

# Working Draft Recreation Element

## INTRODUCTION

The Recreation Element supports the implementation of the General Plan and provides a parks strategy to meet the community's park needs with goals and policies to guide the development of parks and recreational facilities.

## RECREATION GOALS

- Parks and recreational facilities that meet General Plan population-based park standards
- Innovative park strategies and park equivalencies
- An interconnected system of parks and recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces

## BOX 7-1 GENERAL PLAN TOPICS

*The Recreation Element policies of the General Plan and Community Plan together provide a framework to guide the City's vision and goals for park and recreation facilities citywide and within individual communities. Related Recreation Element Topics covered in the General Plan include the following and should be referenced as applicable:*

- *Park and Recreation Guidelines*
- *Recreational Opportunities*
- *Preservation of existing parks; open space; citywide recreation programs; and natural, cultural, and historic resources that serve as recreation facilities*
- *Accessibility*
- *Joint Use and Cooperative Partnerships*
- *Open Space Land and Resource-based parks*

## 7.1 VISION

The Community Plan envisions a system of parks and recreational facilities that provide opportunities for social interaction and spaces for passive and active recreation for residents and employees; that contributes to a healthy community; and connects to the regional recreational, open space, and cultural destinations.

## 7.2 STRATEGY

The strategy is to provide a mix of recreational uses and facilities that meet the needs of residents and

employees. Neighborhood parks, mini-parks and plazas can serve as focal points within village areas. Given Clairemont's developed nature, strategic development and park placement along with the use of park equivalencies is essential to maximize accessibility and use of limited land resources. Figure 7-1 (*To be provided*) shows the potential location and size of future parks within the community, which have been placed and sized based on opportunity for future development and residential capacity. The park locations, configurations, and sizes may change as a result of future private and public project development and the residential population associated with future development. The Recreation Element policies complement the Urban Design and Mobility Elements by emphasizing walking and bicycling, providing recreation facilities, and developing linkages within the community and to adjacent communities. Pedestrian activity will attract more users to the recreational facilities and to the uses that surround it that can result in economic benefits to businesses. Parks may also incorporate storm water retention and/or infiltration infrastructure. See the Conservation Element for storm water management policies.

## 7.3 POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The community is anticipated to have a household population of (to be provided) people by the plan horizon year. Box 7-2 (*to be provided*) describes the parks and recreational facilities needs for the community based on the General Plan standards for population-based parks and recreation facilities.

### POPULATION-BASED PARKS

Neighborhood parks, mini parks, pocket parks, special activity parks, and plazas will benefit residential, commercial, employment, and mixed-use developments and help these developments become vibrant and active places.

## 7.4 PARK EQUIVALENCIES

Clairemont is an urbanized community where park equivalencies such as joint-use facilities, trails, and portions of resource-based parks are appropriate for

satisfying some of the community's population-based park needs.

The community and City identified and evaluated population-based park and recreation opportunities, as well as potential park equivalency sites, for their recreational value, possible uses and functions, public accessibility, consistency with General Plan policies and guidelines, and other land use policy documents. The proposed park equivalencies for the community are outlined in Table 7-1 (*To be provided*). Table 7-2 (*To be provided*) summarizes the acreage of the proposed population-based parks and park equivalencies.

## JOINT-USE FACILITIES

Recreational facilities can be jointly shared between the City and other public agencies, such as the San Diego Unified School District, and not-for-profit private entities. Joint-use facilities require a City Council-approved long-term joint use agreement with the other agency or entity.

## PORTIONS OF RESOURCE-BASED PARKS

Neighborhood-serving recreational amenities located in a portion of a resource-based park, such as Mission Bay Park, Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Marion Bear Memorial park that are typically contiguous to the community.

## TRAILS

Trails through city-owned open space and canyons such as Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Marion Bear Memorial Park, provide recreational opportunities for residents of Clairemont.

## POLICIES

**RE-7.1** Pursue land acquisition for the creation of public parks, with an effort to locate parkland on sites within villages or districts that promote connectivity, accessibility, safety, public health, and sustainability.

**RE-7.2** Encourage developments to satisfy population-based park requirements by incorporating parks or park equivalencies on site (either privately or publicly owned).

- A. Determine the size of population-based parks based on the proposed number

of residential units through the development review process.

- B. Provide flexibility in the placement of population-based parks while ensuring their public accessibility and visibility from the public right-of-way.

**RE-7.3** Consider special activity parks on a case-by-case basis including, but not limited to, skateboard parks, off-leash dog parks, nature exploration areas, community gardens, and other unique uses.

**RE-7.4** Increase recreational opportunities by developing transportation oriented recreational amenities in un-used public right of way including paper streets.

**RE-7.5** Consider opportunities to increase population-based parks and park equivalencies in a manner consistent with the Community Plan goals and policies that may arise through the development process.

**RE-7.6** Encourage retail centers, commercial, office, and residential development to incorporate active ground floors, outdoor seating, cafes, squares and plazas adjacent to proposed development to create public spaces.

**RE-7.7** Create partnerships with commercial property owners to promote weekend use of surface parking lots for community events.

**RE-7.8** Support weekend closure of local streets to accommodate farmer's markets, arts festivals, and community events.

**RE-7.9** Design parks and trails to promote better surveillance and security by incorporating the City's "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) measures and providing additional staffed facilities such as ranger stations and recreation centers in parks

- RE-7.10 Pursue trail connections between parks and recreational facilities and incorporate trailheads and wayfinding maps and signage that promote community awareness and responsible use of city-owned open space and canyons.
- RE-7.11 Ensure all stormwater and urban-run-off drainage into resource -based parks or open space parks are filtered before entering the area.
- RE-7.12 Coordinate with other public agencies including Caltrans, SDG&E and San Diego Unified School District to explore opportunities for new parks, trails, and to secure new joint-use facilities.
- RE-7.13 Continue efforts to pursue opportunities for parks and/or trails with SDG&E.
- RE-7.13 Consider opportunities in future transit centers and smart growth centers to create new public squares, plazas and parks.