



Orange County Great Park

The City of Irvine in recent years has faced a unique challenge: how to best to further develop public property at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. Establishing a world-class park on such a substantial portion of land posed a significant challenge, and an even greater opportunity for the City of Irvine and its residents.

Through a unique public-private partnership that the City Council approved in November 2013 between the City and the private adjacent landowner and developer, FivePoint Communities, a 688-acre section of the approximate 1,300-acre publically owned Great Park will be under construction as soon as June 2014. The acreage is more than one square mile and includes amenities for recreation, participation and other grand municipal park features. In park-rich Irvine, the 688 acres is larger than all existing Irvine community and neighborhood parks combined, creating a unique planning structure for one of the nation's premier master-planned communities.

This project has required the participation and coordination of every City department and the private development manager, FivePoint Communities, to plan and now to execute what would be, if it stood alone, among the largest 200 parks in the U.S. As this challenge has been ongoing, the main areas of concern for City leadership have been:

1. How can we further develop the Great Park in the most efficient and cost-effective way for our citizens?
2. How can we make sure that the Great Park enhances the environmental and overall quality of life for our residents?
3. How do we overcome the many unforeseen circumstances regarding funding and planning for such a massive endeavor?
4. What kinds of events and attractions can we promote to ensure that the Great Park is a preferred destination for all of our visitors?

The challenge for successfully implementing this program is on a scale that relatively few California cities have had the opportunity to accomplish.