>, accessed 11/11/09)

<sup>11</sup> (USDA Forest Service: "Forest Visitor Maps: Cleveland National Forest," <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/forestvisitormaps/cleveland/>, accessed 11/11/09)

<sup>12</sup> City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.



## TRAILS

In 2006, the City produced a trails guide that maps and describes 15 multi-use trails within the City. These trails provide bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian access to parkland and open space, but are not connected to each other.<sup>14</sup>

Plans for an interconnected system of trails were included in the City's 1994 General Plan, 1999 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and 2003 City Adopted Multi-Purpose Trail Plan.<sup>15</sup> *Exhibit 5.4-11, Trails and Bikeways*, from the Master Plan depicts existing trails, planned trails, and areas where trails can potentially be connected.

The Master Plan calls out trails as a key issue in the recreation facility recommendations; specifically, the development of an effective, connected, multi-use trail system for walking, jogging, hiking, biking, and equestrian uses. The Master Plan recommends that increased trail connectivity and opportunities should be emphasized, focusing on corridors and links to adjacent natural open space, parks, schools, and commercial areas.

Adjacent to the City of Murrieta are numerous planned County trails with access to hiking areas such as the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. There are also trails in the nearby Cleveland National Forest.

## AREAS SERVED OR UNDERSERVED

There are six residential areas that the Master Plan identifies as outside the service area of any neighborhood park, as depicted in *Exhibit 5.20-2, Underserved Park Areas in City*. Rural areas with large lots and private open space were not called out in this exhibit as underserved by neighborhood parks.

## FUTURE PLANS

The Master Plan identifies the following key issues for parks and recreation:

- Provision of quantities of swimming pools appropriate to the current and future population.
- Development of an effective, connected, multiuse trail system for walking, jogging, hiking, biking, and equestrian uses.
- Provision of quantities of sports facilities appropriate to the current and future population, to include:

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<sup>14</sup> "City Trails," September 2006.

<sup>15</sup> *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, 2009.



- Baseball fields
  - Soccer Fields
  - Softball Fields
  - Tennis Courts
- Provision of community centers in appropriate locations.
  - Addition of at least two off-leash dog areas, distributed in the City.
  - Provision of gymnasiums in appropriate locations.
  - Provision of parkland acreage quantities consistent with the City standard of 5 acres per 1,000, with appropriate distribution.

The Master Plan provides details on these facility needs and identifies opportunities to meet them by expanding existing park and joint use facilities, developing City-owned sites, and acquiring additional sites. It also includes exhibits showing locations for proposed facilities and a chapter on funding and implementation.

### OPEN SPACE AREAS

Lands set aside for protection and conservation of natural resources are designated as open space. The General Plan indicates that this may include hillsides, 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 as described earlier in this section.

Murrieta currently has 2,306.01 acres classified as Open Space on the 2006 General Plan/Zoning Map within the City limits, as shown in [\*Exhibit 5.20-3, Open Space\*](#).

### 5.20.3 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The issues presented in the Initial Study Environmental Checklist (Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*) have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, parks and recreational facilities impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed General Plan 2035 may be considered significant if they would result in the following:

- Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which may cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks.
- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.



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- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Based on these significance thresholds and criteria, the proposed General Plan 2035's effects have been categorized as either "no impact," a "less than significant impact," or a "potentially significant impact." Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

## 5.20.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

#### ■ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN 2035 COULD RESULT IN IMPACTS TO THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF PARKLAND, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND TRAILS WITHIN THE CITY.

**Level of Significance Before Mitigation:** Potentially Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** In June 2009, the City of Murrieta had 467.24 acres of parkland in 48 City parks. The City has adopted a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Per the adopted standard, the City had a deficit of 34 acres in June 2009. Additional acreage is required in order to meet identified needs for recreation facilities, such as sports fields and courts. The Master Plan estimated a need for 240.3 acres at buildout, assuming a population of 120,000, to accommodate these facilities. The Master Plan noted that if the City continues to grow, upon buildout assuming the 120,000 population, a deficit of 133 acres would occur if no new park facilities or expansion of existing facilities is anticipated and planned.

The Master Plan identified 14 "opportunity sites" within the City Murrieta, totaling approximately 40-acres<sup>16</sup> of additional parkland. These opportunity sites are planned facilities located throughout the City, and consist of planned sites, unplanned sites, and acquisition sites. Several "opportunity sites" are currently planned as developer-built parks.

The City has a joint use agreement in place with the Murrieta Valley Unified School District (MVUSD), which allows the City to use school facilities after school hours. Based on a preliminary calculation by RBF Consulting, it is anticipated that acreage from MVUSD facilities total 115.48 acres that can be utilized in evenings and on weekends, as shown in *Table 5.20-2, School Facility Open Space*. The school facilities identified for joint use park space are shown in Appendix K.

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<sup>16</sup> Written correspondence with Robert Kast, City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Department, January 2011.



**Table 5.20-2  
School Facility Open Space**

School Name	Acres
Murrieta Mesa High	6.21
Vista Murrieta High School	15.64
Calvary Murrieta Christian	7.60
Cole Canyon Elementary	0.90
Murrieta Valley High School	12.71
Creekside High School	4.19
Murrieta Valley High School	1.77
Creekside High School	2.28
The Oak Grove Center	2.98
E. Hale Curran Elementary	2.87
Shivela Middle	1.57
Murrieta Mesa High	4.97
Avaxat Elementary	6.00
Tovashal Elementary	7.85
Antelope Hills Elementary	2.64
Vista Murrieta High School	7.27
Rail Ranch Elementary	5.84
Alta Murrieta Elementary	6.17
Monte Vista Elementary	3.55
Warm Springs Middle	5.85
Warm Springs Middle	1.58
Daniel L. Buchanan Elementary	1.12
Vista Murrieta High School	3.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115.48</b>
Source: RBF Consulting, using aerial photography and GIS data.	

Implementation of the proposed General Plan 2035 would introduce approximately 3,346 new dwelling units in the Focus Areas, along with buildout of existing undeveloped residential areas for a total of 10,734 dwelling units throughout the City, resulting in an approximate population increase of 10,038 persons for the Focus Areas and 32,199 persons citywide. This increase in population would create new demand on current recreational infrastructure including parks, facilities, and programs. The potential citywide population increase would require a total of 161 acres of parkland based on the City’s adopted standard of 5 acres per 1,000 persons.

With the inclusion of the 115.48 acres of MVUSD facility open space, and the 40 acres of future opportunity sites, a total of 622.72 acres of parkland and open space would be available in the year 2035 for a population of 133,452. However, to meet the standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents, a total of 667.26 acres would be needed in the year 2035; therefore, there would be a deficit of 44.54 acres of parkland.



It is anticipated that more parkland and facility areas would be available within the City, and as developments are built and constructed, developers or business owners would be subject to all provisions of the Quimby Act to set aside land or pay in-lieu fees to provide park and recreation facilities. The City charges a Parkland Facilities Development Impact Fee for residential units, as allowed by the Quimby Act (*California Government Code* Section 66477), which is used for park and recreational facility improvements.

The proposed General Plan 2035 includes goals regarding parks, trails and recreational facilities in the Recreation and Open Space and Circulation Elements, specifically Recreation and Open Space Goal ROS-1 to provide parkland within convenient distances from residential area and Goal ROS-3 regarding joint use agreements school districts. However, the goals and associated policies identified below encourage the City to provide parks, recreation facilities and programs, open space, and trails to meet the needs of its constituents. Although the City would adhere to these goals and policies and Quimby Act provisions, as well as utilize future parkland “opportunity sites,” collect Parkland Facilities Development Impact fees, and utilize MVUSD school fields and facilities, the parkland acreage would still be at a deficit of 44.54 acres in 2035. It is anticipated that the City would strive to include new potential park sites to meet its goal of 5 acres per 1,000 residents; however, this impact is concluded to be significant unavoidable.

## Goals and Policies in the Proposed General Plan 2035:

### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

**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 physical abilities.

**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 with 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.

**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.
- 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, 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 middle school and high school students.

**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.

**CIRCULATION ELEMENT**

**Goal CIR-8** Development, expansion, and maintenance of a network of bicycle, pedestrian, and multi-use trails that allows residents to travel between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other major destinations without driving.

**Policies**

- CIR-8.11 Coordinate the location of multi-use trails to connect with regional trail systems, where feasible.
- CIR-8.12 Pursue funding or grant opportunities to plan, construct, and maintain pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-use trails.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures beyond the goals and policies identified in the proposed General Plan 2035 are available.

**Level of Significance After Mitigation:** Significant Unavoidable Impact.





## 5.20.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN 2035 AND CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.**

**Level of Significance Before Mitigation:** Potentially Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** Development associated with the proposed General Plan 2035 would create additional demand on existing parks and recreational facilities within the City. Individual development projects would be reviewed to determine their potential impact on parks and recreational facilities within the City. Implementation of the proposed General Plan 2035 goals and policies would ensure the provision for new developments to mitigate impacts to parkland and recreational facilities. The City has a parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. As of 2009, this standard was not being met, and in 2035, a deficit of at least 43.59 acres is anticipated. However, payment of park facilities fees and/or dedication of parkland by future developments would reduce potential park impacts. Additionally, the proposed General Plan 2035 includes goals and policies to take advantage of opportunities for new parkland, civic parks, and open space; pursue joint use agreements; and expand the City’s trail network, which would further assist in reducing park impacts. However, with the City’s existing parkland deficiency, future growth associated with the proposed General Plan 2035, and cumulative development, cumulative impacts would be considered significant unavoidable in this regard.

**Goals and Policies in the Proposed General Plan 2035:** Refer to goals and policies referenced above in this Section 5.20.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures beyond the goals and policies identified in the proposed General Plan 2035 are available.

**Level of Significance After Mitigation:** Significant Unavoidable Impact.

## 5.20.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed General Plan 2035 and cumulative development would result in significant unavoidable impacts to parks and recreational facilities.

If the City of Murrieta approves the proposed General Plan 2035, the City shall be required to cite their findings in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15091 and prepare a Statement of Overriding Considerations in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15093.



## 5.20.7 SOURCES CITED

City of Lake Elsinore: “Lake and Aquatic Resources,” <http://www.lake-elsinore.org/index.aspx?page=172>, accessed 11/11/09

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Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District: “Santa Rosa Plateau,” <http://www.riversidecountyparks.org/locations/nature-historic-centers/santa-rosa-plateau/>, accessed 11/11/09

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Vail Lake Village & RV Resort, “Vail Lake Membership,” [http://www.vaillakeresort.com/index.php?p=3\\_4\\_Vail-Lake-Membership](http://www.vaillakeresort.com/index.php?p=3_4_Vail-Lake-Membership), accessed 12/9/09

## Parks and Recreational Facilities



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