

encinitas

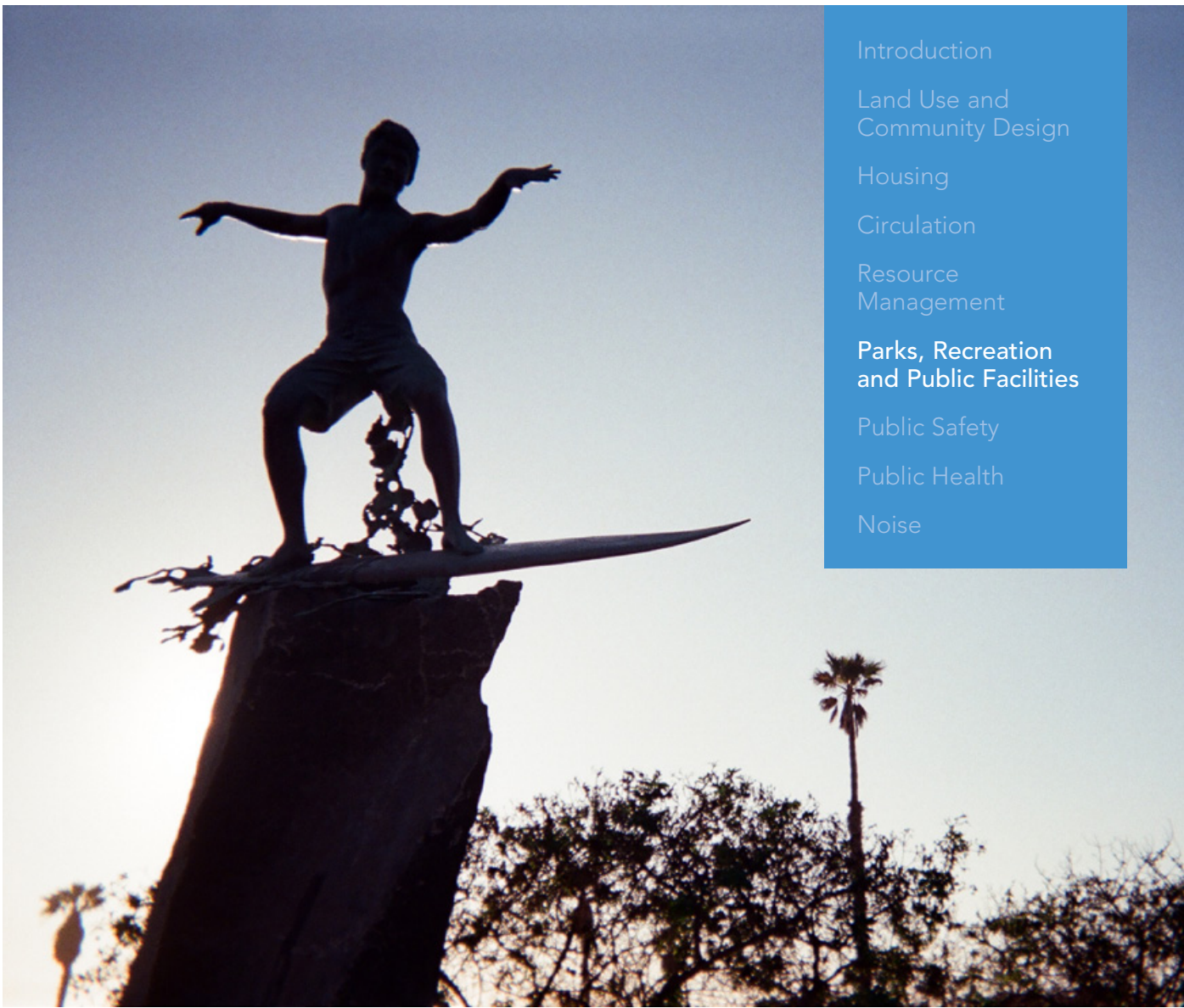
Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities



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The Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element establishes a policy framework for the maintenance, restoration, improvement and expansion of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities in the city. The Element also presents the Citywide Recreation Plan, which includes the City's parks classification system as well as guidelines and standards related to the improvement of beach recreation areas, site selection for future parks and the development of future trails.



- Introduction
- Land Use and Community Design
- Housing
- Circulation
- Resource Management
- Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities**
- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Noise

introduction

element purpose

Park facilities and open space can provide opportunities for recreation, habitat for plants and animals, as well as promote a sense of community and good health. The Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element establishes a policy framework for the maintenance, restoration, improvement and expansion of parks, open space, recreational programming and facilities. However, the needs and priorities of the community with respect to parks, open space, public and recreational facilities continue to change and evolve over time. The need for the

City to keep pace with these changes, while remaining focused on the overarching goal of providing a safe, comprehensive and accessible system of parks, open spaces and facilities, is a focus of the updated Element.

This chapter can also be used by the community, City staff and decision makers to develop annual goals and objectives for work programs. Many of the identified actions are already practiced by City staff. However, some may not be possible to implement immediately due to the City's heavily scheduled resources and current financial situation but could be phased in over time. The benefits of this policy approach should result in a greater feeling of community while meeting the residents' recreation needs.

By implementing parks, recreation and public facilities goals and policies, the City of Encinitas seeks to accomplish the following:

- Create a system of well-distributed parks, open spaces and recreation facilities that is interconnected by a network of multi-use paths and trails;
- Establish a balance of undeveloped natural open space and developed recreational open space throughout the city;
- Manage coastal areas in a manner that ensures their continued, dominant role in providing residents with coastal resources and open spaces for recreation;
- Design, develop and implement recreation facilities and programs that reflect community demographics to meet the needs of multiple generations;
- Manage parks, beaches and open space in a sustainable manner to meet current needs, without compromising future generations;
- Provide adequate public facilities and community services throughout the area;
- Encourage the placement of art and provide and/or support the arts and cultural organizations, resources, attractions, and activities that are a source of community pride and enrichment;
- Explore and implement traditional, non-traditional and/or innovative ways to fund the financing of new parks, programs, recreational facilities and incorporation of art into public projects; and
- Improve, preserve, maintain and renovate parks and recreation facilities with needed improvements.

element scope and organization

The Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element for the City of Encinitas is specifically concerned with expanding the city's existing system of parks, open spaces, and community and recreational facilities to meet the community's evolving needs.

Together, the goals and policies contained in this Element will direct future planning with respect to the development and maintenance of Encinitas parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and community facilities. The Parks, Recreation, Beaches and Open Space, and Public Facilities portions of the General Plan Update Current Conditions Report (2010) contain the detailed technical background information that provides the foundation for the goals and policies of the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element.

After this introduction, the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element is organized into four main parts:

- II. Current Conditions
- III. Goals and Policies
- IV. Citywide Recreation Plan
- V. Figures

The first part of this Element describes the existing network of parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, trails and community facilities in Encinitas. Next, the Element describes citywide goals and policies related to achieving: a comprehensive parks and trails network, a balance of natural and improved open space, coastal recreation areas and facilities that meet the needs of residents and visitors while respecting the natural environment, and well maintained and well distributed community facilities.

Finally, the Element presents the Citywide Recreation Plan, which includes the City's parks classification system as well as guidelines and standards related to the improvement of beach recreation areas, site selection for future parks and the development of future trails.

parks, recreation and public facilities element

related general plan goals and policies



Goals and policies contained in a number of other elements also support many of the goals and policies included in the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element. The Land Use and Community Design and Resource Management elements contain coastal policies that emphasize the need to preserve open space for both active and passive recreation, as well as the preservation of significant natural and cultural resources found in recreation and open space areas. Policies are also included in the Circulation Element related to maintaining and improving beach access for residents and coastal visitors. The Element Relationship Matrix (Table PR-1) identifies key topics in the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element that are addressed in other elements.

TABLE PR-1: ELEMENT RELATIONSHIP MATRIX

| Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Topic Area | Land Use and Community Design | Housing | Circulation | Resource Management | Public Safety | Public Health | Noise |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Parks, Open Space and Trails Network | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Balance of Natural and Improved Open Space | X | | | X | | X | |
| Coastal Recreation | X | | X | X | X | X | |
| Recreation and Community Facilities and Programs | X | X | X | | | X | |
| The Arts | X | | X | | | | |
| Funding and Acquisition | X | | X | X | | X | |

related plans and programs

California Coastal Act. The California Coastal Act of 1976 was enacted to protect and maintain the overall quality of coastal environments and resources. The California Coastal Commission regulates development within portions of the Coastal Zone and oversees planning and land use efforts along the entire coastline. Every city within the coastal zone is supposed to prepare a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Coastal Commission has prepared guidelines designed to assist local governments and Coastal Commission staff implement Coastal Act provisions. The City of Encinitas LCP was effectively certified by the California Coastal Commission on May 11, 1995 and the City assumed Coastal Permit authority on May 15, 1995. The City's LCP has two parts, a Land Use Plan and an Implementation Plan.

Local Coastal Program. Approximately two-thirds of the city is located within the Coastal Zone (see General Plan Introduction Figure I-3) and falls under California Coastal Commission (CCC) jurisdiction. In compliance with the Coastal Act, the City has adopted and implemented a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The LCP Land Use Plan contains the City's policies related to coastal resources. The LCP Implementation Plan contains zoning ordinances and development related standards, zoning maps, specific plans, and other implementing actions such as special zone overlays for sensitive resource areas. The LCP is included within the General Plan as well as other provisions of the municipal code and specific plans. The goals of the LCP are to protect, maintain and enhance the Coastal Zone environment; ensure balanced utilization and conservation; maximize public access to and along the coast; prioritize coastal dependent and related development; and encourage coordinated state and local initiatives to implement beneficial programs and other educational uses.

Encinitas Parks, Beaches, Trails and Open Space Inventory. The City regularly conducts a thorough inventory of its parks, beaches, trails and open spaces. This inventory provides an up-to-date portrait of the existing network of parks and open spaces in the city, and classifies each site using an updated parks classification system. Acreage, location, and existing facilities and amenities are identified for each mini-park, neighborhood park, community and special use park, beach, and overlook.

Encinitas Trails Master Plan. The Encinitas Trails Master Plan identifies a network of existing and proposed recreational trails within the city. Once completed, the trail system will include roughly 80 miles of trails. The Plan sets forth goals and objectives to guide the City as it plans and implements its trails system. The Plan also includes path and trail standards; methods for acquiring trails, including cost estimates; and a plan focused on the system's long-term management and maintenance.

Capital Improvement Plan. The Encinitas Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) continues to serve as an important mechanism to prioritize implementation of parks and open space projects for the benefit of the Encinitas community. The CIP typically includes parks and beaches projects to address deficiencies in community access to park land, habitat and open space preservation, playground equipment safety, and recreational trails development.

National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) Standards. National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards provide an important historic benchmark for the provision of parks and facilities. Even though these standards are based on a "one size fits all" approach to park planning, NRPA standards are often cited as a base point for level of service (LOS) comparisons. However, these numbers are not community-specific and are typically less useful than local standards and guidelines that can take into account factors such as climate, demographics, environmental resources, land use, varying levels of recreation participation and local trends. For this reason, the NRPA standards should be used as a guide for the local community as it identifies and modifies its own standards.

San Diego County Park Plan. The County has designated a number of areas that should be considered for the development of future park sites and other facilities. In addition, the County maintains a number of facilities within the city and planning area. Future plans the County may have for these and other facilities are important considerations for the City in the context of this Element.

Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP). The NCCP program is a cooperative effort to protect habitats and species. The program, which began in 1991 under the State's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, is broader in its orientation and objectives than the California and

Federal Endangered Species Acts. These laws are designed to identify and protect individual species that have already declined in number significantly. The primary objective of the NCCP program is to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem level by focusing on the long-term stability of wildlife and plant communities while accommodating compatible land use.

Multiple Habitat Conservation Program. The Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) is a comprehensive habitat conservation planning process that, along with other habitat plans, will contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in Southern California. Participating cities include Encinitas, Carlsbad, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos and Vista. The MHCP will create the policy framework required to establish a regional preserve system that will help the city and region achieve its open space goals.

Draft Encinitas Subarea Plan. The Draft Encinitas Subarea Plan is under the subregional umbrella of the MHCP in northern San Diego County. The Plan comprehensively addresses how the City will conserve natural communities, sensitive plant and wildlife species as part of the MHCP. The Subarea Plan, in conjunction with the MCHP, fulfills the mandatory requirements of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(b) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended in 1982.

Open Space Management Plan. The Open Space Management Plan, which is required component of the MHCP, will be used in conjunction with the City's Subarea Plan. The Plan identifies specifically which lands will be monitored, how they will be managed and at what cost.



current conditions

Over the past several years, park planners have embraced community, environmental and economic benefits of parks and recreation, and are becoming more skilled at designing park systems that meet community demand while achieving multiple objectives. Creating a system of well distributed parks, open spaces and recreation facilities interconnected by a network of multi-use paths and trails is becoming an increasingly common goal among community and parks planners. Encinitas' existing system of parks, open spaces, beaches and trails provides a strong foundation for future improvements.

Local communities and decision makers today are taking steps to ensure greater collaboration across disciplines in an effort to improve community health and well-being. One of the objectives of these efforts is to encourage healthful, active living by strategically addressing the health implications of parks, recreation, beaches and open space planning and design. As the movement to plan for healthy communities grows, parks and recreation departments are increasingly called upon to ensure equitable access to quality open spaces and recreation amenities for all residents. All the while, the City must continue to respond to the changing facility and programming needs for Encinitas' youth, adults and families, and its growing population of aging adults.

existing parks, beaches, open space and facilities

The City of Encinitas Parks and Recreation Department owns, operates and/or maintains approximately 335 acres of park land, 87 acres of habitat/open space and 48 acres of beaches. The city's park system is comprised of a variety of recreation amenities that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation, including parks, beaches, open spaces, playgrounds, sports fields and community facilities such as the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course (owned, operated and maintained by the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course Authority) and the Encinitas Community and Senior Center. In addition, Encinitas has 40 miles of developed recreation trails.

Encinitas Parks and Open Space System

Encinitas' system of parks and open spaces, comprised of all park land and publicly owned open space in the city, includes the following park categories. The Recreation Plan in this Element further defines and describes the City's parks categories, and provides an overview of related guidelines and site selection and development standards.

- Overlooks
- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks

- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- City Beaches and Beach Access Points
- Open Space

Each year, the City of Encinitas conducts an annual inventory of its parks, beaches, trails and open spaces. Table PR-2 includes an overview of all park land, beaches and open space owned, operated and/or maintained by the City.

TABLE PR-2: CITY-OPERATED PARKS, BEACHES AND OPEN SPACE (2010)

| Parks and Open Space Categories | Number of Sites | Acres | Percent of Total |
|--|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Overlooks | 9 | 1.42 | 0.3% |
| Mini-Parks | 3 | 2.27 | 0.48% |
| Neighborhood Parks | 10 | 46.26 | 9.9% |
| Community Parks | 4 | 38.95 | 8.3% |
| Special Use Parks | 5 | 245.65 | 52.4% |
| City Beaches and Beach Access Points | 7 | 47.87 | 10.2% |
| Open Space | 3 | 86.63 | 18.5% |
| | 41 | 469.05 | |

The annual inventory also includes important community facilities, such as the Community and Senior Center. The City also conducts a regular inventory of any undeveloped park land with the potential for future development. Undeveloped park property may be classified as mini-park, neighborhood, special use or community park, or as an overlook. The City and school districts work together to maximize recreational use of their respective facilities. Figure PR-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities illustrates Encinitas' existing parks, open space and trails system, including the City's inventory of park land and state and county managed parks and open spaces.

other public facilities

Schools and Education Facilities

The Encinitas Union School District (EUSD), Cardiff School District (CSD) and San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD) serve residents of the City of Encinitas. School district boundaries do not conform to municipal boundaries. Since the geographic boundary of each school district is different in size and shape and may offer different grade ranges, some schools may be administratively affiliated with residents from different cities.

The EUSD serves residents living in Encinitas and the La Costa area of Carlsbad in North County San Diego. The EUSD consists of nine elementary schools, five of which serve children in the City of Encinitas. Because the EUSD is a K-6 school district, no schools feed into it; however, the nine elementary schools in the EUSD feed into the middle schools in the SDUHSD.

The SDUHSD serves students from five elementary school districts in North County: Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe, Cardiff, Solana Beach and Del Mar. Students from those districts matriculate through the four middle schools and four high schools in SDUHSD. Two of the four middle schools are located in Encinitas (Oak Crest and Diegueño). Students progress to the four high schools from the middle schools in the district. Students from Oak Crest and Diegueño Middle Schools are in the administrative boundaries to attend La Costa High School, which is in the City of Carlsbad. All students in the district are also eligible to attend San Dieguito Academy (in Encinitas) and Canyon Crest Academy, both of which are considered schools of choice. The district also offers an alternative education program at the Sunset Continuation High School campus in Encinitas. In addition, students may attend the North Coast Alternative High School in Encinitas, an independent study program for high school teens.

Based on existing and future projected enrollment, EUSD and SDUHSD currently do not have plans for new or expanded educational facilities within the City of Encinitas or serving residents in the City of Encinitas. EUSD owns a 10-acre vacant parcel located on Quail Gardens Drive. The potential number of students that can be accommodated at this site is approximately 500 to 750 students.

The CSD services a portion of the City of Encinitas within the community of Cardiff-by-the-Sea, located in the southwestern portion of the City of Encinitas. As of 2010, enrollment within CSD has been consistently stable, and the district has no plans or foreseeable need to expand facilities.

Mira Costa College is a community college accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. There are two campuses that serve Encinitas and other North County San Diego residents: one located in the City of Oceanside and the other in Encinitas in the Cardiff-by-the-Sea community.

Libraries

The County of San Diego operates 33 branch libraries, two of which are within the City of Encinitas; the Cardiff-by-the-Sea branch, located at 2081 Newcastle Avenue, and the Encinitas Branch, located at 540 Cornish Drive.

The Encinitas and Cardiff libraries freely provide computers, books, media, magazines, displays, programs and events for diverse customers who use the library. Highly trained expert staff members assist library patrons at both locations. Both libraries use their community rooms to provide a variety of informative and free programs for visitors of all ages. The Encinitas Community Library is the second most visited library facility in the San Diego County Library system (over 400,000 visitors in 2009). The Encinitas Branch is owned and maintained by the City and is leased to the County for operations. The Cardiff Branch is a County of San Diego facility.

Both libraries continue to incorporate new technology to expand capacity and access. Community partnerships are key to providing materials, technology and support to respond to increased use of library services. The need for new technology to respond to increased service will be ongoing. As use of library services continues to grow, expanded or additional facilities may be needed.

See Figure PR-2: Community Facilities for the locations of Encinitas' schools, libraries and other important public facilities.

goals and policies



The goals and policies included in this Element support the expansion and enhancement of existing recreation opportunities to meet both existing and projected needs. They also include policies designed to minimize recreation user conflicts, create a recreation system that reflects resident demographics and the community's evolving needs and desires, and preserve existing open space areas that contain significant cultural or natural resources. Other goals and policies relate more directly to the development of recreation and community facilities, ranging from the acquisition of future parks and the identification of future beach access points to the development of a strategy for funding arts and cultural facilities and programs.

The Parks, Recreation and Facilities goals and policies are organized under the following thematic headings:

- Parks, Open Space and Trails Network
- Balance of Natural and Improved Open Space
- Coastal Recreation
- Recreation and Community Facilities and Programs
- The Arts
- Funding and Acquisition

parks, open space and trails network

This section provides a general policy framework in support of the City's park land standards and classification system, which is outlined in the Citywide Recreation Plan located at the end of this Element. Goals and policies in this section focus specifically on identifying and responding to current and future community needs and trends, including parks and trails that are safe and accessible and provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the community as a whole. Parks and public facilities can also provide space for multiple uses, including special events or operations. Policies in this section require future parks and trails development to be compatible with the Local Coastal Program, the Recreation Trails Master Plan and other related plans and programs.

GOAL 1: Further establish and maintain a balanced and accessible citywide network of parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and trails that meets the Encinitas community's changing needs and desires.

Policies

1.1 A Connected Network. Develop a park and open space system that links the various communities together with parks, recreational trails, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, natural visual corridors, and other recreational activities. Identify and develop corridors, linkages and other connections, as needed.

1.2 Citywide Standard. Ensure that the city has adequate recreational facilities to serve current and future needs. The City's targeted level of service for local recreation park land is 6.5 acres per one-thousand/population. Local recreation park land includes overlooks, mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and special use parks. The City shall strive to provide a minimum of 15 acres of overall park land, beaches and open space areas for every one-thousand residents. The criteria for overall park land, beaches and open space areas applies to neighborhood and other close at hand recreation facilities, community parks, passive open space in undeveloped natural preserves, special use or regional parks within the Planning Area, overlooks, beach access points, local and state beaches, and lagoons.

parks, open space and trails network

1.3 Park and Facility Improvements. Explore opportunities to upgrade existing park land, beach facilities and public recreational properties.

1.4 Beach Access Points and Overlooks. Develop and maintain an inventory of beach access points to recreation areas. Acquire, develop and maintain overlook points, as set forth by the visual resource policies of the Land Use and Community Design Element.

1.5 Mini-Parks. Develop and improve mini-parks and play lots in high-density areas where larger parks are inaccessible or impractical to provide, and only when the provision of neighborhood parks to serve local park and recreation needs is not possible.

1.6 Neighborhood Parks. Establish a system of neighborhood parks within convenient distance for all areas of the city and all city residents. Where possible, locate parks within walking distance of all neighborhoods. Refer to the Citywide Recreation Plan future park site selection guidelines when selecting sites for future neighborhood parks.

1.7 Community Parks. Establish a system of community parks so that each community (Leucadia, Old Encinitas, New Encinitas, Cardiff by the Sea and Olivenhain) is within a community park service area. Refer to the Citywide Recreation Plan future park site selection guidelines when selecting sites for future community parks.

1.8 Special Use Parks. Establish a system of special use parks to provide access to unique or specialized recreation opportunities for the entire community.

1.9 Parks for All Ages and Abilities. Provide parks and recreation facilities that create opportunities for a broad range of recreation experiences to serve user interests and accommodate all ages and abilities. In addition to providing safe and convenient access, provide pedestrian amenities such as benches, seats and shade trees, and create conditions that enhance the pedestrian and park user experience.

parks, open space and trails network

1.10 Streets for Play. Promote green streets and incorporate landscaping and native planting in the design of complete, mixed-use streets to offer places to play, rest and gather. Enable opportunities to create active recreation spaces on or along streets, such as paths or pocket parks, and emphasize improvements to streets that link to parks, recreation centers and other community resources.

1.11 Joint Use. Develop parks in conjunction with schools where doing so enhances recreational and educational opportunities and encourage joint use of facilities. Partner to enhance and optimize the recreational use of school properties. When new schools are developed, pursue acquiring adjacent property through dedication, donation or grant funding to expand sports fields, playgrounds and open space with joint use agreements. Since many recreation opportunities are provided by private enterprise, also consider partnering with other organizations and groups (e.g. the YMCA). Support efforts to allow for third parties, such as youth organizations or youth sports leagues, to operate recreation programs using school facilities. (Coastal Act/30252)

1.12 Future Park Needs. Develop a program that identifies future park needs and possible future sites. Monitor changing needs to provide recreation facilities and services as needed (playground equipment, tennis courts, etc.). (Coastal Act/30212.5)

1.13 New Park and Open Space Sites. Identify new locations for active and passive recreation parks and open space areas, targeting areas that do not have adequate access to parks or currently have limited opportunities for open space and recreation in their neighborhoods. Facilities and services should be accessible and affordable to all users.

1.14 Innovative Unique Space. Encourage residential complex and commercial property owners to implement vertical outdoor space, vegetated/green roofs and/or green layered structures to integrate greenery into the overall function of the building. Vertically vegetated surfaces could make more efficient use of space and create a livelier outdoor area.

parks, open space and trails network

1.15 Ecological/Open Space/Parks. Develop a specific zoning program to address different levels of ecological/open space protection and parks use.

- Identify ecological/open space preserve areas with known environmental significance and value.
- Some preserves may also provide interpretive or educational amenities, as well as other land uses, such as passive recreational opportunities depending on the sensitivity of the resource being protected (e.g. multi-use trails).
- Other important community spaces may be set aside for public use and possible active recreation uses and facilities, such as sports fields. These areas may have little or no biological, cultural or historical resource value. Resources may also be on-site, but preserved and/or separated by site design.

1.16 Mitigating Park Development Impacts. Comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and address issues and concerns of neighboring communities as they relate to the development of parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL 2: Maintain an interconnected, multi-use network of trails and pedestrian pathways.

Policies

2.1 Trail Network. Implement the Trails Master Plan and provide and maintain an inter-linking network of trails for horseback riding, hiking, walking and bicycling, per the City's trail development standards set forth in the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element Citywide Recreation Use Plan. Review and update the Trails Master Plan as necessary to reflect additional, proposed and planned trails and pathways.

2.2 Green Connections. Evaluate the trail network and its ability to serve residents and connect neighboring subdivisions or commercial centers, particularly where east-west or north-south access is poor. Establish policies requiring linkages between existing and future development projects through a

parks, open space and trails network

network of bicycle and walking paths. Where public lands are not available or adequate to accommodate a public trail, potential changes to the trail system should be protective of private property interests and public/natural resources.

2.3 Linear Parkway. Explore the feasibility of developing a regional linear parkway system to enhance regional recreation and non-motorized transportation connections. Coordinate with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and other agencies, consistent with the walking and biking environment policies of the Circulation Element.

2.4 Local Coastal Program (LCP) Consistency. Amend the LCP to reflect any proposed modifications or additions to the Recreational Trails Master Plan or Recreational Trails Master Plan map that would directly affect coastal zone resources.

2.5 Coastal Zone Trails. Ensure that all proposed trails and trail alignments within the coastal zone are consistent with the habitat and ecosystem management policies of the Resource Management Element.

2.6 MHCP Requirements. Ensure that all proposed trails and trail alignments throughout the city are consistent with the requirements of the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP).

2.7 Trail Joint Use. Encourage the joint use of drainage channels, flood plains, existing trails, public lands, excess street rights-of-way, railroad right-of-way and major utility rights-of-way for trail development to minimize costs and maximize the trail system. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30252)

GOAL 3: Emphasize the maintenance and safety of parks, open space resources and public facilities in the Planning Area. (Coastal Act/30240)

Policies

3.1 The Existing System. Promote the regular and active use of parks and public recreation properties to serve residents, businesses and other community members. Balance priorities for the maintenance of existing park land,

parks, open space and trails network

recreation facilities, beaches, open space and trails with the development of new recreation areas and trails.

3.2 Local Parks Surveillance. Enforce local laws regarding the vandalism of park property and involve citizens in local parks surveillance through the “neighborhood watch” programs and other community efforts. Also utilize the services of park caretakers to help prevent vandalism and public nuisance.

3.3 Law Enforcement Presence. Work with the appropriate agencies to increase the presence of law enforcement in or near parks, beaches and public recreational facilities, particularly in areas subject to loitering and drug-related activity.

3.4 Camping Facilities. Encourage the maintenance of existing overnight camping facilities (both tent and RV) at public beaches or upland from beaches. (Coastal Act/30213)

3.5 Beach Access Points and Overlooks. Implement the maintenance and improvement standards for access points and overlooks set forth in the City-wide Recreation Plan, with careful attention to design measures that promote safe access and use.

3.6 Chemical-Free Parks and Facilities. Consistent with the environmental health policies of the Public Health Element, reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides that negatively impact human health in City parks and publicly accessible open spaces. Require that the City use green and non-toxic cleaning supplies in all public buildings, and encourage school districts within Encinitas to use green and non-toxic cleaning supplies.

balance of natural and improved open space

The preservation of culturally and naturally significant lands is a major priority of the City, and this objective is underscored once again in the goals and policies below. The term “open space” is used broadly to mean natural areas of important community space, habitat areas for plants and animals, places of natural beauty, and critical environmental areas. Many of the open space areas lie within flood plains, have steep topography or are otherwise constrained. However, some open space areas (even portions of the constrained areas) provide the City with a unique opportunity to develop a limited system of trails and bikeways, and create opportunities for both passive and active recreation. The policies in this section stress the importance of balancing the City’s inventory of natural and improved open spaces and preserving undeveloped lands that have been found to be ecologically significant. The following goals and supporting policies are directly linked to corresponding policies in the Land Use, Resource Management and Public Safety Elements.

GOAL 4: Establish a balance of undeveloped natural open space and developed recreation areas throughout the city.

Policies

4.1 Community Distribution of Park Types. Provide and maintain active parks, passive parks and natural open space in each of the communities, to the extent possible.

4.2 Undeveloped Natural Park Areas. Leave appropriate areas of neighborhood and community parks in a natural state, retaining natural topography and vegetation where preservation is feasible. (Coastal Act/30240)

4.3 Use of Public Lands. Encourage the use of appropriate publicly owned properties and facilities for temporary or permanent park and recreation purposes to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the maintenance of natural resources. (Coastal Act/30212.5)

balance of natural and improved open space

GOAL 5: Preserve open space areas that represent a significant aesthetic, cultural, environmental and recreational resource in the community. (Coastal Act/30240)

Policies

5.1 Natural Features Preservation. Implement measures to preserve and maintain natural features within the parks and open space system, consistent with the goals and policies of the Resource Management Element. (Coastal Act/30252)

5.2 Open Space and Coastal Recreation. Encourage the preservation and protection of open space and coastal areas for the recreational activities characteristic of Encinitas, such as horseback riding, swimming, surfing, skindiving, bicycling, walking and jogging. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30252)

5.3 Multiple Open Space Uses. Encourage appropriate multiple uses of open space wherever possible, such as for active and passive recreation, habitat conservation, stormwater management, resource and coastline preservation, and environmental education.

coastal recreation

Encinitas' beaches have been and will continue to be a major recreational resource in the city. The beaches of Encinitas are a world-famous tourist destination for visitors annually from foreign countries, other states in the U.S., as well as for residents throughout California. The loss of coastal recreation opportunities resulting from development occurring over the past 25 years represents a significant adverse impact to the availability of public access and recreation in Encinitas. These opportunities not only include the availability of recreation areas, but also the ability of the public to reach and utilize these sites. A number of policies included in the Public Safety and Resource Management Element are concerned with the preservation and maintenance of beaches and the coastline, as well as access, so that future generations may also enjoy beach recreation. The following policies indicate ways access to and from the beaches can be expanded and establish standards concerning the intensity of use for individual beaches under the City's jurisdiction.

GOAL 6: Continue to manage coastal areas in such a manner that these areas continue to serve residents and visitors with open spaces for recreation. (Coastal Act/30220)

Policies

6.1 Coastal Recreation Facilities. Encourage the maintenance of the coastal bluffs, beach, shoreline, reefs and ocean and discourage any use that would adversely affect the beach and bluffs, except a reasonable number of public access stairways, lifeguard towers and similar public beach facilities. (Coastal Act/30211/30213)

6.2 Level of Use Designations. Designate various beach areas for high, medium and low intensity levels of use based upon the characteristics of the beach resource and support facilities, and the character of adjacent neighborhoods. (Coastal Act/30211/30212/30212.5/30214)

coastal recreation

6.3 Beach Facility Standards. Implement beach recreation facility guidelines and encourage the State to apply similar standards to its beaches located within the city boundaries. Guidelines shall address the existence of and criteria for lifeguard facilities, restroom facilities, showers, water fountains, parking facilities, free access, trash facilities, beach maintenance schedules, signing, picnic facilities, bicycle facilities, security patrol and other relevant needs.

6.4 Beach Master Plans. Encourage the State to update the Moonlight and Leucadia State Beach Master Plans to address current needs and standards.

6.5 Beach Parking Lots. Ensure that existing public parking lots for public beaches and access points are maintained and ensure protection of all existing public parking lots from conversion to other uses and/or the reduction of spaces. (Coastal Act/30212.5/ 30223)

6.6 Boating Facilities. Consistent with the coastal area preservation policies of the Resource Management Element, prohibit the development and provision of boating facilities within the Coastal Zone, including but not limited to marinas or piers for commercial fishing and recreational boating. No recreational water craft facilities will be permitted in wetland areas. (Coastal Act/30231)

6.7 Beach Nourishment. Investigate and implement various methods and/or remedies to stem sand depletion along beaches in the city limits, as set forth in the coastal area preservation policies of the Resource Management Element.

6.8 Coastal Recreation – Access. Continue to maintain and improve access to coastal recreation areas, consistent with Circulation Element policies related to coastal access.

6.9 Coastal Recreation – Special Events and Operations. Maintain a permitting program and/or procedure to limit the impacts that special events and operations have on the general public’s regular use and enjoyment of coastal areas.

GOAL 7: Continue to provide or coordinate with the State to provide coastal/shoreline recreation areas and appropriate amenities for residents and visitors, with effective access and adequate facilities and signage, while ensuring that appropriate protections for natural areas. (Coastal Act/30211/30212/30212.5/30214)

Policies

7.1 Local Community Access. Work with the State, County of San Diego, and others to strengthen local community access to state and regional parks, beaches and lagoons.

7.2 Beach Access. Work with the State to upgrade and promote universal and fair access to state beaches which are recognized as the major resident and visitor destination beaches in the Encinitas area, including Cardiff Beach State Park, San Elijo Beach State Park, Moonlight State Beach and Leucadia State Beach.

7.3 Shoreline Access Signage. Act and coordinate with the State to implement an effective system of shoreline access signage based on uniform standards (i.e., size, material, symbols) while minimizing impacts to the natural resource physically, visually and aesthetically. (Coastal Act/30212.5)

7.4 Moonlight State Beach. Upgrade and promote access to Moonlight State Beach, in order that it may receive an increased proportion of visitors relative to other state beaches in the Encinitas area. (Coastal Act/30214)

7.5 High Intensity Use Areas. Maintain and operate the following beach areas based on the classification and standards for high intensity beach recreation use areas set forth in the Citywide Recreation Use Plan:

- Moonlight State Beach;
- Cardiff State Beach Park; and
- San Elijo State Beach Park. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30221)

coastal recreation

7.6 Medium Intensity Use Areas. Maintain and operate the beach areas related to the following access points based on the classification and standards for medium intensity beach recreation use areas set forth in the Citywide Recreation Use Plan:

- Beacons (Leucadia State Beach);
- Grandview (Leucadia State Beach);
- Swami's;
- Seaside State Beach; and
- D Street. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30221)

7.7 Low Intensity Use Areas. Maintain and operate the beach areas related to the following access points or overlooks based on the classification and standards for low intensity recreation use areas set forth in the Citywide Recreation Use Plan:

- North Sea Bluff Village (no current public access);
- Encinitas Beach, vicinity of Athena Street and Neptune Avenue (no current public access);
- "H" Street to "I" Street vicinity (overlooks); and
- S. El Portal (Stonesteps access). (Coastal Act/30212.5/30221)

7.8 Overlooks. Continue to provide or work with the appropriate agencies to provide and maintain coastal and/or inland view enjoyment areas as set forth in the Citywide Recreation Plan:

- West end of "E" Street;
- West end of "F" Street (undeveloped);
- West end of "G" Street (undeveloped);
- West end of "H" Street;

coastal recreation

- West end of "I" Street;
- West end of "J" Street;
- Roseta;
- N. El Portal;
- Swami's North Bluff Parcel;
- Swami's South Bluff Parcel (undeveloped);
- Lot 15, running along the eastern ridge of the Encinitas Ranch South Mesa Planning Area (with inland views of El Camino Real and the backcountry beyond); and
- Lot 69, just north of the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course water tank (with inland views of El Camino Real and the backcountry beyond).

recreation and community facilities and programs

Sustainable growth and development incorporates not just the environmental aspects of land use sustainability, but also important social dimensions. Existing public facilities and programs throughout the community provide recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for multiple generations. The following goal and policies are designed to support and build upon the strengths of existing facilities, amenities and programs in a way that respects and responds to the changing needs of Encinitas' communities.

GOAL 8: Design, develop and implement community facilities, programs and services that reflect community demographics and meet the needs of multiple generations.

Policies

8.1 Social and Community Services. Identify the locations of existing and proposed community facilities, such as libraries, community centers, etc. Provide and promote information about available social and community services.

8.2 Needs Assessment. Conduct needs assessments for recreational programming and services with local residents. Involve youth and family members together in recreation programs offered by the City. Recreation programs should be developed with new sources of revenue. Place a high priority on programs and facilities that serve youth, families and seniors.

8.3 Senior Services. Strive to meet the quality of life needs of Encinitas' seniors through entertainment resources, special event programming, as well as recreational, educational and wellness options. Ensure that information on transportation, assisted living and affordable housing programs is readily available.

8.4 Youth Learning Opportunities. Ensure that high quality formal and informal learning opportunities exist for youth and adults. Develop and participate in collaborative consortiums that bring educational and recreational program providers together. Encourage participation by youth in a variety of community service and public activities.

recreation and community facilities and programs

8.5 Environmental Education. Promote, encourage and support environmental education with a special focus on youth involvement.

8.6 Quality Learning and Recreational Environments. Identify the locations of schools and school facilities, coordinated with the plans of local school districts and/or school administrators. Work with the school districts and private school operators to maintain quality learning environments and provide facilities that serve more as neighborhood focal points.

8.7 Special Events and Operations. Continue to facilitate a wide range of special events and operations that highlight the diverse communities and interests within the city. Maintain a permitting program and/or procedure to limit the impacts that special events and operations (such as special ceremonies, commercial use and surf instruction) have on the general public's regular use and enjoyment of the facility, as well as on maintenance and operations.

8.8 Community Participation. Improve and enhance parks, beaches, open spaces and public facilities through community involvement and citizen partnerships. Provide opportunities for residents to stay involved in the community. Examples include fundraising, clean-up/fix-up days, neighbor helping neighbor programs, adopt-a-park and other activities for volunteer groups. The success and livelihood of non-budgeted programming depends on active volunteer participation from neighborhood associations, community groups and individuals.

8.9 Facility Distribution. Encourage the provision of a variety of community facilities distributed throughout the city to meet the service needs of all residents, including the youth and senior populations. Facilities that are distributed throughout the city will also help address evacuation planning considerations with regard to major disasters and strategies for different shelter operations. (Coastal Act/30212.5)

8.10 Public and Private Facilities. Encourage the development of private and public recreation and event facilities throughout Encinitas to ensure availability and affordability to the maximum extent possible. Encourage facilities with favorable features that characterize the surrounding neighborhood and

recreation and community facilities and programs

support flexible-use building types and multi-purpose facilities to handle and accommodate changes in demand. Park facility sites and buildings should be developed, and easily redeveloped over time, consistent with that need. Plan, furnish and program public facilities consistent with the goals and policies of the Public Health Element.

8.11 High-Performance Buildings and Facilities. Support a whole systems approach to the design, construction and operation of public and recreational facilities; employ methods to promote natural resource conservation and increase green space; improve municipal water and energy efficiency and **conservation; optimal resource management; and promote good indoor air quality.**

8.12 Playing Fields and Open Fields. Monitor and respond to community needs related to sports and ball fields, and strive to provide the playing fields necessary to serve the community. Also provide a balance of playing fields and open fields.

8.13 Skate Parks. Recognize skateboarding as a healthy and popular recreation activity and a legitimate use to accommodate in the parks system. Monitor community needs related to skateboarding facilities and strive to provide skate parks to serve the variety of skill levels necessary to serve the community.

8.14 Tennis Courts. Monitor community needs related to tennis courts and partner with other groups or agencies to develop an adequate number and distribution of tennis court facilities.

8.15 Dog Parks. Maintain dog-free parks and establish separate, off-leash dog parks and consider enclosed, dog-friendly or leash-free areas (and/or provide off-leash hours at regular parks citywide). Provide dog waste receptacles and bags at parks and trails in those areas or in instances where dogs are allowed. Encourage responsible dog owners and users of these facilities.

8.16 Community Gardens. Consistent with the community gardens and local food production policies of the Public Health Element, explore and create opportunities for community gardening and urban agriculture through the

recreation and community facilities and programs

provision of support facilities, programs and sites. Seek opportunities for public and private partnerships when additional space is desired for community gardens, consistent with the local food production policies of the Public Health Element.

8.17 Libraries. Keep libraries open and active and, to the extent feasible, work with the County of San Diego to expand existing library services, hours of operation and facilities for community use.

8.18 School Sites. If a school site is located within a residential neighborhood and ceases operation, work to ensure that future uses of the school site are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood residential character and are allowed within adjacent residential zones, consistent with the land use compatibility policies of the Land Use and Community Design Element. Preferred uses in a residential area include a private school, park site or other community facility, if appropriately benefiting the area/neighborhood. Alternatively, it should transition to a residential use consistent with the density of the surrounding neighborhood.

8.19 Arts and Cultural Facilities. Expand cultural facilities citywide and explore the feasibility of and demand for establishing a city performing arts center and/or music and event venues. Promote and expand current programs in the arts with a social and cultural events emphasis.

the arts

Arts and cultural activities play an important role in community life and a wide range of art and cultural organizations, resources, attractions, and activities have been a source of community pride and enrichment in Encinitas. The arts play an important role in symbolizing the strength, vitality and creative foundation of a city. The arts can also encourage public participation. The arts can come in many forms, expressions and mediums which respond to the creative contribution of the artist(s), as well as to the site and situation. While arts have been recognized as a contributor to a city's culture and quality of life, recently there has also been a focus on their economic value. From the work of non-profit art agencies to the impact of art on cultural tourism, it is clear that the creative sector is important to local economies.

There is a wealth of opportunity in Encinitas for the enjoyment of, and the participation in, various forms of visual, literary and performing arts. The following goals and policies are intended to strengthen and enhance the arts in Encinitas and to provide guiding principles and/or strategies to respond to art issues.

GOAL 9: Work towards making the arts, consisting of many creative endeavors and disciplines, a critical component to the overall quality of life and environment of Encinitas.

Policies

9.1 Local Decision-Making. As appropriate, promote artistic considerations in local decision-making and recognize the contributions that the arts make to the city.

9.2 Economic Development. Encourage and promote opportunities for the arts to contribute to the economic development and overall sustainability of Encinitas.

9.3 Education. Encourage arts education in the community and schools to include various forms of visual, literary and performing arts. Build public awareness and promote a diversity of art and cultural amenities that educate and enrich the community.

9.4 Access to the Arts. Provide access to the creative process and cultural resources for all neighborhoods. Promote art and cultural experiences for everyone and remove barriers to participation and enjoyment.

9.5 Support. Increase opportunities for public art and support the development and preservation of art in public spaces to produce creative, stimulating and/or inspiring environments. Develop partnerships in the private sector and businesses to support and enhance the contribution of artistic creativity.

9.6 Public Space Development. As appropriate, with the participation of artists, incorporate art in capital improvement, streetscape, public buildings and public works projects. Art incorporated into the surrounding development and street design can engage the pedestrian and create an exciting and inviting environment.

9.7 Bringing the Arts to the People. Encourage the placement of artwork in public places and activity nodes. Support efforts to bring museums, art galleries, performing arts theater, festivals, and other cultural entities and activities to Encinitas. In addition to large events or activities, consider conducting a series of smaller community-based events which will encourage community pride, creativity learning and/or promote Encinitas as family oriented community.

9.8 Place Making on El Camino Real. Improve public spaces with art and culture on the El Camino Real Commercial Corridor, consistent with the vision for this General Plan land use focus area (see Land Use and Community Design Element Citywide Land Use Plan).

funding and acquisition

The goals and policies presented in this section are critical to the continued health, safety and vitality of the city and its residents, as far as quality of life, recreation and active living are concerned. In order to support sustainable growth and well planned development (where residents or employees would be able to walk to meet their daily needs) many of the new areas for recreation will have to be either developed on land dedicated to the City or provided on private property. Funding and acquisition in support of the existing system of parks, open spaces, facilities and trails for recreation is fundamental to implementation of the direction set forth in this Element.

GOAL 10: Explore and implement traditional, non-traditional and/or innovative ways to fund the City's parks, recreation and public facilities system and to expand the system, as needed.

Policies

10.1 Dedication for Parkland, Open Space, Trails. Require the dedication of park land or payment of in-lieu fees for acquisition and development by new residential development projects in the city, consistent with the Quimby Act. Assure that the City's development and acquisition fees are kept current and reflect the appropriate park impact fee for residential development.

10.2 Developer Contribution. Consider adding park land dedications or in-lieu park development fees on all new commercial and/or industrial projects to further fund parks and trail development or park/open space acquisition. Develop a program where, in some instances, some of the park land or open space dedication must be provided on-site in order help offset the impacts of the new development.

10.3 Preference for Park Land Dedication. Whenever possible, require land dedication instead of allowing the payment of in-lieu fees (even if the City does not have adequate funds for development), so that park land can be secured for the future. Under this principle, when carefully designing infill spaces in urban areas, encourage the creation of high quality and diverse public spaces that can accommodate local park needs. Examples include community plazas and squares, roof top gardens, and satellite parkettes.

funding and acquisition

10.4 Dedication Trade-Offs. When implementing the ratio park land requirement or the equivalent market value in-lieu fees, consider allowing some degree of flexibility to the property owner/developer in trading off required acreage where appropriate, and as long as the City receives full value. Giving credit to developers for developing finished parks in-lieu of providing required acreage and/or fees is one example.

10.5 Local Park Improvements. Continue to support the acquisition and improvement of additional local park sites through measures such as, but not limited to purchase, private donations, establishment of tax benefits and living trusts. Expand services at existing park sites when unrestricted park acquisition funds become available. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30221)

10.6 Acquisition Strategy. Provide for early acquisition of park sites to ensure proper location, adequate size and lower costs.

10.7 Open Space Dedication. Where required, utilize open space easements and dedications to facilitate the objectives of the City's recreation and/or public access program. Develop an incentives program that will encourage landowners to make lands available for public access and recreation.

10.8 Floodplain Acquisition. Identify and seek to acquire floodplain areas for appropriate public and recreation uses. (Coastal Act/30212.5/30231/30240)

10.9 Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Right-of-Way. Coordinate with appropriate agencies to identify potential opportunities within the railway right-of-way to make better use of the land. Should it become available, attempt to acquire portions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way for the development of recreation facilities and landscaping, as well as transportation and other public needs.

10.10 Revenue Generation. Increase revenue-generating activities and park and programming fees on a case by case basis to make the park system and the City's park and recreation programs more self-sustaining.

10.11 Funding for the Arts in Parks and Public Facilities. Conduct a financial feasibility study to investigate options to fund facilities and programs to support the arts and cultural programs and activities. Consider developing an arts-specific funding program through public/private endeavors, percent-for-art programs and/or other innovative solutions to secure adequate funding for a public art program.



citywide recreation plan

This section of the City of Encinitas Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element is concerned with establishing a hierarchy of parks and recreation facilities and corresponding standards that can be utilized for the development and improvement of parks and community facilities. Standards for parks vary from city to city, and there are often problems applying generalized standards to every individual park or facility. At the same time, standards are useful in establishing guidelines regarding optimal acreage for future parks, their utilization, and which facilities and services should be provided.

parks classification and standards

The Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element establishes a classification system that applies to all existing and future park and recreation facilities in the city. Guidelines have been developed for each category of park and facility that address their spatial requirements, function, service area and desired improvements. A schematic diagram of the classification of Encinitas' parks is provided in Figure PR-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities.

This Element calls for a level of service standard for recreational parkland of 6.5 acres per one-thousand persons and sets an overall park land standard of 15 acres of parks, beaches and open space for every one-thousand persons. Parks and open space includes land in City and San Diego County parks, beaches and open space reserves. While no standards are set for individual park types, guidelines for each park land type are described below and summarized in Table PR-2, along with facilities typically to be provided with each park category.

Beach Access Points and Overlooks

Beach access is necessary for the public's enjoyment of the beach, including the enjoyment of coastal aesthetics. Encinitas also has a number of vista points that provide residents and visitors with views of the ocean and in some cases inland views. Overlooks, or City-owned, operated or maintained vista points, are important to the preservation of public views and aesthetic resources of the community.

The Land Use and Community Design Element identifies a system of vista points, viewsheds, scenic highways and scenic corridors in the city and recommends strategies for preserving and enhancing scenic qualities. Beach access points and overlooks are all part of the larger vista point system and provide further opportunities to enjoy views and other aesthetic values.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are specialized facilities designed to a concentrated population and/or a specific target group such as preschool aged children or the elderly. Facilities of this type should be located near higher density residential development such as apartments, condominium developments and senior housing; in urbanized areas not served by existing or planned neighborhood parks; or where acquisition of larger park units is unlikely. The service area for mini-parks

is generally less than one quarter mile. According to City guidelines, mini-parks will be up to 1.0 acre in area. The guideline for park land acreage in this category is .25 to .5 acres per one-thousand persons.

Typically, mini-parks do not provide on-site parking or restrooms. The types of services typically found in a mini-park include children's play areas, landscaping, scenic vistas, picnicking and open areas for pick up sports activities as appropriate. Leucadia Roadside Park and Mildred McPherson Park are examples of facilities in this category.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide for both active and passive recreational activities and include a variety of facilities such as playground equipment, picnicking areas and wading pools, and limited game courts for tennis, basketball and other sports as appropriate. The service area for neighborhood parks is one half mile. Park facilities in this category should have an area of at least three to five acres. The guideline for park land acreage in this category is 1.0 to 2.0 acres per one-thousand persons.

A neighborhood park is designed to serve the immediate area where it is located and not attract users from outside the design service area. For this reason, restroom structures and on-site parking accommodations are typically discouraged. Encinitas' neighborhood parks include Hawk View, Leucadia Oaks, Cottonwood Creek, Las Verdes, Encinitas Overlook, Glen, Orpheus, Scott Valley and Sun Vista parks.

Community Parks

Community parks generally offer a wide range of recreational amenities to the surrounding community, which may include athletic complexes, courts, fields, arenas, swimming pools, covered picnic areas and playgrounds, depending on the specific needs of the community and the availability of resources.

Community parks generally serve a number of neighborhoods and have a service area radius of one to two miles. For Encinitas, community parks typically range from 10 to 20 acres in size. The guideline for park land acreage in this category is 5.0 to 8.0 acres per one-thousand persons. Encinitas community parks include Oakcrest Park and Cardiff, Ecke and Leo Mullen parks.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are sites developed for a specific type of use, as opposed to neighborhood or community parks that support multiple uses. Special use parks often serve the entire community and enjoy regular, intensive use. Special use park facilities include stand-alone recreation facilities such as golf courses, community centers or sports complexes. Special use parks acreage may be counted with community parks where these sites provide community facilities serving the entire city or a major portion of the city. The guideline for park land acreage in this category is 5.0 to 8.0 acres per one-thousand persons. No specific size is established as a guideline for special use parks. On-site parking and restroom structures are typically preferred. Encinitas' special use parks include the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course, the Little Oaks Equestrian Park, Encinitas Community and Senior Center, and the Encinitas Community Park.

County Regional Parks and Resources

Regional parks include state, county and privately owned, operated or maintained open spaces intended to serve the people of a large region, usually those within a few hours travel time. Some examples of this category of park include beaches, water areas, botanical gardens and golf courses. The size and location of these parks will vary. Regional parks should never take the place of neighborhood or community parks, which are designed to serve the local population.

The County of San Diego maintains a number of large open space areas that serve residents of Encinitas and other North San Diego County residents, including the San Diego Botanic Gardens (formerly known as Quail Botanical Gardens), San Elijo Lagoon and the visitor center at the lagoon. Also included in this category are the state beaches, state beach campgrounds and the established marine reserve area.

TABLE PR-3: PARK GUIDELINES

| Type | Typical Size | Suggested Level of Service | Service Area | Location | Usual Facilities and Remarks |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Mini-Park | 1 acre or less | 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 population | Approximately ¼ mile radius | In highly developed neighborhoods where neighborhood park land is unavailable and there are no other recreation services | Children’s play area, landscaping, picnicking, open play area for pick up sports. Typically no restroom structures or on-site parking. |
| Neighborhood Park | 3 to 5 acres | 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 population | Approximately ½ mile radius | Near the center of a neighborhood or adjoining an elementary school | Play areas, multi-purpose courts, tennis courts, picnic areas, open turf area, on-site parking optional. Typically no restroom structures. |
| Community Park | 10 to 20 acres | 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 population | Approximately 1 to 2 mile radius | At or near the intersection of major or secondary thoroughfares near the entry of service area | Baseball, football, softball, soccer, tennis and other active athletic areas, community center, children’s play area, on-site parking, restrooms, picnic areas, and may incorporate special use elements |
| Special Use Park | No size constraints | 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 population | Citywide | Wherever appropriate | Botanic gardens, lagoons, sports complexes, open space, marine refuges, etc. |
| Regional Park | No size constraints | No specific standard | Regional | Where appropriate within the city and region | Beaches, botanical gardens, San Elijo Lagoon |

standards for site selection, development, improvement and maintenance

The following section includes the City's standards and guidelines for the selection, development and improvement of recreation areas and trails located within city limits and owned, operated and/or maintained by the City. General Plan maintenance and improvement standards for coastal recreation areas include the City's classification of city and state beaches by intensity of use, and maintenance and improvement standards for publicly owned beach overlooks and access points. Future park site selection guidelines are intended to govern the selection of land dedicated to satisfy the provisions of the City's park dedication ordinance. Trail system development standards clarify the role of the Recreation Trails Master Plan, the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP)

Coastal Area Recreation Use and improvement Standards

This Element classifies City and State of California beaches based on intensity of use and the type of improvements encouraged or allowed. The nature and extent of any future improvements constructed or located on a beach may depend on the intensity standards set forth below. Figure PR-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities identifies the classification of each beach within Encinitas' city boundaries.

High Intensity. This beach category represents the highest intensity for both utilization and improvements. Active recreational activities are encouraged in both the beach and tidal areas. Lifeguard stations, game courts, picnic areas, parking lots, restroom facilities, showers, water fountains and facilities that provide access are among the improvements permitted on these beaches.

Medium Intensity. Beaches in this category may still be used for active recreation though improvements are nominal. Improvements may be restricted to lifeguard stations and facilities providing access.

Low Intensity. Beaches designated for low intensity use will contain few improvements, and recreation activities will be more passive in nature. This category encourages the maintenance and preservation of these beaches in their natural state, as much as this is possible.

Beach Access and Overlook Maintenance and Improvement Standards

Beach access is necessary for the public's enjoyment of Encinitas' coastal areas, including the enjoyment of coastal aesthetics. Encinitas also has a number of coastal and inland overlooks that provide residents and visitors with views of the community and the ocean. Overlooks are important to the preservation of public views and aesthetic resources of the community.

The Land Use and Community Design Element identifies a system of vista points, viewsheds, scenic highways and scenic corridors in the city and recommends strategies for preserving and enhancing scenic qualities. Beach access points and overlooks are City-maintained facilities that are considered part of this system in that, like informal vista points throughout the city, they provide opportunities to enjoy city and coastal views and other aesthetic values.

Beach access points and overlooks are designated and improved for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to get to and enjoy. Since beach access points and overlooks share a similar purpose and function, both types of facilities should be developed and maintained under the same general principles. The following standards apply to City-owned, operated and/or maintained beach access points and vista points ("overlooks") to ensure public safety and reduce potential impacts on adjacent properties and the bluffs or other natural areas.

- Landscaping shall utilize drought resistant plants to minimize the possibility of overwatering.
- Appropriate signage (with careful consideration given to size, color and material) should identify the facility as a public access or overlook.
- Benches or picnic tables and trash and recycling cans should be provided at all facilities, where possible.
- A barrier should be constructed at all facilities that will be effective in preventing people from falling from view areas or the bluffs and/or to prevent users from accessing the natural habitat areas.
- Site use (size and hours) near residences should be restricted to minimize noise and other impacts on those residences.

Future Park Site Selection Guidelines

The Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Element includes guidelines/standards determining land requirements for future park sites. These standards and guidelines should be utilized in selecting sites for parks and should serve as guidelines governing the acceptance of land dedicated to satisfy the provisions of the City's park dedication ordinance. Future acquisition will focus on acquiring land for neighborhood and community parks as well as obtaining easements and property for beach access and trails.

The State of California Planning and Zoning Laws and the Subdivision Map Act Code Section 66477 (The Quimby Act), stipulates that the legislative body of a city or county may, by ordinance, require the dedication of land, the payment of fees in lieu thereof or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a final map or parcel map. In cases where such dedication/fees have not been obtained for particular lots through a map, they may be imposed at the time that building permits are issued. Among other requirements, the following conditions must be met:

- The ordinance must include definite standards for determining the proportion of a subdivision to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu thereof; and
- The legislative body has adopted a General Plan containing a Recreation Element, and any proposed park and recreational facilities are in accordance with definite principles and standards contained therein.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Locating neighborhood parks within existing areas of focused neighborhood activity is important for community health and vitality. Ideally, a neighborhood park should be centrally located in a neighborhood, and located relative to other neighborhood uses, streets and activity centers in a way that facilitates the park's role as a focus of neighborhood activity. Neighborhood parks should provide easy walking access for the residents of adjacent neighborhoods who wish to use the facility, with no geographic barriers.

The following guidelines apply to the site selection for neighborhood park sites within the City of Encinitas.

- The site should have water, storm drains, sewers and electricity available.
- The site must have direct access to local streets, with accessibility recommended from at least two points along the perimeter.
- The site should have restroom structures.
- The site should provide at least three (3) acres of land for development, to the extent possible.
- Neighborhood parks should be located adjacent to elementary schools where feasible to enhance recreational and educational opportunities. The first consideration should be whether the existing school has adequate play space to serve both its own educational needs and the needs of its neighborhood for playground space.
- The site for a neighborhood park should have street frontage on at least two streets when possible, or at least one street adjacent to a school when the site is located near a school facility. On street parking should be required and on-site parking is optional. If the park is located where adjacent streets do not have sufficient parking, the site should contain a parking lot.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The following guidelines apply to the selection of future sites for community parks. The facilities are more varied, the service area is greater and the required land area is greater than that for neighborhood parks.

- The site must have water, sewer, storm drains and electricity available.
- The site should have good access, as well on-site parking accommodations.
- The site should have restroom structures.
- Desirable service area radius for community parks is one to two miles.
- To the extent possible, the site should provide 10 to 25 acres of land for development of passive and active recreational facilities.
- Community parks are encouraged to be located adjacent to schools or other major community activity centers and public facilities.
- The site should be accessible to the people of the community on foot, by bicycle, by automobile and preferably by bus transit.

Trail System Development Guidelines

A number of policies included in both this Element and the Circulation Element are concerned with the development of a citywide system of hiking, biking and equestrian trails. The Recreational Trails Master Plan provides the planning guidance for the development of a citywide recreational trails system. The Recreational Trails Master Plan addresses walking, hiking, biking and equestrian trails and includes a detailed trails map, trail standards, and an implementation and maintenance plan.

Within the Coastal Zone, design standards for recreational trails shall, at a minimum, comply with the Local Coastal Program and any applicable implementing ordinances. Proposed trail alignments within or adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall avoid significant disruption, and be compatible with the continued viability of those habitat areas. In order to avoid impacts to sensitive areas, placement of recreational trails shall be located within the outer 15 feet of any required buffer area for wetlands, riparian areas and/or other environmentally sensitive habitat, unless it is not feasible to do so. Existing trails are not required to be relocated in order to meet this standard.

Use of native, non-invasive plant species shall be required in any landscaping or re-vegetation associated with trail construction. Additionally, all proposed trails and trail alignments shall be consistent with the requirements of the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) and shall not impact the MHCP's ability to create an effective biological core and linkage area. Any trail development or related activities, including clearing, grading, construction, recreational uses or maintenance inconsistent with these requirements shall be evaluated to find an alternative.

future recreation facilities

The policies in the General Plan describe a general direction, process and/or land use designation that is applicable when identifying areas of the city where future parks, trails and other recreational facilities may be located. Other policies discuss future development of park sites, not yet identified on a map. Sites adjacent to identified or designated locations of future parks, trails and other recreation facilities may be purchased or acquired as development excactions to provide for more intensive recreation uses when land is made available. Additional areas not within the Special Study Overlay (see Land Use and

Community Design Element Citywide Land Use Plan) may also be appropriate sites for park land, trails and other recreational facilities based on the criteria above, and may therefore also be acquired for that purpose.

Comparing projected build out for the city with the standards and criteria of this Element, it is possible to identify those areas which will be adequately served by existing park facilities and those for which new parks will be needed. As part of its implementation program for this Element, the City will develop a map showing the approximate number and potential location of additional park facilities, by category, according to the above criteria. This map will be used as a reference tool, with the above criteria, for planning the acquisition and siting of park facilities.

figures



List of Figures

- Figure RE-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities RE-51
- Figure RE-2: Community Facilities RE-53