



city of irvine parks master plan



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



City of Irvine

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Final Plan

June 2017

Prepared by:



109 W. Union Avenue | Fullerton, CA 92832
714.871.3638 | www.migcom.com

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION 1

City Parks and Recreation Resources	2
Build, Enhance, Rehabilitate, Maintain and Activate	7
The Master Plan Process	8

CHAPTER 2: SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS 15

Park Opportunities	16
Park Facilities	20
Recreation Programming and Events	26
Access, Connectivity and Equity	29
Park Character	32
Open Space Recreation Uses	36
Operations, Maintenance and Rehabilitation	41
Partnerships	44

CHAPTER 3: SITE OPPORTUNITIES 47

Park and Facility Opportunities	48
Highlights of Park and Facility Opportunities	61
Facility Innovations	97
Potential Park Improvement Funding Sources	128
Next Steps.....	142

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Parks and Open Space Inventory	A-1
Appendix B: Community Outreach Findings	B-1

APPENDICES (CONT'D)

Appendix C: Parks and Park Facility Standards	C-1
Appendix D: Site Enhancement Opportunities	D-1
Appendix E: Community Request Evaluations	E-1

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1: Existing Parks and Open Space	3
Map 2: Park Site Improvement Opportunities	57
Map 3: Opportunities for Existing and Planned Major Facilities	59
Map A-1: Proximity of Schools and Colleges to Parks	A-9

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1: Master Plan Process	9
Figure 3-1: Bommer Canyon Park	63
Figure 3-2: Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park	67
Figure 3-3: Deerfield Park	71
Figure 3-4: Harvard Park	75
Figure 3-5: Heritage Park	79
Figure 3-6: Mike Ward Park—Woodbridge	83
Figure 3-7: Rancho San Joaquin Park	87
Figure 3-8: Turtle Rock Park	89
Figure 3-9: IBC Neighborhood Park Prototype	93

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Orange County Great Park Features	18
Table A-1: Irvine Parks and Park Facility Inventory by Classification	A-5
Table A-2: Regional Parks Inventory	A-7
Table A-3: Irvine Open Space Inventory	A-8
Table B-1: Outreach Activities	B-1
Table C-1: Summary of City Park Standards by Type	C-2
Table C-2: Irvine Recreational Facility Standards	C-3

LIST OF TABLES (CONT'D)

Table D-1: Park Site Improvement Opportunities.....	D-1
Table D-2: Site-Specific Major Facility Enhancement Opportunities.....	D-9

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Irvine greatly appreciates the efforts of community members, committee and advisory board members, City staff, and other City leaders who contributed to this planning effort. Your interest and support will continue to foster the success of our park and recreation system.

CITY COUNCIL

Donald P. Wagner, Mayor

Lynn Schott, Mayor Pro Tem

Melissa Fox, Councilmember

Jeffery Lalloway, Councilmember

Christina L. Shea, Councilwoman

PLANNING COMMISSION

Patty Bartlett, Chair

John Duong, Vice Chair

Greg Smith, Chair Pro Tem

Anthony Kuo, Commissioner

Dustin Nirschl, Commissioner

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Kevin Trussell, Chair

Jim Shute, Vice Chair

Lauren K. Johnson, Commissioner

Dick Owens, Commissioner

Scott Schultz, Commissioner

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Sean Joyce, City Manager

Grace Leung, Assistant City Manager

Sharon Landers, Assistant City Manager

Susan Emery, Director of Community Development

Laurie Hoffman, Director of Community Services

Manuel Gomez, Director of Public Works

Kristin Griffith, Director of Administrative Services

Michael C. Hamel, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

Lisa Rudloff, Deputy Director of Community Services

Tim Gehrich, Deputy Director of Community Development

Barry Curtis, Manager of Planning Services

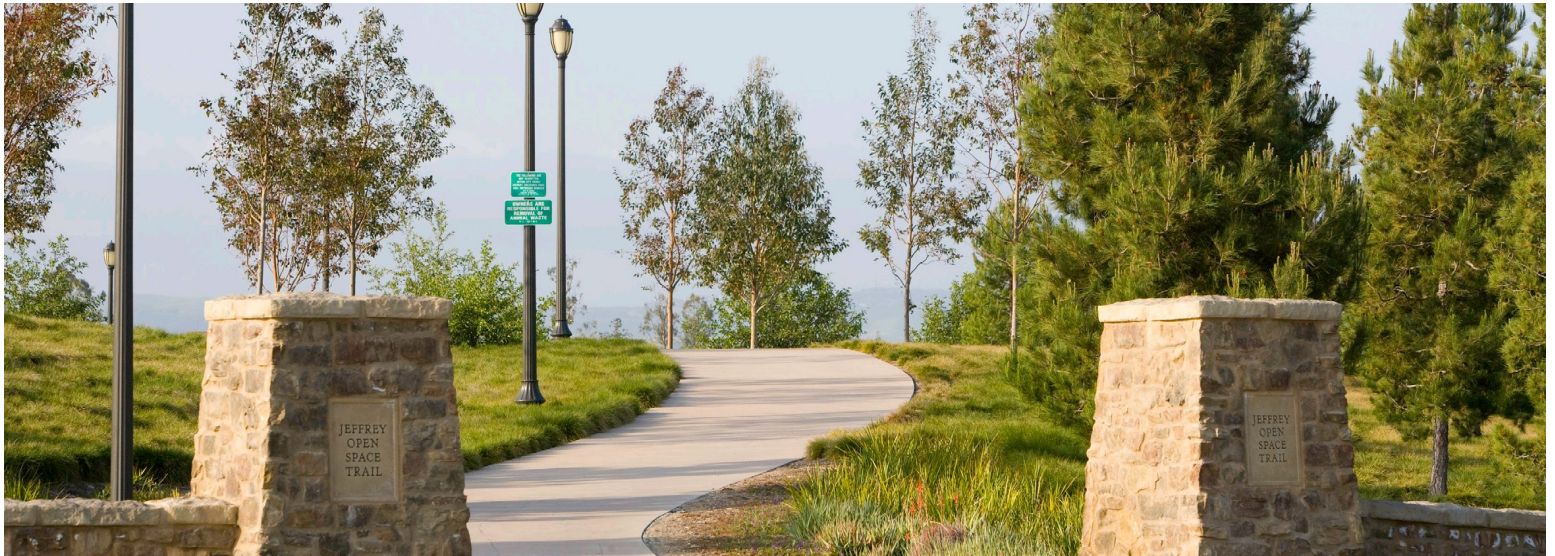
Darin Loughrey, Community Services Manager of Parks and Recreation

Darlene Nicandro, Principal Planner

Kathleen Haton, Senior Planner

Andrew Douglass, Associate Planner

Catherine Lundberg, Assistant Planner



CHAPTER 1

Introduction

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



1. INTRODUCTION

Irvine is consistently recognized as one of America’s most successful master-planned communities. One of many legacies of the Irvine master plan is the City’s robust network of parks and open spaces, provided through ongoing collaboration between public and private entities. In 2016, the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit organization, recognized Irvine as having the eighth-highest quality park system in the nation, outranked only by large metropolitan cities like Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and New York. Echoing the analysis by the Trust for Public Land, Irvine residents largely approve of the park system, with ninety-five percent of respondents in a recent Resident Satisfaction Survey indicating that they are very satisfied or satisfied with City of Irvine (City) efforts to provide parks, athletic and aquatic facilities (True North Research, Inc., 2013).

Much of Irvine’s success in parks and recreation can be traced to the 1988 *Community Parks Master Plan*, which guided development of the City’s park system over the past several decades. According to *Community Parks Master Plan* principles, parks and trails have been integrated into the design of each new residential village, ensuring that residents have recreation opportunities nearby, as well as access to park and open space amenities provided on a citywide scale.

While the 1988 *Community Parks Master Plan* has helped Irvine attain the quality park system we know and enjoy today, much of that Plan focused on the creation of new



Turtle Rock village is located within the hills, just east of the UC Irvine campus. This Master Plan provides recommendations to parks, recreation facilities, open space and programs to support the village lifestyle and a high quality of life.

parks. As the City approaches buildout, there are relatively few residential villages left to develop. Accordingly, the focus of park planning must begin to shift away from new development toward the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of park resources. This *Parks Master Plan* (or *Master Plan*) will help the City make that transition so that it can continue to provide residents with high-quality parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, programs and services over the coming decade and beyond.

CITY PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES

The *Master Plan* provides guidance for Irvine’s public parks. These include community parks, neighborhood parks and special use sites—accounting for more than 530 acres of park land. Map 1 illustrates where these amenities are located in the City. Although the Orange County Great Park (OCGP) planning process is independent of this effort, this *Master Plan* considers how park amenities planned for the OCGP will interact with the City’s broader park network; essentially considering the vast amenities proposed for the OCGP to be amenities within the City’s overall park resources. Appendix A presents the inventory of all park resources according to classification. For a description of these different park classifications, see the information below.

Quick Park Facts

The City of Irvine provides 60 public parks covering more than 530 acres, as well as approximately 823 acres of active use areas within the OCGP:

Park Type	Acres	#
Community Parks	352.6	20
Neighborhood Parks	170.6	36
Special Use Sites	9.6	4
OCGP	823.0	1

Irvine’s public park system supports different types of recreation facilities for indoor and outdoor use:

- athletic facilities, such as soccer fields, baseball/ softball fields and sports courts;
- outdoor facilities, such as playgrounds, swimming pools, picnic areas, and outdoor amphitheatres; and
- indoor facilities, such as community centers, senior centers, fine arts and nature centers.

Quick Facility Facts

Irvine parks provide more than 400 public recreation facilities:

Park Type	Athletic Facilities	Outdoor Facilities	Indoor Facilities
Community Parks	167	69	18
Neighborhood Parks	68	100	1
Special Use Sites	0	0	5

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 Neighborhood Parks | 20 - Pepperwood | 1 Special Use Sites |
| 1 - Alderwood | 21 - Pinewood | 1 - Animal Care Center |
| 2 - Blue Gum | 22 - Plaza | 2 - Bommer Vista Point |
| 3 - Brywood | 23 - Presley | 3 - Central Bark |
| 4 - Canyon | 24 - Racquet Club | 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point |
| 5 - Carrotwood | 25 - Ranch | |
| 6 - Chaparral | 26 - San Carlo | 1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways |
| 7 - Citrus Glen | 27 - San Leandro | 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head |
| 8 - College | 28 - San Marco | 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail |
| 9 - Comstock | 29 - Settlers | 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head |
| 10 - Coralwood | 30 - Silkwood | 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head |
| 11 - Creekview | 31 - Stonegate | |
| 12 - Cypress Grove | 32 - Sweet Shade | |
| 13 - Dovecreek | 33 - Sycamore | |
| 14 - Flagstone | 34 - Valencia | |
| 15 - Hoepfner | 35 - Valley Oak | |
| 16 - Homestead | 36 - Willow | |
| 17 - Knollcrest | | |
| 18 - Meadowood | | |
| 19 - Orchard | | |

IRVINE PARKS MASTER PLAN



Map 1: Existing Parks and Open Space (2016)

Irvine Parks

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites

Other Parks

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

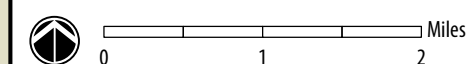
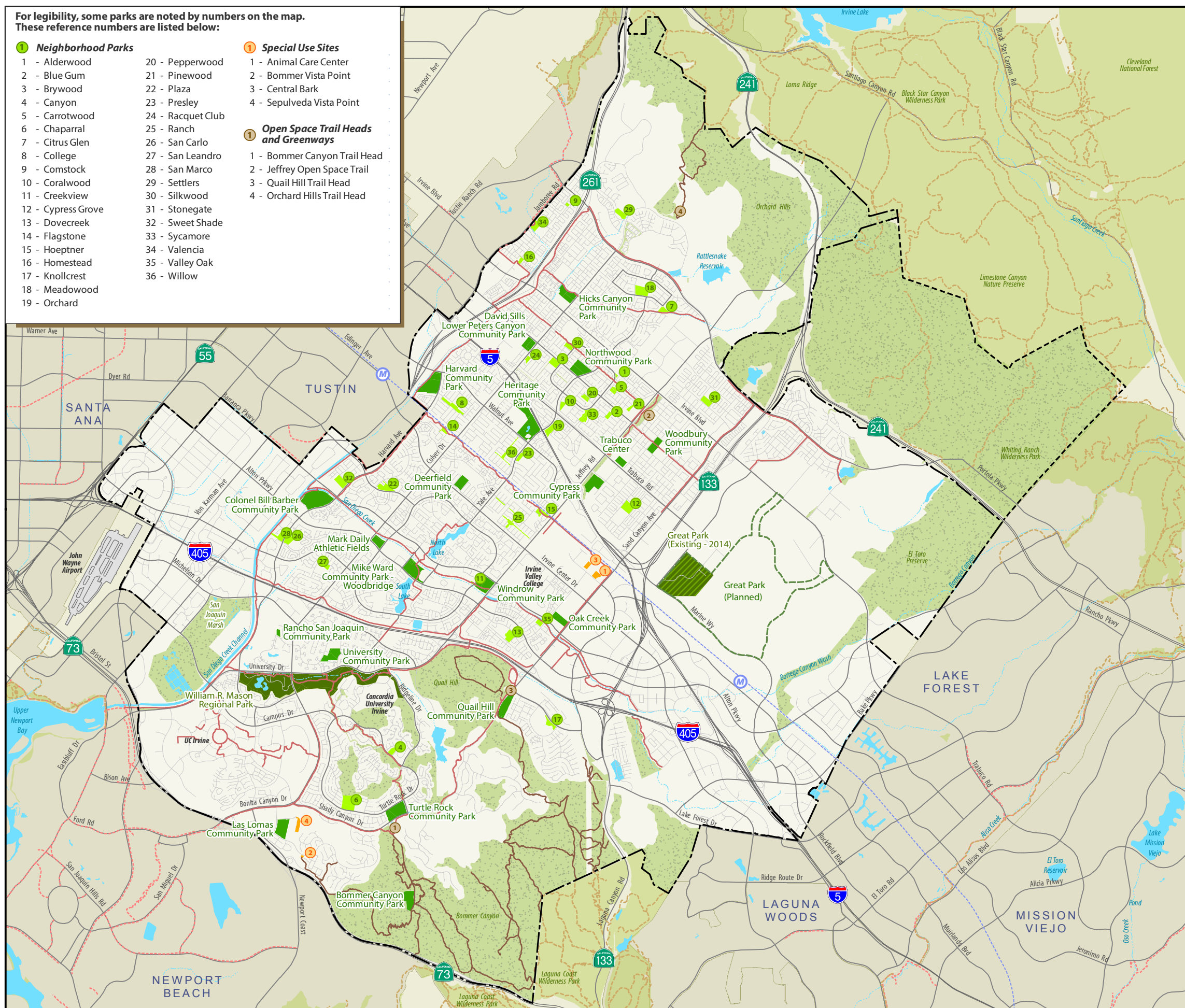
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths and Open Space Trails Network

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths
- Open Space Trails
- Other Open Space Trails

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Metrolink Line and Stations
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Water Bodies



April 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



Community Parks are larger multi-purpose parks that serve as village hubs for the entire community. Examples include Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park and Heritage Community Park.



Neighborhood Parks are smaller parks that provide close-to-home access to essential recreation opportunities. Examples include Hoeptner Neighborhood Park and Meadowood Park.



Special Use Sites offer unique amenities or stand-alone facilities that serve a community-wide audience. Examples are Irvine's Animal Care Center, Central Bark Dog Park and Sepulveda Vista.



Open Space includes protected natural areas. Some preserves support hiking, bird watching, horseback riding and similar trail-related activities. Examples include the Southern Open Space Preserve, Northern Open Space Preserve, and Jeffrey Open Space Trail.



On and Off-Street Trails and Bikeways support recreation and non-motorized transportation.



The Orange County Great Park (OCGP) is a large, partially developed regional park with recreation facilities to support the arts, gardening and agriculture, sports and fitness, events and festivals. This park will continue to be developed according to its approved master plan.

City parks and recreation facilities are activated by drop-in activities, structured recreation programs and events that are intended to enrich quality of life and support health, education and social connections.

Other City Recreation Resources

While the *Master Plan* focuses on community parks, public neighborhood parks and special use sites, the City provides other recreation resources that affect park planning and use. The City preserves more than 6,500 acres of open space wetlands, oak woodlands, grasslands and coastal sage scrub. It maintains miles of on-street and off-street bikeways, including Class I Regional Trails. It is building the approximately 1,300-acre OCGP that will serve as a region-wide amenity.

The City plays a role in the development of private neighborhood parks, setting standards and guidelines for their development. There are hundreds of private parks in Irvine owned and maintained by homeowners associations and apartment management companies. These private parks provide residents with neighborhood recreation opportunities, especially those related to swimming. Although the *Master Plan* focuses on public sites, it serves as a resource for developers of private neighborhood parks regarding the types of private park amenities desired by the community.

Other Public Recreation Resources

In addition to the City's public park system, residents of Irvine have access to a variety of other parks and recreation resources. Other major providers of recreational space include:

- County of Orange
- School districts
- Colleges and universities

Recreation Programs & Events

The City coordinates educational and recreation programming in the following service areas:

Aquatics programs
Arts programs
Children, senior and disability programs
Educational classes
Festivals and events
Nature activities
Physical education and recess programs
Sports leagues
Summer camps



Many leisure pools are provided at private parks and apartments. (Source: Camden Property Trust)



William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center was developed in partnership with the IUSD.

The City has, on occasion, partnered with several of these providers to further enhance and maximize recreation opportunities in the community. For example, the City has joint-use agreements with the Irvine United School District (IUSD), Tustin United School District (TUSD) and Concordia University.

BUILD, ENHANCE, REHABILITATE, MAINTAIN AND ACTIVATE

In the coming years, Irvine will build several planned parks and facilities, but it will also continue to enhance, rehabilitate, maintain and activate its existing park resources. Recognizing that a shift away from park system expansion and toward maintenance and refurbishment will necessitate several policy, design and programming changes, the City has developed this *Master Plan*. In particular, the *Master Plan* will help the City:

- identify ways to continue to provide an array of outdoor activities and recreational services for current and future generations;
- involve residents in reimagining recreation opportunities so that parks better meet evolving community needs and expectations;
- identify opportunities to refine plans for upcoming parks and facilities so that their designs better reflect community needs; and
- enhance and refresh public community parks, neighborhood parks and special use sites and rehabilitate aging and worn amenities and facilities.

Opportunities for Irvine's Park and Recreation System

The *Master Plan* identifies sites with opportunities to implement the following types of projects:

Build: Acquire park land and develop remaining planned parks and facilities to meet the needs of residents, or demolish and fully reconstruct buildings to modernize or expand them to support new uses.

Enhance: Improve, update and refresh parks and facilities to address new trends and better respond to evolving community needs.

Rehabilitate: Replace, repair or rehabilitate aging, worn, broken or sub-standard amenities and facilities to restore and sustain existing recreation opportunities.

In addition, system-wide recommendations address needs for the following:

Maintain: Provide preventative and routine maintenance and custodial care to parks and facilities to sustain assets for the long term.

Activate: Provide programs, events and drop-in recreation opportunities and manage City parks and facilities to support diverse recreation activities and experiences.

The *Master Plan* also takes into consideration long-term needs to maintain parks and facilities and activate and program sites for the benefit of residents, as well as employees and visitors who contribute to the economic vitality of the community.

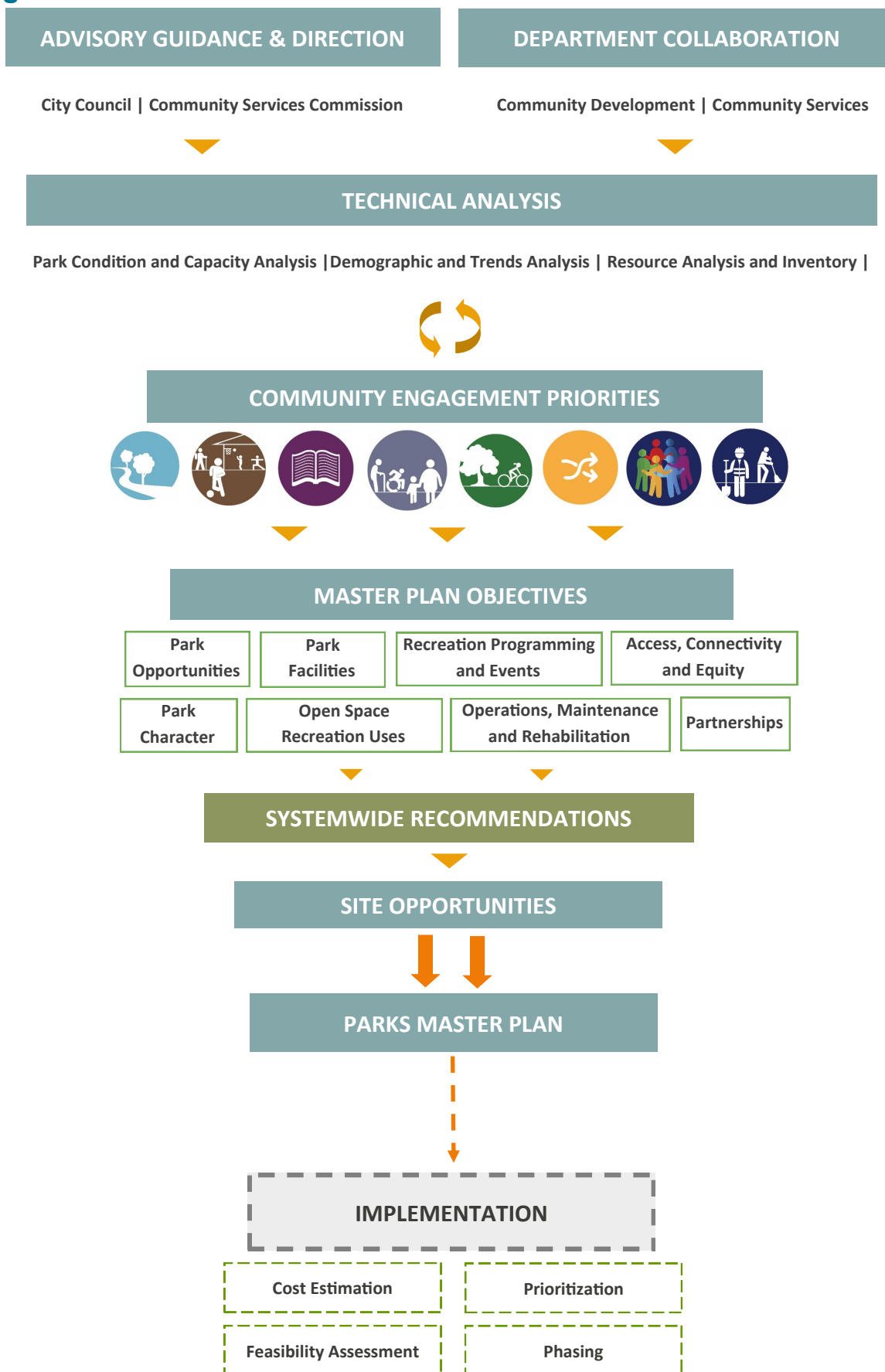
The *Master Plan* will serve as the guiding document for future park development and operations while providing enough flexibility to adapt to changing needs over time. To that end, it incorporates recommendations that can carry the system into the future. While the *Master Plan* identifies opportunities that could be carried out over the long term, it is intended to help the City prioritize and focus on a list of projects that can be completed within ten years, consistent with *Master Plan* objectives and community priorities. Project implementation and timelines will depend on funding requirements and availability, ongoing prioritization and decisions made through the City's annual budgeting and capital improvement process.

THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

Given the community's interest in parks and recreation and the number of stakeholders involved in providing parks and recreation services, development of the *Master Plan* involved participation, guidance and direction from City Council, City Commissions, City Committees, civic leaders, community interest groups and staff.

Figure I-1 provides an overview of the *Master Plan* development process.

Figure 1-1: Master Plan Process



Technical Analysis

A technical analysis of parks, recreation facilities, programs and other recreation resources helped cross-check the public engagement priorities with on-the-ground realities of the park system. With the technical guidance of the City's Project Management Team and involvement of additional staff at key points in the planning process, this research included:

- **Existing Systems Summary:** A baseline evaluation of the City's park and recreation system, which provided a foundation for the planning effort. This included conducting an inventory and mapping City parks, identifying demographic and recreation trends, describing the planning context, and identifying resources for recreation programming, operations and management.
- **Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment:** A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) network and service area mapping analysis, evaluation of existing park and facility standards and park condition and capacity analysis was combined with outreach findings to identify community needs for parks and recreation along with opportunities to improve existing parks and facilities.

Master Plan Outreach Activities

Stakeholder Interviews: Small-group interviews with representatives from community organizations, City departments and other agencies.

Focus Groups: Special meetings held with members of local advisory committees, boards, special interest groups, agencies and non-profits.

Community Intercept Events: Interactive outreach activities at five community events in parks throughout the City.

Mapita Online Questionnaire: Online survey available to anyone interested in providing input to the planning process.

Parks and Recreation Survey: A random-sample phone survey of residents conducted by an independent research firm.

Sports Committee Meeting: Facilitated discussion with the Irvine Sports Committee.

Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaires: Questionnaires for members of the Irvine Sports Committee and the Irvine Aquatic Advisory Board.

Community Workshops: Two interactive public workshops.

Plan Development Workshop: Facilitated staff meeting to determine Master Plan direction and contents.

Webpage Emailed Feedback: Email communication via the project webpage.

High School Youth Action Team Survey: Questionnaire completed by high school youth leaders.

Council and Commission Meetings: Project updates provided at public meetings for Irvine's City Council Community Services Commission, and Planning Commission.

- *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment of Play Areas in Irvine Parks:*

All play areas in City parks were evaluated against accessibility standards to identify potential barriers for use and planning level cost estimates for removing these barriers.

Findings were summarized in City and stakeholder-reviewed reports that provide the foundation for recommendations and conclusions presented in this Master Plan. These documents are available as technical supplements under separate cover.

Community Priorities

To identify evolving community needs and reimagine the park and recreation system, the City initiated a multi-faceted public outreach effort involving residents, stakeholders, community leaders, interest groups, advisory board members and park users. Between January 2015 and March 2016, approximately 2,100 people participated in outreach activities to identify park and recreation priorities and establish the future direction for parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails and programming. Eight key themes emerged from the outreach activities collectively. These community priorities, summarized alphabetically below and described in detail in Appendix B, inform the *Master Plan* objectives and recommendations.



Residents used stickers to answer questions at a Community Intercept Event held at the Bill Barber Park Youth Softball Opening Ceremonies in February 2015



Connectivity and Access: Provide safe and convenient access to parks, outdoor recreation and open space areas.



Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities: Provide a greater variety of recreation opportunities, support amenities and spaces.



Education: Integrate creative, scientific, academic, historical, educational and interpretive opportunities into the park system.



Evolving Needs: Plan for changing demographics and populations with diverse ages, cultures, abilities and needs.



Flexibility: Develop facilities to accommodate multiple types of park users and activities.



Health, Wellness and the Outdoors: Provide opportunities to connect to nature, enjoy the outdoors, and engage in fitness and healthy activities that contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and the community.



Partnerships: Pursue collaborations between government agencies, businesses, developers, schools and non-profit organizations to enhance the park system.



Standards and Maintenance: Continue to achieve excellence in parks, facilities, programming, maintenance and customer service.

Master Plan Objectives and Recommendations

The community's priorities and future vision for City parks have guided the development of the *Parks Master Plan*. The *Master Plan* includes the following:

- *Chapter 2: Systemwide Recommendations* incorporates the community's priorities into eight *Master Plan* objectives for strengthening Irvine's park and recreation system. For each objective, recommendations illustrate how new standards, design concepts and community ideas may be applied to City parks and used to expand programs, access to open space and other recreation opportunities.
- *Chapter 3: Site Recommendations* identifies opportunities to build, enhance and rehabilitate City parks. It provides examples of potential design changes for nine City park sites when they are renovated or developed, and it identifies "facility innovations" that illustrate options for diversifying Irvine's recreation amenities according to evolving community interests.

The Re-Imagined Park System

The *Parks Master Plan* provides ongoing direction, strategies and a list of capital projects to support an engaging, thriving park and recreation system that embraces community priorities.

The *Master Plan* includes far more potential projects than the City could complete in the next ten years (i.e., the average lifespan of a local park master plan), even when working with developers, schools, businesses and other partners who share the community's vision for parks and recreation. Recognizing that Irvine aims for the finest recreation experiences possible, this *Master Plan* identifies potential improvements that could further enhance these facilities in a reasonable period of time. A ten-year horizon will keep the document relevant and manageable from a planning and funding perspective. This timeframe is also consistent with update guidelines established for a city's general plan (GC§65040.5), which evaluates the long-term growth of a jurisdiction.

Irvine's park system is firmly established as a leader in the provision of municipal recreation services. In keeping with the City's tradition of high standards, this *Parks Master Plan* provides recommendations that would further enrich Irvine's public park system through a dynamic network of spaces that celebrate community-wide values for nature, culture, recreation, arts, ecology, history and education.

Prioritizing projects, incorporating resources that support the *Master Plan* objectives and identifying citywide recreation goals will require continued City commitment and further review. The recommendations presented in this *Master Plan* will focus resources where they would most efficiently build, enhance, rehabilitate, maintain and activate Irvine's high-quality park system in the future.



Gazebo overlooking the pond at Heritage Community Park

The *Master Plan* emphasizes the importance of maintaining flexibility when responding to community needs and new ideas. A tool has been developed to help weigh how new ideas and suggestions align with plan objectives and assist with prioritizing them. Using the assessment form (found in Appendix E), proponents of new programs and projects will be able to describe how their proposals achieve or enhance *Master Plan* goals.

Following submission to the City, staff responsible for developing and operating parks and recreation programs will assess the relative merits of each proposal. Results will then be compared against the results of other projects under consideration in the Capital Improvement Program.

While community-driven projects help address evolving recreation needs, relatively limited funds may be available each year to support the many worthy investments that could be made within the park system.



CHAPTER 2

Systemwide Recommendations

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



2. SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Owing in large part to consistent community support for high-quality facility and programming investments, Irvine’s park network receives accolades on a national scale (most recently placing in the top ten US park systems according to a nationwide study conducted by the Trust for Public Land). As a leader in recreation services and facilities, the City strives to further refine and improve its parks on a systemwide level. This *Parks Master Plan* exemplifies such an effort. During community outreach, Irvine residents expressed a desire for parks and recreation facilities to embrace new recreation trends, accommodate changing community demographics and reflect priorities for the City. This *Master Plan* categorizes community-supported direction into eight objectives and recommendations for further enhancing Irvine’s park system:

- *Objective A:* Provide a variety of public and private parks to meet resident needs.
- *Objective B:* Provide a broad spectrum of active and passive, indoor and outdoor park amenities throughout Irvine that support diverse recreation experiences, community gathering spots and opportunities for play.
- *Objective C:* Activate parks and address community recreation needs through the provision of programs and events.
- *Objective D:* Ensure that the City’s park, recreation and open space system is accessible to Irvine residents, including users of different abilities and demographic characteristics.
- *Objective E:* Create dynamic parks as special and unique places, adding or incorporating art and historic resources, innovative features, diverse landscaping, nature, varied color palettes and welcoming amenities.

Outreach Themes

Icons for community outreach themes note the community priorities each recommendation supports:



Connectivity and Access



Diversity



Education



Evolving Needs



Flexibility



Health, Wellness, Outdoors



Partnerships



Standards and Maintenance

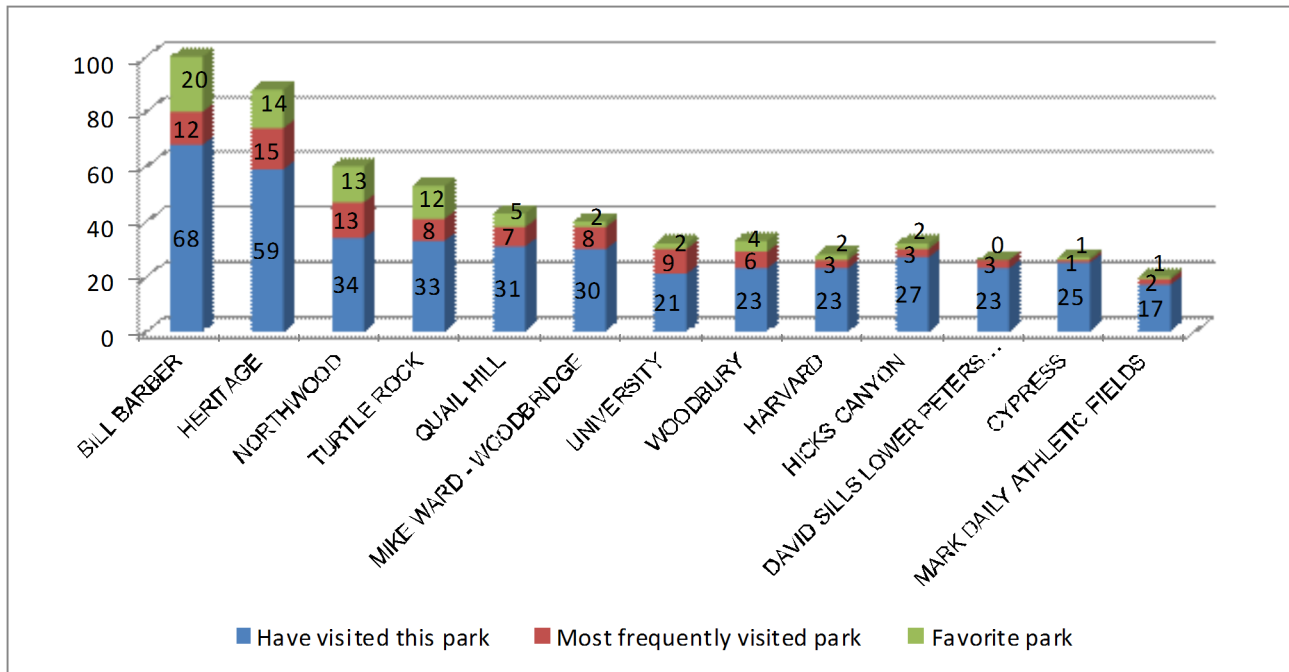
- *Objective F:* Balance access to open space for outdoor recreation with conservation needs.
- *Objective G:* Ensure that Irvine’s parks and recreation system is operated, maintained and renovated in a manner that is cost-effective, while balancing user safety, security, satisfaction and funding availability.
- *Objective H:* Develop and maintain relationships with targeted public and private organizations and entities to support City objectives.

PARK OPPORTUNITIES

Objective A: Provide a variety of public and private parks to meet resident needs.

Parks are community hubs that provide a variety of benefits. In addition to providing recreation space, parks also protect natural resources, unite nearby neighborhoods, support health and fitness and beautify the community.

Figure 2-1: Park Preference in the City of Irvine



The community parks shown above were mentioned most frequently by 450 Mapita participants responding to questions about park visitation and preference. The data provides a glimpse of parks within the community.

Irvine's park system provides an appealing combination of small neighborhood parks larger community parks, regional parks, trails, scenic vistas and open space. Together these sites enhance the City's identity and quality of life.

By 2030, Irvine's population is projected to increase to 327,900 residents (City of Irvine Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget). New parks will be needed to meet the increasing demand for park land, particularly in new residential areas and villages in the northern part of Irvine and in the Irvine Business Complex (IBC). In addition, residents desire enhanced connections to parks, trails and open space.

New park development should also factor in the Orange County Great Park (OCGP) as a resource that will play a significant role in meeting park and recreation needs for many segments of the community. The *Master Plan* recommends reviewing and updating park classification and standards to address these new dynamics around a specific set of service level metrics.

Recommendations

A1 Adopt a function-based classification system for all City parks and recreation spaces and maintain a park inventory of both public and private park facilities.

The City is supported by a large network of parks and recreational facilities under various forms of ownership; however, it only tracks public resources through park improvement credits. Implementation of a function-based classification system would identify all parks and recreation spaces and facilities, including: neighborhood parks, community parks, special use sites, regional parks, private parks, open space, trailheads and trail corridors. This planning tool would allow the City to better assess gaps and identify core level of service expectations. For planning purposes, the resources the OCGP brings as a City regional park with unique and specialized uses, facilities, events and programs would be included. Table 2-1 summarizes the existing and planned facilities for the OCGP.



Categorizing all sites by function would require that the City prepare and maintain an inventory of public and private park resources to identify what needs are being met by these parks. The Parks and Open Space Inventory in Appendix A serves as a starting point for public facilities; however, a comprehensive inventory of private park resources is in progress but has yet to be finalized.

Table 2-1: Orange County Great Park Features

Existing Features	Future Park Features
South Lawn Athletics Building South Lawn (4 soccer fields) North Lawn (2 multi-use fields) Great Park Gallery Farm + Food Lab Incredible Edible Farm Great Park Certified Farmers Market and Picnic Meadows Visitors Center Reflecting Ponds and Viewing Pier Kids Rock Playground Hangar 244 Festival Site Giving Grove Great Park Balloon	12 baseball/softball fields 18 new soccer/multi-use fields 5 sand volleyball courts 25 tennis courts 4 sports courts 188-acre golf course 178-acre wildlife corridor 71-acre agricultural area 40-acre Bosque Improvements 36-acre Upper Bee Canyon area Cultural Terrace Ice Facility 84.3 acre restored Agua Chinon Wash

Source: Orange County Great Park Corporation, <<http://www.ocgp.org/>>, 2014; with City updates, 2016.

A2 Maintain minimum standards for traditional uses; provide flexible design guidelines to encourage variation.

City standards and guidelines are not typically based on park design and character. The City should continue to focus its efforts on providing traditional recreation facilities. Numerical standards should apply to facilities that support the most popular types of traditional recreation activities.



Compared to national levels, Irvine has consistently surpassed the average amount of park amenities provided to its residents. The City's standards exceed national benchmarks for major recreational facilities in jurisdictions with populations over 250,000, as reported by the National Parks and Recreation Association in the 2016 National Field Survey. Furthermore, the number of facilities such as soccer fields, ball fields, playgrounds, community centers and senior centers, provided through the City's public park network, exceeds the national average for cities within this population range. When considering this network along with the addition of a system of private parks that were designed to meet City standards and serve adjacent neighborhoods, Irvine boasts a cohesive park network that is superior to most.



However, community outreach suggests that residents would like to enjoy a wide variety of recreation experiences. Therefore, in addition to maintaining numerical facility standards, adopting more comprehensive park design and development guidelines will support the development of diverse options that reflect new and emerging trends in recreation. New design guidelines should address the provision of more unique support facilities and amenities to create a variation in social spaces. For example, rather than providing separate numerical standards for picnic tables and barbecues, the City should consider a guideline for shaded picnic shelters that include tables, barbecues and water to support small group gatherings. The City should also evaluate current standards for community centers, as larger, multi-use facilities could better support the diverse array of programming desired by Irvine residents.

A3 Support trail-related recreation in community parks.

Recreation trends suggest that trail use is very popular. This trend was reiterated by the public at community outreach events. Focus on trails in all community parks is recommended. These trails should be separate from access paths to facilities, wherever possible. A variation of trail length and challenge should be considered for all age groups and abilities including accessible loop trails, soft surfaced jogging trails and nature trails. The City should consider variation of experience along a trail, utilizing activity nodes to activate spaces periodically.



A4 Evaluate expectations for private parks.

Private park standards allow parks that are a minimum of 100 feet wide and 1/3 acre in size. Parks of this size or configuration are limited in the recreation amenities they can offer. Recreation trends show that many cities are moving away from the provision of smaller tot lots, pocket parks and mini parks in favor of larger neighborhood parks.



However, there are areas of the City where unique and non-traditional private recreation amenities would be appropriate. In particular, the IBC is home to large scale office developments and high-density residential uses. Vacant land in this area of the City is scarce and land value is high. It would be difficult to acquire, assemble, design and construct large outdoor park facilities within IBC neighborhoods. In keeping with Objective A listed above, the IBC area is uniquely suited to host park/recreation facilities that are more urban in nature such as indoor recreation facilities (i.e., consistent with the reuse of an existing building) or small public plazas or other types of gathering spaces.

The City should consider updating and expanding its guidelines to ensure that private parks are meeting local recreation needs including the consideration of larger private Neighborhood Parks to provide more amenities.

Adopting design guidelines by park type could help ensure that essential recreation opportunities are provided in all neighborhood parks, whether public or private.

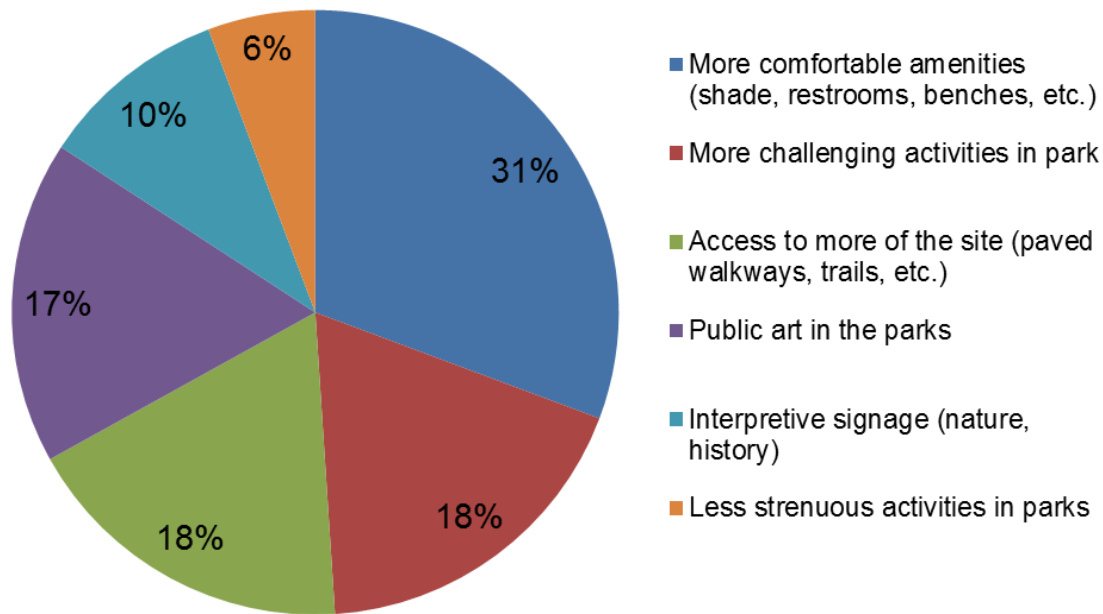
PARK FACILITIES

Objective B: Provide a broad spectrum of active and passive, indoor and outdoor park amenities throughout Irvine that support diverse recreation experiences, community gathering spots and opportunities for play.

Community livability and economic vitality are supported through a variety of recreation opportunities for residents, employees and visitors. Participants throughout the engagement process repeatedly expressed a desire for parks that offer a range of activities, facilities that support multiple uses and flexible spaces that can accommodate structured programs as well as drop-in activities. Gymnasias, athletic fields and courts are desired to support organized sports, and other non-traditional active use recreation spaces are needed to support health and fitness.

Figure 2-2: Amenity Preference

What would make your experience more enjoyable?



The responses of 690 participants in Community Intercept Events reveal an interest in a variety of enhancements.

Residents want facilities that support social gatherings and community events, as well as those that provide solitude, nature experiences and lifelong learning opportunities. Loop trails through parks, nature play areas, event venues, community gardens, performance centers, bike parks and dog parks are some of the many enhancements mentioned during public engagement activities. As such, the City's Park Standards Manual should be updated to create a wider variety of park amenities.

Recommendations

B1 Update guidelines for the provision of park facilities.

Trends show that recreation activity demands have changed dramatically since 2005 when the City adopted its standards for parks and park facilities. (Note: The facility standards were re-adopted by the Planning Commission in September 2015 but not changed from their 2005 form) Community demographics have also changed since that time. The City should consider revising the categories in which standards are set, resetting standards where demand has changed, reevaluating the role of school facilities, and considering guidelines for access and spatial distribution (based on travel distances) to supplement its numerical standards. The City should also continue to ensure that new opportunities are introduced in pilot programs to test their viability and popularity before developing multiple new facilities of any type.



For example, combining standards for community centers, gymnasiums and senior centers will reflect the increasing trend toward multi-purpose centers that serve all ages and interests. Fewer cities are building small neighborhood community centers or stand-alone facilities for teens or seniors. Even in cities where private facilities meet the demand for weights and exercise equipment, the provision of combined multi-purpose facilities increases indoor programming options. Standards should be updated to reflect this trend.

B2 Revisit the role that private parks play in providing tennis courts.

Tennis is a very popular sport in Irvine. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) has established a recommended standard of one tennis court to be provided for every 10,000 population. Given this recommendation, a City the size of Irvine should provide approximately 25 tennis courts for its residents. The City manages 64 tennis courts, many of which are used continuously throughout the day.



The City coordinates with private developers when private parks are planned and built to ensure facility standards are followed. According to these standards, private parks are expected to provide 67 percent of lighted tennis courts and a portion of other types of sports courts, as long as they are available to all residents. Private parks are managed to serve a specific community and are not intended to serve all residents. For this reason, the City should consider providing more of the community's lighted tennis courts.

B3 Create buildings that serve as social activators with connections between indoor/outdoor spaces.

New facilities, as well as renovations to facilities, allow spaces to be updated to respond to recreation trends. Proper design of buildings may foster social interactions among all age groups. With the Southern California climate, connections between indoor/outdoor spaces should be considered to maximize useable space and diversity of experience.



Examples of this strategy include: a senior center and nearby community garden, shaded seating area or a low-impact pickleball court; community or recreation center and outdoor play areas, outdoor sports fields/courts (with indoor gym for indoor/outdoor sports camps and classes); and fine/cultural arts center with outdoor arts plaza for events or outdoor small amphitheater for outdoor arts/music programs. Once constructed, Portola Springs Park will feature numerous indoor-outdoor connections and synergies, including an exercise room that opens into an adjacent exercise court.



B4 Develop flexible use areas.

New features or facilities in parks should be designed for flexible uses. For example, a plaza can host Tai Chi classes in the mornings, splash play in the afternoons and local band performances in the evenings, if designed appropriately. Appropriate infrastructure should be integrated into these flexible areas to support the different activities. Any open lawn area should be designed to support programmed and un-programmed activities, including unstructured play, impromptu public gatherings and events.



B5 Provide specialized play opportunities at community parks.

Community parks should provide larger scale destination play areas that are intended to draw visitors from throughout the City. Destination playgrounds should include nature play, thematic play, universal play, play equipment including swing sets, interactive / adventure play and water play features.



B6 Provide multi-purpose courts and combine selected court standards to accommodate trends and more variety in court sports.

Emerging interest in sports, such as badminton and pickleball, will lead to the need for facility variation and multi-purpose sports courts. Irvine's standards include specific court sports but do not provide the flexibility to consider other types of courts. Given the demand, the City should keep its tennis court standard and establish a minimum number of these courts in a grouping. However, other court requirements should be combined into a blended standard that allows for a variety of court types. This approach will keep the standard in place, but allow flexibility as new sports emerge and trends change. At the same time, the City should retire the specific standard for handball/racquetball courts, as demand does not warrant a separate court standard.



B7 Increase and broaden the standard for multi-purpose rectangular fields (e.g., soccer) and maintain the current standard for diamond fields (e.g., baseball/softball).

Emerging trends for non-traditional sports that use rectangular fields (e.g., lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee, etc.) and increasing soccer interest point to a rising demand for rectangular athletic fields. This demand can be met, in part, by exploring the provision of dual or multi-use fields which would allow individual facilities to support a variety of sports. Soccer field standards should be broadened and reclassified as Rectangular Sports Fields and increased to cover other activities. Needs for lighted and unlighted fields should be addressed.



The underlying analysis for the *Parks Master Plan* indicates that the standard for baseball/softball fields is adequate, even though there has been expressed concern that there is a shortage of fields by the baseball/softball community. The Wall Street Journal reports that youth baseball participation in this country has decreased from 8.8 million to 5.3 million (from 5.4 million to 3.2 million for softball) from 2000 to 2013, due in large part to the industrialization and over-organization of youth sports. Efforts should be made

to inform the local sports community on local participation trends and the City’s role as service providers to a large population of residents with a wide range of recreational interests. A resurging interest in activities, such as kickball, can be accommodated within the standard for diamond fields, particularly as trends indicate that baseball participation is anticipated to decline in the future. The City should also consider whether the requirement for a percentage of school fields should be reduced, and, if so, to what extent.

B8 Explore opportunities to provide different types of outdoor facilities.

While standards are not necessary for all types of outdoor facilities, community outreach showed there is a desire for a greater variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, such as track and field events, disc golf, archery, bike tracks and more. Chapter 3 describes some of the types of facility innovations that could support added recreation experiences.



B9 Modify and enhance playground guidelines.

Standards for playgrounds focus on the provision of playground equipment. Throughout the public engagement process, people expressed a desire for a variety of play opportunities such as interactive play spaces and nature play areas. The City should consider retaining numerical standards for play areas, but guidelines for play areas should be updated to encourage diverse play opportunities. All neighborhood and community parks should be required to provide some type of play environment. Play area guidelines for community parks should require some specialized play opportunity, whether it is a thematic play area, destination playground, universal playground, play equipment including swing sets, nature play area, interactive/adventure play area or water play feature.



Children at play in Irvine, CA

B10 Monitor needs for nature centers.

Community interest in additional access to nature, environmental education and nature interpretation can be supported through the provision of both outdoor and indoor facilities. Site opportunities noted in Chapter 3 suggest the development of outdoor classrooms, trails, trailheads and interpretive facilities. Additionally, the Turtle Rock Nature Center is in need of renovation and expansion. A new nature center may be warranted if the demand for indoor nature-based programs continues to rise. The standard for nature centers should be updated if this interest continues.



B11 Broaden the standard for art facilities.

Community outreach demonstrated a desire for facility space to support fine, performing and cultural arts. In the past, the City's arts facility has been focused specifically on fine arts. The City has yet to explore options to add a performing arts venue. Needs for this type of facility (or a stage at a facility that could support lectures and/or a community theater program) should be determined through a market analysis that takes into account theaters and performance halls (i.e., Barclay, potential OCGP facilities, etc.) operated by other providers.



B12 Coordinate with homeowners' associations when parks are renovated or facilities are replaced.

The City relies on private parks to meet neighborhood park needs for many residents. However, the type and extent of recreation opportunities provided at these sites varies greatly. Private parks should be considered as resources during the design review process in order to ensure that renovations to public parks and facilities are not duplicative and help meet the collective recreation needs and social benefits of the communities they serve.



RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Objective C: Activate parks and address evolving community recreation needs through the provision of programs and events.

Irvine’s recreation programs transcend traditional parks programming and lead the field in areas such as early childhood education programs, arts programs, aquatics, sports and special events. Programs range from introductory recreational activities to national caliber competitive programs. Engagement findings suggest that residents appreciate these programs and desire activities that are new, exciting, self-directed and varied to serve different interests. Casual, drop-in recreation opportunities that respond to residents with busy lifestyles are needed, as well as more traditional classes, camps and organized programs.

The City has a track record of ensuring that programs continually evolve to respond to Irvine’s changing needs. As such, future projects should be responsive to program demands. This *Master Plan* provides guidance on program service provision, identifying program areas that can be expanded to support changing trends and new facilities, along with the tools needed to inform decisions on the types of programs and services that meet community expectations. A statistically-representative Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey found that providing additional programs and activities is the most desired change in Irvine parks, based on the percentage of respondents.

Recommendations

C1 Continue to incorporate emerging trends and community priorities into program service areas.

Community feedback suggests a focus on two program areas that should be further defined: nature programs and health and fitness programs. The nature programs service area may include nature interpretation, environmental education, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, and outdoor recreation such as gardening, birding, urban camping and fishing.



C2 Expand nature programming and environmental education and distribute opportunities throughout the City.

A growing body of research confirms that spending time in nature benefits children, offering them almost unlimited opportunities to explore and investigate, helping them build STEM skills that create a solid



foundation for future learning. Increasing access to open space would provide new opportunities for outdoor programming and education, particularly for children and youth.

Equitable geographic distribution of these programs will help provide access to all Irvine residents. Open space preserves are more appropriate than parks for many of these programs due to the types of uses they support, the range of native environments they provide and the distinct character of these sites. Utilizing sites that are adjacent to open space preserves, such as Portola Springs and Gateway Parks, will provide opportunities for cost savings and shared resources.

C3 Create a recreation strategic plan or recreation operations plan to address program expansion areas associated with new facility development.

This *Master Plan* contains recommendations for the development of several new major indoor facilities and specialized outdoor facilities to support indoor recreation, fine arts, cultural and performing arts, interpretive nature programs, indoor and outdoor athletics and indoor and outdoor recreation. These facilities should be activated through programming, events and services, which will, in turn, result in a significant increase in staffing and services.



While some facility development will be funded through developer park improvement credits, the City will need to identify additional funds to support programming operations. Prior to facility development, financial feasibility studies for major new facilities will help identify specific staffing and programming needs, as well as revenue-generation opportunities to offset some expenditures. In addition to this, during the next few years, the City will review system-wide strategic programming service areas, costs and operational needs as new parks and facilities are added and if open space facilities are added to make natural areas more accessible.

C4 Revise City program areas for planning purposes.

The City categorizes its program areas into eight categories. Some categories reflect the type of services (athletics, aquatics, fine arts, special events) and/or the groups that are served (senior services, disabilities services, youth outreach). All other programs are combined into one category (community park programs), which includes: child services, contract classes and recreation programs. For planning purposes, identifying all major program areas of emphasis separately will help the City to address community programming needs more efficiently and effectively.



C5 Expand indoor/outdoor programs as new facilities emerge and to activate existing parks and facilities.

When new facilities emerge or when facilities are upgraded, the City has the opportunity to develop additional programs with both indoor and outdoor elements. Examples include youth summer camps that involve outdoor and indoor sports; environmental education programs that involve outdoor nature excursions and indoor classroom time; and healthy cooking/eating programs that involve outdoor gardening and indoor cooking classes.



Expanding combined indoor and outdoor programs will require an expansion of staff and resources in many program areas. The City should consider balancing cost recovery with community demand in determining what programs to provide. As new and more specialized outdoor facilities are developed, there will be opportunities to add other programs that address emerging trends and growing needs. Pilot programs (e.g., nature play areas and bike pump tracks) are a good way to introduce new uses and users to a facility.

C6 Balance programming with drop-in opportunities for play while ensuring minimal impact to organized sports.

Community feedback supports a need to reserve time for drop-in facility use and unstructured play. Un-programmed, flexible use facilities will help address this need. Policies should be reviewed to consider these opportunities.



To minimize the impact to organized sports while balancing drop-in opportunities, the City should continue coordinating with non-profit sports leagues and interest groups. It has successfully facilitated youth sports by working with sports leagues, such as Little League and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). The facilitated youth sports model could apply to other types of non-profit interest groups that provide programs at other recreation facilities for an appropriate fee. This model is different from contract programming, where the non-profit group is responsible for advertising and recruiting participants.



C7 Periodically revisit facility allocation, reservation and fee policies and procedures.

In August 2011 and December 2014, the Community Services Commission adopted the Allocation Procedure for Sports Facilities and the Public Facilities Reservation and Fees Policies, respectively. These allocation procedures ensure allocation priorities are set to fairly support recreation-based programs and competitive club and travel sports programs. They also place a priority on programs that serve residents. The fee policies address general rates and requirements for use, permitting and commercial use.

As new sports emerge, demand for adult and senior sports increase, and new athletic facilities are brought online, the policies and procedures should be reviewed to allow for emerging new uses and to determine where City programs will have priority over leagues and programs provided by others. Particularly as more and new types of facilities are developed, fees and policies should be revisited to ensure successful operations.

ACCESS, CONNECTIVITY AND EQUITY

Objective D: Ensure that the City's park, recreation and open space system is accessible to Irvine residents, including users of different abilities and demographic characteristics.

Convenient and safe access to parks, outdoor recreation and open space areas is a priority in Irvine. This includes a consideration for the ways that people travel to parks, the distance they travel and the ability to park safely when they arrive. Overall, community and neighborhood parks are evenly distributed and most areas are well served. Population growth will strain park facilities and parking demand (particularly in the IBC area), requiring ongoing planning to ensure equitable access. The development of multi-purpose trails, which was mentioned frequently by public engagement participants, can help link recreation facilities and open spaces to other community destinations while easing traffic and parking problems and providing a more walkable, connected community.

As the parks and recreation system evolves, it must continue to meet the needs of the City's diverse population with accessible, nearby and culturally-relevant recreation opportunities. The City's aging population suggests that accessibility considerations can be taken further to ensure that the entire system is inclusive of varying ages and abilities.



All playgrounds in Irvine, were evaluated to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access. Preserving access to recreation facilities for all residents is an important component of this *Master Plan*.

Recommendations

D1 Consider non-traditional recreation opportunities to satisfy the park needs of higher density developments.

Population distribution affects service level requirements, such as the number of park acres provided per 1,000 population. City calculations factor in neighborhood density to formulate park dedication requirements. However, exceptions are made for park standards when applied to the IBC and affordable housing developments. For example, IBC parks are anticipated to be smaller based on land availability and cost. Developers of affordable housing are allowed to reduce the dedication standard to 3.5 acres per 1,000 population. With less park land available in these areas, the City should evaluate non-traditional park design options, such as indoor recreation facilities, urban plazas, urban trails, etc. to maximize use of available space.



D2 Identify City roles in providing programs and establish program performance criteria.

There are many recreation providers in Irvine (i.e., private, non-profit, etc.), and the City is not meeting all community recreation needs alone. For each service area, the City should consider and identify primary and secondary roles in meeting needs, including key groups to serve and skill or instruction levels to support. For example, previously in

athletics, the stated focus was on youth programs. According to community interests in fitness, adults and seniors should be noted as a secondary service market for athletic programs. As senior services expand, the City’s role in providing these programs should be revisited as well.



To establish program performance criteria, the City should have systems in place to identify changing public interests in programs and events and to track program participation, facility use and revenues by service area. Recreation software should be evaluated for its ability to coordinate scheduling, registration and data tracking by service area.



D3 Consider the geographic distribution of major facilities.

Major recreation facilities, such as aquatic centers, community centers and gymnasias, should be planned and sited based on service area, community demand and equitable access across the City. The locations of private and school facilities should be taken into consideration where these play a role in meeting local needs. Where smaller facilities are added to parks, these also should be dispersed geographically from existing facilities to decrease the travel distance to these recreation opportunities.



D4 Update park policies and standards to include travel distance guidelines for park locations.

The City’s parkland requirements are based on acres per population, which accounts for population distribution but not the distance people must travel to reach parks. Modifying park standards to encourage travel distances of ½ mile for neighborhood parks and three miles for community parks will help ensure equitable access and encourage walking and biking to parks. The addition and enhancement of signage for the trail system to assist with way finding for pedestrians is also encouraged.



D5 Improve building circulation and ADA access.

Several older facilities were built before current ADA standards were established. Renovations and new buildings afford the opportunity to address new ADA requirements, and exceed them where possible. For example, wider hallways can accommodate peak traffic; sports fields



can be designed for greater accessibility and seating; swimming facilities may be equipped with proper lifts; and children’s play areas and trails may be made accessible to people with mixed abilities.

D6 Comprehensively evaluate park signage.

Park and trail signage could be enhanced to improve legibility and to ensure consistent branding across City park facilities. In some circumstances, unique signage might enhance a specific park theme or function. Such considerations should be addressed on a comprehensive basis in order to provide consistency across the park system.



PARK CHARACTER

Objective E: Create dynamic parks as special and unique places, adding or incorporating art and historic resources, innovative features, diverse landscaping, nature, varied color palettes, and welcoming amenities.

The development of thriving parks requires more than just the provision of land and facilities. The creation of unique and special places inspires special recreation experiences. Residents appreciate City parks and specialized facilities, reflecting the quality of a master planned community. City parks are well-maintained and attractive. At the same time, many parks at first glance look similar: manicured lawns; familiar play structures; well-manicured social spaces; and a comfortable look and feel. This *Master Plan* creates an opportunity for Irvine to reimagine its parks as distinctive places that capture the local history, surrounding natural environment, artistic sensibility and unique character of adjoining neighborhoods. As parks are refurbished or refreshed, a renewed focus on design and development can reinforce a unique sense of place in each park.

The creation of dynamic, special spaces can further enhance Irvine’s reputation as a leader in community livability. Whether small changes are needed to enhance site comfort and encourage longer stays, or whether larger changes are needed to create social hubs for activities, re-developing with a theme in mind can help guide renovation decisions over time. Eventually all parks can connect people to the places where they live, work and recreate, by integrating site history, local art and natural resources.



Findings from the Visual Preferences Survey at the June Community Workshop suggest that many residents like or would consider parks of different characters, such as urban hardscapes (left) and nature-oriented designs (right) to support a variety of opportunities for socializing, recreation and play.

Recommendations

E1 Identify community context and reinforce a sense of place.

Using a design theme to guide design choices will reinforce a sense of place when redesigning or updating parks, especially in the case of community parks. Design themes that tell a unique story can be developed by connecting to the site history or taking inspiration from the surrounding community and environmental setting. A design theme will help determine material choices to enliven play and picnic areas and to inspire site-specific art or historical interpretive displays.



E2 Work with community and local artists to design/implement artistic and cultural features.

Irvine's strength in art may be demonstrated through the integration of art in parks and park facilities. Examples of site-specific art include: fountains; unique lampposts; decorative sidewalk paving; artistic planters; interpretive and educational features; murals; monuments; and, features along trails. However, it is important to keep in mind that replacement and maintenance constraints must be a primary consideration with the development of unique features. Additionally, security codes would impose some restrictions on design. When designing any non-standard features, artists should work with City maintenance, recreation and public safety staff to determine where maintenance efficiencies can be incorporated and where art can be interactive to support the park theme or play environment, while still maintaining a safe environment.



E3 Develop activity hubs in neighborhood and community parks.

Creating activity hubs and spots to support small-scale, sporting and non-sporting active or playful recreation features will foster individual or small group activities in Irvine’s parks. Activity hubs and spots may include elements such as skate spots, uneven shooting hoops, outdoor ping pong tables, giant chess boards, bocce ball, volleyball, shuffleboard and horseshoes (similar to those amenities provided at local private parks like Beacon Park and Pavilion Park). It is important to note that consideration of such elements should include consultation with the City’s Landscape and Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department as well as with the Community Services Department.



E4 Vary seating arrangements.

Consider seating arrangements in neighborhood and community parks for mid-size group seating (five to 15 people). The City may also consider providing flexible seating and seating for children along with other amenities such as play areas, plazas and trail heads. Providing seating with Wi-Fi is another opportunity in popular social areas.



E5 Integrate park theme or character into buildings.

As noted in Table D-2 (Site-Specific Major Facility Recommendations), many of the major facility buildings are older and will need updates in the near future. Additionally, several new community centers are planned to be built over the next few years. The combination of these plans presents an opportunity to integrate the park’s theme or character into the building design. This recommendation applies to community centers, senior centers, fine arts centers and nature centers. The renovations at the Northwood Community Center provide an example of a successful integration of park character, built to resemble an old packing house that formerly occupied the location, which emphasizes Irvine’s agricultural past. Portola Park also serves as a good example of the incorporation of thematic features.



E6 Add natural features and highlight nature.

Providing viewing areas where birds and butterflies frequent, adding plantings to

encourage more birds and butterflies and prioritizing channelized creeks for natural bank restoration are a few ways to integrate the surrounding natural environment into the park experience. Highlighting nature in neighborhood and community parks can include creating butterfly, hummingbird and native plant gardens with interpretive and educational elements. The City should encourage the development of outdoor classrooms and living laboratories at elementary schools located adjacent to parks. These outdoor classrooms and living laboratories may incorporate boulder groupings, small bridges and other niches where insect and plant discovery may occur. Once again, consultation with the Community Services Department and the Landscape Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department will be necessary, prior to implementation of these types of features.



E7 Incorporate walking trails.

Perimeter walking trails with viewpoints, boulders, plantings and interpretive features are examples of small changes that would enhance site comfort and encourage longer stays in parks and recreation areas. Walking trails also help to incorporate site amenities with local history, art and natural resources to create a cohesive park identity.



E8 Diversify play experiences across the City by providing unconventional features and amenities, including nature-based play environments.

To create dynamic parks and park facilities, the City should continue to provide traditional play experiences while adding new and varied play areas. Creating play experiences that are tailored to the specific landscape and scale of the park will help diversify play experiences across the City. For example, providing opportunities for play and recreation for older children and teens such as bocce, archery, challenge courses, zip lines, rope courses, net climbers, climbing boulders, skateboard parks and pump tracks can create such diversity. The City should consider testing new materials and construction methods for play environments that facilitate open-ended exploration and free-form play. The range of manufactured play equipment has expanded over the years, as new technologies and innovative designs now offer a large variety of play value and material options. As such, manufactured play equipment may be included in the play experience, but it should be combined with natural play elements to create a rich, unique and contextually hybridized play space.



Nature-based play environments include designated outdoor spaces that are made from natural components such as logs, sand, water, mud, boulders, hills, plants and trees. These materials encourage a more unstructured, open-ended, imaginative kind of play and represent the larger, wild environment in a way that feels safe and manageable to young visitors and their parents. Nature-based or nature-focused experiences with interpretive features, viewing areas and interactive nature elements can create or reinforce a unique sense of place in a park as a destination. These opportunities could be explored at parks that remain in the planning phases.

E9 Incorporate shade in all parks.

Shade is critical to health and wellness, as well as user comfort. Increased shade within and throughout parks was a prevalent request. Strategically adding shade trees, sails and shade structures (especially over play areas and seating areas), will ensure shade is incorporated in all parks.



E10 Provide quality support amenities.

Public engagement findings demonstrate that improvements to and maintenance of park amenities encourages park usage, and enhances user experience. Examples of such amenities include: lighting, restrooms, drinking fountains and signage. See Table D-1, Park Site Improvement Opportunities, for more examples.



E11 Address site entry, access, parking management.

Enhancing site entry points includes providing better wayfinding cues such as signage, clear pathways and lighting. Trailhead locations could be better identified on City maps in order to enhance access. The City should address parking needs, but consider other options such as joint use agreements to use nearby lots as well as better drop-off or pickup spaces in front of major facilities that provide programming.



OPEN SPACE RECREATION USES

Objective F: Balance access to open space for outdoor recreation with conservation needs.

Irvine's open spaces were originally preserved for ecological reasons. As recreation trends have shifted, people across California have increasingly engaged in hiking, mountain biking, bird watching and other recreation activities that take place in open space settings. These activities are among the fastest growing in California and have increasingly put pressure on an open space network that was largely established for preservation and conservation purposes.

Participants in the community engagement process repeatedly expressed a desire for greater access to open space and connections to the outdoors, such as numerous requests for increased access to single-track mountain bike trails. In particular, nature trails, access to open spaces and nature education emerged as prominent topics across nearly all the engagement activities. The City is already responding to some of these needs through nature center programs and docent-led hikes and mountain bike tours in open space areas.

Although the City continues to be responsive to this feedback, it is important to provide some historical context of the City's open space system. In 1976, the City identified the need to establish and implement a measure to acquire and/or preserve natural open space land as an important component to the successful implementation of the City's General Plan with the inclusion of a Conservation and Open Space Element.

A landmark ballot initiative overwhelmingly passed in 1988 that guaranteed important habitat areas would be consolidated and preserved through a phased land dedication program with the Irvine Company. To implement this initiative the City and Irvine Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to protect and maintain the City's natural resources. The MOU identified specific areas of land to be preserved and dedicated to the City and stated the allowable land uses (preservation, passive recreation and other activities compatible with the protection of the habitat). The City became a signatory to a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and Implementation Agreement in 1996 along with twenty other participants including state, regional, local agencies and jurisdictions, affected landowners, utility companies and the University of California, Irvine.

The Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) was created as a non-profit entity to manage the NCCP Management Plan. This Plan describes future access plans, permitted uses, planned trails and trailheads and visitor facilities located with the habitat Reserve System. It was approved in 2007 by the City of Irvine's City Council, Community Services Commission, the City's Disability Advisory Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NROC Board of Directors.

As such, any increased access to open space areas for recreation, education and increased connections to nature may require modifications to the plans described above. Policies around open space access that support recreation in appropriate places while minimizing activity in areas where recreation access should be limited or restricted to protect natural resources is acceptable; however, the primary purpose of the City’s Open Space Preserve is the conservation of natural resources.



Comments from the Self-Directed Users/Trails Focus Group emphasized the need to balance conservation with increased access to open space while protecting nature, diversifying recreation and educational opportunities and supporting community health.

Recommendations

F1 Classify areas according to levels of access to encourage use of accessible areas and discourage use of restricted areas.

Categorizing Irvine’s open space preserves into a tiered classification system would help the City encourage the use of accessible areas and discourage use of restricted areas. For example: Level 1 could include access for self-directed use of amenities and facilities, such as hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing. Level 2 could include limited access for programmed uses or docent-led hikes, and Level 3 could restrict public access to focus on resource protection. Careful consideration to adaptability should be paramount to any formally established classification system.



Public education, including signage, brochures and visual demarcation of restricted access areas should be used extensively to either restrict or promote access to open space areas, depending on the classification system. Recreation and school-based programs can be used to explain the environmental factors associated with resource protection and the damage associated with prohibited use. In areas where policies are shifting, the City should notify nearby neighbors and inform the general public through *Inside Irvine*, press releases and other means.

F2 Update open space preserve management plans and policies (as feasible) incorporating public feedback to determine the best balance between accessibility and environmental protection.

The majority of Irvine’s open space is protected by a NCCP, with uses guided by a Recreation and Resource Management Plan (RRMP). At present, the Irvine Ranch Conservancy leads hikes and bike rides in select open space areas. However, several open space areas have “social trails” or footpaths and bike treads where people cross spaces where trails and access are not supported. Pressure to provide access to Irvine’s open space preserves is likely to increase as many of Irvine’s planned future residential growth areas are at the edge of the City and within walking or biking distance of open space preserves. Any increase in public access will require review by applicable City, State and Federal agencies. Changes in these policies warrant further discussion and would require considerable time and resources to achieve.



Identifying areas that are suitable for access, as well as those where restricted access is appropriate will continue to balance the goals of City conservation plans. These decisions can be facilitated using natural resource inventories, the recreation needs assessment, development plans and conservation and resource management plans. Engagement with community members, especially nearby neighbors and special interest groups, will be important early in the policy discussion. It is important to note that any new goals or policies that are developed and enacted for Irvine’s open space preserves, would require revision to the Recreation and Resource Management Plans (2009) which would be subject to multi-agency review and approval.

F3 Develop facilities and trails that support nature programming, environmental education and other uses.

The success of nature and educational programming will depend, in part, on the provision of appropriate facilities. Outdoor classrooms, group camp sites, bus

turnarounds, restrooms and trails can promote or enhance outdoor learning experiences. Other key facilities include small group picnic shelters, gathering spaces and parking. The City should consider providing these types of facilities in community parks, special use sites (such as vistas and trailheads) and open space areas, where appropriate.



F4 Develop trails that connect to sites in Irvine and other jurisdictions.

Community engagement findings strongly support the development of additional trails throughout the City. The City should continue to develop a system of off-street, multi-purpose trails to provide connections between parks, open space areas, neighborhoods, retail and business areas and other community destinations in Irvine. Connections to other jurisdictions, such as trails connecting to regional open spaces, can serve similar purposes and even provide access to local beaches and to the Upper Newport Bay Preserve.



F5 Develop a variety of trails to avoid user conflicts.

Complementary provision of single-use trails will enable the City to create space for specialized activities that could create conflicts or unsafe situations in shared spaces. Examples of potential single-use trails include those designed for pedestrians only, mountain biking or equestrian activities.



F6 Develop support features to enhance the trail experience.

Depending on the types of trails provided, the City should consider appropriate support amenities to facilitate use, promote trail safety, provide educational opportunities and increase the enjoyment of the trail experience. Vistas, viewing blinds and benches provide spaces for resting and enjoying the natural scenery. Interpretive signage can describe the biological, geographic and historical aspects of a site. Trailheads provide key amenities such as parking as well as signage describing the trails, their connections and any access restrictions. En route trail signage and mileage markers assist with wayfinding and even encourage active recreation.



OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION

Objective G: Ensure that Irvine’s parks and recreation system is operated, maintained and renovated in a manner that is cost-effective, while balancing user safety, satisfaction and funding availability.

Irvine sets a high standard for parks and recreation services, reflected in the well-maintained and expansive parks system. Outreach findings indicated an overall appreciation and pride in the quality of amenities and services provided by the City. Many respondents expressed the importance of maintaining this high quality over time as the parks system grows and parks age.

The City Council allocates significant resources for park maintenance and asset replacement, but acknowledges these funds are limited. Additional resources, including maintenance funds and long-term funding allocations, are needed to rehabilitate, refresh, replace and modernize infrastructure and address the needs of new parks and facilities as these are developed. The diversification of parks, development of high-impact, high-use parks in the IBC, and increased access to open space will also increase maintenance needs. A sustainable funding source must be identified to maintain assets at this high level and retain Irvine’s position as a leader in the parks field. It will be increasingly important to innovate, reevaluate and resolve emerging issues, while capitalizing on maintenance and operational efficiencies, to sustain the system for the long term.

Recommendations

G1 Conduct financial feasibility and market studies and facility master plans when developing major new facilities.

Community feedback suggests that more specialized facilities are needed to support a desired level of recreation services. These include: larger community centers that incorporate active use and/or gymnasium space, nature centers, senior centers and arts centers. The City will need to consider the financial feasibility and market capacity of major facilities before bringing them online, evaluating opportunities for revenue generation to ensure these facilities are affordable.



These studies, including facility master plans, will help identify the appropriate size, scale and mix of indoor options. They will also identify costs associated with the construction and ongoing maintenance associated with the development of large indoor recreation facilities.



As noted in the *Park and Recreation Needs Assessment*, the City is only achieving 30 percent of its square footage standard for community centers, and it continues to build facilities that are smaller than trends suggest.¹ The building size in Irvine limits programming potential, especially for large group gatherings and active recreation.

Given the demand noted for senior programs, indoor gym space and programming to support health, wellness and fitness, additional square footage in targeted new facilities should incorporate more space to support active uses. (See Table D-2 in Appendix D for these opportunities for major facility enhancements.)

G2 Increase landscape diversity and sustainability to preserve ecological functions.

Increasing landscape diversity will provide ecological benefits and visual interest. In concert with the Landscape and Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department, updating Irvine's plant palette and utilizing native plants, wherever possible, will help the City encourage horticultural diversity in its parks and public places.



The City should develop a Parks Tree Palette for adding/replacing trees and planning for canopy succession. The tree palette should include a wide variety of tree species including natives. The updated plant palette should also include a variety of carefully selected shrub, grass, succulent and groundcover species that have unique textures and colors best suited for Irvine's climate, soil and wildlife. The City should capitalize on water conservation opportunities by converting large turf areas to low-water planting beds, or by using lawn alternatives, such as California meadow sedge (*Carex pansa*), to minimize water intensive turf. Re-evaluating irrigation and watering regimes will also reduce outdoor water consumption.

Identifying and protecting habitat corridors in parks, trail corridors and open space locations and strategically connecting riparian areas, wetlands and other urban green spaces decreases disruption of natural systems, helps preserve vital ecological functions and also leads to increased biodiversity.

¹Many communities are building recreation and community centers at a minimum of 40,000-50,000 square feet, with larger facilities preferred. Irvine's community centers range from approximately 3,000 to 17,000 square feet in size. For more info, see Table D-2 in Appendix D.

Finally, the City's recycling system should be applied and implemented as a sustainability measure to all parks and park facilities. Recycling receptacles should continue to be utilized and promoted within such facilities.

G3 Embrace stormwater management

Irvine's parks are a tremendous environmental asset with value that requires management for continued community benefit. Green infrastructure for effective stormwater management is a cost-effective approach to improve water quality. It will help the City stretch its infrastructure investments further by providing multiple environmental, economic and community benefits. Embracing stormwater management practices and utilizing green infrastructure elements such as rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavers and detention ponds will reduce flooding, filter pollutants and replenish groundwater during storm events. The City should install interpretive signage about stormwater management at strategic park sites, which would also provide educational opportunities.



G4 Develop a comprehensive replacement schedule for park amenities.

The City should develop a comprehensive replacement schedule that considers level of use, lifetime expectations and safety, among other factors, in determining when playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms and athletic fields and courts should be renovated, refreshed or resurfaced. This type of schedule will help the City continue to provide park amenities that are consistent with community needs and expectations.



G5 Develop a renovation plan for ball fields.

Many ball fields could benefit from updated fencing and from backstop conversions to black/green vinyl. Additionally, several fields were designed according to outdated standards, and could be retrofitted to maximize playability. A comprehensive renovation plan for ball fields could assess specific needs for seating and fencing/backstop replacement.



PARTNERSHIPS

Objective H: Develop and maintain relationships with targeted public and private organizations and entities to support City objectives.

Irvine has always embraced the partnership concept, a critical reason for the successful park system found in the City today. The City provides more for the community by sharing facilities and spaces. For example, a partnership with IUSD provided a mechanism for construction, programming and maintenance of competitive swimming pools at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center (adjacent to Irvine High School) and at the Northwood Aquatics Center (at Northwood High School). Partnerships also allow the City to combine financial, staff and time-based resources to meet resident needs. City staff has leveraged recreation expertise with various partners, such as physical education and recess programs for the IUSD and Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). In focus groups and interviews, participants suggested that partnerships would help provide access to emerging recreation activities.

This *Master Plan* recognizes and supports Irvine's collaborative approach to services, and encourages retaining existing partnerships as well as developing new ones. Additional opportunities exist with schools and school districts, Orange County Parks, nonprofit agencies (such as the Irvine Ranch Conservancy), homeowner associations, colleges and universities, neighboring community facilities and private facilities. These groups develop, manage and maintain a variety of programs and sites through independent, collaborative and joint-use initiatives. As a result, Irvine residents can and will continue to enjoy greatly expanded and enhanced parks and recreation experiences.

Recommendations

H1 Revisit coordination with schools in addressing facility needs and programming.

The City relies on IUSD facilities to meet its facility standards for athletic fields and courts based on an expectation that schools will provide most of the unlighted, drop-in sports facilities within the community. As a result of changes in IUSD facilities that occurred



between 1988 and 2005, the City increased its responsibility for athletic fields, particularly lighted facilities. While the City has joint use agreements in place with IUSD, TUSD and Concordia University for shared use, and such groups strive to provide school facilities consistent with Irvine Parks, *Master Plan* outreach participants stated that school athletic facilities are not developed or maintained at the same level of quality as City facilities for a variety of reasons. The City does not keep an inventory of school recreation facilities. Similar to creating an inventory of private park amenities, the City should conduct an inventory of local school recreation facilities, and make specific note of facilities located adjacent and/or near Irvine parks to better determine which resources are available to the community.



In light of the *Master Plan* findings, the City should reengage active discussions and revisit joint use agreements with school districts and university partners. Doing so will enable the City to address existing and future needs. Decisions that are based on these discussions should be factored into updating City facility standards. The Irvine Child Care Project, Recess and Physical Education Programs, afterschool recreation programs and volunteer service programs in schools have effectively applied the expertise of City recreation staff. As the City expands its educational programming, staff should discuss with the school districts and private schools the opportunities to enhance nature-based education and STEM programs for Irvine students. Developing a method for monitoring use of IUSD facilities by the public will help the City make future design decisions about what is needed at nearby parks.

H2 Identify other public and private partnerships that could support indoor facility needs.

The City should evaluate opportunities to partner with other public and private entities for public use of indoor programming space and gymnasias. For example, it may be possible to partner with private indoor gym or sporting facilities to make amenities accessible to the public during certain days or time periods. In return, the City could help fund maintenance and/or upgrades/enhancements to the private facilities. The City should also consider updating standards to reflect the roles that schools and other facilities play in meeting indoor recreation needs.



H3 Continue to rely on private parks to meet neighborhood needs for leisure swimming.

Irvine’s extensive private pools meet most of the public need for leisure swimming. While some areas are under served by private pools, the City’s role in meeting private facility needs is limited. Instead, the City may consider providing more programming time for drop-in swimming at pools. Irvine has achieved national recognition for hosting competitive swim meets, supported in large part by an active and organized swimming community. Development of a new competitive pool could provide the City with an added source of revenue, while also augmenting recreational swimming and water play opportunities.



H4 Coordinate with developers to increase park diversity and the unique character of parks.

While new and planned parks, such as the OCGP, have developed a unique character with diverse amenities, parks in Irvine tend to provide a similar mix of recreation options. The City should consider developing a design review checklist intended to help the City and developers make design decisions about current and future needs for parks in Irvine. In conjunction with the facility service level guidelines, the City could incorporate the checklist as a tool in the design and approval process.



SYSTEMWIDE GUIDANCE

The eight objectives and recommendations noted in this chapter provide overarching guidance and a framework for investments in the park and recreation system. Eventually, these objectives and recommendations can be integrated with the goals, objectives and policies of the City’s General Plan to guide future system enhancements and development.



CHAPTER 3

Site Opportunities

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



3. SITE OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Irvine provides a robust, nationally-recognized park and recreation system. Its recreation facilities, programs and partnerships model excellent customer service to meet high community expectations. The majority of the City's public parks and facilities are in good to excellent condition, as identified by a 2014 *City of Irvine Facility Condition Assessment Executive Summary*. While some facilities are aging, there is little evidence of deferred maintenance. Irvine's public parks are not only clean, green and safe, but they are welcoming community hubs activated by engaging recreation programs and events. While there are some notable exceptions, generally speaking, "improving" parks within this park system is essentially a process of fine tuning sites and transitioning parks to meet future expectations and desires for new recreation opportunities.

Based on a park condition and capacity analysis conducted in summer 2015, this chapter identifies site opportunities and placemaking options to **build, enhance and rehabilitate** parks and major facilities as the City develops and renovates parks in the future. This chapter:

- Defines the types of capital projects possible to "improve" City parks and major facilities;
- Maps opportunities to build, enhance and rehabilitate parks and major facilities across the City;
- Highlights sample design changes that should be made at nine parks and other key sites to better meet community needs; and
- Provides guidance for incorporating innovative facilities into City parks.

The City may respond to evolving recreation trends and community needs by taking advantage of these "site opportunities." While some projects may be completed quickly, others may take several decades to implement. Many of the "improvements" are anticipated to take place when parks are renovated or refreshed based on the age, condition and wear of the onsite facilities and amenities. With time, these types of options can further elevate Irvine's reputation for providing exceptional public parks.

Site Opportunities

The following opportunities are identified for each park site where applicable:

- **Build:** Acquire park land, add new parks and facilities, or demolish and fully *reconstruct buildings to modernize or expand them to support new uses.*
- **Enhance:** *Improve, update and refresh parks and facilities to address new trends and better respond to evolving community needs.*
- **Rehabilitate:** *Replace, repair or rehabilitate aging, worn, broken or sub-standard amenities and facilities to sustain existing recreation opportunities and restore to a safe operating condition.*

PARK AND FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES

The *Master Plan* identifies improvement opportunities for 66 public parks and 25 major facilities. Potential site alternatives are described below for parks, followed by facilities.

Park Alternatives

Site-specific opportunities to build, enhance and rehabilitate public community parks, neighborhood parks, special use sites and planned parks are noted in Table D-1 in Appendix D. Categories of recommended options are also described below.

BUILD

- *Conduct Feasibility Study:* Assess the feasibility of the proposed development, including identifying potential partner involvement and evaluating the City's ability to program, operate and maintain the site.
- *Coordinate with Developer:* Coordinate with the developer regarding site acquisition, design and construction.
- *Acquire Park Land:* Acquire land for new park development, maximizing equitable access to the new park through location and proximity or connections to roads, sidewalks, trails and bikeways.
- *Design Master Plan:* Create an overall design for the site, incorporating facility innovations, new guidelines, best practices and flexible uses into the design in order to respond to community needs.
- *Prepare Construction Documents:* Finalize drawings and specifications for constructing the site's components according to *Master Plan* objectives.
- *Develop Site:* Develop, construct and landscape the entire site.

New Park Highlights

- ***New Park Construction:***
There is an opportunity to build six new parks. Examples include new community parks at Portola Springs, Gateway and Los Olivos.
- ***Urban Park Development:***
The City has an opportunity to build its first urban neighborhood parks. Designed to serve mixed-use residential areas within the IBC, these parks could meet the needs of residents, employees and visitors while connecting the IBC to other parks and residential areas.

ENHANCE

- *Develop/Deepen Design Intent:* Identify park design needs to respond to the local community context and reinforce a sense of place. This should include reevaluation of original design components that may have contributed to poor flow, nuisance or criminal activity.
- *Conduct Community Outreach:* Gather community input and incorporate it into the overall design intent.
- *Identify Park Theme, Art and Cultural Features:* Work with community leaders and local artists to identify park themes and design/implement unique features. Consider opportunities to engage the public in these decisions.
- *Add Play Opportunities:* Add greater variation in play experiences, such as challenging features, natural play elements, open-ended exploration and free-form play.
- *Complete Minor Facility Improvements:* Improve existing facilities or add support amenities and facilities such as concessions or restrooms.
- *Renovate/Add Entry and Parking Areas:* Improve and add park entryways to create a welcoming sense of arrival for people traveling via automobile, foot, bicycle, etc. and to orient people towards recreation opportunities at the site.
- *Add Internal Paths and Trails:* Add hard and/or soft-surface pathways for recreational use.
- *Add/Enhance Sports Fields:* Add and/or enhance soccer fields, ball fields, multi-use fields and other similar athletic fields.
- *Add/Enhance Sports Courts:* Add and/or enhance basketball, tennis, volleyball and other non-traditional sport courts.
- *Add Shade Features:* Add and/or enhance shade elements to support user comfort and health. These could be structural (i.e. shelter, canopy or sail) or natural (i.e. mature trees).

Park Enhancement Highlights

- *Seating Arrangements & Social Spaces:* The enhancement opportunity that could benefit the most parks is adding or varying seating to create small social spaces. Seating could be improved at 15 community parks, 18 neighborhood parks and the Central Bark Dog Park, which is a special use site.
- *Park Theme, Art and Cultural Features:* Identifying a park theme and installing art and cultural features in 15 community parks and 12 neighborhood parks may reinforce a sense of place and ensure each site provides a unique visitor experience.
- *Parking Areas and Entrances:* Improving site entrances and renovating parking areas at 13 community parks, 11 neighborhood parks and a special use site may enhance site orientation and reinforce a sense of place.
- *Plant Diversity and Water Conservation:* Increasing plant diversity and improving water conservation in 15 community parks, 32 neighborhood parks and 1 special use site may enhance the responsiveness of these park site to Irvine's climate conditions.

- *Add Picnic Shelters:* Add a picnic shelter for large groups (50 or more), and/or consider a larger pavilion at appropriate community parks (150 people or more).



Left and Right: Variation in play elements at South Park, Hermosa Beach, CA



Left: Shaded elements at Phoenix Civic Space Park, Phoenix, AZ



Picnic Pavilion at Discovery Meadows, McMinnville, OR

- **Enhance/Vary Seating Arrangements and Social Spaces:** Incorporate more mid-size group seating (5-15 people), movable furniture, flexible seating and seating for children.
- **Incorporate Flexible Use Area:** Incorporate areas designed to support multiple activities, both programmed and unprogrammed.
- **Repurpose Existing Use Area:** Replace an existing use with a different type of facility to increase site activity, enhance the design theme and/or accommodate changing recreation trends.
- **Integrate Nature Experience:** Design, incorporate or create diverse and healthy natural habitats that are accessible for play, respite and connectivity to nature. Add and/or increase natural landscaping in parks to facilitate authentic interactions with nature.
- **Incorporate Educational Features:** Identify and include interpretive elements and/or educational features.
- **Upgrade Site Furnishing Amenities:** Add and/or update existing site furnishings based on the lifecycle of such amenities and their contribution to the park's design theme.
- **Incorporate Color Palette:** Identify a color palette that is appropriate for the context and theme of the site. An overall color palette can take inspiration from site landscaping, trees, hardscape and softscape elements, buildings and site furnishings.
- **Add/Improve Lighting:** Add and/or enhance lighting to meet basic illumination needs for safety, security, visibility and comfort. Where feasible in order to meet Irvine Uniform Security Code requirements, lighting improvements should utilize energy-efficient lamps and contribute to dark sky principles that minimize glare and light pollution.
- **Add/Improve Signage:** Add wayfinding signage and/or update park signage where needed.
- **Increase Plant Diversity:** Integrate a variety of shrub, grass, succulent and groundcover species that are drought tolerant and adapted for Irvine's climate conditions.
- **Address Water Conservation:** Integrate a variety of improvements to meet State water conservation requirements. For example, convert underused turf areas to low-water planting beds and/or lawn alternatives, evaluate irrigation systems and/or incorporate low-flow fixtures in all new restrooms.

Site Improvements

Each park site could potentially be improved by building, enhancing or rehabilitating various elements. The parks that could benefit from the greatest number of improvements include:

- Deerfield (18)
- Northwood (18)
- Turtle Rock (17)
- San Carlo (17)
- Mike Ward – Woodbridge (16)
- Plaza (16)
- Valencia (16)
- Heritage (15)
- University (15)
- Bommer Canyon (13)
- Hicks Canyon (13)
- Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial (12)



Flexible social spaces at Grand Park, Los Angeles, CA



Left: Education elements at Stagecoach Park, Denver, CO



Nature play elements at Westmoreland Park, Portland OR

- *Improve Ecological Systems through Stormwater Management:* Utilize green infrastructure elements that improve downstream water quality and encourage environmentally-sensitive design, including bioretention basins and swales, permeable surfaces and soil erosion and sediment control strategies. In some areas, these improvements can be used to replicate natural systems by creating riparian areas, wetlands and urban green spaces.
- *Implement Urban Greening Strategies:* Increase the number of trees in order to expand the existing tree canopy and/or create additional shaded areas for walking, biking and passive recreation. Develop a park tree palette that encourages water-efficient, native and shade-producing species as landscapes are updated or trees are replaced.



Spiral garden with infiltrating stormwater element, Chaparral Park, Scottsdale, AZ

REHABILITATE

- *Update Maintenance Program:* For all additions and expansions, update the maintenance program to account for new conditions.
- *Replace Infrastructure and Assets:* Repair and/or replace aging and broken amenities.
- *Improve Play Area Accessibility:* Improve play equipment, paths or surfaces according to recommendations in the 2015 *ADA Assessment of Play Areas*.
- *Address Other Outdoor Site Accessibility Issues:* Make improvements to any outdoor areas that are not currently meeting accessibility standards.

Park Rehabilitation Highlights

- **Accessibility:** Improving play area accessibility was the most common opportunity noted. A total of 43 sites need playground access improvements. Many of these updates could be achieved either as stand-alone projects or in conjunction with larger, more comprehensive renovation efforts. Through economies of scale, there may be opportunities to update specific playground features concurrently across multiple sites.

Major Facility Opportunities

Major facilities include community centers, senior centers, fine arts centers, nature centers and/or aquatics facilities. These facilities are commonly located at community parks and are major activity hubs that host a wide variety of recreational and educational programs and events. Opportunities for major existing and planned facilities are noted in Table D-2 in Appendix D, and are highlighted in the box below. In terms of further improving Irvine’s park system, the following facility options are encouraged when new parks are being developed and/or when existing parks are being renovated.

BUILD

- **Construct New Building:** Construct a new building to support recreational needs, after first considering the financial feasibility and best potential uses for the space.
- **Renovate and Modernize Building:** Completely demolish an existing structure and/or rebuild a completely new structure and/or demolish a building down to its structural core and/or completely overhaul and modernize it to bring the structure up to current building codes.
- **Renovate and Enlarge Building:** During renovation, build, rebuild and/or add on to facilities to create larger structures than may have initially been planned. Some facilities may need to be enlarged in order to maximize their recreation potential.

Facility Construction Highlights

- **New Construction:** Seven new facilities are planned, including two at future parks, to meet indoor recreation needs. These include community centers at Portola Springs and Los Olivos Community Parks. Please refer to Table D-2 in Appendix D for a list of these facilities.
- **Expanded or Combined Facilities:** Rather than building smaller, stand-alone facilities specializing in a single use (as has been done at Heritage Park, for example), the City has an opportunity to expand and combine different types of facilities into larger multi-use centers that synergize a variety of activities and programs. For example, Quail Hill will be constructed to support both community recreation and the arts. The Turtle Rock Nature Center and Community Center are other facilities that could potentially be combined in order to support community interest in environmental education and/or nature-based experiences.
- **Major Renovations:** In the coming years, several major facilities may undergo complete renovations, creating opportunities not only to modernize these assets but also to better adapt them to revenue-generating and programming needs. Renovations will also provide opportunities to enhance park character and to better connect the structures with surrounding park uses. Both Senior Centers should be considered for such renovations.
- **Context-Based Facility Planning:** Although current plans for Bill Barber Park include a community center, further evaluation is needed to determine whether this is still the best use for this dynamic and well-loved site. Similarly, plans for a community center at Hicks Canyon should be reconsidered, as the resources necessary to construct this smaller neighborhood-scale facility could potentially be diverted to a nearby site to create a larger community building, consistent with recreation needs and trends.



Northwood Community Center underwent a modernization and expansion in 2013

ENHANCE

- Refresh, Update or Improve Building:** Remodel and/or improve a building within its existing footprint to increase programming opportunities. Projects at this scale typically involve several rooms, if not entire facilities. As an example, an enhancement project could involve the full update and enlargement of a kitchen with new vents and appliances to support catering for programs and events as well as a concurrent update to nearby meeting rooms to add Wi-Fi, videoconferencing and integrated technology capabilities.

Facility Enhancement Highlights

- Community Center Enhancements:** Both the Deerfield Community Center and Heritage Community Center were built in the late 1970's and will need to be updated in the future.
- Minor Projects:** Seven facilities were constructed or remodeled in the last ten years. These buildings may need minor repairs or wear-and-tear rehabilitation as per City facility inspections.

REHABILITATE

- Rehabilitate and/or Replace Building Elements:** Improve and/or replace worn or old features or individual elements, as needed, based on lifecycle and condition of amenities. For example, the facility may need new paint, a new roof, HVAC system, new furniture or new storage cabinets.

Distribution of Park and Facility Projects

Opportunities to improve City parks and facilities are distributed across the community. Map 2 identifies the location of all potential opportunities to Build, Enhance and/or Rehabilitate public parks. Given the number of enhancement opportunities, these alternatives are characterized as “major” and “minor” enhancements. Major and minor enhancements are distinguished by cost and by the number of potential projects involved at each site.

Map 3 shows the location of all opportunities to Build, Enhance and/or Rehabilitate major facilities.

IRVINE PARKS MASTER PLAN



Map 2: Park Site Improvement Opportunities

- Build**
- Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
- Irvine Business Complex**
- IBC Neighborhood Park(s) Location, To Be Determined

- Enhance**
- Major Enhancements
 - Minor Enhancements

Rehabilitate
See Table D-1: Park Site Improvement Opportunities

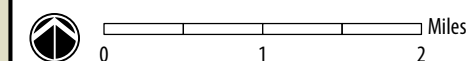
- Irvine Parks**
- Neighborhood Park
 - Community Park
 - Special Use Sites

- Other Planned Parks**
- Orange County Great Park - Planned
 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned

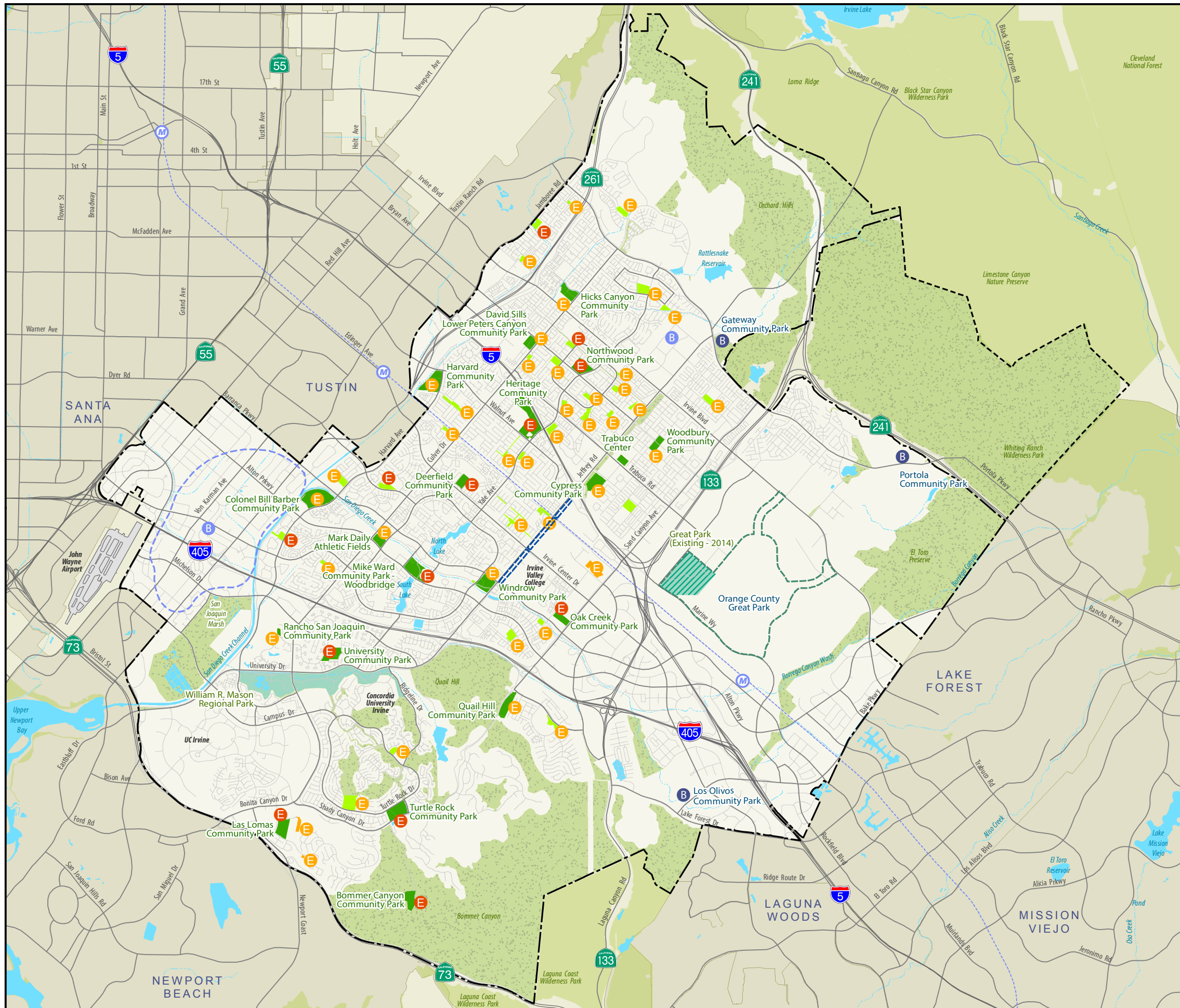
- Other Parks**
- Orange County Great Park (Existing - 2016)
 - William R. Mason Regional Park

- Open Space**
- Irvine Open Space
 - Surrounding Open Space

- Base Map Features**
- Irvine City Boundary
 - Irvine Sphere of Influence
 - Major Streets
 - Metrolink Line and Stations
 - Creeks/Drainage Channels
 - Water Bodies



May 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

IRVINE PARKS MASTER PLAN



Map 3: Opportunities for Existing and Planned Major Facilities

Build

- B Community Centers
- B Senior Centers
- B Other Major Indoor Facilities
- B Other Major Outdoor Facilities
- B Planned Facilities

Enhance

- E Community Centers
- E Other Major Indoor Facilities

Rehabilitate

- R Community Centers
- R Senior Centers

Irvine Parks

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites

Other Parks

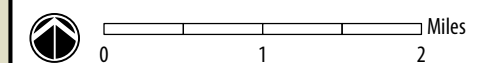
- ▨ Orange County Great Park
- ▨ William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

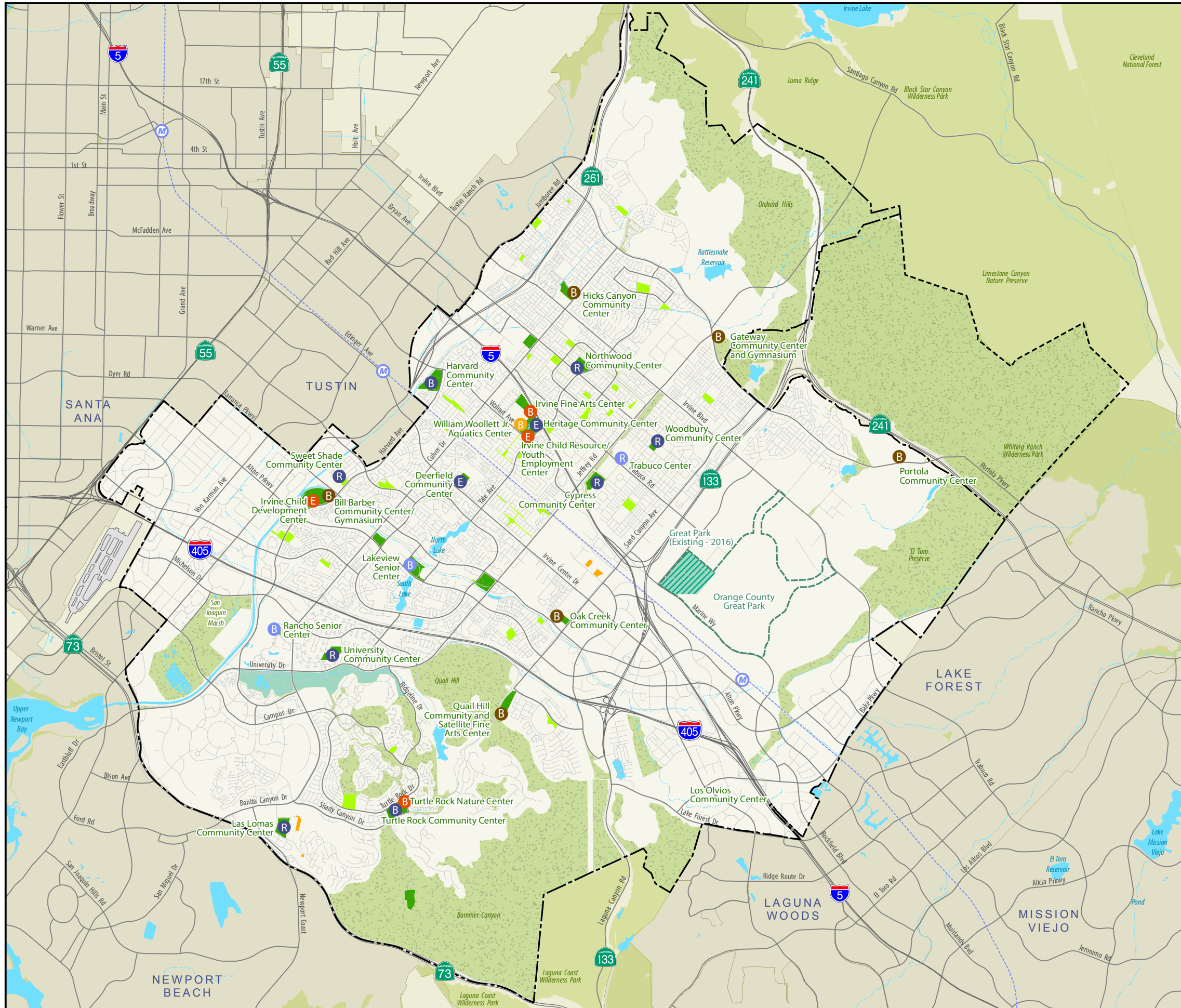
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- M Metrolink Line and Stations
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Water Bodies



M I G May 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

HIGHLIGHTS OF PARK AND FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES

These opportunities for park and facility development and enhancement represent new ideas for several key park sites. The systemwide recommendations from Chapter 2 also highlight opportunities for improved connections and synergies with other City recreation spaces, including planned parks, the OCGP and open space. This section highlights these opportunities.

Key Community Park Sites

To illustrate how *Master Plan* recommendations and enhancement opportunities could be implemented at some of the City's most frequented and popular community parks, the following pages feature potential concept drawings for eight sites:

- Bommer Canyon Park
- Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park
- Deerfield Park
- Harvard Park
- Heritage Park
- Mike Ward Park - Woodbridge
- Rancho San Joaquin Park
- Turtle Rock Park

BOMMER CANYON PARK

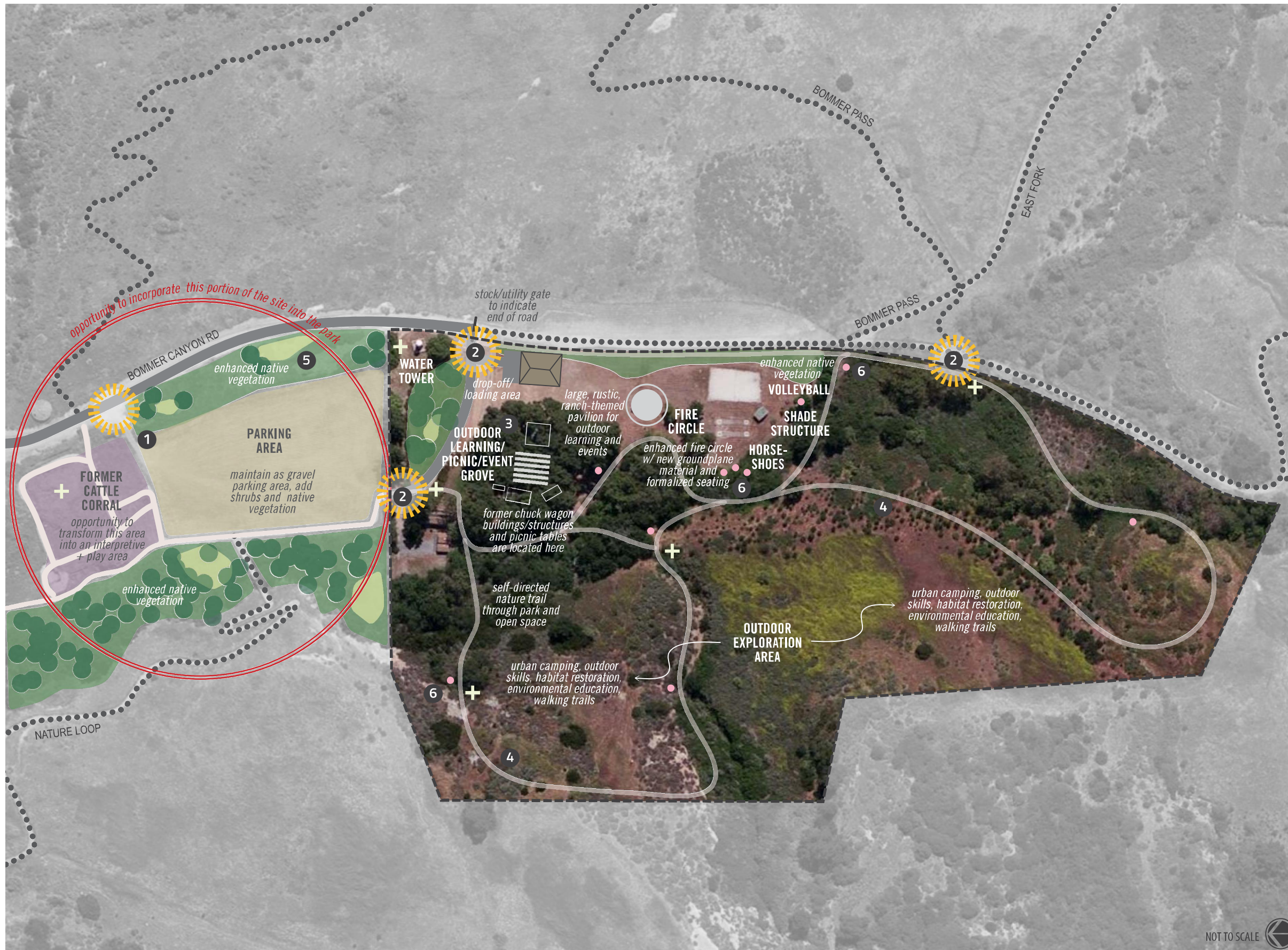
Unique among the City's community parks, Bommer Canyon is situated in the middle of an open space preserve. Though portions of the park are gated and closed when not reserved (with access limited in certain areas according to adopted federal conservation agreements), a variety of trails are open daily from 7 a.m. to sunset. One of the primary features of the park is an aging, yet historic, ranch-style picnic and events venue. Via the Mapita online questionnaire, outreach participants identified this park as either their favorite, most frequently visited or most familiar site. Figure 3-1 illustrates opportunities for Bommer Canyon, which are described below.

- *North Side Entrance*: Located south of the Bommer Canyon Trailhead, access to the park is provided via a dirt parking area, which gives way to trails and historical

cattle ranch structures. These areas could be enhanced via a formalized entrance, enhanced parking area, improved vehicle circulation and renovation of the former cattle corral into an interpretive feature and/or ranch-themed play area. These improvements could also expand interpretation and recreation options at the park.

- *Entry Nodes:* Enhanced site identification and/or wayfinding signage could improve site orientation.
- *Outdoor Learning/Picnicking/Event Area:* With some upgraded amenities, the sycamore grove could become a central gathering area, used for outdoor classes, picnics and/or events. An adjacent, rentable open-air pavilion could anchor this area and act as an outdoor classroom, meeting space and/or events venue. An enhanced fire circle and activity area could provide a harmonious amenity adjacent to the grove. Permanent restrooms, a catering kitchen and/or general accessibility improvements could make this space more functional.
- *Enhanced Trail Connections:* As feasible given existing conservation agreements, soft-surface trails could be incorporated throughout the park, expanding on the nearby nature loop and providing more self-guided exploration opportunities across the site. Improved signage could be provided along these trails as well as along existing pathways. These trails should be as accessible as feasible given site grading, and could be designed to encourage visitors to experience more of the area's native habitats. There may also be opportunities to support equestrian activities through addition of a staging area and/or watering trough near the trails.
- *Planting:* Native trees, shrubs, and plantings could be incorporated wherever possible to restore and/or enhance the landscape.
- *Seating Options:* Seat walls, benches and/or other social spaces could be added throughout the park to encourage quiet relaxation as well as informal group gatherings.

**Figure 3-1:
Bommer Canyon Park**



- 1 NORTH SIDE ENTRANCE**
There is an opportunity to incorporate the north end of the site into the park. Formalizing the entrance, enhancing the parking area, and transforming the former cattle corral into an interpretive feature or ranch-themed play area will create a grand entrance and expand the interpretation and recreation options at the park.
- 2 ENTRY NODES**
Enhanced site identification and wayfinding signage will improve site legibility.
- 3 OUTDOOR LEARNING/PICNICKING/EVENT AREA**
With some upgraded amenities, the sycamore grove could become a central gathering area for outdoor learning, picnic, and events. An adjacent open-air pavilion could anchor this area and act as an outdoor classroom, meeting area, or event space. The enhanced fire circle and game area provide a harmonious amenity adjacent to the grove.
- 4 ENHANCED TRAIL CONNECTIONS**
Soft-surface trails throughout the park will expand on the nearby nature loop and provide more self-guided tours across the site. They will also encourage visitors to experience more of the outlying areas of open space and learn more about this area's native habitat.
- 5 PLANTING**
Native trees, shrubs, and plantings should be incorporated wherever possible to restore and enhance the landscape.
- 6 SEATING OPTIONS**
Seatwalls, benches, and other seating options should be added throughout the park for individual and group gatherings.

--- PARK BOUNDARY TRAIL ☀ ENTRY NODE 🌳 TREES ● SEATWALLS/BENCHES + INTERPRETIVE FEATURE ○ FIRE CIRCLE 🏠 PAVILION

NOT TO SCALE 



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

COLONEL BILL BARBER MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL PARK

Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park is one of the most widely-recognized parks in Irvine. This high-use site supports citywide events, organized sports as well as unstructured recreation ranging from play to picnicking. Figure 3-2 illustrates site opportunities, which are highlighted below.

- *Additional Eastside Park Amenities:* The previous master plan recommends that the undeveloped eastern portion of the park include an amphitheater and a combined community center and gym. As there is already a community center nearby at Sweet Shade Park, and as parking is already a concern at Bill Barber during major events, these elements may no longer be the best use for this valuable site.

To emphasize community priorities, there may be an opportunity to develop a larger amphitheater, event pavilion and orchard-style lawn with overflow parking at this location or at another location within the City, similar to the OCGP. Additional parking areas could potentially be used to support a local farmers market.

- *Entry Nodes:* Enhanced site identification and wayfinding signage could improve site legibility. Signage in each parking area could indicate where additional parking is available.
- *Enhanced Connections to The Trail:* Outdoor fitness equipment, a self-service bike repair station featuring tools and air pumps and distance markers to other parks and destinations could be added along the San Diego Creek to further link that regional trail amenity to the park.
- *Public Art:* Sculptures and/or other art installations could be added throughout the park to enhance its character. There is an opportunity to build on the existing memorial and overall theme of celebrating and recognizing community leaders to create a deepened sense of purpose.
- *Planting:* Turf can potentially be replaced with drought-tolerant grasses in non-sport and non-programmed areas in order to limit maintenance and water use. Potential landscape changes should be mindful of existing uses, particularly in areas surrounding picnic shelters, which are often programmed during private events. Trees and understory planting areas could be added along Harvard Avenue to create a buffer/screen from surrounding traffic.
- *Seating Areas:* Seatwalls, benches, and/or other seating options could be added throughout the park to promote individual and group gatherings.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

**Figure 3-2:
Colonel Bill Barber
Marine Corps
Memorial Park**



- 1** **ADDITIONAL EASTSIDE PARK AMENITIES**
A reservable event pavilion, flexible-use amphitheater/lawn, and additional overflow parking or a community center and gym/fieldhouse could be considered in this location.
- 2** **ENTRY NODES**
Enhanced site identification and wayfinding signage will improve site legibility. Signage in each parking area could indicate where additional parking is available.
- 3** **ENHANCED CONNECTIONS TO THE TRAIL**
Outdoor fitness equipment, a bike repair station, and distance markers to other parks and destinations could be added along the Class I Bikeway to link it to the park.
- 4** **PUBLIC ART**
Sculptures or other art installations could be added throughout the park to enhance its character.
- 5** **PLANTING**
Turf in non-sport and non-programmed areas should be replaced with drought-tolerant grasses to reduce maintenance and water use. Trees and understory plantings should be added along Harvard Ave to create a buffer/screen.
- 6** **SEATING AREAS**
Seatwalls, benches, and other seating options could be added throughout the park for individual and group gatherings.



NOT TO SCALE 



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

DEERFIELD PARK

Figure 3-3 illustrates opportunities for Deerfield Park, which are described below.

- *New Facility Innovations:* If disc golf were to be relocated to another location, the racquetball courts and disc golf areas could be repurposed to provide space for one of the Facility Innovations listed at the end of this chapter.
- *Enhanced Play Opportunities:* Several separate play elements could be consolidated into a unique thematic play area with separate areas designed for children ages 2-5 and 5-12. The play areas could potentially include fitness equipment, a swing set, a small water spray feature with shade sails and universally-accessible components.
- *Centralized Open Space:* The center of the park could incorporate both a flat open lawn for programs and free play, as well as a berm or mound with native plantings and places to roll down the hill or sit and watch surrounding park activities.
- *Updated Community Center, Parking and Entry:* This older facility could be refreshed, with enhancements made to the entry, drop-off area, adjacent outdoor plaza and circular parking area in the process.
- *New Picnic Shelters:* Two additional and reservable picnic shelters (one designed for small groups and the other designed for medium-sized gatherings) could provide needed social spaces.
- *Plantings:* Gradual introduction of new tree plantings and drought-tolerant grasses and/or groundcover could help reduce long-term maintenance and water costs.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

**Figure 3-3:
Deerfield Park**



- 1 NEW FACILITY INNOVATIONS**
The racquetball courts and disc golf course can be repurposed to newer opportunities, such as a skate spot and bicycle pump track to diversify recreation opportunities
- 2 ENHANCED PLAY OPPORTUNITIES**
Several separate play elements can be consolidated into a unique thematic play area with equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12, fitness equipment and a small spray feature with shade sails.
- 3 CENTRALIZED OPEN SPACE**
The center of the park could incorporate both a flat open lawn for programs and play, as well as a berm or mound with native plantings and places to roll down the hill or sit to watch other park activities.
- 4 UPDATED COMMUNITY CENTER, PARKING AND ENTRY**
This older facility will need to be refreshed, considering the entry, drop-off area, adjacent outdoor plaza and circular parking area that could be remodeled for better use.
- 5 NEW PICNIC SHELTERS**
Two reservable picnic shelters (a small group and medium size shelter) would provide gathering places.
- 6 PLANTINGS**
Tree plantings and drought-tolerant grasses or groundcover would help reduce maintenance and water use.



NOT TO SCALE 



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

HARVARD PARK

Located adjacent to Peters Canyon Wash, Harvard Park is primarily oriented toward athletics, featuring a smaller community center and relatively few additional recreation opportunities. Figure 3-4 illustrates potential enhancements at this site, which are described below.

- *Central Focal/Social Space:* To create additional recreation opportunities, the area adjacent to the parking lot and community center could be redesigned into a centralized social space, featuring thematic play elements, fitness equipment, seating and tables. Ball nets may be needed to protect this area and the parking lot from foul balls.
- *Enhanced Connections to the Trail:* The entry to the park from the regional trail could be refreshed to encourage trail users to take advantage of the concessions and social spaces at the park. Wayfinding signage could also be added in this area to highlight the distance to other destinations accessible via the trail network.
- *Community Center Expansion:* Although space is limited, a renovation of the community center could potentially include a teen room and/or multipurpose activity room, as feasible.
- *Shaded Seating Area:* A shaded seating area near the skate park, ballfield and/or community center could support small group gatherings and respite during athletic events.
- *Native Plantings:* Tree plantings and/or drought-tolerant grasses or groundcover could be added in non-sport turf areas to reduce maintenance and/or water costs. Trees added in parking areas and around the skate park could provide both shade and/or stormwater management opportunities.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY (11X17)

**Figure 3-4:
Harvard Park**



- 1 CENTRAL FOCAL/SOCIAL SPACE**
Repurposing the west end of the parking lot would allow this site to have centralized social area. Thematic play elements, fitness equipment, seating and tables could be added near existing concessions.
- 2 ENHANCED CONNECTIONS TO THE TRAIL**
The park entry from the regional trail could be refreshed to encourage trail users to take advantage of the concessions/social space at the park. There is an opportunity to add wayfinding signage indicating the distance to other community destinations via the trail.
- 3 COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION**
While there is limited space, the community center when renovated would benefit from a teen room and/or multipurpose activity room if feasible.
- 4 SHADED SEATING AREA**
A shade seating area near the skate park, ballfield and community center would support small group gathering and shaded respite for athletic events.
- 5 NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Tree plantings and drought-tolerant grasses or groundcover could be added on all non-sport turf areas to reduce maintenance and water use. Trees added in parking areas and around the skate park would help with shade and stormwater management.

PARK BOUNDARY
 TRAIL/WALKWAY
  ENTRY NODE
  TREES
  FITNESS EQUIPMENT
  PLAY ELEMENT
  SOCIAL SPACE

NOT TO SCALE 



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

HERITAGE PARK

Located next to Irvine High School, this community park hosts five major facilities (including a County library), a national-caliber competitive aquatics center, a tennis complex and various school athletic fields and facilities. Figure 3-5 illustrates opportunities for Heritage Park, which are described below.

- *Expanded Aquatics Center and New Drop-Off Area:* The William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center could be updated to better support national-scale swimming events. Through this process, the City may wish to consider adding a new fifty to sixty-five meter competition pool to the complex, along with enhanced locker rooms, seating and concession areas. Expenses for this project could potentially be mitigated via donations from, or partnerships with, local nonprofit organizations. Any potential aquatics project would need to consider options for additional parking, as well as impacts on surrounding park uses. Creation of a tree-lined drop-off lane near the center could potentially improve access off of Walnut Avenue. An indoor therapy pool may also be a potential amenity at this complex to support lifelong swimming opportunities.
- *A New Fine Arts Center:* The Irvine Fine Arts building could be demolished and rebuilt in the same location, could be appended to the existing community center to create a larger multi-purpose facility, or could potentially be relocated to the Cultural Terrace at the OCGP to better synergize with the creative and artistic elements considered for that site. Should the facility be renovated or expanded in place, additional spaces could be provided for indoor-outdoor programs and/or display events. Should Fine Arts be relocated to the Cultural Terrace, the vacant space at Heritage could potentially be repurposed into a flexible community space, featuring a gymnasium and program and performance venue.
- *Stream Channel / Stormwater Feature:* Introducing a streambed and/or rain garden at the site could be a way to cleanse and recirculate pond water and enhance the natural habitat for birds and other wildlife. New seating and educational signage could provide more passive spaces for park users to learn, reflect and relax.
- *Native Planting Beds:* Natural habitat could be reintroduced to the site by replacing turf and ground cover. Additional trees could be added to provide shade, particularly around the pond.

- *Seating and Art:* A variety of seating options could be added throughout the park to promote individual relaxation and/or group gatherings. Flexible café-style seating with colorful shade sails and/or artwork could be introduced near the pond.
- *Play Area Enhancements:* The play area could potentially be renovated to introduce water and/or natural play components.

Figure 3-5: Heritage Park



- 1 EXPANDED AQUATIC CENTER AND NEW DROP-OFF AREA**
The William Woollett Jr. Aquatic Center could be updated to better support national scale swim events. An additional drop-off lane with tree lined entry could prevent traffic congestion at Walnut Ave.
- 2 A NEW FINE ARTS CENTER**
The Irvine fine arts building will be demolished and rebuilt in the same location providing a better connection to surrounding outdoor space for community art installations and events.
- 3 STREAM CHANNEL / STORMWATER FEATURE**
A new stream bed or rain garden with riparian plantings could be added to cleanse and recirculate pond water and enhance the natural habitat in the park for birds and other wildlife. New seating and educational signage could provide more passive space for park users and provide outdoor learning opportunities.
- 4 NATIVE PLANTING BEDS**
Natural habitat could be increased by replacing turf areas with native understory plantings, ground cover plants and increased tree canopy, particularly around the pond.
- 5 SEATING AND ART**
A variety of seating options could be added throughout the park for individual and group gatherings of different sizes. Flexible cafe table seating could be incorporated into the park near the pond area with colorful shade sails and artwork.
- 6 PLAY AREA ENHANCEMENTS**
There is an opportunity to renovate play area, add water play and natural play elements.

--- PARK BOUNDARY  ENTRY NODE  TREES

NOT TO SCALE 



May 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, Google Earth, OCTA, and OC Parks

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

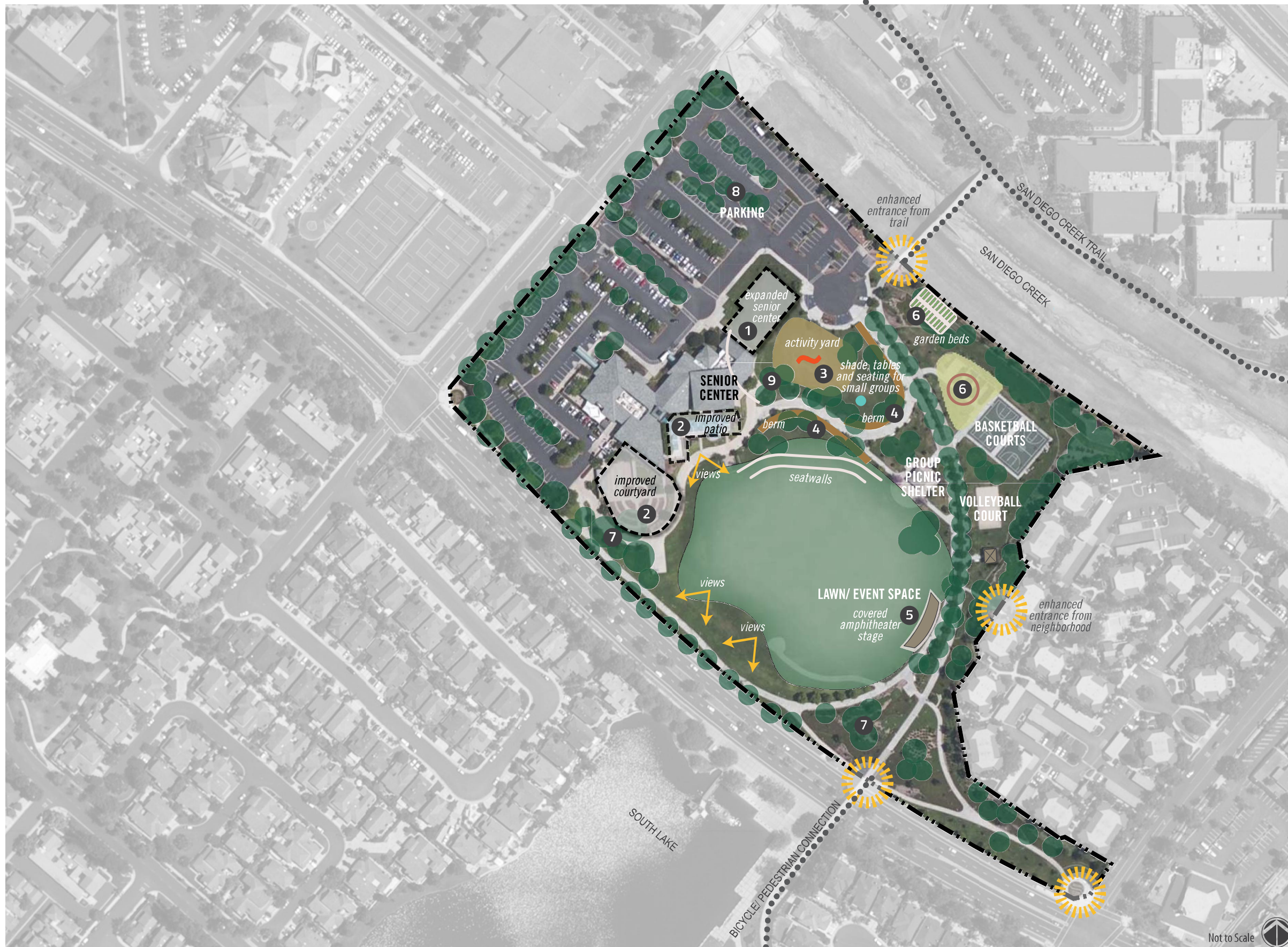
MIKE WARD—WOODBIDGE PARK

Home to the Lakeview Senior Center/ Adult Day Health Care Services Center, Mike Ward Park includes a large lawn overlooking Woodbridge's South Lake. The site is adjacent to Woodbridge Village Center, drawing visitors throughout the course of the day. Figure 3-6 illustrates opportunities for this site, which are described below.

- *Expanded Senior Center:* There is an opportunity to expand and/or renovate the existing senior center to increase capacity for indoor game, fitness, gathering and/or programming space. The Lakeview Senior Center facility should also be modernized to accommodate accessibility and aesthetic improvements.
- *Improved Patio and Courtyard:* With the renovation and/or expansion of the senior center, adjacent outdoor spaces could be redesigned to better promote indoor-outdoor recreation opportunities. Cinder block walls in the courtyard could be replaced with stucco and/or artwork/murals. An attractive shaded back patio could offer views across the park.
- *Shaded Activity Yard with Social Space:* The expanded senior center could open onto a shaded activity area with bocce, shuffleboard, card and chess tables and small group seating spaces where seniors could socialize and relax.
- *Berm and Seatwalls:* A berm with native plantings could be added to buffer the activity yard from the open lawn/event space. Stepped seatwalls in front of the berm could create natural views of the amphitheater and lake.
- *Covered Amphitheater and Event Lawn:* The existing paved performance area could be replaced with a larger covered amphitheater stage and/or gazebo, which could provide additional rental revenue. A flexible-use lawn could be used for performance seating, as well as programming and play space at different times of the day.
- *Added Activities:* By removing the underutilized racquetball/handball courts, innovative features like a climbing spire for children could be introduced. This space could also be used to add courts that support pickleball, a sport that has experienced renewed popularity, particularly with the senior population. Raised garden beds (to be used or allocated through the Senior Center) could also add new recreation opportunities.
- *Planting:* Adding drought-tolerant trees and grasses could reduce maintenance and water use.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Figure 3-6: Mike Ward Park-Woodbridge



- 1 EXPANDED SENIOR CENTER**
There is an opportunity to expand and renovate the existing senior center to increase activity, fitness and programming space.
- 2 IMPROVED PATIO AND COURTYARD**
With the renovation and expansion of the senior center, outdoor spaces could be improved in appearance and in connection to the park. Cinder block walls in the courtyard could be replaced with stucco or artwork/murals. An attractive shaded back patio could have views of the park by removing the wall and hedged seating area.
- 3 SHADED ACTIVITY YARD WITH SOCIAL SPACE**
The expanded senior center could open to a shaded activity area with bocce, shuffleboard, card and chess tables, and small group seating for seniors to socialize and play.
- 4 BERM AND SEATWALLS**
A berm with native plantings could be added to separate the activity yard from the open lawn/event space, path and climbing spire to create a comfortable sense of enclosure. Stepped seatwalls in front of the berm could create natural views of the amphitheater and lake.
- 5 COVERED AMPHITHEATER AND EVENT LAWN**
The existing paved performance area could be replaced with a larger covered amphitheater stage with trees behind to buffer view of houses. A flexible-use lawn could be used for performance seating, as well as programming and play space at different times.
- 6 ADDED ACTIVITIES**
Repurposed racquetball/handball courts allow space for pickle ball courts adjacent to other active use facilities. Raised garden beds (to be used or reserved though the Senior Center) would add a new use.
- 7 PLANTING**
Adding tree plantings and drought-tolerant grasses and groundcover will reduce maintenance and water use.

PARK BOUNDARY
 TRAIL/WALKWAY
  ENTRY NODE
  TREES
  FITNESS EQUIPMENT
  ACTIVITY YARD
  SOCIAL SPACE

Not to Scale 


January 2017
 Sources: City of Irvine, Google Earth, OCTA, and OC Parks

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

RANCHO SAN JOAQUIN PARK

This small site primarily supports the Rancho Senior Center. Figure 3-7 illustrates opportunities for Rancho San Joaquin Park, which are described below.

- *Senior Center Expansion:* There is an opportunity to expand the existing senior center and/or attached patio in order to improve and re-program adjacent spaces. The Rancho Senior Center could be modernized and/or reconfigured to include wider hallways, better acoustics, a media/technology resource room, additional fitness/active recreation space, additional storage and office space and better indoor/outdoor connections.
- *Garden Area:* There may be opportunities to repurpose some of the open lawn area into accessible raised gardening beds.
- *Loop Path:* A short loop path could be introduced to wind through the garden and lawn areas. New tree plantings could be added to provide additional shade to the path and/or adjacent seating opportunities.

TURTLE ROCK PARK

Located near Bommer Canyon, Turtle Rock Park includes natural themes and components, including trails and an on-site Nature Center. The park also includes a community center as well as a variety of active and passive recreation areas. Figure 3-8 illustrates opportunities for Turtle Rock Park, which are described below.

- *Conversion to Nature-Themed Park:* Replacing and/or refreshing park facilities with nature-oriented, passive and low-impact features will help brand this site even further. As part of this renovation, the backstop could potentially be removed, the playground could be transformed into a nature play area and the basketball courts could be repurposed into a game court or activity spot. Additional amenities could include a tree house for play and exploration, interpretive components and, possibly, resurfaced/restriped tennis courts for dual pickleball and/or tennis use.
- *Combined Nature & Community Center:* Combining, modernizing and/or expanding the Community Center and Nature Center could add new space for community programming, environmental education and/or nature interpretation. An adjacent

outdoor learning plaza could incorporate a small amphitheater as well as patios with trail access and views of nature. A direct pedestrian undercrossing or overcrossing could potentially link the park with Bommer Canyon by way of the Shady Canyon Hiking and Riding Trail.

- *Planting and Turf Reduction:* Replacing turf with drought-tolerant grasses and/or adding more natural plantings along the creek could improve onsite ecological functions.

Figure 3-7: Rancho San Joaquin Park

- 1 SENIOR CENTER EXPANSION**
Site provides options to expand existing senior center and attached patio, improve and re-program adjacent spaces.
- 2 GARDEN AREA**
Current open lawn area provides opportunity to expand community gardening opportunities with additional accessible raised beds.
- 3 LOOP PATH**
A short loop path through garden and lawn areas could be added, with new tree plantings for additional shade, seating opportunities (benches and/or tables), and native planting/butterfly garden area.



NOT TO SCALE 



May 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, Google Earth, OCTA, and OC Parks

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Figure 3-8:
Turtle Rock Park



- 1** CONVERSION TO NATURE-THEMED PARK
Replacing or refreshing park facilities with nature-oriented, passive and low impact features will distinguish this site. This includes removing the backstop, replacing the playground with a nature-play area, repurposing the basketball court as an activity spot, adding a tree house, adding interpretive elements and resurfacing/stripping the tennis courts for pickleball.
- 2** COMBINED NATURE & COMMUNITY CENTER
Combining, modernizing and expanding the Community Center and Nature Center would enhance space for community programming, environmental education and nature interpretation. An adjacent outdoor learning plaza may incorporate a small amphitheater and patios with trail access, views of the natural area, and indoor/outdoor programming space for reserved uses and programs.
- 3** QUIET SEATING AREAS
Individual and small group seating and benches could be located in the natural area and across a meadow for reading, contemplation, and outdoor enjoyment.
- 4** RESERVABLE PICNIC SHELTERS
A refreshed picnic area and small, rustic shelters with surrounding landscaping provide a scenic group-gathering space.
- 5** PLANTING AND TURF REDUCTION
Turf replacement with drought-tolerant grasses and added natural plantings and access points along the creek will improve the ecological function of the site.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Planned Parks and Other Sites

In addition to the community park sites identified above, there are other sites that could present unique opportunities for Irvine:

- IBC Neighborhood Park or Parks
- Gateway Community Park
- Portola Springs Community Park
- Los Olivos Community Park
- Orange County Great Park
- Open Space Opportunities

IBC NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

As a mixed-use area featuring multiple clusters of residential development, the IBC presents an opportunity for the City to develop its first urban park(s). Given typical influxes of workers and visitors into this area, the park(s) will likely attract workers during the daytime and residents in the evening and weekends. Depending on land availability, it may be possible to acquire and/or develop two 1 to 1.5-acre park sites. One park site could be used to provide more traditionally “outdoor” recreation amenities, while by acquiring an existing office or warehouse building and repurposing it into a gymnasium. A second park could be used to satisfy “indoor” recreation needs and serve as a form of Community Park. A park plan specific to the IBC will be prepared per City Council direction on May 23, 2017. The park plan will identify potential park sites and develop conceptual designs to be vetted through a public outreach process. Figure 3-9 introduces a 1.5-acre conceptual urban park.

- *Site Selection and Context:* Given that IBC parks tend to be smaller than other neighborhood parks and are located in a high density, heavily traveled area, park siting guidelines should be established. Surrounding uses should be considered when selecting a location for the park(s), as park users will be drawn from adjacent residential, office and/or retail areas. At least one site edge should front an interior public street; ideally not an arterial roadway to provide a neighborhood scale and accessible entry. Access to on-street parking should be considered, along with users’ ability to reach the park via walking or cycling paths. If feasible, a neighborhood park could be sited along San Diego Creek in order to provide an entryway to the trail network, and to synergize activities with those existing amenities.

- *Dry Streambed and Nature Experience:* An artificial “dry streambed” feature could wind through the site, providing an area for native and drought tolerant planting, opportunities for environmental education and nature play. This feature could be used to help manage stormwater on the site.
- *Children’s Play Area:* Play features and/or elements, such as small climbing sculptures, provide programming and play options for children. Given the park’s urban context, a nature-themed or “urban jungle” play experience may also provide interesting design opportunities.
- *Central Plaza and Gathering Area:* A central plaza, gathering area and/or spray ground could be designed to accommodate multiple uses, ranging from small group gatherings to neighborhood events and performances.
- *Regional Trail Connections:* As mentioned above, it may be possible to link the park site with adjacent trail networks. In lieu of providing a large suburban-style community park in the IBC (as has been suggested by the IBC Vision Plan), the City could consider opportunities for linking IBC neighborhoods with San Marco and San Carlo Parks, and ultimately Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, via bike and pedestrian bridges across Jamboree and San Diego Creek.
- *Shaded Social Space:* Small spaces shaded by pergolas and/or shade sails could create areas for park visitors to escape the hustle and bustle of surrounding streets.

Figure 3-9: IBC Neighborhood Park Prototype



- 1 SITE SELECTION AND CONTEXT**
Site selection takes into account the surrounding context, with park users to be drawn from residential, office and/or retail nearby. At least one edge of site fronts a public street. Consider access to street parking and ability of users to reach park via walking, bicycle, etc.
- 2 DRY STREAMBED AND NATURE EXPERIENCE**
A “dry streambed” feature winds through the site, providing an area for native / drought tolerant planting, opportunities for environmental education and nature play. This feature may be used to help manage stormwater on the site.
- 3 CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA**
Play features and elements, such as small climbing sculptures or urban play equipment, provide programming for children.
- 4 CENTRAL PLAZA AND GATHERING AREA**
A central plaza, gathering area and a spray ground may be designed to accommodate multiple uses, from small group seating areas to events & performances.
- 5 REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS**
Consider opportunities in site selection to provide new non-motorized (bicycle and pedestrian) connections to regional trails and bikeways, other nearby parks, and regional natural features such as San Diego Creek and the San Joaquin Marsh.
- 6 SHADED SOCIAL SPACE**
There is an opportunity to provide a pergola or shade sails over grouped benches near this entry.

--- PARK BOUNDARY
●●●● TRAIL/WALKWAY
 ENTRY NODE
 TREES
 FITNESS EQUIPMENT
 BIKE REPAIR STATION
 SEATWALLS/BENCHES
 INTERPRETIVE FEATURE
 SOCIAL SPOT


NOT TO SCALE 

May 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, Google Earth, OCTA, and OC Parks

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

GATEWAY PARK

Since 2003, plans for the future Gateway Park have included four softball-soccer field overlays, six tennis courts, six basketball courts, one sand volleyball court, one handball court, a playground and a community center. Based on community outreach priorities identified in this *Master Plan*, as well as the fact that numerous sports fields and courts will be provided nearby at the OCGP Sports Park, there may be an opportunity to vary the amenities originally planned for this site. Considering the site's proximity to the Northern Open Space Preserve as well as its location at the terminus of the Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST), it may be possible to design the site as a link between Irvine and its surrounding open space, utilizing recreational amenities compatible with this context. A key feature of this park could be an 18-hole disc golf course, relocated from Deerfield Park. Gateway Park will include a dog park. Gateway may also be an ideal setting for an outdoor classroom, and/or art space, atelier, nature trails, universal or thematic playground or a large reservable picnic shelter/pavilion for events and programs.

PORTOLA SPRINGS PARK

Portola Springs Park is planned as a 25-acre multi-use community park. It will include two softball fields, two soccer fields, one warm-up/practice field, three tennis courts, six pickleball courts, one sand volleyball court, a 12,000-square-foot community center, a children's play area and natural trail. The park will be proximate to nearby trail and open space amenities. It may also be a good location for outdoor art space or an atelier.



Portola Springs Community Center will feature a Native American wing and adjacent garden. Image Credit: Irvine Company

LOS OLIVOS PARK

Planned to include just over 12 acres of community parkland, Los Olivos Park will offer additional recreation opportunities for residents of the emerging Spectrum and Los Olivos neighborhoods. Park amenities are planned to include four lighted tennis courts; one lighted basketball court; one lighted, multipurpose soccer field; one lighted softball/baseball field; and a 6,000-square-foot community building. To vary the tennis play experience, there may be opportunities to surface the courts using turf or clay.

ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK

The OCGP will be constructed as planned, pending additional public outreach which was ongoing at the time this *Master Plan* was developed. As the City explores features to include in the Cultural Terrace, there is an opportunity to consider the feasibility and market for a performing and cultural arts venue or for the relocation of the Fine Arts Center from Heritage Park. Community outreach findings and the facility analysis conducted for the *Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment* identified a community desire for a multipurpose community theater with programming, event and performance space for the creative arts, dance, theatre and cultural arts. While needs for outdoor amphitheaters could partially be met in Mike Ward and Bill Barber parks, no community park site is suitable for the type of large indoor/outdoor facility that could support community music, theater and performing arts classes and programs. A market, financial feasibility and programming study would be needed to further evaluate opportunities for this type of event and programming venue, particularly where nearby universities offer performance halls.

At this time, a golf course is also planned for the OCGP. A feasibility study for the proposed golf course would also be beneficial to identify demand trends, style of course, size and price point. Additionally, the study could evaluate a potential clubhouse, operations and public/private partnerships. Given parking demands for competitive swim events, the City should consider placement of any additional aquatics facilities in a larger community park or the OCGP.

OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Through community engagement opportunities, residents expressed a strong desire to have increased connections with, and access to, nature. To provide such opportunities, parks adjacent to open space (such as Turtle Rock) can be designed to have even stronger natural themes and components. The City should continue to develop extensions to the JOST, perhaps exploring Gateway Park as a connection between the JOST and the Northern Open Space. While Bommer Canyon Trailhead is already open from 7 a.m. to sunset, seven days a week, there may be additional opportunities to increase parking capacity at the site, or to pursue additional programs that could fit within conservation agreement requirements. In terms of programming, the City could pilot outdoor and wilderness-oriented activities, including urban camping, mountain biking, nature identification and self-directed hiking. The City could also explore opportunities for open space education and interpretation classes designed to introduce the public to the unique habitat, history and culture of our area. Gateway Park provides an opportunity to develop a unique historical, cultural and educational natural environment for the community.

FACILITY INNOVATIONS

Based on community feedback and emerging recreation trends, opportunities exist to expand the variety of recreation amenities available in Irvine public parks. While Irvine parks are already recognized for their quality, additional recreation amenities like the ones listed in the coming pages could help round out the park system and provide new activities and experiences for visitors as funds and opportunities become available. Specific locations for these amenities have not yet been identified, as the improvements are conceptual and would require further study, analysis and prioritization.

Examples are organized into the following categories:

- I. Play Areas
- II. Specialized Facilities
- III. Specialized Athletic Facilities
- IV. Event Venues
- V. Gardens
- VI. Social Spaces
- VII. Natural/ Educational Features
- VIII. Trails

As not all of these conceptual amenities are readily familiar, each example includes a brief description of the facility as well as an indication of the type of park setting for which it would best be suited. Innovations in this section are based on community feedback, emerging recreation trends and overall community priorities and preferences as identified through the public engagement process. Each element is tied to the key outreach themes that would be advanced through development of that type of facility. These outreach themes are described in detail in Appendix B and are listed in the side bar to the right.

Outreach Themes:

Based on outreach activities, several key themes emerged:

- Connectivity and Access
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Education
- Evolving Needs
- Flexibility
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Partnerships
- Standards and Maintenance

I. Play Areas

I.A DESTINATION PLAY AREA

A destination play area is a large, themed playground that may feature adventure play, water play and/or nature play components. Its unique play elements are designed to attract people from across the City and to support imaginative, creative and active play for both children and families.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City
- Disperse geographically from the Adventure Playground at University Park

Examples



Left: Always Dream Play Area, Fremont, California; Top Right: Koret Children's Quarters, Golden Gate Park, California; Bottom Right: Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara, California

I.B NATURE PLAY AREA

Nature play areas are play spaces comprised of natural components such as plants, logs, water, sand, mud, boulders, hills and trees. The goal of a nature play area is to inspire children to explore the natural world in a safe and manageable environment.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park (for larger-scale nature play areas)
- Neighborhood Park (for smaller-scale nature play areas)

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Education
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City
- Disperse geographically from existing nature play opportunities at Turtle Rock Park
- For thematic ambience and synergy, site at parks adjacent to open space or regional trails, or else in dense urban settings in the IBC where nature is lacking

Examples



Tamarack Nature Center, Ramsey County, Minnesota



Royal Park Nature Play playground, Parkville VIC, Australia

I.C UNIVERSAL PLAY AREA

Universal play areas are play spaces designed to be used by people of all ages and abilities, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation. Well-designed sites support child development, integrated play and social opportunities for children and family members with mobility, visual, hearing and other impairments.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Connectivity and Access
- Education



Implementation Ideal

- Provide in an accessible location
- Disperse geographically from similar facilities

Examples



Brookside Park, Reese's Retreat, Pasadena, California



Bluebell Park, Knowsley, United Kingdom

I.D WATER PLAY AREA

These play areas integrate interactive water features using little or no standing water. Water play areas may occur in a variety of configurations and include hand-operated water pumps and channels, ground nozzles that spray water upwards from a slip-resistant rain deck or shower-type features. Water use can be controlled by a pump or motion-controlled sensor tied to a shut-off valve to conserve water. While fresh water may be used, many water play areas apply a water filtration and recirculation system for efficient use. Nevertheless, some designs can require frequent refilling and incur additional maintenance costs, so the feasibility of these amenities should be carefully considered in a drought context. Water play can be combined with sand play or added to unique elements such as hydraulophones to make music. Water play areas also work well in urban plazas that can double as event spaces when the water features are turned off.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- IBC Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Education



Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City
- Consider for areas without nearby swimming pools

Examples



Livermore Park Water Play Area, Folsom, California; The water play areas use a minimal amount of recirculated and treated water.



Gardens By The Bay, Singapore



Grand Park, Los Angeles, California

II. Specialized Facilities

II.A BIKE SKILLS PARK

Bike skills parks include a variety of amenities, such as bike tracks and trails with natural or simulated topography, designed to introduce riders to the basics of off-road cycling. Bike skills parks are becoming more common as standalone recreation facilities, particularly in communities with nearby mountain biking trails. Bike parks may include:

- **Bike Pump Track:** A feature that generates momentum on a bike without pedaling. By shifting weight on the bike and “pumping” over rollers and through turns, a rider can produce forward motion.
- **Bike Flow Trail:** A purpose-built trail that maximizes the natural attributes of the terrain while minimizing interruptions imposed by sharp turns or abrupt braking. Flow trails are generally descents, though some climbing sections may be included. They create a rolling rhythm by smoothly combining features like banked turns, rollers and jumps to guide riders through the landscape in a seamless fashion.
- **Bike Dirt Jump or other Skills Features:** A launching platform or other obstacle course features designed to produce air time, teach balance and other bike skills.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Evolving Needs

Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful



Examples



Top Left: Bike Skills Park, New Columbia Neighborhood, Portland, Oregon; Top Right: Teeter Totters, Dupont State Park, North Carolina; Bottom Left: Urban/asphalt pump track, Chur, Switzerland; Bottom Right: Brunel Way Pump Track, Bristol, England

II.B DOG RUN

Dog runs typically include dedicated fenced-in areas within parks where dogs may be exercised untethered. Surfaces typically include turf, decomposed granite, synthetic turf or a combination of the three. Site amenities can include dog waste dispensers, seating and gated entries, if fenced. Additional site amenities may include drinking stations, water pools, shade structures, picnic tables, rolling topography, lighting and landscaping. Smaller than a dog park, a dog run may or may not have separate areas for large and small dogs.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Use Site

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites at community parks with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful
- Park sites with sufficient parking for increased visitors
- Compatible with surrounding uses

Examples



Left: Schuykill River Park Dog Run, Philadelphia, PA; Right: Richmond Street Dog Run, Boston, MA

II.C OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Rather than going to a private gym, outdoor exercise areas introduce durable fitness equipment into public parks or along trails. Equipment is usually designed for all ages and fitness levels, adding a social, multigenerational element to outdoor public spaces. Typically provided in a fitness cluster of 4-10 pieces, the low-impact, low-maintenance exercise equipment can be grouped in an activity spot, provided adjacent to traditional playgrounds, or dispersed along trails for a par course experience. Surfacing under fitness equipment should be provided so as to meet current codes.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Along urban and natural trails
- IBC Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Evolving Needs
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful

Examples



Left: Big Lake Trail in City Park, New Orleans, LA; Right: Community Center Park in Camarillo, CA

II.D ACTIVITY SPOT

An activity spot unites several small-scale, non-sport active or playful recreation features that foster individual or small group activities. Typically designed to be separate from traditional play areas, activity spots may include skate spots, uneven shooting hoops, outdoor ping pong tables, giant chess boards, chess tables, pop-up play installations, hill slides/climbers (often adjacent to stairs), slack lines, hammocks, unique swings, mini foot golf, putting greens, etc. to support fitness and social interaction. Skating activities in particular may be integrated into a plaza-style design featuring architectural focal points, “skate-able” art, transitions, aesthetic enhancements and integrated landscaping – all designed to suit a wide range of skill levels.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Evolving Needs
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City
- Provide near schools, retail centers, offices and urban settings

Examples



Top Left: Veterans Park Skate Spot, Tracy, California; Top Right: Chess Plaza, UT Dallas, Texas; Bottom Left: Ping Pong Tables at Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, Texas; Bottom Right: Imagination play with moveable furniture, Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, Texas

II.E TAI CHI LAWN OR COURT

Tai Chi is an art that emphasizes natural movement and can be practiced in a variety of locations. Outdoor training areas are often located in flat, well-lit areas, free from noise and other distractions. Many practitioners prefer to work in natural settings. Along these lines, Tai Chi lawns or courts may include a 48-foot-diameter area of flag-stone situated in a serene natural setting. When not programmed for Tai Chi, these areas can be used for a variety of outdoor fitness classes.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Evolving Needs
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Flexibility
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City

Examples



Left: Tai Chi lawn at Meadow Park, San Luis Obispo, CA; Right: Cabin John Regional Park, Bethesda, MD

II.F DOG PARK

Dog parks provide dedicated areas for dogs to exercise and play off-leash under supervision of their owners. Most dog parks include a variety of features such as fencing, double gated entry and exit points with ADA accessibility, drainage, shaded areas, seating, water and animal waste pick up facilities. Some dog parks provide separate areas for large and small dogs. Some parks include small ponds for dogs to swim in and large areas of turf and trees for recreation.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park
- Orange County Great Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Park sites with sufficient parking for visitors
- Compatible with surrounding uses

Examples



NOLA Dog Park, New Orleans, LA



Kansas City Dog Park, Kansas City, MO

III. Specialized Athletic Facilities

III.A ARCHERY RANGE

These archery facilities provide shooting stations and safety berms where users of different ages and abilities can safely engage in target practice. Ranges may vary in size from smaller half-acre compounds with a few targets up to 5 to 10-acre sites used to host national tournaments and Olympic qualifiers.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Provide in an accessible location
- Explore partnerships with non-profits for implementation and funding opportunities

Examples



Left and Top Right: Mile Square Regional Park Archery Range, Orange County, CA; Bottom Right: Archery Range, Santiago Creek, Orange County, CA

III.B DISC GOLF COURSE

Disc golf courses are typically designed as 9 or 18-hole courses where players toss discs instead of putting/driving with clubs and golf balls. Natural terrain often dictates course design, including flat and sloping surfaces, tree-lined fairways and rugged out-of-play areas. Courses can include a series of numbered posts and baskets set at varying intervals to serve as “holes.” Each hole can be identified with signage. Tee pads may be hard or soft-surfaced, but concrete or rubber is ideal to reduce wear. Championship courses are typically built with one to two acres per hole. Recreational courses can have two to three holes per acre. Typical facility sizes range from 6 to 40 acres, depending on the skill level for which the course is designed.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Special Use Site

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Evolving Needs
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Provide in an accessible location
- Explore partnerships with non-profits for implementation and funding opportunities

Examples



Left: North County Park, Cape Girardeau County, MO; Right: Central Park Disc Golf Course, Huntington Beach, CA

III.C MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS FIELD (SYNTHETIC)

These rectangular play fields, with a minimum 68,500 square feet in area and a variety of field dimensions and markings, can accommodate numerous sports including football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. Synthetic turf can be installed to create opportunities for more frequent and intensive use. These fields may include lighting, bleachers and permanent or movable goals designed to suit multiple configurations.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Flexibility
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Evolving Needs
- Health, Wellness and Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Gauge success of at one facility before expanding to other park sites

Examples



Left: Multi-purpose synthetic turf fields for football and soccer at Towncenter Community Park, Santee, CA; Right: Multi-purpose synthetic turf fields at Sage Hill School, Newport Coast, CA

III.D SPORTS COURTS

Unlike single-use courts, sports courts can come in a variety of dimensions, surfaces and configurations to support flexible play. Well-designed courts provide opportunities for traditional sports like basketball, sand volleyball and tennis, as well as emerging activities like pickleball, bocce, petanque, badminton, futsal, racquetball, wallball and horseshoes.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Evolving Needs
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Flexibility

Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful



Examples



Futsal court in Vance park, Portland, OR



Left: Pickleball courts in Tapo Canyon Community Park, Simi Valley, CA

Right: Bocce ball court in Albert Park, San Rafael, CA



III.E TRACK AND FIELD VENUE

These facilities can include competition-quality track and field venues for running, jumping and throwing.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Local School, shared via joint-use agreement

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Flexibility



Implementation Ideal

- Provide in an accessible location
- Partnerships with non-profits for implementation and funding opportunities

Example



Riverbank Park, Newark, New Jersey

IV. Event Venues

IV.A OUTDOOR FESTIVAL AND EVENTS VENUE

These gathering spaces can come in a variety of shapes and forms, featuring turf or hardscape seating areas with access, utilities and infrastructure designed to support large group events of 200 to several thousand people. The site should offer sufficient space for portable equipment, stages and support amenities and furnishings (such as temporary restrooms, trash receptacles, benches, bike racks, etc.) brought in for events.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Provide in an accessible location
- Sites with sufficient parking for increased visitors

Examples



Left: Director's Park Plaza, Portland, Oregon; Right: Paine's Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

IV.B OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE

These areas typically include an outdoor amphitheater, stage or performance space with nearby electrical outlets. Seating may be hard- or soft-surfaced, with permanent, movable or else no designated seating. Space provided may be sufficient to accommodate groups of anywhere from 200 to 1,000 people. Support amenities such as shade, restrooms and concessions are often provided.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Evolving Needs
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors

Implementation Ideal

- Locate in three to five parks dispersed around the City
- Locations that already feature/host outdoor events



Examples

Right: Veterans
Memorial Amphitheater,
City of St. Louis Park,
MN



Cubbert Amphitheater, Eugene, OR



Left: Meinig Park, Sandy, OR

V. Gardens

V.A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Community gardens usually consist of raised garden plots situated in areas with solar, soil, and topographic conditions suited to agriculture. Plot sizes may vary, but typically include a minimum twenty-five square feet per plot, with wide walkways (approximately 4 feet) adjacent to each plot. Gardens are often fenced around the perimeter, and may be managed and maintained by volunteers. Community gardens may include demonstration areas that are used for educational and social purposes.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Use Site

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Education
- Evolving Needs
- Partnerships

Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful
- Near IBC or Spectrum where private yards are limited



Examples



Luscher Farm Community Gardens, Lake Oswego, OR



Johns Community Garden, Portland, OR

V.B DEMONSTRATION GARDEN OR BOTANICAL GARDEN

Demonstration gardens introduce visitors to different plant palettes or else to new cultivation techniques such as organic gardening and xeriscaping. Botanical gardens may be more formal in arrangement, yet can also provide opportunities for visitors to learn about regional plant palettes and various landscape design principles.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Education
- Evolving Needs
- Partnerships



Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful

Examples



Left: Brightside Demonstration Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

V1. Social Spaces

VI.A PARK PAVILION

A pavilion typically includes a large shelter structure designed for groups of 150 to 200 people. Pavilions are typically reservable, and may include tables (picnic or portable), seating, barbecue grills, water, electricity, nearby restrooms and easy access for loading/unloading supplies. With movable tables and chairs, the pavilion may be flexibly programmed for other uses such as recreation classes and events.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Flexibility



Implementation Ideal

- Provide according to updated level of service standards

Examples

Top Left: Abbott Loop Community Park, Anchorage, AK; Top Right: State Game Lodge Pavilion, Custer, SD; Bottom: Fairgrounds Park, Loveland, CO



VII. Natural/ Educational Features

VII.A INTERPRETATION VENUE

These educational and informational features introduce visitors to sites of local historical significance, cultural heritage and natural resources.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

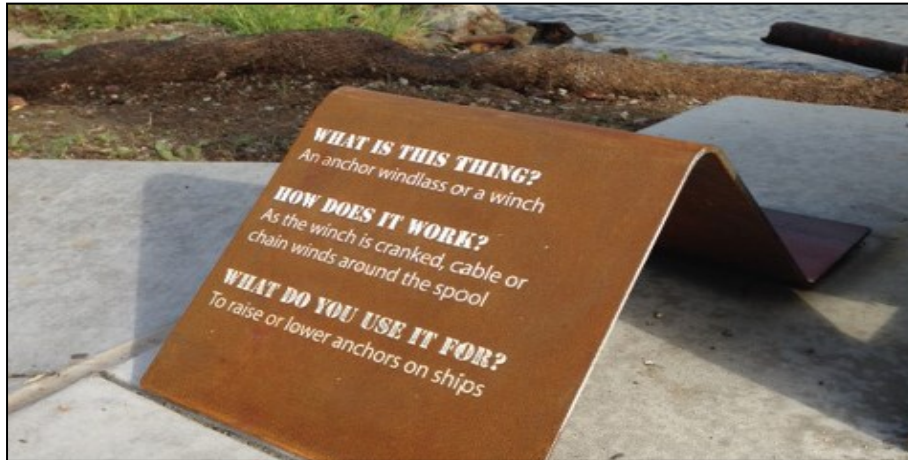
- Education
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful
- Locate near open space

Examples



Top: An interpretive sign explains a large bioswale in Kitsap County, Washington

Middle: Bay trail interpretation signage of the history of the shoreline, Alameda, California

Bottom: Interpretive Kiosk, Dills Park, Paramount, California

VII.C OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

These small gathering spaces are designed to facilitate nature-based or art-based learning and discovery such as nature classrooms and outdoor ateliers.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Education
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors



Implementation Ideal

- Pilot programs at test sites with the possibility of a more permanent addition if successful
- Locate near school or where bus parking is possible
- Integrate at Gateway Park

Examples



Left: Outdoor classroom, Red Pine Trail, Niskayuna, New York; Right: Grundy Lake Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada

VIII.B NATURE TRAIL

Dependent on Natural Community Conservation and Habitat Conservation Plan and adopted Recreation and Resource Management Plans, there may be opportunities to create additional soft-surfaced nature trails in appropriate areas of the City’s open space. Amenities may include a trail head, directional signage and, where appropriate, interpretive signage, drinking fountains, benches or alternative seating such as boulders or seat walls.

Park Type Where Appropriate

- Community Park
- Special Use Site

Community Outreach Themes Supported

- Connectivity and Access
- Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities
- Health, Wellness and the Outdoors
- Education



Implementation Ideal

- Provide according to updated level of service standards
- Pursue as feasible within context of existing conservation agreements

Examples



Left: Forest Park Trail, Portland, Oregon; Right: Horseshoe Trail, Irvine Regional Park, Orange, California

POTENTIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

To maintain Irvine's wide-ranging park system and programs, implement new park improvement opportunities and renovate existing facilities or build new ones, the City must continue to lead as an innovator by using fiscally sustainable and sensible funding sources. This section includes a menu of funding options for park and facility improvements and associated maintenance, many of which the City of Irvine already utilizes.

General Fund and Assessments

GENERAL FUND

The operations budget, or General Fund budget, is the City's annual fiscal operating plan for the receipt and disbursement of funds used to provide daily, routine public services to the community. This is the City's primary source for operating revenue. The operations budget outlines the many municipal services, programs and projects provided by the City during the fiscal year. It also identifies specific General Fund revenue estimates and expenditures necessary to implement services to the community. Revenue sources for the General Fund include assessment revenue, development fees, documentary transfer tax, service fees, fines and forfeitures, franchise and hotel taxes, licenses and permits, miscellaneous revenues, motor vehicle in-lieu revenues, program and services fees, property taxes, revenue from other agencies, sales taxes and utility user taxes. General Fund expenditures are related to capital equipment, contract services, internal services, repairs and maintenance, salary and benefits, supplies, training expenses, utilities and miscellaneous expenses.

The City's General Fund incurs a majority of park capital and operations expenses. While parks and recreation services are highly valued, General Fund resources will always be competitive. Changing priorities and needs across all City services make the level of funding for parks and recreation less predictable. Further, there is no automatic increase in operations support funds with the passage of time or added facilities. While general fund dollars will continue to be an important funding source for parks and recreation (particularly operational costs), there are several other potential sources of funding to consider.

ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

An assessment district is a mechanism that allows cities to assess housing units or land parcels to maintain and improve street lighting, landscaping and parks that provide a special benefit to designated areas. Assessment districts help each property owner pay a fair share of the costs of such improvements over a period of years at reasonable interest rates. This ensures that the cost will be spread to all properties that receive direct and special benefit from the improvements constructed. Establishment of a new district or revision to an existing district requires a vote of the property owners. The majority of returned votes must be in favor of establishing the district.

LANDSCAPE, LIGHTING AND PARK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

The City manages the Landscape, Lighting and Park Maintenance (LLPM) special assessment district, which provides funds for park and parkway landscaping, lighting and park maintenance. The key services provided by the LLPM related to parks include lights, athletic fields, playgrounds, playground equipment, public restrooms, park furniture, site amenities and appurtenant facilities in public parks and recreation facilities within the boundaries of the City of Irvine. The territory included in the District is generally described as being conterminous with the boundaries of the City of Irvine, thereby covering the entire City.

This district is projected to bring in \$8.59 million dollars in revenue in Fiscal Year 2016-17. Total service costs are estimated at \$17.7 million for that fiscal year. The services eligible under the authorizing vote for this district will exceed these levels by \$9.1 million; the difference will be covered largely by the General Fund. It is possible to increase the per-parcel rate for this District, with a successful vote of a majority of property owners. While increased assessments are not generally popular, it is a resource to consider. As an existing source there is an established knowledge and logic to what it covers (i.e., dedicated to parks) and the enabling legislation allows for great flexibility in using LLPM resources for either capital or operational expenses (which is uncommon in most funding sources).

MELLO-ROOS COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT

The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 allows any county, city, special district, school district or joint powers authority to establish a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (“CFD”) to finance public improvements and services. The services and improvements that Mello-Roos CFDs can finance include parks, as well as streets, sewer systems and other basic infrastructure, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, schools, libraries, museums and other cultural facilities. Formation

of a CFD requires a two-thirds vote of residents living within the proposed boundaries. If there are fewer than 12 residents, then the vote is instead conducted of current landowners. The assessment cannot be based on property value; instead, it is based on the size of the property or square footage of structures. By law, the CFD is also entitled to recover expenses needed to form the CFD and administer the annual special taxes and bonded debt. The special assessment continues until bonds are paid off and then is typically reduced to a level to maintain the investments.

In the City of Irvine, Mello-Roos taxes are a funding mechanism used for nearly every community built since 1988. Newly constructed homes in Irvine also have the tax. Communities that do not have Mello Roos taxes include El Camino Real, Turtle Rock, University Park and most of Northwood and Woodbridge. This is due to the fact that these were some of the first Irvine communities built before 1988.

Dedications and Fees

PARK LAND DEDICATION AND IN-LIEU FEE (QUIMBY ACT)

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) authorizes cities to require the dedication of land or to impose fees for park or recreational purposes as a condition of approval of certain types of residential development projects. Any land required to be dedicated and/or fees required to be paid are to be used to acquire new parkland or fund capital improvements at existing recreation and park facilities which will serve residents of the new development. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.

Pursuant to the Quimby Act, the Irvine's Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan and the Subdivision Ordinance (Section 5-5-1004 of the Irvine Municipal Code) require developers to dedicate park land and/or improvements/amenities and/or pay fees in lieu of dedication, at a rate of five acres per 1,000 persons. The City of Irvine public park system is divided into two park categories: community parks and neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are further divided into public and private parks. The allocation of land and improvements is apportioned at two acres to community parks and three acres to public and/or private neighborhood parks.

Eligible Minimum Improvements (Park Credits)

In addition to the dedication of land and/or park in-lieu fees, the City of Irvine allows the requirements of the Quimby Act to be satisfied through developer provision of eligible

minimum improvements, recreational amenities and design and improvement costs for the development of parks as an equivalent substitute for park dedication in-lieu fees or park land dedication requirements. The City prepared a schedule of recreational improvement values for public parks and private parks.

All projects seeking park dedication credit for minimum improvements, recreational amenities, design and construction costs, land off-site and/or in-lieu fees require an appraisal to assess the fair market value of land. The purpose of the appraisal is to estimate the cost for purchasing parkland within the development or with another development with similar characteristics.

The City's Park/Public Facility Standards provides guidance in acceptance of park land, collection of park fees, or provision of in lieu improvements and criteria for design of public and private parks.

IMPACT FEES

An impact fee is a monetary exaction other than a tax or special assessment. It is charged by a local governmental agency to an applicant in connection with approval of a development project for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of park facilities related to the proposed development project. The legal requirements for enactment of a development impact fee program are set forth in Government Code § 66000- 66025 (the "Mitigation Fee Act"), the bulk of which was adopted as 1987's Assembly Bill (AB) 1600 and thus are commonly referred to as "AB 1600 requirements." If a development impact fee does not relate to the impact created by development or exceeds the reasonable cost of providing the public service, then the fee may be declared a special tax and must then be subject to a two-thirds voter approval. Although the City of Irvine does have impact fees for schools, fire facilities, transportation and other infrastructure needs for new communities, it does not have impact fees for parks. The City relies on the Quimby Act (Section 5-5-1004 of the Irvine Municipal Code) to acquire and pay for new parks related to new development.

This served the City well as new major residential developments were established. However, as the type of development changes and the City matures, a fresh look at the methods of participation in the development of the park system is warranted. Quimby Act land dedication, and any fees or development in-lieu fees, are triggered by the subdivision of land. Many redevelopment projects, most notably multi-story residential or mixed-use buildings, do not require a subdivision and therefore contribute no additional funding to off-set the demand created by additional residential units. Conversely, impact fees would be triggered during the building permit process and they are based on the

senior, youth, youth sports, child services and afterschool and teen school year programs. The Revenue and Resource Estimates section of the City's budget provides a description, trend and revenue estimates for programming fees.

Entry Fees

Park entry fees, day-use fees or parking fees are used by some larger jurisdictions to generate revenue for parks. These are more commonly seen at larger regional parks or for specialized facilities such as swimming pools or recreation centers, rather than at neighborhood and community parks. Some communities charge entry fees for certain special events. William J. Woollett, Jr. Aquatics Center and Northwood High School swimming pools have entry fees for open lap swimming sessions. Entry fees vary between adults (age 15 to 54), seniors (age 55 and over) and juniors (age 17 and under). Memberships are available to frequent users who want discounted entry fees.

Concessions

Food, beverage and merchandise vendors or concessionaires that operate restaurants, coffee kiosks, rentals of equipment (such as bicycles or kayaks) or provide other revenue-generating facilities or services in parks can also generate excess revenues to support the park system. The City can set-up specific arrangements with vendors and concessionaires for these services. Vendors are also required to obtain a license from the City.

Park Sponsorships

The City may solicit sponsors who are willing to pay for advertising, signage, facility naming rights, etc., generating funds to support operations. In addition, sponsors are often sought to support a particular event or program.

Miscellaneous Rentals

Many cities and districts are evaluating a variety of opportunities to generate revenue in parks. For example, some agencies generate revenue from cellular phone towers or billboards on park land. Some agencies provide vendor pads with hookups, where food carts can be parked, offering a rental space rather than taking a portion of proceeds from vendor sales in a concessions agreement.

While the City strives to provide a rich and diverse recreation system that supports a wide variety of community interests and pursuits, some recreation amenities may be difficult for the City to support on its own, given space, cost, capacity or other feasibility concerns. If there are strong local advocates or organizations dedicated to emerging or otherwise underrepresented interests and activities, the City may be able to partner with these groups to encourage new participation opportunities within the community. For example, rather than constructing and operating a specialized recreation facility at a community park, the City may be able to offer financial or staffing assistance to private or non-profit facilities. In exchange for this support, City residents could enjoy joint-use privileges at these facilities for nominal or no fees.

Should new or specialized recreation opportunities or enhancements be feasible at City parks, the City may be able to gather funding support from local organized sport groups, clubs and non-profit organizations. For example, a non-profit organization that regularly hosts events at City parks may be able to partner with the City to finance mutually-agreeable enhancements to said facilities. Through these and other types of partnerships, the City can continue to provide quality recreation opportunities for Irvine residents.

INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between agencies are useful in terms of providing both facilities and programs. Irvine's partnership with the Irvine Unified School District is an example of an interagency partnership.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

A city may negotiate agreements with developers during the development process for park operations and maintenance to be managed by homeowners associations (HOAs).

There are nearly 250 HOAs in the City of Irvine, with many of them taking on responsibilities based on their declarations of covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs). Such responsibilities can include: upkeep of common areas, private parks, playgrounds, clubhouses and fitness centers, athletic courts and swimming pool facilities. Associations fund their maintenance programs through association fees. These private facilities and parks are only accessible to residents residing within the HOA and the general public is typically restricted in accessing these facilities.

the number of additional units, rather than the number of lots. The City has the ability to apply impact fees to residential, commercial or industrial development as each has a measureable connection (or nexus) to increased park use. To establish this connection, a nexus study is a step that the City should consider.

USER FEES

Facility use and program fees are updated regularly and they are based on cost-recovery. Fees and charges apply directly to the users of facilities and programs, which provides a relatively direct line between the money paid and the service provided. These charges also capture some of the cost of providing services to those who do not live in Irvine. It is important to note that increases in these participation costs can also create a perceived barrier (financial or psychological) to the level of participation. This is generally most pronounced for lower income households. This effect should always be a consideration when participation fees are increased.

There are several fees and charges that may be used to fund park maintenance and operations.

Facility-Use Charges

Facility charges generate revenue for parks by charging for the use of City facilities (e.g., sport fields, picnic shelters, pool usage, open space access and multi-purpose rooms at park facilities). These charges may cover direct costs generated by facility use, such as field lighting or trash removal. Rates may also be set higher to subsidize parks maintenance and address the long-term impacts of facility use. The Community Services Department established Public Facilities Reservation and Fee Policies and identifies the facility rental fees.

Programming Fees

User fees for recreation programming generate revenue by charging users for some or all of the costs of providing services and materials. Charges for programming are often based on a cost-recovery strategy or fee philosophy determined by the City. The fee philosophy or cost-recovery strategy may partially subsidize (with General Fund or other revenue) some types of programs due to their community benefit, while requiring others to fully recover their cost. Some communities charge higher fees for non-residents than for residents. Some programming fees also include built-in charges for facility use, maintenance and even for ongoing capital reinvestment. The City of Irvine currently has programming fees for its aquatic, adult, adult sports, fitness, preschool,

Homeowners associations can cover residential areas such as traditional single-family neighborhoods within larger master plan communities or residential condominiums and high-rise condominiums. Apartment communities are typically owned and managed by a single entity and are not subject to an HOA. Some HOAs within Planning Areas such as Woodbury, Westpark and Rancho San Joaquin may allow apartment residents to utilize HOA-owned neighborhood amenities (private neighborhood parks, pools and sports courts) within an area managed by a neighboring HOA.

Some residential neighborhoods are covered by both a Master HOA and a Sub-Association (Sub HOA). Sub HOAs are usually found within attached unit buildings and some clustered planned unit developments (e.g. smaller condominium communities). Typically, the Master HOA will focus on maintaining larger common areas (e.g., private parks) that serve a larger subdivision, while the Sub HOA will cover common areas such as smaller landscaped areas within the clustered planned unit development and the exterior of attached unit buildings.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers can increase the quality and quantity of public services at a minimal cost while providing an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the betterment of their community. Studies suggest that for every \$1 invested in volunteers, a city can realize as much as \$10 in benefits. With tight fiscal conditions, more local governments are expanding volunteer programs. These can include individuals or groups who agree to take on specific tasks or perform certain services, such as maintenance, restoration, programming, capital development and special event support. Volunteers may provide direct and indirect support to the park system. For example, the Fine Arts Center in Irvine has a program for year-round volunteers to assist with ceramics, photography, jewelry and printmaking. Seasonal volunteer opportunities are also available for art festivals and art exhibit receptions. Other volunteer opportunities are available at the Turtle Rock Nature Center, Irvine Open Space Preserve, senior centers, The Great Park Farm + Food Lab and Animal Care Center.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

A city may craft agreements with various community organizations for park improvements, operations and maintenance. Many park agencies work with organizations to develop or help develop facilities such as dog parks, community gardens, disc golf courses, mountain bike and other trail networks, bicycle skills courses and conservation projects (such as native plant restoration). In some communities,

Bonds

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

The City has the authority to request voter approval for general obligation bonds to finance the construction of improvements to the park system with a time-limited property tax increase. Requirements for a high threshold of approval (two-thirds of voters) makes general obligation bond tax measures uncommon, but the time-limited nature of these measures (the tax expires when the bonds are paid-off) improves public perception in many cases. In many communities, parks and recreation polls among a city's top priorities and Irvine has a compelling mix of high-profile projects that could be packaged into an appealing bond measure. General Obligation bonds can only be used for capital improvements, not maintenance and operations.

REVENUE BONDS

Revenue bonds are sold to finance revenue-generating facilities, such as community centers, performing arts centers and in some cases, sports complexes. The interest and capital are paid from the revenue produced from the operation of such a facility. Typically, the city issuing the bond will have to guarantee the repayment, meaning that if revenue does not cover the necessary payments, the city will be required to pay in some other way. This method is viable when there is a reliable, predictable revenue stream that is separate from the City's general funds.

Partnerships

Many cities recognize the need to collaborate with volunteers, businesses, public and private agencies and others to support parks and recreation. These collaborative efforts can bring in significant revenue, labor and other resources for projects. Depending on the nature of the partnership, these efforts also can increase the city's expenditures to support park land owned by other park and recreation jurisdictions. Examples of some of Irvine's partnerships include relationships with the Irvine Unified School District, Irvine Ranch Conservancy and other agencies and organizations in Orange County that directly support the Irvine parks system.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE OR PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP

This concept is increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The public agency enters into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. The public agency often will approach the partnership with one of three incentives: offering free land (often a park) on which the partner can place a facility, access to an existing facility or certain tax advantages.

neighborhood groups fund projects such as new playgrounds, sports organizations, sports field improvements or maintenance. This type of partnership requires careful consideration and the crafting of agreements to clarify roles and responsibilities.

Grants and Technical Assistance

GRANTS

Many park improvement projects would be competitive for State and Federal grant programs. There are two important considerations for evaluating grant-funding opportunities. The first is, with many different programs, significant staff or consultant time is necessary in order to track, administer and manage grant-funded projects. The second consideration is that nearly all government grant programs require some level of local matching funds.

PRIVATE GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS/PHILANTHROPY

Grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects and make awards based on criteria related to their mission and funding priorities. Public agencies are often not eligible for funding from these sources, but registered non-profits are eligible. In some cities, parks conservancies or friends' groups pursue private funding. In the right circumstances, foundations may provide funding assistance for larger capital improvement projects or specific programs, such as specialized facilities that are consistent with their mission statement and philanthropic values.

An example of a friends group is the Friends of Outreach, an Irvine-based, non-profit organization that helps support the City of Irvine senior outreach programs. The all-volunteer group conducts service projects, fund-raising programs and weekly social activities at Lakeview Senior Center.

GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

There are a number of government grant programs available for park and recreation projects. Key programs are:

Recreation Trails Program

This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include: 1) maintenance and

Homeowners associations can cover residential areas such as traditional single-family neighborhoods within larger master plan communities or residential condominiums and high-rise condominiums. Apartment communities are typically owned and managed by a single entity and are not subject to an HOA. Some HOAs within Planning Areas such as Woodbury, Westpark and Rancho San Joaquin may allow apartment residents to utilize HOA-owned neighborhood amenities (private neighborhood parks, pools and sports courts) within an area managed by a neighboring HOA.

Some residential neighborhoods are covered by both a Master HOA and a Sub-Association (Sub HOA). Sub HOAs are usually found within attached unit buildings and some clustered planned unit developments (e.g. smaller condominium communities). Typically, the Master HOA will focus on maintaining larger common areas (e.g., private parks) that serve a larger subdivision, while the Sub HOA will cover common areas such as smaller landscaped areas within the clustered planned unit development and the exterior of attached unit buildings.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers can increase the quality and quantity of public services at a minimal cost while providing an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the betterment of their community. Studies suggest that for every \$1 invested in volunteers, a city can realize as much as \$10 in benefits. With tight fiscal conditions, more local governments are expanding volunteer programs. These can include individuals or groups who agree to take on specific tasks or perform certain services, such as maintenance, restoration, programming, capital development and special event support. Volunteers may provide direct and indirect support to the park system. For example, the Fine Arts Center in Irvine has a program for year-round volunteers to assist with ceramics, photography, jewelry and printmaking. Seasonal volunteer opportunities are also available for art festivals and art exhibit receptions. Other volunteer opportunities are available at the Turtle Rock Nature Center, Irvine Open Space Preserve, senior centers, The Great Park Farm + Food Lab and Animal Care Center.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

A city may craft agreements with various community organizations for park improvements, operations and maintenance. Many park agencies work with organizations to develop or help develop facilities such as dog parks, community gardens, disc golf courses, mountain bike and other trail networks, bicycle skills courses and conservation projects (such as native plant restoration). In some communities,

restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20 percent match.

Habitat Conservation Fund

This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department Office of Grants and Local Services, which administers this fund and allocates approximately \$2 million each year to cities, counties and districts. Projects eligible under this program include nature interpretation programs, protection of plant and animal species and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

Land and Water Conservation Funds

This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. In the past this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies, but starting in the 1990's this grant program was severely cut. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50 percent match.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)

USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

CDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

State Bicycle Funds

A portion of the revenue from state gas taxes is distributed to California cities for the development of bicycle lanes. This can be a good funding source for developing bicycle lanes and off street bicycle trails.

restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20 percent match.

Habitat Conservation Fund

This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department Office of Grants and Local Services, which administers this fund and allocates approximately \$2 million each year to cities, counties and districts. Projects eligible under this program include nature interpretation programs, protection of plant and animal species and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

Land and Water Conservation Funds

This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. In the past this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies, but starting in the 1990's this grant program was severely cut. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50 percent match.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)

USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

CDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

State Bicycle Funds

A portion of the revenue from state gas taxes is distributed to California cities for the development of bicycle lanes. This can be a good funding source for developing bicycle lanes and off street bicycle trails.

Motor Vehicle Emissions Reduction Grants

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) administers this grant, which offers competitive funding for projects that provide significant motor vehicle emission reductions at the lowest cost per ton of emissions reduced. This could include air quality related studies, bicycle facility improvements and bicycle-safety enforcement. Bicycle facility improvement projects include those that promote bicycle use for commuting and other utilitarian trips including Class I, Class II and Class III bike routes.

Other Funding Sources

DONATIONS

The donations of cash, land or in-kind services by service agencies, private groups or individuals can be an effective way to raise money for specific projects. The Friends of Outreach, a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) group is set up to take tax-deductible donations.

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY

If the City has an excess piece of property with some development value, it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use.

PUBLIC LAND TRUSTS

Land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency or community land trust. These private and nonprofit organizations can also assist local agencies in identifying land for protection, as well as help raise funds through charitable campaigns and legislative or voter initiatives to acquire open space lands

UNIQUE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

It may be possible to gather funds for park improvements and enhancements in other unique and creative ways. For example, residents and local businesses could purchase benches, shade structures or paver bricks that could be added to public parks. While helping mitigate City costs for construction and development, these strategies could also foster an elevated sense of ownership and community pride in the park system.

Investment in the park system will require funding commitments from a variety of sources. While initial factors associated with project prioritization revolve around community need and demand, cost considerations are also important components. A full project assessment cannot be completed without cost estimates and potential funding sources. As the City moves forward with implementation of the *Master Plan*, these funding options must be carefully considered.

NEXT STEPS

Irvine possesses a robust network of parks, trails and open spaces that serve a diverse array of interests. Moving into the future, the City will find itself in the enviable, although potentially challenging, position of deciding which enhancement efforts could best elevate this already-exemplary public park system.

Implementation will be guided by the innovative visions, opportunities and recommendations described throughout this *Master Plan*. By relying on community feedback and responding to evolving needs and expectations, implementation of the *Master Plan* recommendations will ensure that Irvine's parks remain vital assets to our diverse, thriving and active community.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX A: Parks and Open Space Inventory

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX A: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Appendix A presents three inventory tables that document the acreage and facilities associated with public parks, regional parks and open space in Irvine:

Table A-1: Irvine Parks and Park Facility Inventory by Classification

Table A-2: Regional Parks Inventory

Table A-3: Irvine Open Space Inventory

These public sites are owned, operated and/or managed by the City of Irvine, with the exception of William R. Mason Regional Park, which is under the jurisdiction of the County of Orange.

The City classifies public parks as community parks, neighborhood parks and special use sites, as shown in Table A-1. The City also provides recreation opportunities at the Orange County Great Park (Table A-2), in open space areas (Table A-3) and trail corridors. These recreation resources are summarized below:

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are medium to large, multi-purpose parks that serve as “village hubs” for the entire community. Ranging from 10 to 48 acres in size, they typically support a variety of recreation opportunities and provide specialized facilities such as sports fields and courts, thematic playgrounds, and community centers. Community parks provide a majority of the athletic facilities in Irvine. These parks typically support organized recreation programs, special events and large-group gatherings. They serve residents and visitors with many different interests. Examples of community parks in Irvine include Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park, Heritage Community Park and Harvard Community Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are smaller parks that provide access to green space and essential recreation opportunities, typically for residents who live within walking or biking distance of the park. Ranging from one to 10 acres in size, these parks provide facilities such as playgrounds and picnic areas to support small group gatherings and drop-in use. Larger neighborhood parks provide athletic fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts and similar facilities. Examples of public neighborhood parks in Irvine include Orchard Park, San Carlo Park and Chaparral Park.

In addition to public neighborhood parks, homeowners associations own and manage many private neighborhood parks throughout the City for the residents of their communities.

SPECIAL USE SITES

Special use sites offer unique amenities and stand-alone facilities that serve a citywide audience. Examples are the Irvine Animal Care Center, Central Bark Dog Park and Sepulveda Vista Point.

ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK

The OCGP is the City's largest park, currently in development at the site of the former The Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. El Toro operated from 1943 to 1999 as the home of Marine Corps aviation on the West Coast. Upon its closure, the County of Orange was tasked with developing a Community Reuse Plan to guide future development of the former base. After initial plans to build an international airport on the site met with extensive opposition, Orange County voters passed "Measure W" in 2001, which authorized the repurposing of the former military base for a large regional-scale park and mixed-use development. Heritage Fields, a private developer, purchased the land in 2005 and, as a prerequisite to enhanced private development intensity, entered into a development agreement with the City of Irvine that, among other things, required it to transfer 1,347 acres to the City of Irvine to develop the OCGP. A master plan for development of the OCGP was approved in 2007 and modified in 2011 and 2014. When complete, the park will span over 1,200 acres. Currently, more than 200 acres are developed (as of 2015) and 688 acres are in planning and design, and grading phases. Since a master plan for this site has been established, no specific facility recommendations for the OCGP are made in this *Master Plan*.

OPEN SPACE

Throughout its development history, Irvine has taken careful precautions to preserve its natural resources and wildlife habitats. Today, Irvine is home to more than 6,500 acres of wetlands, oak woodlands, grasslands and coastal sage scrub. Much of the City's open space restricts public access, but a few preserves allow visitor use or are designed as trail corridors to encourage use. Irvine's open space areas include the JOST, Southern Open Space Preserve, Northern Open Space Preserve, and Turtle Rock Open Space.

REGIONAL TRAILS

Irvine has a robust system of bikeways and trails that allow visitors to traverse on foot, wheel and horseback. The 355 miles of bikeways and regional trails are developed and maintained according to the City's 2011 *Bicycle Transportation Plan*. Regional trails are paved paths with their own rights-of-way that give joggers, cyclists, skaters and others a safe place to travel.

RESOURCES PROVIDED BY OTHERS

In addition to the City's public park system, residents of Irvine have access to park and recreation resources provided by school districts, their homeowners associations and the County of Orange. Private gyms, golf courses and commercial recreation providers (such as dance, yoga or martial arts studios) also give residents additional access to various programs. Third-party providers of recreation opportunities in Irvine include:

- County Parks such as William R. Mason Regional Park (see Table A-3)
- Schools
- Colleges and Universities
- Private Neighborhood Parks
- Private Facilities

The City of Irvine partners with school districts, local colleges and other organizations to maximize park and facility resources for the community. A joint-use agreement between the City and IUSD allows sports leagues to utilize school fields and indoor gymnasias. High school students use the City's William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center located at Heritage Community Park (adjacent to Irvine High School). Many of the City's park facilities are adjacent to schools, which in turn maximizes recreational amenities and open grass areas for local residents. Map A-1 identifies the location of parks in proximity to schools, colleges and universities that also provide recreation resources to the community.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table A-1: Irvine Parks and Park Facility Inventory by Classification

CITY PARKS	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES						OTHER		NOTES/OTHER		
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphitheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbeques	Electrical Outlets		Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit	Adjacent to School
Community Parks																																				
Bommer Canyon	15.0				1 ^u							1	1		•	1					1	•	•			2	1			25	1	•		Creek, restricted hours, gated; cookhouse		
Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial	48.0	4	3	4 ^u				6			2	1	1			6					1	•				5	17	2		24	4	•	•r	Tennis office, roller hockey facility		
Cypress	17.9	2	1				1	3			1	1					1									1	5			8	6	•				
David Sills Lower Peters Canyon	10.3		1					8			1															1	2			8	2					
Deerfield	10.1				2	1	1		4	2		2	1			1	1									1	5		1	11	4	•	•r	•		
Harvard	26.9	7	4	4 ^u												1	1					•				2	8	1		10	5	•		Harvard Sk8 Park (Skate Park)		
Heritage	36.5	3 ^{1bu}	3		1 ^u			3 ^{1hu}	12	2		3	2	1	1	1	1	1			1	2				4	11			29	22		•r	•		
Hicks Canyon	16.7	2	2								1	1				2										1	3	1		6	4	•				
Las Lomas	18.3	2	2				2	2	1 ^u		2	1				2	1									1	6	1		14	7			•		
Mark Daily Athletic Fields	9.8	4 ^{1b}	2	2 ^u																						1	2					•				
Mike Ward - Woodbridge	22.0				1 ^u		2	4	1				1		•	1			1				•			3	2			4	2	•	•r	Lakeview Senior Center/ Adult Day Health Care Services Center		
Northwood	17.7	2 ^{1bu}	2 ^u				1	2 ^{hu}	2	2 ^u	1		1	1		2	1									3	4			14	4	•	•r	1/2 mile track		
Oak Creek	11.7	1 ^{bu}	2								2					1										1	2			8	8	•				
Quail Hill	16.0	2	3				2									1								•			1	4			3	2	•		Trail crossing to stage area	
Rancho San Joaquin	2.1																			1		1				1	1				1	•		Rancho Senior Center, Historical Society Museum		
Trabuco Center	2.6																			•															Senior and Multigenerational Community Center	
Turtle Rock	25.1	1 ^{bu}			1			4			3	1	1			1	1	1					•	•			2	5			28	12	•	•r	Creek	
University	16.3	1	3		2		1 ^h	4	3		2	1				3	1										1	3			12	2	•		•	
Windrow	18.9	2	1	4 ^u			1 ^h																	•			1	3	1		4		•			
Woodbury	10.7	2	1 ^u				2				2	1				3	1						•				1	2			11	4	•	•r	•	
Community Parks Subtotal	352.6	35	30	14	8	1	2	16	45	14	2	3	21	11	5	1	2	26	9	1	3	1	5	10	2	0	33	86	6	1	219	90	15	7	5	
Neighborhood Parks																																				
Alderwood	0.7											1																						•		
Blue Gum	2.7				1 ^u						1	1																						•		
Brywood Canyon	6.0	2 ^u	1 ^u								1	1				1											1		1	7	6			•		
Carrotwood	3.4						1 ^{hu}				1	1															1	1			3	2	•			
Chaparral	9.6		1 ^u		1 ^u		1 ^u				1	1				1 ^u											1				6	6				
Citrusglen	3.1							4			1	1				1							•				1	1			4	2	•	•		
College	7.6				1 ^u						1	1																			10	7		•	•	
Comstock	1.0						1 ^u				1	1				1											1	1			3	2	•	•		
Coralwood	2.7										1	1																			6	2		•	•	
Creekview	0.7																																			
Cypress Grove	9.4	1 ^u	1 ^u	1 ^u			1 ^u				1	1															1	3			8	6			•	
Dovecreek	7.8	2 ^u	1 ^u								1					1								•				1	3			4	2	•		•
Flagstone	2.3											1				1																			•	
Hoepfner	2.2								2		1	1																							•	
Homestead	2.1								3		1	1				1											1	3			4		•	•		
Knollcrest	5.0								2		2					1															4	2	•	•		
Meadowood	10.1	2 ^u	1 ^u		1		1 ^u				1	1				1												1	1			8	2	•		•

CITY PARKS	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES						OTHER		NOTES/OTHER		
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphitheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbeques	Electrical Outlets		Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit	Adjacent to School
Orchard	6.0	1 ^u	1 ^u				2					2	1				1									1	1			8	3					
Pepperwood	3.1											1	1															1				4		•		
Pinewood	2.1											2	1				1											1			6	4		•		
Plaza	7.7	1 ^u	1 ^u									1					1									1	2			11	6	•		•		
Presley	2.9				1							2	1				2										2			6	6		•	•		
Racquet Club	2.2											1	1														1		2	1		•	•			
Ranch	8.7											1	1				1													2		•	•			
San Carlo	6.0											1	1				2												12	5		•	•			
San Leandro	4.0	2 ^{1u} 1 ^{bu}	1 ^u									2	1				1									1	1			9	2			•		
San Marco	5.1						1 ^u					1	1				1						•			1	2			6	2		•	•		
Settlers	6.0		1 ^u		1 ^u		2					1	1				1										1	2			6	3	•		•	
Silkwood	3.9				1 ^u							1	1										•					1		4	1		•	•		
Stonegate	6.0	1 ^u	1 ^u		1 ^u		2	2				2					1										1	4			6	2				
Sweet Shade	7.9						2 ^u					2	1				1	1									1	3			4	2	•	•		1/4 mile track
Sycamore	6.9											1	1				2											1		7	3		•	•		
Valencia	6.0		1 ^u									1	1				1						•			1	1			4	2	•	•	•		
Valley Oak	3.0						1 ^u	2				1	1				1						•			1	1			8	6	•	•	•		
Willows	3.6						1 ^u					1	1				2											2		5	2		•	•		
<i>Neighborhood Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>170.6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>12</i>
Special Use Sites																																				
Animal Care Center	5.0																					4				2	2								Cat building, 2 dog kennel buildings, Building Number 13	
Bommer Vista Point	0.5																							•			1	1					•			
Central Bark Dog Park	2.8																										1	1								Off leash areas (large/small dog areas), porta-potties, dog drinking fountains
Sepulveda Vista Point	1.3																													3						Restricted hours, gated
<i>Special Use Sites Subtotal</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>		
Totals for Park Facilities	532.8	47	41	15	16	1	3	32	64	14	2	3	62	42	5	1	2	54	10	1	3	1	9	22	2	0	54	145	6	2	408	191	27	31	17	

Revised 05/04/16

u Unlighted
h Half court only
b Backstop only
r Reservable

Table A-2: Regional Parks Inventory

Other Providers	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES						OTHER		NOTES	
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphitheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbaques	Electrical Outlets	Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit		Adjacent to School
Regional Parks																																				
Orange County Great Park	230.0	4						#				1	1	1	1																					Gallery, Artist's studios, demonstration garden, farmer's market, Walkable Historic Timeline, Visitors Center, Great Park Balloon, Carousel, Special event space, Festival site
William R Mason Regional Park	339.0	2					3	6			3	1	1	1	•	1								•	•	•	3					21				123 acre golf course
<i>Orange County Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>569.0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
Totals for Other Providers	569.0	2	4	0	0	0	3	4	6	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Revised 05/04/16

u Unlighted
h Half court only
b Backstop only
r Reservable

Table A-3: Irvine Open Space Inventory

CITY OPEN SPACE	Developed Acreage	Undeveloped Acreage	Total Acreage	Developed Amenities & Facilities								Programming Opportunities			
				Hard-surface Trail	Soft-surface Trail	Interpretive Signage	Trailhead	Picnic Tables	Shelter	Parking	Restroom	Guided Hikes	Self Guided Hikes	Nature Interpretation	Environmental Education
Southern Open Space Preserve		1,880.5	1,880.5												
Bommer Canyon Trailhead	3.2		3.2		•		1				1	•	•	•	•
Quail Hill Trailhead	2.8		2.8		•		1	4			1	•	•	•	•
Northern Open Space Preserve		4,554.8	4,554.8												
Orchard Hills Trailhead	1.7		1.7		•		1	2		1	1	•		•	•
Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST)	35.5		35.5	•	•			4			1				
Turtle Rock Areas		75.7	75.7												
Totals for Open Space	43.2	6,511.0	6,554.2	1	4	0	3	10	0	1	4	3	2	3	3

Revised 05/04/16

IRVINE PARKS MASTER PLAN



Map A-1: Proximity of Schools and Colleges to Parks

Schools

Irvine Unified School District

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools

Tustin Unified School District

- Elementary Schools
- High School

Colleges and Universities

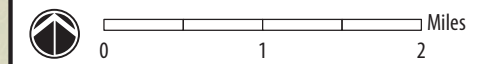
- Irvine Valley College
- Concordia University Irvine
- UC Irvine

Parks and Open Space

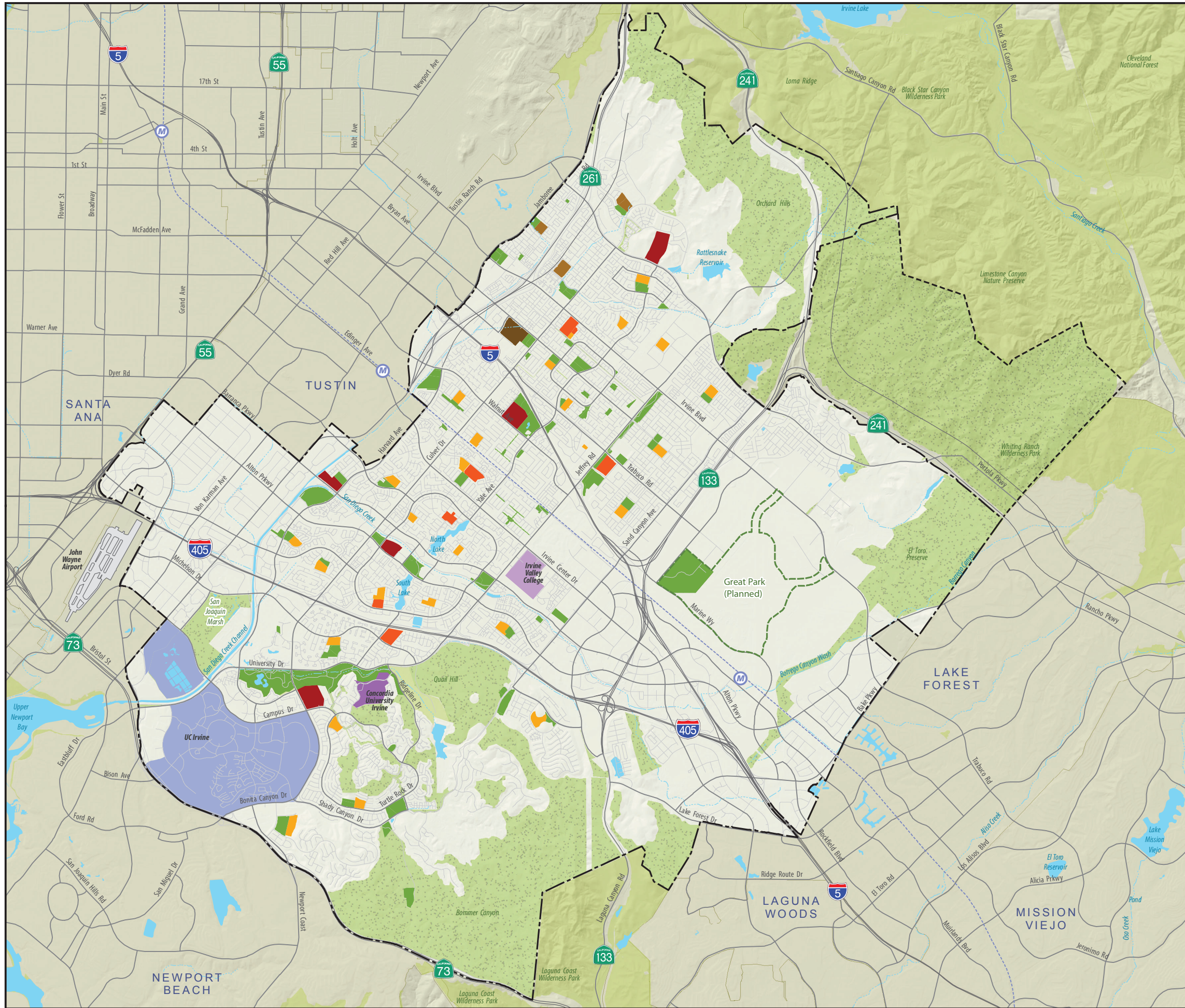
- Parks
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- M Metrolink Line and Stations
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Water Bodies



April 2016
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX B:
Community Outreach Findings Summary

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY OUTREACH FINDINGS

An extensive, multi-faceted community outreach program was conducted to collect public opinion and identify the priorities of diverse cross sections of Irvine’s population for the development of the Parks Master Plan.

METHODOLOGY

Between January 2015 and March 2016, MIG and City of Irvine staff coordinated and facilitated the outreach activities listed in Table B-1 below. Each activity was designed to reach a targeted audience as noted in the *Master Plan Public Engagement Plan*.

Table B-1: Outreach Activities

Activity Name	Dates	Total Participants
Stakeholder Interviews	01/29/15-04/28/15	29
Focus Groups	02/17/15-05/28/15	109
Community Intercept Events	02/28/15-03/30/15	690
Mapita Online Questionnaire	02/17/15-04/13/15	450
Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey	03/18/15-03/25/15	400
Community Services Commission Meeting	04/01/15	30*
Sports Committee Meeting	04/14/15	25
Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaires	04/14/15-5/06/15	1
Community Workshop #1	06/03/15	17
Webpage Emailed Feedback	01/01/15-07/21/15	60
High School Youth Action Team Survey	05/13/15-06/02/15	128
Plan Development Workshop	10/01/15	16
City Council Meeting	10/13/2015	35*
Community Workshop #2	10/29/15	36
Planning Commission Meeting #1	12/3/15	30*
Planning Commission Meeting #2	01/21/16	30*
Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board (IRDAB) Meeting	03/01/16	12
Total		2,098

*Attendance figures for Commission and City Council Meetings are estimates.

Nearly 2,100 participants shared their insights regarding desired amenities and preferences for parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, programs and events. To ensure that the *Master Plan* reflects the priorities and needs of the community, the public engagement process involved targeted audiences and as many people as possible, including Irvine residents, parks users, community leaders and special interest groups. For a complete description of methodologies employed, please see the individual summaries for each outreach activity, available as a technical supplement to the *Master Plan*.

An overview of the activities follows:

- **Stakeholder Interviews:** A total of 11 small-group stakeholder interviews were conducted with representatives from community organizations, City departments, other government agencies, and the development community. Stakeholders provided feedback on challenges, opportunities and ideas in specific subjects related to Irvine parks, recreation facilities, programs, open space and trails.
- **Focus Groups:** A total of eight focus group meetings were held with members of local advisory committees, boards, special interest groups, and non-profits. The meetings included facilitated discussions about the vision for Irvine parks and open space, as well as existing issues, opportunities and challenges in the parks and recreation system.
- **Community Intercept Events:** Interactive display boards were set up at five community events in parks to collect feedback regarding user experiences, attitudes, behaviors and preferences. Participants used “dot” stickers to indicate their answers to specific questions on the boards. Intercept events occurred at the Bill Barber Community Park Softball Opening Ceremonies, Orange County Great Park Farmer’s Market, Bommer Canyon Wilderness Access Day, Northwood Community Park and the Heritage Park Teen Concert. This outreach strategy helped reach community members who may not otherwise have participated in the master planning process by effectively bringing participation opportunities to them.
- **Mapita Online Questionnaire:** An online mapping tool called Mapita was used to collect public feedback on park visitation and use, favorite park and recreation opportunities and barriers to park access. Approximately 450 participants used Mapita to identify and reference specific geographic locations in correlation with their answers to place-based questions. Participants marked locations with digital “pins” on the online map before answering multiple choice and open-ended questions.

- **Parks and Recreation Survey:** A total of 400 Irvine residents participated in a random-sample phone survey, which collected statistically-representative data on the recreation activities and system enhancements desired by City residents, including people with and without a specific interest in parks and recreation.



Intercept board used at community event

- **Community Services Commission Meeting:** MIG presented to the Commission to provide an overview of the planning process, strategies for outreach, preliminary findings and next steps. The commission provided input on key issues for the *Master Plan*.
- **Sports Committee Meeting:** At a regular quarterly meeting held on April 14, 2015, the Irvine Sports Committee met to discuss sports field and facility needs, the equitable distribution of facilities and programs, field allocation, policies and fees and sports facility funding priorities.

- **Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaires:** In conjunction with the regular meetings of the Irvine Sports Committee and the Irvine Aquatic Advisory Board, committee and board members completed an online questionnaire to provide detailed input regarding athletics and aquatics needs.

- **Community Workshops:** Two community workshops were held to test and affirm themes and opinions collected through completed outreach efforts. The workshops featured a mix of engagement strategies, combining group exercises with go-at-your-own-pace activity stations and an interactive priorities survey. Areas of input included community values, visitation patterns, desired experiences and barriers to access in Irvine parks.

- **City Council Meeting:** City staff delivered an update on the community engagement process, the existing system summary and the needs assessment to City Council on October 13, 2015. The Council provided comments and raised issues the *Master Plan* should address. A potential timeframe for adoption hearings was also discussed.
- **Webpage Emailed Feedback:** A City webpage was developed to present the planning process and encourage Irvine residents to sign up for email notification about public involvement opportunities. The webpage also provided a dedicated email address (ParksUpdate@cityofirvine.org) that residents could use to provide feedback or questions to City staff.
- **High School Youth Action Team Survey:** From May 13 to June 2, 2015, members of the High School Youth Action Team (HSYAT) completed surveys to provide feedback on their favorite parks, the ways in which they access those parks and the activities they pursue while visiting parks in Irvine. HSYAT consists of students from Irvine's six public high schools.
- **Plan Development Workshop:** On October 1, 2015, an informal work session was held at the Irvine Civic Center, Conference and Training Center between City staff from the Department of Community Services, Department of Community Development and MIG. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure that both departments had an opportunity to provide initial direction and content suggestions for the Parks Master Plan.
- **Planning Commission Meetings:** City staff presented to the Planning Commission on December 3, 2015 and January 21, 2016 to provide updates on the Parks Master Plan.
- **Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board (IRDAB) Meeting:** City staff presented an update on the Master Plan process on March 1, 2016.

COMMUNITY VALUES

During the stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings, participants shared their ideas of what matters most for parks, programs, facilities, open space and trails. A preliminary list of community values was compiled from these ideas. As overall outreach efforts progressed, this list was continuously refined. Ultimately, five values emerged consistently across outreach activities. These are noted in the sidebar to the right.

Since the City is known for providing first-class recreation opportunities for its residents, values relating to resident perception of Irvine’s park system are of particular importance. Throughout the engagement process, participants expressed recognition of and tremendous appreciation for the high quality of parks and recreation facilities already provided. In the telephone survey, for example, nearly 90% of participants reported that existing parks and recreation facilities did an excellent (47.4) or good (39.3) job in meeting their household’s recreation needs. More broadly, the responses and comments provided by participants suggest the relative value of new recreation opportunities. This too indicates the positive perception of the system overall and residents’ desire to remain at the forefront of recreation trends.

Values

Based on outreach activities, the following values matter most to the community for parks, programs, facilities, open space and trails in Irvine.

- Access
- Diversity
- Education
- Excellence
- Health

KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES

From the outreach activities collectively, several themes and community priorities emerged that were common across activities. These are noted in the sidebar and summarized in alphabetical order as follows:



Connectivity and Access

Results from outreach activities revealed that convenient and safe access to parks, outdoor recreation and open space areas is a great priority. This includes a consideration of the ways in which people travel to parks, the distance they have to travel and the ability to park safely when they arrive. Ensuring access through Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance was also an important topic. Additionally, participants in the various outreach forums expressed an interest in trails that connect parks, recreation facilities and open spaces to other community destinations and that support both recreation and active transportation, such as bicycling and walking.

Outreach Themes

Key outreach themes:

- Connectivity and Access
- Diversity
- Education
- Evolving Needs
- Flexibility
- Health, Wellness, Outdoors
- Partnerships
- Standards and Maintenance



Diversity of Activities, Amenities and Facilities

Participants consistently articulated their desire for a greater variety of recreation opportunities and park spaces. Flexible indoor recreation facilities and active use gymnasiums were especially highlighted as a need throughout the engagement process. Following the same trend outdoors, parks with a variety of recreation opportunities were among respondents' favorite and most frequently visited places. This was illustrated most vividly at the intercept events, where participants expressed a desire to see more of all park facility elements in almost equal proportions. Provision of additional and enhanced types of facilities, particularly those that incorporate support amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, shade and Wi-Fi, will be most appreciated by users.



Education

Opportunities to integrate education within park activities and programs emerged as a priority for the community. Participants pointed to education programs as a means to engage youth in nature conservation and outdoor learning. Providing reading, creative, scientific and academic opportunities was also identified as important. Also, several key park sites have unique opportunities to integrate historical, educational and interpretive features.



Evolving Needs

Responses suggested an understanding by participants that changing demographics present a shift in park demands. For example, seniors, teens and single young adults seek different park activities and facilities than families with children. The parks, recreation and open space system will need to address the growing diversity in age, culture, abilities and needs. The recreation needs associated with population growth—particularly in new residential developments and in new mixed used areas in the IBC—presents additional strains on the existing park and recreation facilities, which should also be taken into account in planning for the future.



Flexibility

Because Irvine includes many different user groups with different interests, recreation needs and skill levels, residents noted that flexible recreation spaces are important to accommodate a variety of uses and serve different groups of people. For example, multipurpose athletic fields and courts can support several different types of sports activities within the same field or facility. Outdoor park space with open turf areas were noted as a way to accommodate active and passive recreation at different times of the day. Participants also noted that facilities and activities should be flexible in order to accommodate casual users, self-directed play and drop-in activities.



Health, Wellness and the Outdoors

Engaging in physical activity exercise and enjoying the outdoors were mentioned frequently as the top reasons for visiting Irvine parks and open space. Responses in multiple outreach forums noted both needs and opportunities to increase the numbers of facilities, programs and activities that support fitness and healthy living. Connecting people to nature and providing opportunities to play outdoors are key priorities for Irvine residents.



Partnerships

Collaboration between the City, other government agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations was discussed by participants in the focus groups and interviews. Suggestions included creating or expanding partnerships with local school districts for programs and shared-use facilities, developing partnerships with non-profit organizations to create “park champions” that can build, restore and repair trails and open spaces, and exploring possible partnerships with private companies to fund additional facilities and programs.



Standards and Maintenance

Results from the focus groups, stakeholder interviews and surveys indicated an overall appreciation and pride in the high standards Irvine upholds in its parks, facilities, programming and park maintenance. Respondents also expressed the importance of maintaining this high quality over time as the parks system grows and the parks age.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX C: Parks and Park Facility Standards

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX C: PARKS AND PARK FACILITY STANDARDS

The City of Irvine defines service level standards for parks and recreation facilities in four documents:

- *City of Irvine General Plan (1995)*: Adopted by City Council in 1999 and supplemented in August 2012, the General Plan provides goals, objectives and policies for parks, recreation and open space.
- *Parks and Park Facilities Standards (2015)*: Adopted by the Planning Commission in September 2015, these standards provide guidance in acceptance of park land, collection of park fees or provision of in lieu improvements, and criteria for design of public and private parks. The 2015 document re-adopted the same facility standards that were originally developed in 1988 and refined and adopted in 2005.
- *Irvine Municipal Code Subdivision Ordinance (2015)*: Adopted on April 28, 2015, and amended on August 11, 2015, the standards described in Section 5-5-1004 set out the conditions for when fees or park land dedication are required for proposed subdivisions.
- *City of Irvine Zoning Ordinance (2015)*: Adopted on April 13, 2010 and amended on August 11, 2015, Section 2-22-1 of the Zoning Ordinance provides guidance and regulations for park plan and park design to address and resolve major issues associated with the development of public and private parks.

Standards for park land and park facilities are summarized in this appendix for reference. Chapter 2 provides guidance for updating these standards.

CURRENT PARK LAND STANDARDS

Irvine's park land requirement is to provide five acres of park land/or fees in lieu for every 1,000 residents, further defined as two acres of community parks and three acres of either public or private neighborhood parks. For reference, Table C-1 depicts these park land standards.

Park land standards vary for public and private parks, and in some cases, they depend on the planning area in which development occurs. For example, although community parks are required to have a minimum size of 20 acres in most planning areas, the exception is Planning Area 4, Lower Peters Canyon, where the minimum size for community parks is 10 acres. Private neighborhood parks can also be substantially

smaller in size than public parks. The Irvine Business Complex (IBC) has its own park land standards; for instance, in the IBC, community parks requirements are met solely through payment of in lieu fees.

Publicly available neighborhood open spaces are encouraged in the IBC overlay zone. The City is currently re-considering options, such as reuse of existing buildings, linear parks within utility areas, etc., to be able to meet urban recreation needs and ensure access to park land where available in or near the IBC.

Table C-1: Summary of City Park Standards by Type

Park Type	Minimum Size	Minimum Width	Minimum Population Served	Population Density (Dwelling Units / Acre)
Community Parks	20 acres ⁽¹⁾	n/a	10,000	n/a
Public Neighborhood Parks	4 acres	n/a	2,500	n/a
Private Neighborhood Parks	1/3 acre ^{(2), (3)}	100 ft.	n/a	30 or less
	6,000 s.f. (about 1.4 tenths of an acre) ^{(2), (3)}	100 ft.	n/a	31 or more

Sources: City of Irvine General Plan Supplement No. 8 June 2012; Parks and Park Facility Standards, 2015.

Notes: (1) Minimum size of 10 acres in Planning Area 4, Lowers Peter Canyon

(2) Or equivalent in lieu fees

(3) Exception in Planning Area 36, Irvine Business Complex (IBC) Design Criteria Section 10

CURRENT PARK FACILITY STANDARDS

The City applies population-based standards to identify the number of park facilities needed to support residential development. These take the form of either one facility per number of people served or the square footage of an indoor facility needed to serve 10,000 residents. Table C-2 summarizes current standards noted in the adopted *Parks and Park Facilities Standards*.

As noted in the table, Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) and private parks play a role in meeting select standards. The school standards assume continued shared use of IUSD facilities, through the Joint Use Agreement between the City and IUSD.

Table C-2: Irvine Recreational Facility Standards (2005)

Recreational Facilities		Standard (per Population)	Responsible Agency		
			City	Private	IUSD
Fields and Courts					
Soccer Fields	Unlighted	1 / 4,250	20%		80%
	Lighted	1 / 8,500	90%		10%
Baseball/ Softball	Unlighted	1 / 2,500	20%		80%
	Lighted	1 / 5,000	75%		25%
Basketball Courts	Unlighted	1 / 1,250	10%	(1)	90%
	Lighted	1 / 5,000	60%	(1)	40%
Volleyball Courts	Unlighted	1 / 5,000	33%	(1)	67%
Racquetball/ Handball	Unlighted	1 / 5,000	25%	(1)	75%
Tennis Courts	Lighted	1 / 2,500	33%	67%	
Public Community Buildings					
Community Center		10,000 s.f. / 10,000			
Senior Center		1,000 s.f. / 10,000			
Youth/ Family Center		Included in Community Center			
Art Center		1,000 s.f. / 10,000			
Gymnasium		1,000 s.f. / 10,000			
Public Pools					
50-meter competition		1 pool / 100,000			
Recreation Jr. Olympic		1 pool/ 20,000			
Other Facilities					
Children's Playground ⁽¹⁾		1.8 s.f. / Person outside of Planning Area 36			
		1.2 s.f. / Person in Planning Area 36			
Picnic Tables		1 table / acre (2 min.)			
Barbecues		1 group BBQ / 4 tables or 1 family BBQ / 2 tables			

Source: Parks and Park Facility Standards, 2015.

Notes: (1) Can be provided in public or private parks, as long as available to all residents.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



APPENDIX D:
Site Enhancement Opportunities

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table D-2: Site-Specific Major Facility Enhancement Opportunities¹

Facility Name	Park Location	Year Built/ Rehabilitated or Planned for Construction	Existing or Planned Square Footage	Build			Enhance	Rehabilitate		Additional Notes
				Construct	Renovate and Modernize Building	Enlarge Building Renovation or Construction	Refresh, Update or Improve Building ³	Rehabilitate or Replace Building Elements ⁴	Potential Square Footage ⁵	
Community Centers										
Cypress Community Center	Cypress	2014	6,500					•	6,500	
Deerfield Community Center	Deerfield	1979	5,028				•		5,028	There may be opportunities to expand the community center should disc golf be relocated.
Harvard Community Center	Harvard	1979	4,972			•			6,000	When updating building, conduct a site, building and parking evaluation to determine if there are opportunities to add a teen room or multi-purpose room that supports active recreation uses at this site.
Heritage Community Center	Heritage	1978	19,772				•	•	19,772	There may be opportunities to transform this center via renovation and/or expansion into a multi-use facility featuring a flexible community events, performance space and gymnasium.
Las Lomas Community Center	Las Lomas	2005	5,093					•	5,093	
Northwood Community Center	Northwood	1982/2013	7,375					•	7,375	
Sweet Shade Community Center	Sweet Shade	2009	3,000					•	3,000	
Turtle Rock Community Center	Turtle Rock	1979	16,936			•			20,000	Jointly evaluate renovation and reconstruction opportunities for combining the Community Center and Nature Center considering cost efficiencies, programming synergies, revenue-generating options and opportunities to provide one green building consistent with the natural character and nature-based programming at this site. Evaluate options to increase community use for all ages, incorporate a multi-purpose room that supports active and passive uses, and share classrooms to support community programming, childcare, and environmental education and nature interpretation. Consider indoor and outdoor spaces (e.g., outdoor classrooms, patios, views, trail access) in conjunction with this remodel. (Note: The potential indoor capacity of the combined Turtle Rock Community Center and Turtle Rock Nature Center is 25,000 s.f.).
University Community Center	University	1976/2010	6,043					•	6,043	
Woodbury Community Center	Woodbury	2005	4,001					•	4,001	
Senior Centers										
Lakeview Senior Center and Adult Day Care Health Services Center	Mike Ward - Woodbridge	1993	30,600			•			40,000	Evaluate options to reconfigure and/or enlarge the facility to include wider hallway, media/technology resource room, more fitness/active recreation space, larger game room, more storage and office space and better indoor- outdoor connections. Enhance the outdoor passive area with a shaded, comfortable plaza and social spaces that include amenities that complement senior health and wellness. Expand and modernize facility.
Trabuco Senior Center	Trabuco	2016	7,500					•	7,500	
Rancho Senior Center	San Joaquin	1978	11,010			•			15,000	Given site constraints, evaluate options to modernize and reconfigure facility to include wider hallways, better acoustics, a media/technology resource room, more fitness/active recreation space, more storage and office space, and better indoor/outdoor connection. Enhance the outdoor garden and provide an accessible loop trail for outdoor walking, plus a seating area under the trees. Address parking issues.

Facility Name	Park Location	Year Built/ Rehabilitated or Planned for Construction	Existing or Planned Square Footage	Construct	Build		Enhance	Rehabilitate	Potential Square Footage ⁵	Additional Notes
					Renovate and Modernize Building	Enlarge Building in Renovation or Construction ²	Refresh, Update or Improve Building ³	Rehabilitate or Replace Building Elements ⁴		
Other Major Indoor Facilities										
Irvine Fine Arts Center	Heritage	1979	18,600		●				18,600	Conduct a feasibility study, master plan and operational pro forma for a new Fine Arts Center in the same space as the current building. Modernize features, considering programming, revenue-generating opportunities and indoor/outdoor uses, particularly to support group events and reserved uses.
Turtle Rock Nature Center	Turtle Rock	1979	2,810			●			5,000	See Turtle Rock Community Center notes.
Irvine Child Resource/Youth Employment Center	Heritage	1988	3,000				●		3,000	
Irvine Child Development Center	Bill Barber	1989	11,162				●		11,162	
Other Major Outdoor Facilities										
William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center	Heritage	1979/2005 ⁶	13,040			●			15,000	Evaluate opportunities to update and expand facility to better support national scale events. Consider enhanced locker rooms and lobby, incorporating additional office space and concessions. Renovate back hill to enhance seating. Extend or improve the drop off/pick up drive for access, potentially using the adjacent greenspace.
Planned Major Facilities										
Portola Community Center	Portola	2017-18 ⁷	12,006	●					12,006	Coordinate with the developer to construct as planned.
Gateway Community Center and Gymnasium	Gateway	2018 ⁷	12,000	●					50,000	Work with the developer to identify options to develop a larger multi-purpose, active-use community and recreation center with gymnasium and/or other indoor recreation space (40,000-65,000 sf).
Los Olivos Community Center	Los Olivos	2019 ⁷	6,000	●					6,000	Coordinate with the developer to construct as planned.
Quail Hill Community Center	Quail Hill	2016 ⁷	11,800	●					11,800	Construct as planned.
Oak Creek Community Center	Oak Creek	TBD	6,000	●					25,000	Consider options to build a larger facility to include a small gymnasium or active recreation space.
Bill Barber Community Center/Gymnasium	Bill Barber	TBD	45,000	●					45,000	This park is home to major athletic events and festivals, such as the Irvine Global Village Festival. It has space intended for the construction of a large community center/gym and amphitheater, but not enough space for parking to support both uses. In lieu of building a community center/gym at this location, evaluate opportunities for a 1) event pavilion, 2) multi-use event and performance space, or 3) a fieldhouse for sports such as indoor soccer, volleyball and pickleball.
Hicks Canyon Community Center	Hicks Canyon	TBD	5,500	●					5,500	Relocate the planned neighborhood center to another park in north Irvine. The planned community center (5,500 sf) is too small to provide indoor active recreation facilities.

- Notes:
1. The opportunities for building renovation and modernization are based on facility lifecycles and recreation needs identified in the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. Building condition studies, feasibility studies, market and operational analyses, facility master planning, and consideration of building enhancements in conjunction with the redevelopment of other site features may be needed to determine recommendations to proceed.
 2. When building is constructed or fully renovated, options to provide a larger facility should be evaluated to support added recreation opportunities. (For planned new construction, the potential square footage of the building may be different from what is currently planned.)
 3. A refresh involves updating, improving and remodeling the building. For older facilities, if a building evaluation identifies structural issues and/or major renovation needs to bring the facility up to code, then full renovation and modernization may be necessary.
 4. This column indicates "potential" square footage if facility evaluations indicate that the building should be enlarged to support additional programming options. This information is for general planning and cost estimating only. The actual square footage for a proposed facilities will be identified through feasibility studies, market analyses and facility master plans.
 5. All buildings that are not being updated or modernized are anticipated to need repairs or replacement of specific amenities as they continue to age. This type of capital replacement is budgeted through Major Facility Asset Replacement funds.
 6. Estimated renovation date as noted by City of Irvine.
 7. Current plans as of 2016, City of Irvine.



APPENDIX E: Community Request Evaluations

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

COMMUNITY REQUEST EVALUATION TOOL

The City provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities and programs in its parks, public facilities and open spaces. Many residents wish to contribute to the vitality of the Irvine park system by proposing park or facility enhancements, programs, special events or donations. The Community Request Evaluation Tool is designed to help the City evaluate whether the implementation of these opportunities aligns with community goals and visions, as expressed through the *Parks Master Plan*.

Process

Evaluating requests in a consistent manner eliminates confusion or uncertainty for both community members and City staff. This tool also reinforces the primacy of the *Master Plan* in these matters. The process should generally follow five steps:

- **Step 1:** A community member or advocate develops an idea.
- **Step 2:** City staff provides the Community Request and Proposal Form and the community member provides the requested information.
- **Step 3:** City staff reviews the potential impacts of the proposal, including other project displacements, capital costs and operating costs.
- **Step 4:** City staff completes a formal review.
- **Step 5:** A decision is made and next steps are determined as appropriate.

COMMUNITY REQUEST AND PROPOSAL FORM

This form provides an opportunity for community members to request or propose park or facility enhancements, programs, special events and/or donations. It allows City staff to evaluate proposals in the context of Irvine's *Parks Master Plan*. Please fill out the entire form and return the completed form to the City of Irvine Community Services Department.

Project Champion

Name and Affiliation:
Address:
Phone and Email:

Project Proposal

Date of Request/Proposal:
Park or Site Name:
Project Description (attach additional sheets as needed):
This request or proposal is for a: <input type="checkbox"/> Park or Facility Project (adds or improves a feature or amenity in a park) <input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event/Activity (adds a program/event/activity in a facility, park or open space area) <input type="checkbox"/> Donation (provides funding for a specific park, facility, program or event)

This request or proposal meets the following <i>Parks Master Plan</i> Objectives:		
Objective	√ or N/A	Explanation
A: Provide a variety of public and private parks to meet resident needs.		
B: Provide a broad spectrum of active and passive, indoor and outdoor park amenities throughout Irvine that support diverse recreation experiences, community gathering spots and opportunities for play.		
C: Activate parks and address community recreation needs through the provision of programs and events.		
D: Ensure that the City's park, recreation and open space system is accessible to Irvine residents, including users of different abilities and demographic characteristics.		
E: Create dynamic parks as special and unique places, adding or incorporating art and historic resources, innovative features, diverse landscaping, nature, varied color palettes and welcoming amenities.		
F: Balance access to open space for outdoor recreation with conservation needs.		
G: Ensure that Irvine's parks and recreation system is operated, maintained and renovated in a manner that is cost-effective, while balancing user safety, security, satisfaction and funding availability.		
H: Develop and maintain relationships with targeted public and private organizations and entities to support City objectives.		

Request or Proposal Costs

This proposal anticipates the following costs to build or implement (check one):

High	\$250,000+	
Medium	\$50,000 - 249,999	
Low	\$0 - 49,999	

Proposed Donation

Project Evaluation Statement

This request or proposal supports _____ objectives identified in the Master Plan and will serve _____ people. It has a _____ cost.