



Chapter 9: Recreation and Open Space Element



9.1 INTRODUCTION

Surrounded by natural beauty, with hills and creeks within its borders, Murrieta is well positioned to provide opportunities for recreation, outdoor activities, and enjoyment of nature. Parks, recreation facilities, and trails promote health, and community members value them highly. Recreation programs such as classes and events offer a variety of benefits including health, education, and social interaction. Besides promoting aesthetic values, open space management and conservation can provide habitat, contribute positively to air and water quality, and protect residents from hazards such as fires and floods.

The following Community Priorities relate most directly to this Element:

- Protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways.
- Provide abundant parks and facilities for recreational activities, and cultural amenities.
- Provide ample activities for all ages of youth, and jobs for teens.

9.2 AUTHORITY FOR ELEMENT

California *Government Code* Section 65560(b)(3) stipulates that the General Plan address:

"...Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors..."

9.3 SETTING THE CONTEXT: KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Recreation planning is guided by the *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan)*. The *Master Plan* provides information about Murrieta's parks and recreation facilities. It also includes a needs assessment and gap analysis, recommendations for meeting current and future needs, and a financial implementation plan.

PARKLAND

The *Master Plan* counts 467.24 acres of parkland in 48 City parks. This total does not include joint use school facilities, some natural areas in Nature Parks, or private facilities. It includes six types of City Parks – City-Wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Play Areas, Special Use Parks, Native Parks – shown in *Exhibit 9-1, Parks*, and listed in *Table 9-1, Recreation Facilities Inventory*. *Table 9-1* reflects two new parks and some facilities that have been added since the completion of the Master Plan, and which increase the City's parkland acreage total.

These facilities range in size from Neighborhood Play Areas that are at most 5 acres to City-Wide Parks with at least 50 acres of parkland. They include Special Use Parks, which are focused on one type of activity, and Nature Parks, which have limited improvements that provide public access to natural open space. Los Alamos Hills Sports Park is Murrieta's only City-Wide Park, with 45 acres of parkland developed in Phase 1.



Los Alamos Hills Sports Park is already Murrieta's largest active park, and will become larger as Phases 2 and 3 are completed.

Parkland Needs

The City has adopted a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As of June 2009, the City had a deficit of 34 acres according to this standard; and if no new parkland is added, there will be a deficit of approximately 200 acres at buildout (assuming a population of 133,261). Additional acreage is required to accommodate recreation facilities such as sports fields and courts that meet the population's demands. The *Master Plan* estimated that 240.3 acres of parkland would be needed for a population of 120,000 to meet identified needs for recreational facilities, in addition to what is needed to meet the parkland standard.

Access to Parkland

Besides seeking an adequate quantity of parkland, the City seeks to locate parks within convenient distance of neighborhoods throughout Murrieta. There are six residential areas that the *Master Plan* identified as outside the ½-mile service area of any Neighborhood Park or Neighborhood Play Area. However, proximity to joint use school sites was not considered in that analysis, and those sites are located in at least two of the areas indicated as underserved.



**Table 9-1
Recreation Facilities Inventory**

| Recreational Facilities | Parkland Acreage | Passive Amenities | | | | | | | | | | | Active Amenities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| | | Amphitheater | Barbeques | Bike Path/Walking Trail | Catch and Release Pond | Community Center/Recreation Room | Dog Park | Open Grass Areas | Parking Lot | Par Exercise Course | Picnic Tables | Restroom/Port-O-Lets | Shelters | Tot Lot/Playground Equipment | Multi-Purpose Trail/Trail Connection | Water Fountains | Baseball Field (with Mound) | Basketball Court | Concession Building | Football Field | Gymnasium | Horseshoe Pits | Skateboard Park | Soccer Field | Softball Field (without Mound) | Spray Turtles | Swimming/Wading Pool | Tennis Court | Volleyball Court | |
| City-Wide Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Los Alamos Hills Sports Park | 45.00 | • | • | | | • | • | | 12 | • | 3 | 3 | • | • | 4L | | • | 3 | L | | | | | 6L | | | | | |
| Community Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Alta Murrieta Sports Park | 9.76 | • | | | | • | • | | 3 | • | | 1 | | • | 1L | | • | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | California Oaks Sports Park | 19.99 | • | | | | • | • | | 6 | • | 1 | 1 | | • | | 2L | | | | | 1 | 1P | 2L/3 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 4 | Copper Canyon Park | 20.94 | • | • | • | | • | • | | 5 | • | 3 | 2 | • | • | 2 | 4H | • | | | | | | 2P | | | | | | |
| 5 | Glen Arbor Park | 18.92 | | | | | • | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Hunt Park | 4.72 | | | | • | • | • | | 4 | • | | | | • | 1L | 1L | | | 0.5 | | | | 2 | | | 1L | | | |
| 7 | Mira Mosa Park | 8.10 | • | • | | | • | • | | 4 | • | 1 | 1 | | • | 1 | 2H | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Pond Park | 14.59 | | • | • | | • | | | 8 | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neighborhood Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Barratt Park | 8.30 | | | • | | • | • | | | | | 1 | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Firefighters Park | 3.21 | • | • | | | • | • | | 9 | • | 2 | 1 | | • | | 2H | | | | | | | | • | | | | 1 | |
| 11 | Mapleton Park | 9.30 | • | • | | | • | • | | 2 | • | 1 | 1 | • | • | | 1H | | | | | | 1P | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| 12 | Mountain Pride Park | 9.64 | | | | | • | • | | 1 | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2P | | | | | | |
| 13 | Murrieta Elementary School Park | 4.26 | | | | | • | • | | 3 | • | 1 | 1 | | • | | 1 | | | | | | 1P | 2 | | | | | | |
| 14 | Northstar Park | 14.00 | • | | | | • | | | 4 | | 1 | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | 1P | 1P | | | | | | |
| 15 | Rancho Acacia Park | 10.11 | • | • | | | • | • | | 8 | | 1 | 1 | • | • | | | | | | | | 1P | 1P | | | | | | |
| 16 | Shady Maple Park | 4.79 | | | | | • | • | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | 1P | 1P | | | | | | |
| 17 | Valley Vista Park | 6.50 | • | | | | • | | | 6 | | 1 | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | 1P | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Vintage Reserve Park | 3.83 | • | | | | • | • | | 3 | | | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | 1P | | | | | | | |
| Neighborhood Play Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Antelope Hills Park – Active | 5.31 | • | • | | | • | | | 11 | | 1 | 1 | | • | | 2H | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Antigua Park | 2.26 | | | | | • | | | | | | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Blackmore Ranch Park | 1.14 | • | | | | • | • | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Calle Cipres Park | 1.80 | | | | | • | | | 2 | | | 1 | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Calle Estancia Park | 2.83 | • | • | | | • | | | • | | 1 | 1 | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Carson Park | 0.69 | | | | | • | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Table 9-1 (continued)
Recreation Facilities Inventory

| Recreational Facilities | Parkland Acreage | Passive Amenities | | | | | | | | | | | Active Amenities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|----|--|
| | | Amphitheater | Barbeques | Bike Path/Walking Trail | Catch and Release Pond | Community Center/Recreation Room | Dog Park | Open Grass Areas | Parking Lot | Par Exercise Course | Picnic Tables | Restroom/Port-O-Lets | Shelters | Tot Lot/Playground Equipment | Multi-Purpose Trail/Trail Connection | Water Fountains | Baseball Field (with Mound) | Basketball Court | Concession Building | Football Field | Gymnasium | Horseshoe Pits | Skateboard Park | Soccer Field | Softball Field (without Mound) | Spray Turtles | Swimming/Wading Pool | Tennis Court | Volleyball Court | | |
| Neighborhood Play Areas – continued | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Century Park | 3.90 | | | • | | | | | • | | • | | | 4 | | | 1 | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Creekside Village Green Park | 4.00 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | 4 | | 1 | 1 | • | • | | | | | | | | | | 2H | |
| 27 | Crystal Aire Park | 1.11 | | • | | | | | | • | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Eastgate Park | 1.50 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Echo Canyon Park | 3.07 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Grizzly Ridge Park | 0.44 | | • | | | | | | • | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | Meadowridge Park | 4.29 | | • | • | | | | | • | | | | | 3 | | 1 | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Montafino Park | 0.76 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | Monte Vista Park | 1.06 | | • | • | | | | | • | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2H | |
| 34 | Oak Terrace Park | 0.20 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Oak Tree Park | 0.32 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Palomar Park | 1.75 | | • | | | | | | • | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Rosewood Park | 0.41 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | Springbrook Park | 0.29 | | • | | | | | | • | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Sycamore Park | 2.66 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1H | |
| 40 | Whitewood Park | 1.84 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Special Use Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | Murrieta Equestrian Park | 22 | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | Sykes Ranch Park | 2.61 | | • | • | | | | | • | • | | | 10 | | | | 1 | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Town Square Park | 4.22 | • | | • | | | | | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nature Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | Antelope Hills Park | 0.00 | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | Bear Valley Park 1 | 20.14 | | | • | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Bear Valley Park 2 | 3.97 | | | • | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | Cole Canyon Park | 140.00 | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Falcon's View Park | 9.37 | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | Oak Mesa Park | 5.98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Warm Springs Park | 23.80 | | | • | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Acreage | | 489.68 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Numbers in left column correspond to those in <i>Exhibit 9-1, Parks</i> . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Definitions: L = Lighted; P = Practice Field; and H = Half Court. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Recreation facilities include sports fields and courts, buildings for indoor recreation, and other facilities that accommodate recreation activities. Murrieta's parks offer a range of recreation facilities, listed in *Table 9-1*. Special Use Parks offer different amenities than other types of parks. For instance, Murrieta Equestrian Park (formerly Murrieta Stud Ranch) has equestrian arenas, a barn, stables, and open pasture.

Additional public recreation facilities are found in school campuses and in community facilities. Murrieta residents also have access to private recreational facilities, some of which are used for City recreation programming.

Joint Use Facilities

A joint use agreement between the City and the Murrieta Valley Unified School District provides a framework for the City to access the recreation facilities of all school campuses except the continuation and independent study high schools; and for the District to access California Oaks Sports Park, Copper Canyon Park, Community Center, and Senior Center. Future facilities acquired or constructed by either party may be added to the list of facilities included in the agreement.

Through this agreement, 11 District sports fields become City parks in evenings and on weekends, and the District has exclusive access to certain City fields and parks adjacent to school campuses during the school day.¹ The agreement also grants the City further use of District sports fields, as scheduled in semi-annual meetings of the two parties. The City and District may use each other's facilities besides sports fields through an application process, giving each other first priority after their own use (including events that they sponsor, or by affiliated or related groups).

The City and District may assist organizations such as youth sports leagues and school booster clubs to access joint use facilities. In addition to the Joint Use Agreement, community sports organizations can make separate agreements with the District to use school facilities.



The former Murrieta Stud Ranch, pictured here in 2009 as it was being acquired by the City, has become a Special Use Park for equestrian activities.

¹ "Joint Use Agreement for School and Municipal Facilities between Murrieta Valley Unified School District and the City of Murrieta," effective August 1, 2009.



Community Center

The Murrieta Community Center is located near Town Square at 41810 Juniper Street. This facility, built in 1979, provides office space for the Community Services Department and a 3,600-square foot multipurpose room. The multipurpose room has a theatrical stage and a kitchen, and can accommodate 250 people. However, there are no room dividers, so it can only be programmed with one class or activity at a time.

The need for additional community centers was identified as a key issue in the *Master Plan*. Specifically, the *Master Plan* calls for community centers that serve youth, multi-generational families, and older adults with a variety of activities and programs as well as opportunities for supervised free play.

Senior Center

The Senior Center opened in 2006, and has a 2,000 square foot multipurpose room, 1,200-square foot lounge, educational room with computers, and offices. The multipurpose room is used for classes, workshops, and meals. Visitors can use the computers in the educational room when a class is not in session.²

Besides providing a gathering place for Murrieta's seniors, the Senior Center aims to provide opportunities for learning; workshops on arts, crafts, and other hobbies; exercise programs; and information and services from organizations serving seniors.

Community Event Space

Murrieta offers indoor and outdoor spaces for community events that are held by the City, residents, and organizations. Community members may reserve the Community Center, Town Square Park, and some Library facilities for events, as well as picnic shelters at several City parks. Community Center amenities are described above. Town Square Park provides space for community events in its amphitheater and large open turf area. The Library has a community room with adjacent garden that may be reserved for events. There is also an amphitheater at Antelope Hills Park, but parking is limited and there is no system for reservations.



Town Square Park has a large lawn and stage that are suited for community-wide events.

² City of Murrieta, "Senior Center," <http://www.murrieta.org/services/senior/senior.asp>, accessed December 10, 2009.



Program Space

Recreation facilities make it possible for the City to offer recreation programs. Community Services programs are held at the Community Center and a nearby trailer; Senior Center; Hunt Field; Town Square Park; and in Copper Canyon Park, which has classroom space. Programs are also held in Murrieta schools and private facilities.³

Facility Needs

Murrieta has an identified need for the following additional recreation facilities in order to meet current and future demand:

- Swimming pools
- Sports facilities, including:
 - Baseball fields
 - Soccer fields
 - Softball fields
 - Tennis courts
- Off-leash dog areas
- Gymnasiums and indoor basketball courts

Facilities are planned that will help meet the needs for community centers, gymnasiums, and indoor basketball. Phase 2 plans for Los Alamos Hills Sports Park call for a 20,000-square foot community center that may include a gymnasium. A teen center planned for California Oaks Sports Park may also include a gymnasium. A recreation room is planned for Golden Cities Park.

Phases 2 and 3 of Los Alamos Hills Sports Park are expected to include outdoor sports facilities, including a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Recreation Programs

In fiscal year 2007, the Community Services Department served over 8,436 participants with its programs and activities. Senior programs drew the greatest number of participants, followed by gymnastics, aquatics, and dance. Other recreation offerings include sports, toddler, art and music, health and fitness, martial arts, camp, and teen programs. The City also holds a number of community events throughout the year, such as celebrations for major holidays.

The Master Plan process produced a priority list of recreation program needs but also advised that responding to changing demographics and recreation preferences is an ongoing process that will demand staff's continual attention and resources.

³ *City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009.*



Recreation Funding

Funding for capital improvements and additions to park and recreation facilities in the City of Murrieta comes from several sources. Fees on new development (development impact fees and developer special agreements) are a major source of funding to provide parks and recreation facilities for the residents of newly developing areas of the City. Other sources of funding include Redevelopment Agency tax allocation bonds, grant funds (including Community Development Block Grants), and contributions from the City's general fund reserves.

Funding for maintenance and operation of Murrieta park and recreation facilities and programs are provided by Community Services District funds, user fees for recreation programs and facility use, and the City's general fund.

OPEN SPACE

Murrieta had 1,216.95 acres classified as Open Space on the 2006 General Plan/Zoning Map within the City limits, as shown in *Exhibit 9-2, Open Space*.

Lands set aside for protection and conservation of natural resources are designated as open space. This may include steep hillsides with a slope of at least 50 percent, significant habitat areas, and creeks. Additionally, within Specific Plan areas, open space may be set aside to serve as buffer areas and drainage areas.

Some open space is found in conjunction with parkland, especially in Nature Parks. Nature Parks are distinguished from open space because they provide public access via trails. Up to 10 percent of a Nature Park can be improved for active recreation. However, most of the park is undeveloped and contains vegetation, topography, or features that are important to retain in their natural states. Murrieta has seven Nature Parks, the largest of which is Cole Canyon Park.

Trails

There are 15 multi-use trails within the City that provide opportunities to walk and ride through parkland and open space. These trails are shown in *Exhibit 5-1, Trails and Bikeways*, and are described in a guide produced by the City in 2006. Made of asphalt, concrete, native soil, or decomposed granite, these multi-use trails are all open to horses, bikes and pedestrians.

The *Master Plan* identifies the need to develop an effective, connected, multi-use trail system for walking, jogging, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Community members repeatedly expressed the same sentiment in workshops for the General Plan Update.



Multi-use trails allow walking, biking, and horseback riding around and through parks in Murrieta.



9.4 SETTING THE VISION: KEY CONCEPTS AND VISION FOR GENERAL PLAN

PARKLAND

In general, a parkland acreage standard is the ratio upon which development fees and dedications can be based. Establishment of a standard creates an obligation to fund improvements that achieve the standard throughout the City. Murrieta's parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 people is the highest allowed under California's Quimby Act, which gives the City its authority to require fees or dedicated property to offset new development impacts on recreation facilities.

However, this standard will not provide enough parkland to accommodate all the recreational facilities that the General Plan 2035 population is anticipated to demand. In order to plan for future parkland needs, the City will need to look beyond the parkland standard. The City may also consider counting joint use facilities as parkland.

The *Master Plan* identifies 13 undeveloped park sites totaling over 100 acres within the City of Murrieta, as shown in *Exhibit 9-3, Park Site Opportunities*. Some of these park sites may ultimately be considered Nature Parks, for which a maximum of 10 percent of the park's acreage would meet the parkland acreage requirement and the remainder of the park would be considered open space.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Murrieta has a need for additional recreation and community facilities and will need to keep up with greater demand as the population grows. *Table 9-2, Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs*, details how current needs for recreation facilities can be accommodated in existing parks, joint use schools, and opportunity sites. Opportunity sites are a combination of parks that have been designed but not constructed, sites acquired by the City but not yet designed, and other sites with the potential for park use; their locations are shown in *Exhibit 9-3*.

The City will seek to meet needs for recreation and community facilities throughout Murrieta. Satisfaction of these needs can be pursued by acquiring and developing new sites, preferably in partnership with schools or private parties, but also through increased joint use of school sites, renovation and improvement of existing facilities, and building facilities in current or planned parks.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Murrieta's recreation programs offer sports, activities, and experiences for participants of all ages. They promote health, provide opportunities to pursue interests and learn, and encourage social interaction. The City's special events provide opportunities for residents to meet each other and feel that they belong to a community. There is demand for more programming in arts and culture, for community events, and for youth programs, as well as for therapeutic recreation programs.



**Table 9-2
Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current (2009) Needs**

| Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs | Passive Facilities | | | | | Athletic Facilities | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| | Community Center | Dog Park/Off Leash Dog Area | Picnic Tables with Shade Shelter | Playground/Tot Lot | Spray Play Elements | Baseball | Gymnasium | Skate Park | Soccer | Softball | Swimming Pool | Tennis Court |
| Existing Parks and Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antigua Park | | | 4 | R | | | | | | | | |
| Barratt Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Calle Estancia Park | | | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| California Oaks Sports Park | | | | R | • | | | | 1 | | R | 2L |
| Century Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Copper Canyon Park | | | | | • | | | | 1 | | | |
| Firefighters Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Glen Arbor Park | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hunt Park | | | | | | | R | | | | | |
| Los Alamos Hills Sports Park (Phase 1) | | | | | | | | | 2AF | | | |
| Mapleton Park | | | 4 | R | • | | | | | | | |
| Meadowridge Park | | | 4 | R | | | | | | | | |
| Montafino Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Murrieta Elementary School Park | | | | | | | | | | 1L | | |
| Oak Tree Park | | | 4 | R | | | | | | | | |
| Rancho Acacia Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Shady Maple Park | | | | R | | | | | | | | |
| Sycamore Park | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Whitewood Park | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal in Existing Parks | 0 | 1* | 24 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0.5 | 2 |
| Joint Use Schools | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murrieta Elementary School | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Warm Springs Middle School | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | |
| Thompson Middle School | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| Murrieta Valley High School | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 |
| Vista Murrieta High School | | | | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| Murrieta Mesa High School | | | | | | • | | | • | | 1 | |
| Subtotal in Joint Use Schools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 16 |



**Table 9-2 [continued]
Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current (2009) Needs**

| Recreation Facility Recommendations for Current Needs | Passive Facilities | | | | | Athletic Facilities | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Community Center | Dog Park/Off Leash Dog Area | Picnic Tables with Shade Shelter | Playground/Tot Lot | Spray Play Elements | Baseball | Gymnasium | Skate Park | Soccer | Softball | Swimming Pool | Tennis Court |
| Opportunity Sites | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planned Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Designed</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California Oaks Sports Park Expansion (Phase 3) | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Cherry Street Park | | | | | | 4 | | | 4 | | | 6 |
| Golden Cities Park | 0.5 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Second Avenue Park | 0.5 | | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Torrey Pines Park | | • | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Vineyards Park | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| <i>Not Designed</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grizzly Ridge Park | | | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion (Phase 2) | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 |
| Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion (Phase 3) | 1 | • | | | • | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Unplanned Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calle Del Oso Oro Site | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| City Parcel #1 – MYSL Site | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Town Hall Association Parcel | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acquisition Sites | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vineyard Specific Plan – developer property | • | | | | | • | | | • | | • | • |
| Subtotal in Opportunity Sites | 3 | 4* | 14 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Total Recommended Additions: | 3.0 | 5* | 38.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 | 11.0 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 13.0 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 27.0 |
| Current Facility Needs From Exhibit 3.3-1 (Deficit): | N/A | 3.0 | 20.0 | N/A | N/A | 8.7 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 12.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 28.4 |
| Total Surplus/Deficit: | N/A | N/A | 18.0 | N/A | N/A | 2.30 | 1.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.40 | -1.40 |
| • – Tentative or Unspecific Number * – Candidate Locations | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Definitions: AF = Artificial Turf; L = Lighting; R = Renovate/Expand | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The availability of recreation facilities affects the City’s ability to offer some types of programming that are in demand, such as swimming lessons and indoor fitness classes. Besides pursuing the construction of new facilities, the City can access additional facilities by working with private partners and through the joint use agreement with Murrieta Valley Unified School District. In locating programs, the City should consider how to make them convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed.



YOUTH

Children under 18 make up about one-third of Murrieta's population, and providing programs and facilities for youth is a community priority. For commuting parents, out-of-school care for children is especially important. The community can promote success in school by providing tutoring through the Library, at other venues such as the teen and senior centers, and on-site at school campuses. Youth programs should provide opportunities for physical activity and team sports, as well as a range of learning experiences including arts and environmental education.

Community members including youth have also asked for job training and jobs for teens. By preparing youth for careers, Murrieta can help maintain its skilled workforce. Youth mentoring programs can also be rewarding volunteer opportunities for the adults doing the mentoring.

For teens, events such as dances and battle of the bands are important social activities, while facilities such as the skate park provide spaces where they have a sense of ownership. The planned teen center can meet a variety of facility and program needs, and teens should be involved in overseeing it. Teen demand for a dance club could be met by encouraging a privately operated business or through frequent City- and school-sponsored dances.

Murrieta teens are enthusiastic about providing input to the City, as demonstrated in the General Plan Update youth visioning workshop at Vista Murrieta High School. The City of Murrieta has a Youth Advisory Committee, in which 11 middle and high school students provide input on recreation planning and addressing issues that affect teens in Murrieta. This is an example of the ways in which youth can be engaged in their community, while also developing leadership skills that can prepare them for the workforce.

OPEN SPACE

It is a community priority to protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways in and around Murrieta. Community members consider open space to be a treasure and would like to see natural areas retained in the future, while balancing preservation with development and understanding that some residents are concerned about property rights.

With over one-third of its land undeveloped and natural resources such as creeks and hills within its borders, Murrieta has opportunities to designate additional land as open space. Under the *Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)*, the City sets aside parcels as Conservation Land. These parcels contribute to large "Core Areas" of habitat in the northeast and southwest areas of the City and Sphere of Influence, and create "Linkages" between them along Murrieta Creek and Warm Springs Creek. To the southwest of Murrieta, open space connects to the Santa Rosa Plateau.

Other considerations for planning open space include recreation access and management of wildfire and stormwater.



TRAILS

The ability to bike and walk between Murrieta's multi-use trails, neighborhoods, and regional open space is a community priority and can be provided in different ways. Additional multi-use trails provide connectivity for the greatest variety of users, while off-street paved Class I bikeways accommodate all but equestrian users. On-street bikeways and sidewalks provide connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians, respectively.

The Circulation Element provides goals and policies related to connecting multi-use trails to other paths for pedestrians and bicycles.

9.5 GOALS AND POLICIES

PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL ROS-1 Parkland is provided within a convenient distance from all residential areas, in a range of park types that meet different needs for active and passive recreation.

POLICIES

- ROS-1.1 Maintain a minimum standard of 5 acres of local parkland per 1,000 population.
- ROS-1.2 Create a strategy for providing sufficient parkland to accommodate needed recreation facilities through land acquisition, joint use, partnerships, and other means.
- ROS-1.3 Provide City-Wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Play Areas, Special Use Parks, and Nature Parks in locations appropriate to their intended service areas, so that all residential areas are served by parks.
- ROS-1.4 Involve the community in planning for parks.

GOAL ROS-2 Facilities that support recreation needs, programs, and community events are located throughout the City.

POLICIES

- ROS-2.1 Pursue the development of active recreation facilities through improvements to parks and existing facilities as well as the development of facilities in new parkland.



- ROS-2.2 Provide community centers, gymnasiums, and courts for indoor recreation programs in convenient, accessible, and equitably distributed locations.
- ROS-2.3 Ensure that recreation facilities provide access and accommodations for users with a range of physical abilities.
- ROS-2.4 Encourage the installation of water fountains, toilets, and sinks in parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL ROS-3 City resources for parks and recreation facilities are leveraged through partnerships, joint use agreements, private facilities, outside funding, and community volunteers.

POLICIES

- ROS-3.1 Maintain the joint use agreement with Murrieta Valley Unified School District and look for additional opportunities to partner in expanding resident access to shared facilities.
- ROS-3.2 Continue to cooperate with school districts in locating schools to allow for park development adjacent to campuses.
- ROS-3.3 Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies to provide regional open space and recreation facilities for local residents.
- ROS-3.4 Encourage the development of private and commercial recreation facilities.
- ROS-3.5 Seek agreements and joint ventures with private entities to provide recreation facilities and activities.
- ROS-3.6 Pursue support from federal, state, and private sources to assist with acquisition, design, and construction of parks and recreation facilities.
- ROS-3.7 Promote a sense of community responsibility for maintaining and improving the parks and recreation system, and offer ways for individuals, groups, and businesses to invest time and resources in that effort.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

GOAL ROS-4 Recreation programs enrich the lives of residents across a broad spectrum of ages, interests, and abilities.

POLICIES

- ROS-4.1 Seek resident involvement and feedback to create recreation programming that is relevant to a broad spectrum of community members.
- ROS-4.2 Offer and encourage cultural arts programs and events that provide entertainment, such as concerts, as well as those that develop skills in dancing, drama, music, and the arts.
- ROS-4.3 Use recreation programming to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and other healthy lifestyle habits.
- ROS-4.4 Collaborate with other providers to expand therapeutic recreation programs for residents with special needs.

GOAL ROS-5 Recreation programs foster a sense of community and civic involvement, and promote interaction between residents.

POLICIES

- ROS-5.1 Host special events that become community traditions, appealing to a range of ages.
- ROS-5.2 Encourage events in the Town Square Park and Historic Downtown Murrieta.
- ROS-5.3 Promote opportunities for multi-generational interaction such as youth mentoring by seniors and business people.
- ROS-5.4 Create roles for volunteers to assist with recreation facilities and programs.



YOUTH FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL ROS-6 Youth are a special focus of recreation facilities and programs.

POLICIES

- ROS-6.1 Expand recreation programs for youth and teens, including before- and after-school care, sports and fitness, outdoor activity and excursions, and arts education.
- ROS-6.2 Use recreation programming to promote success in school.
- ROS-6.3 Provide safe places for teens to socialize and participate in recreation activities.
- ROS-6.4 Expand opportunities for youth to be involved in planning recreation programs, services, and events for youth.
- ROS-6.5 Continue providing the Youth Advisory Committee for middle school and high school students.

OPEN SPACE

GOAL ROS-7 Open space areas are planned to protect, conserve, and utilize resources of unique character and value for the community.

POLICIES

- ROS-7.1 Preserve and enhance open space resources in Murrieta.
- ROS-7.2 Designate open space to preserve habitat and scenic views of natural areas.
- ROS-7.3 Seek opportunities to designate open space along waterways, while also providing for the development of trails.
- ROS-7.4 When possible, link open space and parks for the movement of wildlife and people.



GOAL ROS-8 New development is part of a coordinated system of open space, parkland, recreation facilities, and trails.

POLICIES

- ROS-8.1 Encourage the provision of parks, recreation facilities, and/or open space in new development and redevelopment projects.
- ROS-8.2 Ensure that new residential developments provide for recreation needs of residents through development fees and park dedication.
- ROS-8.3 Encourage development that promotes outdoor activity.
- ROS-8.4 When reviewing new development or redevelopment projects, refer to the Trails Plan to determine whether right-of-way is needed for trails on the project site.

GOAL ROS-9 Public plazas or green spaces provide additional open space opportunities for existing and future residents and employees.

POLICIES

- ROS-9.1 Continue to require that adequate, usable, and permanent private open space is provided in residential developments.
- ROS-9.2 Encourage new and existing commercial, office, and industrial development to provide outdoor green spaces that may be used by employees.
- ROS-9.3 Encourage new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate gardens and green spaces with various cultural influences throughout the community to bridge cultures and provide education opportunities.
- ROS-9.4 Encourage green spaces planted with a diverse plant palette in order to promote natural variety, ecosystem services, and enhance the well-being of community residents.
- ROS-9.5 Review and modify as necessary, open space requirements for different types of development projects.

TRAILS

Refer to the Circulation Element Goal CIR-8 and related policies.



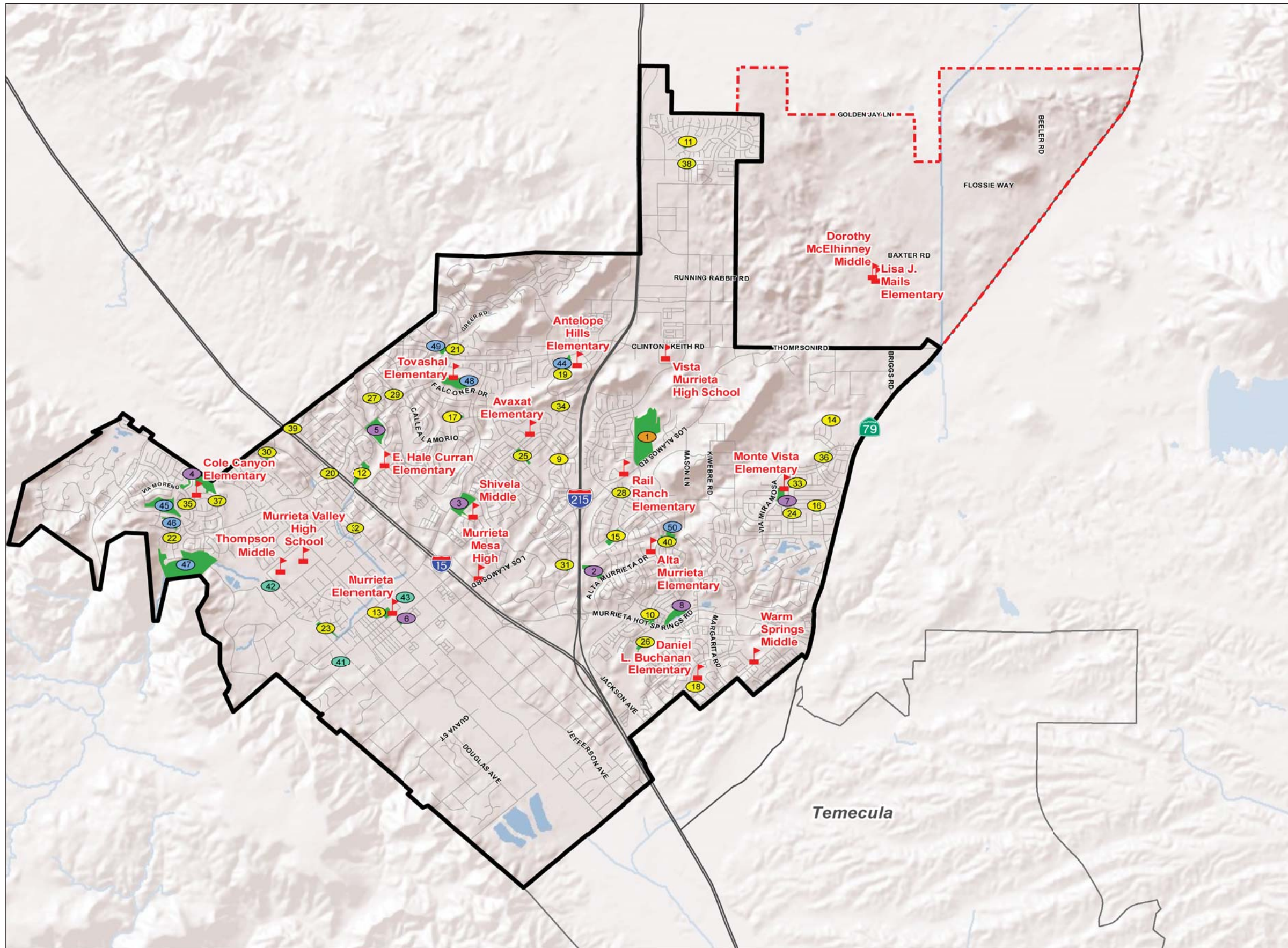
9.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELEMENT

The Recreation and Open Space Element is a policy document that requires the ongoing effort and actions of many segments of the community to implement. The Planning Commission and City Council, as major decision-making bodies, play an important role in its implementation. Other responsible parties include such City departments as the Community Development Department, Building Department, Public Works, and Community Service, whose day-to-day decisions are guided by the public policies in this document and the actions of the Community Services Commission.

The business and development community will do a fair share of the implementation as they incorporate plan policies into their various interests and projects. Murrieta residents should also be engaged in planning and providing for recreation and open space.

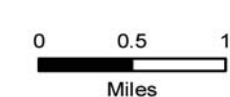
The City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the implementation document that will guide City investments in parks and recreation.





LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Citywide Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park | <p>Neighborhood Play Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Antelope Hills Park - Active 20 Antigua Park 21 Blackmore Ranch Park 22 Calle Cipres Park 23 Calle Estancia Park 24 Carson Park 25 Century Park 26 Creekside Village Green Park 27 Crystal Aire Park 28 Eastgate Park 29 Echo Canyon Park 30 Grizzly Ridge Park 31 Meadowridge Park 32 Montafino Park 33 Monte Vista Park 34 Oak Meadows Park 35 Oak Tree Park 36 Palomar Park 37 Rosewood Park 38 Springbrook Park 39 Sycamore Park 40 Whitewood Park |
| <p>Community Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Alta Murrieta Sports Park 3 California Oaks Sports Park 4 Copper Canyon Park 5 Glen Arbor Park 6 Hunt Park 7 Mira Mosa Park 8 Pond Park | <p>Neighborhood Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Barrat Park 10 Firefighters Park 11 Mapleton Park 12 Mountain Pride Park 13 Murrieta Elementary School Park 14 Northstar Park 15 Rancho Acacia Park 16 Shady Maple Park 17 Valley Vista Park 18 Vintage Reserve Park |
| <p>Nature Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 44 Antelope Hills Park 45 Bear Valley Park 1 46 Bear Valley Park 2 47 Cole Canyon Park 48 Falcon's View Park 49 Oak Mesa Park 50 Warm Springs Park | <p>Special Use Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41 Murrieta Equestrian Park 42 Sykes Ranch Park 43 Town Square Park |
| <p>Public Schools</p> <p>Sphere of Influence</p> <p>City Boundary</p> | |



Source: City of Murrieta, Murrieta Valley Unified School District, ESRI - World Shaded Relief.



LEGEND

PLANNED FACILITIES

Designed

- 1 California Oaks Sports Park Expansion - Phase 3
- 2 Cherry Street Park
- 3 Golden Cities Park
- 4 Second Avenue Park
- 5 Torrey Pines Park
- 6 Vineyards Park

Not Designed

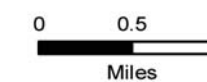
- 7 Grizzly Ridge Park
- 8 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion - Phase 2
- 9 Los Alamos Hills Sports Park Expansion - Phase 3

UNPLANNED FACILITIES

- 10 Calle Del Oso Oro Site
- 11 City Parcel/Nutmeg
- 12 City Parcel/Calle San Vicente

ACQUISITION SITES

- 13 Vineyard Specific Plan - Developer Property
- 14 Water District Property - Pony Baseball Fields



Source: RJM Design Group, November 20, 2008.

