



CHAPTER 8 Recreation Element

RECREATION

Recreational Opportunities for Highlight Newport Beach's

Introduction

The City's parks, bicycle and pedestrian trails, recreational facilities, and coastal resources such as beaches play an important role in the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of Newport Beach residents. These facilities are important land use components in an urban environment, providing both visual relief from the built environment and contributing to residents' quality of life through recreation and aesthetic value.

California state law requires that recreational issues be discussed in the General Plan. Since 1973, Newport Beach has had a Recreation and Open Space Element that was most recently amended in 1998. With the update of this General Plan, only policies related to recreation are included within this element, while open space policies are contained within the Natural Resources Element.

The primary purpose of the Recreation Element is to ensure that the balance between the provision of sufficient parks and recreation facilities are appropriate for the residential and business population of Newport Beach. Specific recreational issues and policies contained in this Recreation Element include: parks and recreation facilities, recreation programs, shared facilities, coastal recreation and support facilities, marine recreation, and public access.

Context

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City has approximately 278 acres of developed parks. Newport Beach's parklands range in size from mini-parks such as the Lower Bay Park (0.1 acre) to the 39-acre Bonita Canyon Sports Park. The existing park facilities are shown in Figure R1. School facilities also provide indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in the City, while greenbelts and open space areas provide passive recreational opportunities or open space relief. These park and recreation facilities are described below. Additionally, bikeways, jogging trails, pedestrian trails, recreation trails, and regional equestrian trails are also available in Newport Beach.

ELEMENT

Residents and Visitors That Environmental Assets

Park Types

Community Park—Community parks serve the entire City and are easily accessible via arterial roads. Community parks are those with improvements such as community buildings, parking, swimming, facilities for picnicking, active sports, and other facilities that serve a larger population. Community Parks may have a particular theme or orientation such as active sports or aquatic facilities.

Mini Park—Mini parks are smaller parks which may take one of two different forms. Most mini parks are less than one acre in size, serve a quarter-mile radius, and are located within a neighborhood, separate from major or collector roads. Some mini parks serve the entire City and are located as urban trail heads along major trails or streets.

Neighborhood Park—Neighborhood parks serve all ages and are generally one to eight acres in size. They are located adjacent to public schools when possible. Neighborhood parks contain a wide variety of improvements which can include turf areas, active sport fields and courts, community buildings, play apparatus and picnic facilities. Other improvements might include senior centers, youth centers, and aquatic facilities.

View Park—View parks are smaller passive parks designed to take advantage of a significant view. They are often located on coastal bluffs to focus upon ocean or bay views. Most view parks are between one-half to three acres in size and serve the entire City. View parks are generally improved with landscaping, walkways, and benches.

Greenbelt—Greenbelts in public or private ownership are included in this category. They may include areas with some recreational facilities, although the primary function of the area is passive open space.



Children's play area at West Newport Park

Open Space—Open space includes passive and active open space areas which do not function as public parks but do provide open space relief. Such areas may or may not be accessible to the general public.

Public Beach—Public beaches serve a number of local and regional functions. In some neighborhoods, beaches function as neighborhood or community parks. Easy accessibility, lack of entrance fees and a lack of other available parks has contributed to this function. Public beaches all include sandy beach areas adjacent to the bay or ocean and may include active sports, snack bars, showers, drinking fountains, restrooms, walkways, docks, benches, shade trees and parking areas. From observation, it has been determined that active beach recreation takes place within about 100 feet of the water's edge. Therefore, this Element treats this seaward 100 feet of the public beaches in the City as active recreation acreage.

School—Public schools are a part of the recreation system in the City because field and playground areas can serve the general public during weekends and after school.

Circulation and Improvement and Open Space Agreement

Some of the City's parks and open space areas consist of dedicated lands through the Circulation and Improvement and Open Space Agreement (CIOSA). This agreement is between the City of Newport Beach and The Irvine Company, and has allowed building entitlements for The Irvine Company in exchange for payments for circulation projects, an interest free loan, and land for open space and potential senior housing sites for the City. The amount of open space land dedication was substantially more than what would have been required under the City's Park Dedication Ordinance.

Six sites have been dedicated under CIOSA in Newport Beach, and include: Back Bay View Park, Newport Village (formerly Newport Center Park), Newporter Knoll, Freeway Reservation, Upper Castaways, and Harbor Cove. Another site, located at Jamboree Road and MacArthur Boulevard, will be dedicated upon issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for final CIOSA project.

Figure R1 Existing Recreational Facilities

Pg 1—11x17 color

Pg 2—11x17 color

Recreational Facilities

The City's parks contain a variety of recreational facilities, with areas available for organized sports including soccer fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and basketball courts. Recreational opportunities exist for children in many of the play areas in the City's parks. Biking and walking trails are also popular recreational amenities. Swimming pools are available to the public at aquatic facilities at the Marian Bergeson Aquatic Center and Newport Harbor High School through joint use agreements with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. Additional recreational resources in the City include three community centers, several multipurpose recreation centers, a senior center, and two gymnasium facilities. Locations of these recreational facilities are also shown on Figure R1. Private facilities, including yacht clubs, golf courses, and country clubs are also facilities that serve residents of Newport Beach.



Peninsula Park offers opportunities for organized sports

Sharing of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Public schools within the City under the jurisdiction of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District contain a number of important recreation facilities. Currently, after-school recreational use of these facilities is utilized by youth and adult residents through joint use agreements between the school district and the City.

Parkland Dedication Standards

Parkland dedication standards associated with the *Quimby Act* and the Newport Beach Subdivision Code are applicable to development in the City. As required under California Government Code, the *Quimby Act* provides for the dedication of parkland, or the payment of fees in lieu of land, by developers as a requirement for residential development. The Act requires the provision of three acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area exceeds that limit, in which case the City may adopt a higher standard not to exceed five acres per 1,000 residents.

Chapter 19.52, Park Dedication and Fees of the City’s Municipal Code provides for the dedication of land, the payment of fees in lieu thereof or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes in conjunction with the approval of residential development. Newport Beach’s park dedication requirement is five acres per 1,000 persons. In-lieu fees are placed in a fund earmarked for the provision or rehabilitation of park and recreation facilities that can serve the subdivision. The park dedication ordinance also provides for credit to be given, at the discretion of the City Council, for the provision of private recreation facilities within a new residential development or for the provision of park and recreation improvements to land dedicated for a public park. If allowed, the private facilities or public improvements are credited against the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees. The ordinance is not applicable to non-residential subdivisions.

MARINE RECREATION AND FACILITIES

Throughout its history, Newport Beach has been a major marine recreational center. There are over eight miles of sandy beaches that provide opportunities for sunbathing, volleyball, swimming, surfing, windsurfing, and other recreational activities. Newport Bay and Harbor are used for a wide variety of recreational activities, including boating, diving, excursions, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, parasailing, rowing, sailing, swimming, and windsurfing.

Coastal Recreation Opportunities



Newport Beach's beaches are a popular destination



Public dock at 15th Street

As previously discussed, public beaches serve a number of local and regional functions, while providing the largest coastal recreation opportunity within Newport Beach. Public beaches all include sandy beach areas adjacent to the bay or ocean and may include active sports, snack bars, showers, drinking fountains, restrooms, walkways, docks, benches, shade trees and parking areas. Public beaches are shown in Figure R1.

Other coastal recreation opportunities include two recreational piers, provided by the City. The 800-foot Newport Pier is located at the end of Newport Boulevard (McFadden Place) in McFadden Square. The 950-foot Balboa Pier is located at the end of Main Street in Balboa Village.

Additionally, the City provides ten public docks in the harbor, which can be used for boat launching and fishing. The Newport Aquatic Center property is also co-owned by the City and County, but is

leased and privately operated by the Center. Located on Northstar Beach, the Newport Aquatic Center provides an opportunity for the public and members to kayak and canoe in Upper Newport Bay as well as advanced training facilities for world-class athletes.



Trail in Crystal Cove Park

The county and the state own four recreational areas in Newport Beach, as shown in Figure R1. The privately operated 100-acre Newport Dunes Aquatic Park provides opportunities for camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming and other water and beach activities. The 752-acre Upper Newport Bay State Marine Park (formerly Ecological Reserve) and 140-acre Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve provide opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, biking, and hiking. Lastly, the Crystal Cove State Park also provides coastal recreation

opportunities with 3.5 miles of beach and 2,000 acres of undeveloped woodland which is popular for hiking and horseback riding. Approximately 240 acres is located within the City. The offshore waters are designated as an underwater park. Crystal Cove is used by mountain bikers inland and scuba and skin divers underwater. The beach is popular with swimmers and surfers. Visitors can explore tidepools and sandy coves.

Commercial areas adjacent to beaches and the bay play an important role in providing and enhancing recreational activities. A large number of businesses provide recreational services to residents and visitors that include charter, entertainment and excursion vessels, sports equipment rentals, launching facilities, amusement facilities, and shops and restaurants.

Shoreline Access

The public's right to access recreational features such as the Pacific Ocean beaches, Lower Newport Bay/Harbor, and Upper Newport Bay are important. According to the City's Local Coastal Plan, there are two basic types of public access: vertical access (access to the shoreline), and lateral access (access along the shoreline). Newport Beach has developed an extensive system of access to ocean beaches and the bay. Virtually all of the Pacific Ocean shoreline beaches are public and the bay is accessible via public beaches, parks, street ends, shoreline trails, walkways, and boardwalks.

Needs

Although the City of Newport Beach appears largely built out, there are a number of vacant parcels available for future development. The General Plan Land Use Element projects additional population increases through infill development, intensification of existing uses, and annexations. Therefore, in addition to any unmet park and recreation needs of the present population, the demand for recreation facilities will grow. In addition, the Land Use Element allows for higher density development within the City, where opportunities for different types of park and recreational facilities may arise.

Specific citywide and service area needs for parks and recreational facilities, as well as marine recreation and facilities, are described below.

CITYWIDE ISSUES AND NEEDS

Parks and Recreational Facilities

In June 2005, it is estimated that a total of 415.6 acres of parklands are needed within the City to accommodate the current population of 83,120 residents (utilizing the City standard of 5 acres per 1,000 population). As shown in Table 1, below, there are an existing total of 286.4 acres of parks and 90.4 acres of active beach recreation within Newport Beach with a combined total of 376.8 acres. Thus, this represents a total deficit of 38.8 acres of combined park and beach acreage citywide. Seven of the twelve service areas are experiencing a deficit in this combined recreation acreage. Three planned parks in West Newport, Newport Center, and Newport Coast would help alleviate the citywide park deficit. In addition to a deficit in combined park and beach recreation acreage, there is also an overall shortage in active playfields throughout Newport Beach. Many of the service areas within the City, as discussed in greater detail below, may have a park surplus but are still experiencing a deficit in active playfields. Also, it is difficult to provide playfields because of the large amount of land required for sports fields, the lack of suitable vacant land, and the high cost of such land within the City.

The citywide parks and recreation facilities needs described below have been identified through the following: (1) community surveys (administered from December 1996 to February 1997), (2) data shown in Table R1 (Parkland Acreage Needs), and (3) monitoring of the use of recreation programs and facilities.

Table R1 Parkland Acreage Needs					
<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Existing Park Acreage: June 2005</i>				
	<i>Park Acres Needed</i>	<i>Park Acres Existing</i>	<i>Active Beach Recreation Acreage</i>	<i>Combined Park/Beach Acreage</i>	<i>Deficit (-) Excess (+)</i>
1. West Newport	64.7	9.1	34	43.1	-21.6
2. Balboa Peninsula	25.5	6.5	44	50.5	+25.0
3. Newport Heights/Upper Bay	64.3	50.2	0	50.2	-14.1
4. Santa Ana Heights	3.2	6.8	0	6.8	+3.6
5. Lower Bay	17.3	0.1	0	0.1	-17.2
6. Balboa Island	17.9	0.3	1	1.3	-16.6
7. Eastbluff	31.3	71.0	0	71.0	+39.7
8. Big Canyon	13.9	0	0	0	-13.9
9. Newport Center	10.9	19	0	19	+8.1
10. Corona del Mar	44.4	23.9	11.4	35.3	-9.1
11. Harbor View	72.2	99.5	0	99.5	+27.3
12. Newport Coast*	50	58.1*	0	-50	
Totals	415.6 a	286.4	90.4 b	376.8	-38.8**

* Newport Coast includes public and private parks, including 14 acres of Newport Ridge park dedicated for public use upon City acceptance.

**Private Park Area is 58.1 ac. Newport Coast parks use and maintenance are subject to the terms of the Pre-Annexation Agreement.

**Deficit/excess acreage if no additional parks are built.

^a 83,120 x 5 ac. per thousand = 415.6 ac.

^b Includes beach area where active recreation takes place (i.e., typically within 100 feet of the water). In addition, there are 174 acres of passive beach open space, 136 acres of open space land in the Upper Bay Ecological reserve, and an undetermined amount of water open space in the Upper Bay and Newport Harbor.

Identified Issues and Needs

Sports Fields—Perhaps the fastest growing recreational demand in Newport Beach is the need for additional sports fields, especially lighted facilities available for after-work sports leagues. This need stems from the evolving nature of sports activities, diversity of sports that residents are involved in, growing participation of girls in a number of field sports, the lengthening of seasons for many sports and consequent season overlap, the need for sports facilities for the physically challenged, and the continuing high level of participation in company sports leagues such as coed softball. Meeting this need will be a challenge because of the large amount of area required for sports fields, the lack of suitable vacant land in the City, and the high cost of such land. In addition, school districts are adding new teams to accommodate the diversity of sports students are interested in, making it more difficult for the City’s Recreation Department to use school sports fields to provide public recreation opportunities.

Indoor Facilities—The community surveys emphasized the need for additional gymnasium or other indoor sports facilities, such as for basketball, volleyball, and gymnastics. With the exception of the West Newport Community Center, all of the current indoor facilities owned by the City are small and consist of one or two small classrooms. There is a need for community centers with large meeting and multipurpose rooms that can be programmed for many different classes and activities. Additional indoor facilities should be planned for the long-term, located preferably within a community-level park.

Community Pool Facilities—The need surveys showed a strong desire for additional adult and youth swimming pool and aquatic sports facilities and programs. The City does not own a swimming pool and currently offers all aquatics programs to the community at one of two high school pools. There is a growing demand through the schools for additional aquatic programs serving the students, thereby limiting the amount of time the City can operate programs for the general public.

Sharing of School Facilities—Public schools within the City administered by the Newport-Mesa Unified School District contain a number of important indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. After-school recreational use of these facilities including playfields, swimming pools, gymnasiums, and other facilities could be utilized by other non-school age residents of Newport Beach to maximize the recreational opportunities available. However, as schools evolve in function, the City’s Recreation Department may lose use of these school facilities.

Other Facilities—Other identified facility needs include bike and pedestrian trails, lighted tennis courts, dog parks, tot lots/playgrounds, golf driving range, public marine recreational and educational facilities, and public restrooms.

Temporary Events—Temporary events such as festivals are held at parks and recreation facilities within the City. During these events, access to and use of these facilities could be impacted.

Marine Recreation and Facilities

The citywide marine recreation and facilities needs described below have been identified through community surveys (administered from December 1996 to February 1997), through the data in Table R1 (Parkland Acreage Needs), and through monitoring of the use of recreation programs and facilities.

Identified Issues and Needs

Boating Facilities—Although not as great as the need for sports fields, there is a substantial demand for public boat launching facilities, sailing facilities, marine sanitation facilities, and guest slips. In addition, there is a continuing high level of interest in crew rowing and outrigger paddling activities and facilities.

Shoreline Access—Throughout Southern California, access to the shoreline is restricted to the public due to private residential communities. Although most of the shoreline in Newport Beach is publicly owned and accessible, there are a few private residential communities that impede public access to and along the shoreline.

Temporary Events—Newport Beach’s coastal areas have long been the venue for temporary events, including film production, surfing contests, volleyball tournaments, runs, races, concerts, boat shows, and other such competitions, exhibitions, and events. Also, a number of view parks have become popular locations for large private gatherings. The nature and frequency of such events can impact access to the shoreline and other coastal resources.



Additional boating facilities are an identified need in Newport Beach.

SERVICE AREAS

The City has been divided into service areas, as shown in Figure R2, for the purposes of park planning and to equitably administer parkland dedications and fees provided by residential development. Two of the 12 service areas within the City, Newport Center and Harbor View, have no identified park and recreation needs, as discussed below.

Service Area 9—Newport Center. There is park surplus within this service area. The Back Bay View Park was completed in the summer of 2005, and a new passive park, Newport Center Park, is planned for development sometime after 2006.

Service Area 11—Harbor View. There is a surplus in park area, and the Harbor View Service Area contains substantial active and passive recreation facilities. The City’s efforts should be focused on maintaining and/or upgrading existing facilities, such as Grant Howald Park, Arroyo Park, and Bonita Canyon Sports Park.

Parks and Recreational Facilities

Service area parks and recreational facilities needs described below have been identified through community surveys (administered from December 1996 to February 1997), through the data in Table R1 (Parkland Acreage Needs), and through monitoring of the use of recreation programs and facilities.

Figure R2 Proposed Park and Recreational Facilities

Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Identified Issues and Needs

Service Area 1—West Newport. Most of West Newport’s recreation land is in beaches. There is a deficit of 21.6 acres, and a need for sports fields within a new community or neighborhood-level park. There is a future park site identified in this service area, Sunset Ridge Park which is designated as an active park to include ball fields, picnic areas, a playground, parking, and restrooms. Additionally, an active community park (possibly lighted) should be developed in Banning Ranch, regardless of the ultimate development of the site, to accommodate the Service Area and Citywide needs for active sports fields.

Service Area 2—Balboa Peninsula. Like West Newport, most of the peninsula’s recreation area is in beaches. This area has little vacant land for development and the population is expected to remain stable. Although there is currently a surplus in park acreage, any future park needs can be satisfied via the renovation and upgrading of facilities, such as those at Las Arenas Park and Peninsula Park. Additional active park facilities are desirable, along with support facilities such as restrooms, showers, and drinking fountains. There is also a need for additional boat launching and mooring facilities, as well as pedestrian pathways to and along the Bay. Future development of the City’s Marina Park property could provide for the existing community center and the City’s current sailing and boating facilities on the site to be renovated and expanded.

Service Area 3—Newport Heights/Harbor Highlands. This area is largely built out and contains several important park and recreation facilities. Substantial school recreation facilities, including Newport Harbor High School, Ensign Junior High, Mariners Elementary, and Newport Heights Elementary, compensate for the deficiency in total park area.

Service Area 4—Santa Ana Heights/Airport Commercial. There is currently a park surplus, and the present two-acre Bayview Park and the proximity of the Upper Bay recreation area provide substantial recreational opportunities for this area. There is also a planned pocket park and the City is planning a joint use community center project with the YMCA and there is the possibility that the Caltrans site may be a future park location. However, this service area is experiencing a shortfall in active playfields. In addition, the population within this service area is expected to increase under the General Plan. Future development however will be subject to special provisions that require the provision of on-site recreational amenities, and dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees.

Service Area 5—Lower Bay. This area contains Lido Isle and the Bayside Drive area and is largely built out. Although there is a deficiency in park area, the service area has substantial private recreational and boating facilities. It is also adjacent to Area 3 (Newport Heights) where there are extensive recreational facilities. Because of these factors and the fact there is little or no vacant land suitable for park use, the provision of additional parkland is probably not feasible in this area.

Service Area 6—Balboa Island. This area is similar, in terms of recreation needs and conditions with a deficiency in park area, to Area 5 above. However, Balboa Island contains more public recreational facilities in the form of public beach area, the Carroll Beek Community Center, and Balboa Island Park (a mini-park). The acquisition of additional parkland is probably not feasible in this area.

Service Area 7—Eastbluff/North Ford. Although there is a numerical excess of existing parkland in this area, most of the land is limited to passive use, such as Big Canyon Park. Additional sports fields and other active facilities will be needed to satisfy the recreational demands from new development.

However, this Service Area is adjacent to Service Area 11 Harbor View, which contains the 47.6 acre public park in Bonita Canyon that is available to all Newport Beach residents.

Service Area 8—Big Canyon/Belcourt. Although there are substantial private facilities, there are no public recreation facilities in this area; thus, there is park deficiency. However, this Service Area is adjacent to Service Area 11 Harbor View, which contains the 47.6 acre public park in Bonita Canyon that is available to all Newport Beach residents.

Service Area 10—Corona del Mar. Although there is a deficiency in park area, existing active and passive facilities should meet present and future need, provided these facilities are renovated and upgraded to meet demand for sports fields and active recreation.

Service Area 12—Newport Coast. This area is deficient in public facilities, but exceeds the City park ratio standard if its extensive private facilities are included. Currently, a public park is under design (estimated to be completed by 2008) near the end of Ridge Park Road. Newport Ridge park, largely owned and operated by the Newport Ridge Community Association, includes land that the City operates as an active ballfield along with the site of the Newport Coast Community Center that will include community meeting rooms and a gymnasium. The City's Recreation Department does not offer programs at the privately-owned parks. The youth of the Newport Coast Service Area participate in programs outside of the service area.

Goals and Policies

Park and Recreation Facilities

Goal

R 1

Provision of Facilities—Provision of adequate park and recreation facilities that meet the recreational needs of existing and new residents of the community.



Neighborhood Park



Children's play area

Figure R3 Service Area 1

Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R4 Service Area 2
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R5 Service Area 3
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R6 Service Area 4
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R7 Service Area 5
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R8 Service Area 6
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R9 Service Area 7
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R10 Service Area 8
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R11 Service Area 9
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R12 Service Area 10

Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color

Figure R13 Service Area 11
Pg 1—8.5x11 color

Pg 2—8.5x11 color



Policies

R 1.1 New Residential Subdivisions

Require developers of new residential subdivisions to provide parklands at five acres per 1,000 persons, as stated in the City's Park Dedication Fee Ordinance, or to contribute in-lieu fees for the development of public recreation facilities meeting demands generated by the development's resident population, as required in the City's Park Dedications Fees Ordinance. (*Imp 8.1, 23.5, 30.2*)

R 1.2 High-Density Residential Developments

Require developers of new high-density residential developments on parcels eight acres or larger, to provide on-site recreational amenities. For these developments, 44 square feet of on-site recreational amenities shall be provided for each dwelling unit in addition to the requirements under the City's Park Dedications and Fees Ordinance. On-site recreational amenities can consist of public urban plazas or squares where there is the capability for recreation and outdoor activity. These recreational amenities can also include swimming pools, exercise facilities, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Where there is insufficient land to provide on-site recreational amenities, the developer shall be required to pay the City of Newport Beach cash in-lieu that would be used to develop or upgrade nearby recreation facilities to offset user demand as defined in the City's Park Dedications and Fees Ordinance.

The acreage of on-site open space developed with residential projects may be credited against the parkland dedication requirements where it is, for example, accessible to the public during daylight hours, visible from public rights-of-way, and of sufficient size to accommodate recreational use by the public. (*Imp 2.1, 6.1, 8.1, 23.5, 30.2*)

R 1.3 Park Fee Update

Update the park fee assessed to new residential development in lieu of dedicating park land on a regular basis. (*Imp 23.5, 30.2*)

R 1.4 Density Bonuses

Consider development of incentives such as density bonuses for private commercial, office, and other developments to provide usable open space such as rooftop courts, pocket parks, public plazas, jogging trails, and pedestrian trails. (*Imp 2.1*)

R 1.5 Parkland Acquisition Criteria

Use the following criteria when considering acquisition for parkland:

- a. City's identified current and projected needs for recreation and sports facilities
- b. City's needs for recreation facilities based on location of existing facilities

- c. The preservation of natural resources, historic and cultural areas
- d. Ease of accessibility
- e. Usability of proposed parklands considering topography and other landform constraints
- f. Consistency with established parks and recreational facility Goal
- g. Fiscal impact on General Fund for any immediately needed refurbishments and on-going maintenance
- h. The existence of a deficiency in a particular Service Area (*Imp 23.1*)

R 1.6 Surplus School Site Suitability

In the event that surplus school sites become available for parkland acquisition, site desirability should be evaluated using the following criteria:

- a. Does the school site currently provide recreational facilities that have been identified to meet local or community-wide needs?
- b. Are other public lands in the vicinity of the school site inadequate to meet the identified existing or foreseeable needs of the community for recreation or open space purposes?
- c. Is the school site a more economical or otherwise more feasible alternative than other parcels which are available as potential sites in the area? (*Imp 23.1*)

R 1.7 Private Parkland

Coordinate with the appropriate home owners association to conduct City recreation programs on private parkland. (*Imp 39.2*)



One Ford Road community park

R 1.8 Passive Parks

Use underutilized City rights-of-way located on Ocean Boulevard and Bayside Drive in Corona del Mar as passive parks that are accessible for public use. (*Imp 23.1, 23.2*)

R 1.9 Priority for Facility Provision

Provide additional park and recreation facilities that meet the needs as identified by direct feedback from residents, analysis of future trends, and through observations by Recreation and Senior Services staff, as shown in Figure R2.

Parks

1. Newport Center Service Area: Develop Newport Center Park as a passive park
2. West Newport Service Area: Develop Sunset Ridge Park, an active park with playfields, picnic areas, a playground, and other facilities
3. Newport Coast Service Area: Develop an active park located at the end of Ridge Park Road; and develop a community center and a gymnasium
4. Santa Ana Heights/Airport Commercial Service Area: Develop a pocket park in Santa Ana Heights
5. West Newport Service Area: In the Banning ranch area develop an active community park of 20 to 30 acres with consideration of night lighting
6. Balboa Peninsula Service Area: Develop the Marina Park site for marine and/or recreational facilities

Recreation Facilities

1. Complete the Santa Ana Heights and Newport Coast Community Centers in a manner that allows the provision of a variety of recreational programs while meeting the needs of the community
2. Renovate the Oasis Senior Center to continue to function as a multipurpose senior center that meets the needs of the senior population
3. Renovate the existing recreation facilities to ensure they are a safe environment and offer quality programs and services (*Imp 23.1, 23.2*)

R 1.10 Update of Priority for Facility Provision

Review the list of identified community park and recreation needs on a regular basis, and update them as priorities for facilities change. (*Imp 23.1*)

R 1.11 Update of Priority Usage

Review policies regularly for priority usage of facilities to ensure fair and balanced assignments. Priority hierarchy shall be weighted for programs that are inclusive in nature and provide for the recreational enrichment of community's youth, adults, groups, and businesses. Scheduling shall be done in a manner that accommodates both the needs of organized activities as well as casual use by residents. Consideration shall also be given to the proper maintenance and revitalization of facilities when scheduling programs and activities. (*Imp 23.1*)

R 1.12 Aircraft Overflight and Noise

Require that all public parks located within the noise impact zones as defined in the 1985 JWA Master Plan for John Wayne Airport be posted with a notification to users regarding aircraft overflight and noise. (*Imp 23.2*)

Goal

R 2

Maintenance and Preservation—Maintenance and preservation of existing parks and recreation facilities.

Policies

R 2.1 Enhancement of Facilities

Use funding from the City’s Park Dedication Fee Ordinance to enhance existing parks and recreation facilities. *(Imp 30.2)*

R 2.2 Preservation of Public Parkland

Protect public parkland from non-recreational uses; any loss of parkland through governmental action shall be replaced in-kind. *(Imp 23.1)*

R 2.3 Preservation of Public Beaches

Preserve all public beaches for public only purposes. *(Imp 23.1)*

Goal

R 3

Accessibility of Facilities—Accessible parks and recreation facilities to persons with disabilities.

Policies

R 3.1 Adequate Access

Ensure that parks and recreation facilities include provisions for adequate access for persons with disabilities and that existing facilities are appropriately retrofitted to include such access as required by the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. *(Imp 23.1)*

R 3.2 Provision of Beach Wheelchairs

Provide beach wheelchairs commensurate with demand. *(Imp 23.1)*

R 3.3 Facility Design

Design guardrails on parks, piers, trails, and public viewing areas to take into consideration the views at the eye level of persons in wheelchairs. *(Imp 23.1)*

Recreation Programs

Goal

R 4

Provision of Recreation Programs—Provision of a variety of seasonal and year-round recreational programs designed to meet the needs of all residents, including children, seniors, and persons with special needs.

Policies

R 4.1 Provision of Recreation Services

Provide high quality recreational services through professionally-trained recreational personnel to program participants. *(Imp 23.4)*

R 4.2 Compatible Recreation Activities

Provide a variety of compatible recreational activities within a given location. *(Imp 23.4)*

R 4.3 Variety of Programs

Provide a variety of quality programs offered in safe and secure environments for the community's youth that enhance and extend the learning day, promote health and wellness, encourage expansion of skills, and reinforce self esteem, good character, and positive behavior. *(Imp 23.3, 23.4)*



Recreational use of Newport Harbor

R 4.4 Youth Sports Programs

Prioritize outdoor City-sponsored youth sports programs that are inclusive in nature, not for profit, and recreational in focus at City facilities. *(Imp 23.3, 23.4)*

R 4.5 Variety of Adult Recreational Programs

Provide a variety of quality enrichment and recreational programs for the adult population that promote health and wellness; development and/or enhancement of skills and talents; extend learning opportunities; promote

sportsmanship; and provide unique opportunities to engage in new activities. *(Imp 23.3, 23.4)*

R 4.6 Self Sustaining Adult Recreational Programs

Design adult programs to be self sustaining in nature, covering all direct expenses and administrative overhead costs. *(Imp 23.4)*

R 4.7 Senior Programs

Provide quality services and programs which meet social, recreational and health needs of the senior population. *(Imp 23.4)*

R 4.8 Optimization of Senior Programs

Maintain and form partnerships with other organizations in order to optimize the services and programs available to seniors in this community. *(Imp 14.16, 23.4)*

R 4.9 Priority Usage of Senior Programs

Give priority usage to senior programs before other uses are allowed in facilities that are designated for senior services. *(Imp 23.3, 23.4)*

Shared Facilities

Goal

R 5

Joint Use Facilities—Maximized use of the community’s recreational resources by coordinating with the agencies responsible for non-city recreational facilities and open space.

Policies

R 5.1 Non-City Facilities and Open Space

Utilize non-City recreational facilities and open space (e.g., Newport-Mesa Unified School District, county, and state facilities) to supplement the park and recreational needs of the community. Maintain the use of existing shared facilities, and expand the use of non-city facilities/amenities where desirable and feasible. *(Imp 14.2, 14.3, 14.8, 23.2)*

R 5.2 School Districts

Expand and maintain existing joint use agreements with Newport-Mesa Unified School District for use of facilities that will enhance the provision of parks and recreational facilities for residents. *(Imp 14.2, 23.1)*

- R 5.3 New Joint-Use Agreements**
Develop additional long-term, joint-use agreements with other public and private agencies to assure recreation facilities for future generations. (*Imp 14.2, 14.3, 14.8, 23.1*)
- R 5.4 Maintenance of Existing Facilities**
Maintain existing joint use of facilities for City-operated recreational programs on City-owned properties that are used for other purposes, as needed. (*Imp 23.1, 23.4*)
- R 5.5 Public Facilities**
Design public facilities to incorporate recreational elements such as children’s play areas, rooftop courts, pocket parks, and usable public plazas. (*Imp 23.1*)
- R 5.6 New Joint-Use Facilities**
Explore use of government-owned surplus or remnant parcels for public park use. (*Imp 14.3, 14.8, 23.1*)

Coastal Recreation and Support Facilities

Goal

R 6

Provision of Coastal Recreational Opportunities—Protection and enhancement of a wide-range of recreational opportunities along the coast and beaches.

Policies

- R 6.1 Protection of Recreational Opportunities**
Protect recreational opportunities along the coast and beaches from non-recreational uses. Where feasible, expand and enhance recreational opportunities along the coast and beaches. (*Imp 23.1, 21.4*)



Bicycling and other recreational use of Newport Beach's beaches

R 6.2 Interagency Coordination

Cooperate with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Department of Fish and Game, and Orange County to protect, expand, and enhance opportunities for recreational activities at county and state beaches and parks. *(Imp 14.3, 14.7, 14.8)*

R 6.3 Recreational Commercial Uses

Allow recreational commercial uses in commercial areas adjacent to beaches and the bay. *(Imp 2.1)*



Commercial recreational use of Newport Harbor

Goal

R 7

Provision of Adequate Support Facilities—Adequate support facilities serving recreational opportunities within the coastal zone.

Policies

R 7.1 Public Coastal Access

Protect public coastal access recreational opportunities through the provision of adequate support facilities and services. *(Imp 23.1, 23.2)*

R 7.2 Facilities and Services Location

Distribute support facilities and services in coastal areas to avoid overcrowding and overuse by the public. *(Imp 2.1, 23.1)*

R 7.3 Flexibility of Facilities and Services Location

Maintain the ability to distribute, remove and relocate support facilities and services in coastal areas in response to changes in demographics and recreational interests while continuing to provide comparable facilities and levels of service. *(Imp 2.1, 23.1)*

R 7.4 Facilities and Services Location Outside of City Facilities

Cooperate with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Department of Fish and Game, Orange County, and private organizations to protect, expand and enhance support facilities and services at county and state beaches and parks. *(Imp 14.3, 14.7, 14.8, 23.1)*

Marine Recreation

Goal

R 8

Provision of Marine Recreation Facilities—Provision and maintenance of marine recreation-related facilities that enhance the enjoyment of the City's natural resources.



Active beach recreation

Policies

R 8.1 Existing Facilities

Utilize existing City marine recreational facilities, including piers, docks, bays, beaches and educational and support facilities such as the intercollegiate rowing facilities, marine ways and services, launching facilities, pump-out stations, parking facilities, restrooms, showers, drinking fountains, and concessions. (*Imp 21.1, 23.2*)



Water recreation opportunities

R 8.2 Provision of New Facilities

Provide additional marine recreational, educational and support facilities and opportunities as feasible. (*Imp 21.1, 23.1*)

R 8.3 Interagency Coordination to Provide New Facilities

Encourage the provision of guest slips, moorings, waste pump-out stations, and anchorages in Newport Harbor. Coordinate work with the Orange County Harbor, Beaches, and Parks Department to provide such facilities where appropriate and feasible. (Policy HB6.3) (*Imp 14.3, 21.1, 23.1*)

R 8.4 Marine Safety

Provide for marine safety such as lifeguards, harbor patrol, police, traffic, and parking enforcement. (*Imp 23.1, 21.4*)



Involving youth in beach safety—Junior Lifeguards

R 8.5 Support Facilities

Protect and, where feasible, expand, and enhance:

- Waste pump-out stations
- Vessel launching facilities, including nonmotorized sail boat launch facilities in Lower Newport Bay
- Low-cost public launching facilities
- Marinas and dry boat storage facilities
- Guest docks at public facilities, yacht clubs and at privately owned-marinas, restaurants and other appropriate locations
- Facilities and services for visiting vessels
- Facilities necessary to support vessels berthed or moored in the harbor, such as boat haul out facilities
- Existing harbor support uses serving the needs of existing waterfront uses, recreational boaters, the boating community, and visiting vessels (Policy HB6.4) (*Imp 21.1, 23.1*)

R 8.6 Public Recreational Access

Provide shore moorings and offshore moorings as an important source of low-cost public recreational access to the water and harbor. (*Imp 21.1, 23.1*)

R 8.7 Marine Recreational Programs

Protect and enhance specific programs that utilize the harbor, bay, and ocean such as the City's sailing program and junior lifeguard program. (*Imp 23.4, 21.4*)

Public Access

Goal

R 9

Provision of Public Access—Provision and maintenance of public access for recreational purposes to the City's coastal resources. (Goal HB6)

Policies

R 9.1 Provision of Public Coastal Access

Provide adequate public access to the shoreline, beach, coastal parks, trails, and bay, acquire additional public access points to these areas and provide parking, where possible. (Policy HB6.1) (*Imp 2.1*)

R 9.2 Waterfront Public Walkways

Expand waterfront public walkways per policies in the Circulation Element. (Policies CE5.1.14, HB6.2) (*Imp 2.1, 16.11, 20.2*)

R 9.3 Sign Program

As part of a uniform coastal access signing program, provide information to direct the public to parking areas, restrooms, and other support facilities. (*Imp 20.1, 20.2*)

R 9.4 Bay/Harbor Encroachments

Protect public access to coastal resources from bay/harbor encroachments such as piers, floats, and bulkheads. (*Imp 2.1*)

R 9.5 Private/Gated Communities

Protect public access to coastal resources from encroachment from private/gated communities. (*Imp 2.1*)

R 9.6 Special Events

Require that impacts to public access, recreation, and coastal resources be minimized as a result from special events. (*Imp 2.1, 5.1, 9.1, 26.1*)