

City of Irvine *Parks Master Plan*

FINAL | SEPTEMBER 2015

parks and recreation needs assessment



TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT





PARKS MASTER PLAN

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

FINAL

September 2015

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I. INTRODUCTION

In September 2014, the City of Irvine (City) began the process to update its *Parks and Park Facilities Master Plan* (Master Plan) which will identify new community priorities and develop a revised framework for improving existing and creating new parks, public facilities, open space and recreation programs over the next decade. With input from residents, stakeholders and City officials, this Master Plan will address community needs and support a diverse and efficient recreation system. It will guide the City's development of policies, implementation strategies and an investment program to create, enhance and sustain parks, recreation facilities, programs and open spaces as critical elements that contribute to Irvine's quality of life.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

A critical step in developing the Master Plan is the *Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment* (Needs Assessment). The Needs Assessment evaluates community needs for public parks and recreation facilities and is organized into the following sections:

- **Section I** introduces the Needs Assessment and the overall purpose of this document.
- **Section II** describes the community engagement process and identifies the key values and themes derived from the input of participants;
- **Section III** addresses needs for park land by applying adopted standards and evaluating park distribution and access;
- **Section IV** summarizes key findings from the park condition and capacity assessment;
- **Section V** identifies recreation facility needs by considering facility access, standards and community desires;
- **Section VI** summarizes key findings from the Needs Assessment; and
- **Section VII** outlines the next steps in the development of the Master Plan.

Additionally, there are four appendices at the end of the document, as follows:

Needs Assessment

- **Appendix A:** Parks and Park Facilities Inventory;
- **Appendix B:** Private Park Case Studies;
- **Appendix C:** Planned Public Parks and Park Facilities; and
- **Appendix D:** Park Condition and Capacity Evaluation.

This Needs Assessment focuses on community needs for public parks. It recognizes that private parks and facilities, as well as the park and recreation facilities provided by other agencies and jurisdictions, also help address community recreation needs.

The Needs Assessment is the second of several reports supporting Master Plan development. It follows the *Existing Systems Summary*, which provides an overview of the City's existing resources, programs and operations that support Irvine's parks and recreation system. It precedes the development of recommendations and a list of capital improvement projects to enhance the City's parks and recreation system.

II. COMMUNITY OUTREACH FINDINGS

In order to collect public opinion and suggestions from diverse cross sections of Irvine’s population, an extensive, multi-faceted community outreach approach was employed as a key feature of the Master Plan process.

METHODOLOGY

Between January and June 2015, MIG and City of Irvine staff coordinated and facilitated 10 different types of outreach activities listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Outreach Activities

Activity Name	Dates	Total Participants
Stakeholder Interviews	01/29/15-04/28/15	29
Focus Groups	02/17/15-05/28/15	109
Community Intercept Events	02/28/15-03/30/15	690
Mapita Online Questionnaire	02/17/15-04/13/15	450
Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey	03/18/15-03/25/15	400
Sports Committee Meeting	04/14/15	25
Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaires	04/14/15-5/06/15	1
Community Workshop	06/03/15	17
Webpage Emailed Feedback	01/01/15-07/21/15	60
High School Youth Action Team Survey	05/13/15-06/02/15	128
Total		1909

Approximately 2,000 participants shared their insights regarding community needs and preferences for parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, programs and events. To ensure that the Master Plan reflects the priorities and needs of the community, the public engagement process involved targeted audiences and as many people as possible, including Irvine residents, parks users, community leaders and special interest groups. For a complete description of methodologies employed, please see the individual summaries for each outreach activity, available under a separate cover.

KEY THEMES

From these outreach activities collectively, several key themes emerged that were common across activities. A summary of each is included in alphabetical order.

Connectivity and Access

Results from outreach activities revealed that convenient and safe access to parks, outdoor recreation and open space areas is a great priority. This includes a consideration of the ways in which people travel to parks, the distance they have to travel and the ability to park safely when they arrive. Ensuring access through Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance was also an important topic. Additionally, participants in the various outreach forums expressed an interest in trails that connect parks, recreation facilities and open spaces to other community destinations and support both recreation and active transportation.

Diversity of Amenities and Facilities

Parks with a variety of recreation opportunities were among respondents' favorite and most frequently visited places. Within these spaces, some of the most frequently-noted amenities included trails, playgrounds and athletic fields. More broadly, participants identified childcare, restrooms, drinking fountains, shade, WiFi and organized activities among the varied amenities they most appreciated.

Values

Based on the outreach activities, the following are values that matter most to the community for the parks, programs, facilities, open spaces and trails in Irvine.

- Access
- Diversity
- Education
- Excellence
- Health

Education

Opportunities to integrate education within park activities emerged as an underlying theme. Participants pointed to education programs as a means to engage youth in nature conservation and other related subjects. Providing creative, scientific and academic opportunities was also identified as important in addition to integrating historical, educational and interpretive features into the parks system.

Evolving Needs

Responses suggested an understanding by participants that changing demographics present a shift in park demands. For example, seniors, teens and single young adults seek different park activities and facilities than families with children. The parks, recreation and open space system will need to address the growth of these communities and the diversity in age, culture and needs that this growth will continue to represent. This also tied into accessibility; the aging of the population suggests that accessibility considerations could be taken further to ensure that parks are inclusive of varying levels of age and abilities. Population growth presents additional strains on the existing parks facilities and parking demand, which should also be taken into account in planning for the future.

Flexibility

Participants noted that the Irvine community comprises many different user groups with different interests, recreation needs and skill levels. In light of this, suggestions included developing flexible recreation spaces that can accommodate multiple sports and activities within the same field or facility. Another option included outdoor park space with open turf areas that can accommodate active and passive recreation at different times of the day. Participants also noted that facilities and activities should be flexible in order to accommodate casual users, self-directed play and drop-in activities, which participants reported are currently lacking.

Health, Wellness and the Outdoors

Physical activity or exercise was often mentioned as a top reason for visiting Irvine parks and open space in multiple outreach forums. Another popularly-mentioned response, which goes hand in hand with physical activity, was enjoying spending time outdoors.

Indoor Recreation

When asked to provide ideas for park facilities they would like to see in Irvine, participants often described indoor recreational spaces. In the various forums, gymnasium needs were mentioned, including indoor athletic space for various indoor sports and fitness activities, such as volleyball, indoor basketball, gymnastics, futsal (indoor soccer) badminton and the like. An indoor, multi-purpose programming space that could accommodate uses such as meetings, child care and arts programs was also suggested.

Partnerships

Collaboration between City departments, government agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations was discussed by participants in the focus groups and interviews. Suggestions included creating or expanding partnerships with local school districts for solutions such as joint-use agreements, developing partnerships with non-profit organizations to create “park champions” that can build, restore and repair trails and open spaces, and exploring possible partnerships with private companies to fund additional facilities and programs.

Standards and Maintenance

Results from the focus groups, stakeholder interviews and surveys indicated an overall appreciation and pride in the high standards Irvine upholds in its parks, facilities, programming and park maintenance. Respondents also expressed the importance of maintaining this high quality over time as the parks system grows and the parks age.

III. PARK SYSTEM NEEDS

This section addresses community needs for public neighborhood and community parks, the two primary park types that form the backbone of Irvine’s park system. This section also discusses the role of other recreational resources in meeting park land needs, including Irvine’s extensive system of regional open spaces and private neighborhood parks. The assessment relies on a multilayered approach to identify park needs, combining feedback voiced by the community with additional system-wide analysis.

METHODOLOGY

In addition to public engagement findings, results from a park land standards review and park access analysis informed the Needs Assessment. The standards review and access analysis are described briefly below.

- *Park Land Standards:* The City of Irvine adopted its *Park/Public Facility Standards* in 2005 and defined park land objectives in the 2012 *General Plan*. The park land standards review stems from an assessment of the existing park system inventory, current park function and objectives relating to the provision of park land. For context, Map 1: Existing Parks and Open Space, illustrates the distribution of public parks, open space and trails by classification. Appendix A provides the complete inventory of Irvine’s public park land. Appendix B summarizes the role of private neighborhood parks to better understand how these sites supplement public neighborhood and community parks in meeting nearby recreation opportunity needs.
- *Park Access:* Irvine residents benefit from a park system that is well rounded, with a variety of parks that provide diverse recreation experiences across the community. The park access analysis examines the physical distribution of park land across the City, discussing the function of each park type and the relationship with nearby residential areas.

PARK LAND STANDARDS

Irvine’s park land requirement is to provide five acres of park land/or fees in lieu for every 1,000 residents, further defined as two acres of community park land and three

acres of neighborhood park land. The City is currently applying this acreage-based service goal for the park system when reviewing new development proposals. With future population growth, this acreage-based goal will call for a continued increase in park land acquisition. Though the current goal does not direct the distribution of park land throughout the City, Map 1 shows that most areas of the City are well served by existing park land. Irvine's village planning concept has supported the planning and development of convenient park access. However, based on the current standard, the type of dedicated park land can vary, impacting the park user experience and variety of recreational opportunities available to nearby residents.

When new residential development is added, the City negotiates the amount and type of park land required based on the estimated additional population and dwelling unit density of the new development. Park land requirements can be met through a combination of dedicated public land, privately owned and developed park sites, other eligible improvements such as recreation facilities, and in lieu fees. To ensure that standards are met, new development projects are required to go through a park standards approval process before the City will issue building permits.

As shown in Table 2, specific standards vary based on the planning area in which development occurs. For example, courtyards and plazas do not receive credit toward meeting park requirements in most planning areas, with the exception of Planning Area 36, the Irvine Business Complex (IBC), where plazas and courtyards may receive credit given the overall urban quality of the neighborhood. Similarly, community parks are required to have a minimum size of 20 acres in most planning areas, with the exception of Planning Area 4, Lower Peters Canyon, where the minimum size for community parks is 10 acres.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

1 Neighborhood Parks

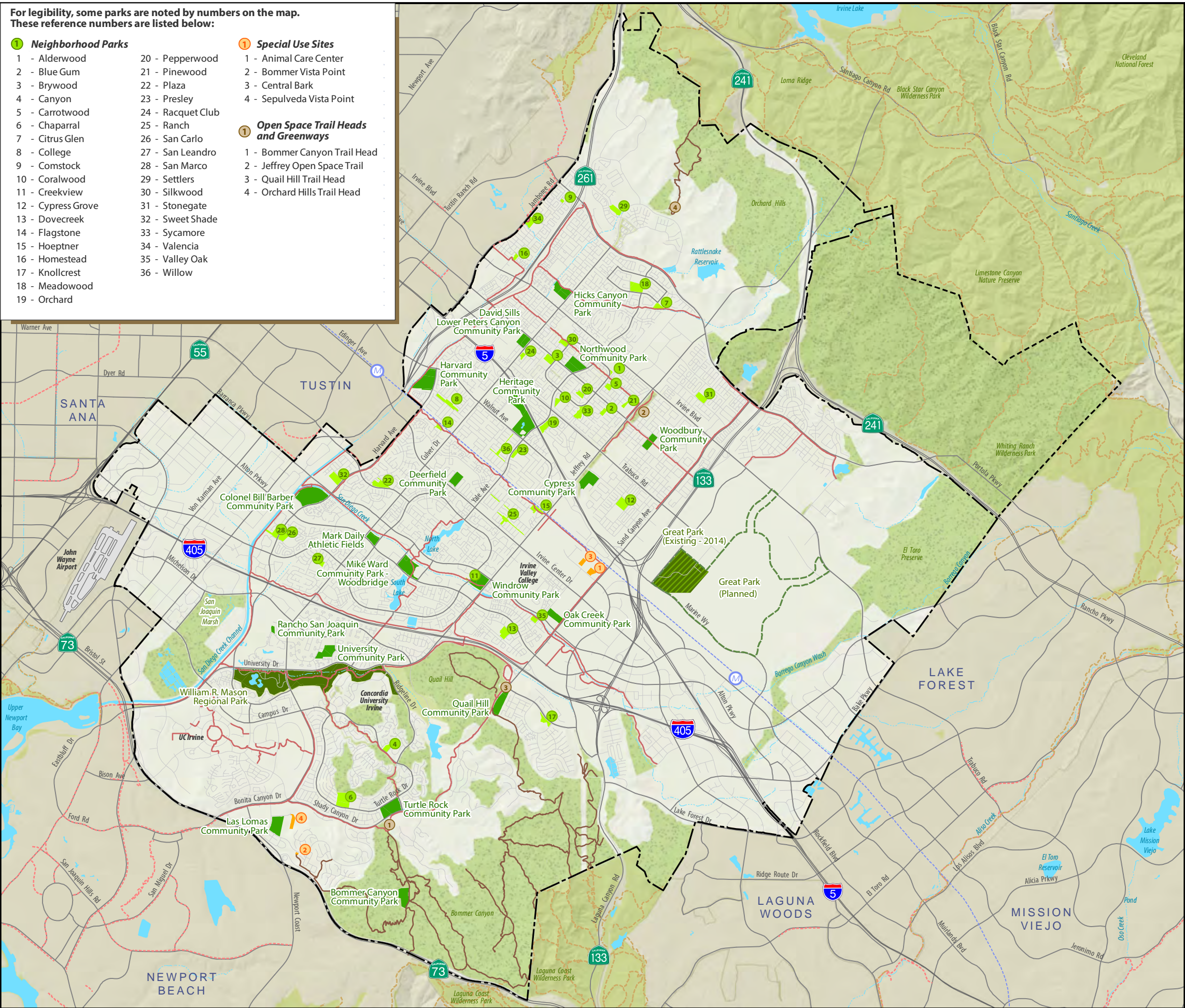
1 - Alderwood	20 - Pepperwood
2 - Blue Gum	21 - Pinewood
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8 - College	27 - San Leandro
9 - Comstock	28 - San Marco
10 - Coralwood	29 - Settlers
11 - Creekview	30 - Silkwood
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15 - Hoepfner	34 - Valencia
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18 - Meadowood	
19 - Orchard	

1 Special Use Sites


1 - Animal Care Center
2 - Bommer Vista Point
3 - Central Bark
4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 1: Existing Parks and Open Space (2015)

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

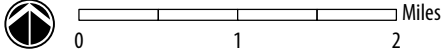
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths and Open Space Trails Network

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths
- Open Space Trails
- Other Open Space Trails

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Metrolink Line and Stations
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Water Bodies



0 1 2 Miles

May 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

Table 2: Summary of City Park Standards by Type

Park Type	Minimum Size	Minimum Dimension	Minimum Population Served	Population Density (Dwelling Units / Acre)
Community Parks	20 acres ⁽¹⁾	n/a	10,000	n/a
Public Neighborhood Parks	4 acres	n/a	2,500	n/a
Private Neighborhood Parks	1/3 acre ^{(2), (3)}	100 ft	n/a	30 or less
	6,000 s.f. (about 1.4 tenths of an acre) ^{(2), (3)}	100 ft	n/a	31 or more

Sources: City of Irvine General Plan Supplement No. 8 June 2012; City of Irvine Park and Public Facility Standards (Draft), 2014

Notes: (1) Minimum size of 10 acres in Planning Area 4, Lowers Peter Canyon

(2) Or equivalent in lieu fees

(3) Exception process in Planning Area 36, Irvine Business Complex (IBC) Design Criteria Section 10

PARK ACCESS

Many cities strive to provide neighborhood parks within ¼ to ½ mile (a five to 10 minute walking distance or easy biking distance) of most residents, and community parks or community-serving facilities within ½ to two miles depending on the uniqueness of the park or facility and the mode of transportation used to travel there. The City of Irvine has adopted park standards based on population rather than travel distance to parks. However, community engagement findings note the importance of having nearby recreation opportunities and recreation facilities within a reasonable travel distance by walking, biking and driving for most users. For this reason, a park access analysis was conducted to study park distribution and proximity, evaluating how accessible parks are from residential areas.

Using ArcGIS Network Analyst, Irvine’s neighborhood and community parks were evaluated to identify the areas served within a reasonable travel distance via streets, bike routes, trails and sidewalks. The analysis was run by identifying actual “access

points” or points of entry to each City park. Barriers were incorporated to identify a reasonable approximation of how people might travel to each site. For ¼ and ½ mile service areas, distances suitable for walking and biking, the following highways were identified as barriers: I-405, I-5, SR-133, SR-22, SR-241, SR-55, SR-57 and SR-73. Pedestrians and bicyclists cannot cross these easily to reach parks and recreation facilities, except at designated crosswalks. These highways are not barriers for automobile travel and therefore do not affect service areas based on one mile and two mile driving distances.

Park service areas were compared to the distribution of existing and planned residential areas to map places in Irvine where parks will be needed. The locations of planned parks (those that have already been planned to address park needs through buildout) were mapped to determine if additional areas would need future services. For reference, planned parks and park facilities are described in Appendix C.

Neighborhood Parks

Map 2: Access to Neighborhood Parks depicts access to public neighborhood parks, based on ¼ mile and ½ mile travel distances. According to industry standards, these distances are suitable for walking and biking, although parks are also accessible by automobile at park entrances and where nearby on-street parking is available. Community parks can also provide recreation opportunities similar to those found in neighborhood parks and are therefore included in the analysis. The locations of private neighborhood parks are shown with points because these can vary greatly in size and amenities. The map also illustrates existing or planned residential areas to depict areas that currently need or will need access to nearby recreation opportunities.

KEY FINDINGS

- *Existing and planned parks are evenly distributed and most areas are well served:* Based on the access analysis, Map 2 shows that many residential areas are within a ¼ mile distance of a public or private neighborhood park. When including public community parks, even more residents access to parks within a quarter mile of their home, emphasizing the value both park types play in providing convenient access to recreation. The village concept outlined in the City’s General Plan has helped integrate parks within residential areas, creating convenient access to parks throughout most of the City. Expanding the park service area to a ½ mile

travel distance reveals additional opportunities for many residential areas. As the City continues to grow, the planned neighborhood parks and community parks depicted on Map 2 will be critical to providing equitable access for future residents and park users.

- *Major highways and busy streets create barriers for nearby park access:* Based on feedback from the Mapita exercise, 33 percent of respondents identified a barrier that affects access to parks, trails, or open space. As shown in Map 2, I-5 creates barriers for safe and convenient walking or biking access to surrounding parks and neighborhoods, in particular to Heritage Community Park and Orchard Neighborhood Park. Creating safe and interconnected alternatives for pedestrians and cyclists to cross these barriers can expand access to neighborhood parks.
- *Private parks enhance opportunities at a neighborhood scale:* As noted in City standards, both public and private parks combined meet neighborhood needs for nearby recreation opportunities in the City. For this reason, Map 2 shows the location of private parks where data on these sites are available.¹
- *Well-planned private parks are needed:* While private parks play an important function in providing park access, the type and extent of recreation opportunities provided at these sites varies greatly. Some private parks noted in GIS data are open spaces or plazas that have minimal public amenities. Others are very small or offer a single facility intended for a specific age or user group, such as a tot lot, rather than the range of recreation opportunities offered by public neighborhood parks.
- *The desire for access to open space may increase:* Many of Irvine's planned future residential growth areas are at the edge of the City. Some future residential areas will be located within walking and biking distances of nearby open space preserves, and the desire for and pressure to provide access to Irvine's open space preserves may increase as residential development occurs. However, the majority of Irvine's open space is protected by a Nature Community Conservation Plan, and any increase in public access would require review by State and Federal wildlife agencies. While changes in policies may warrant further discussion, it will also be important to carefully plan recreation opportunities in these areas to

¹ The inventory of private parks is based on the best available data as of June 2015.

discourage use of open space areas where access is restricted to protect natural resources.

- *Park land within the IBC is needed:* Planned development of the IBC should include additional neighborhood parks identified by the IBC *Vision Framework Plan*. When combined with improved connections to existing nearby parks, planned parks within the IBC will help support the envisioned future of this area as a destination for workers and residents.

Community Parks

Map 3: Access to Community Parks shows ½ mile and one mile access to City parks that serve community needs. As described in the methodology, the ½ mile service area is based on park access following a network of sidewalks, trails and bike routes accessible to pedestrian and bicyclists. The one mile service area shows access along the road network. The map also shows locations of planned community parks and identifies areas designated for current and future residential uses through build out.

KEY FINDINGS

- *Most existing residential areas have relatively good access to community parks:* Map 3 shows that the majority of Irvine's residential areas are well-served by community parks within a one-mile travel distance. As noted by the darker purple shading on the map, fewer residents live within a ½-mile travel distance, which considers access via streets, bike trails and sidewalks.
- *Outlying portions of the City have limited access to community parks:* Some areas, especially those near open space preserves, are not well served by community parks and are not anticipated to be served by planned community parks within a one-mile driving distance. This is true for residents living in areas near UC Irvine, Bommer Canyon, San Joaquin Marsh, Orchard Hills and El Toro Preserve. Trails through Bommer Canyon and Quail Hill open space areas provide a different type of recreation opportunity for residents in these areas.
- *Some new growth areas will not have convenient access to community parks:* Map 3 shows four proposed community parks planned to serve future residents. Three of these sites, planned Gateway Park, Portola Park and Los Olivos Park, will be necessary to meet needs in the northeast, east and southeast growth areas. If residential growth occurs where anticipated (shown by the brown shading on the

map), there will be residents who live beyond a one-mile driving distance of these community parks. Residential areas in north Irvine (north of Settlers Park and Rattlesnake Reservoir), east Irvine (near the intersection of Highways 241 and 133) and south Irvine (university area) will have access to other types of parks, but not community parks within one mile.

- *The Orange County Great Park meets community park dedication requirements but will function as a regional park:* According to the Amended and Restated Development Agreement (ARDA): “Heritage Fields’ conveyance of the Great Park Property to the City shall be deemed to satisfy any requirement imposed upon Heritage Fields for the dedication or development of community parks...” While other community parks are programmed to serve as village hubs, the Orange County Great Park will continue to be developed and programmed as a regional attraction. Unless programming changes are introduced, park functions and services are anticipated to be different than in other Irvine villages.
- *Development patterns prevent access to park land:* The road pattern of subdivisions also affects the distance residents have to travel to parks. For example, around Deerfield Community Park, many residents live within one mile of the park. However, cul-de-sacs on the southwest side of the park do not provide direct road or sidewalk access to the site. Section IV of this document addresses needs for enhancing bike and pedestrian access to existing parks. Bike and pedestrian access can be provided in future parks by adding trail connectors to cul-de-sacs when developed.

Needs Assessment

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For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

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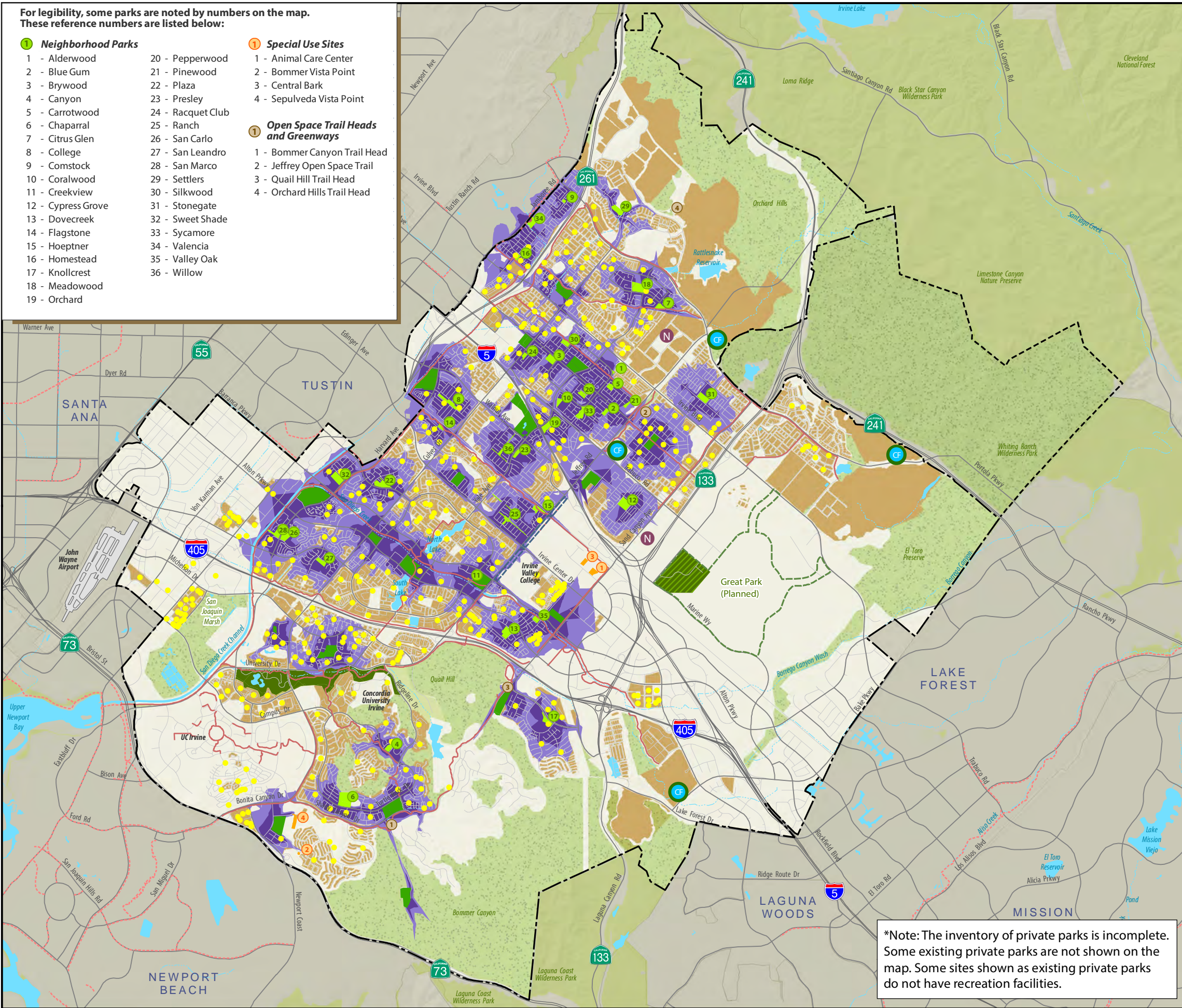
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| 19 - Orchard | |

1 Special Use Sites

- 1 - Animal Care Center
- 2 - Bommer Vista Point
- 3 - Central Bark
- 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

- 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
- 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
- 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 2: Access to Neighborhood Parks

Service Areas

- 1/4 mile
- 1/2 mile

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Neighborhood Park
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park
- Private Parks*

Open Space

- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

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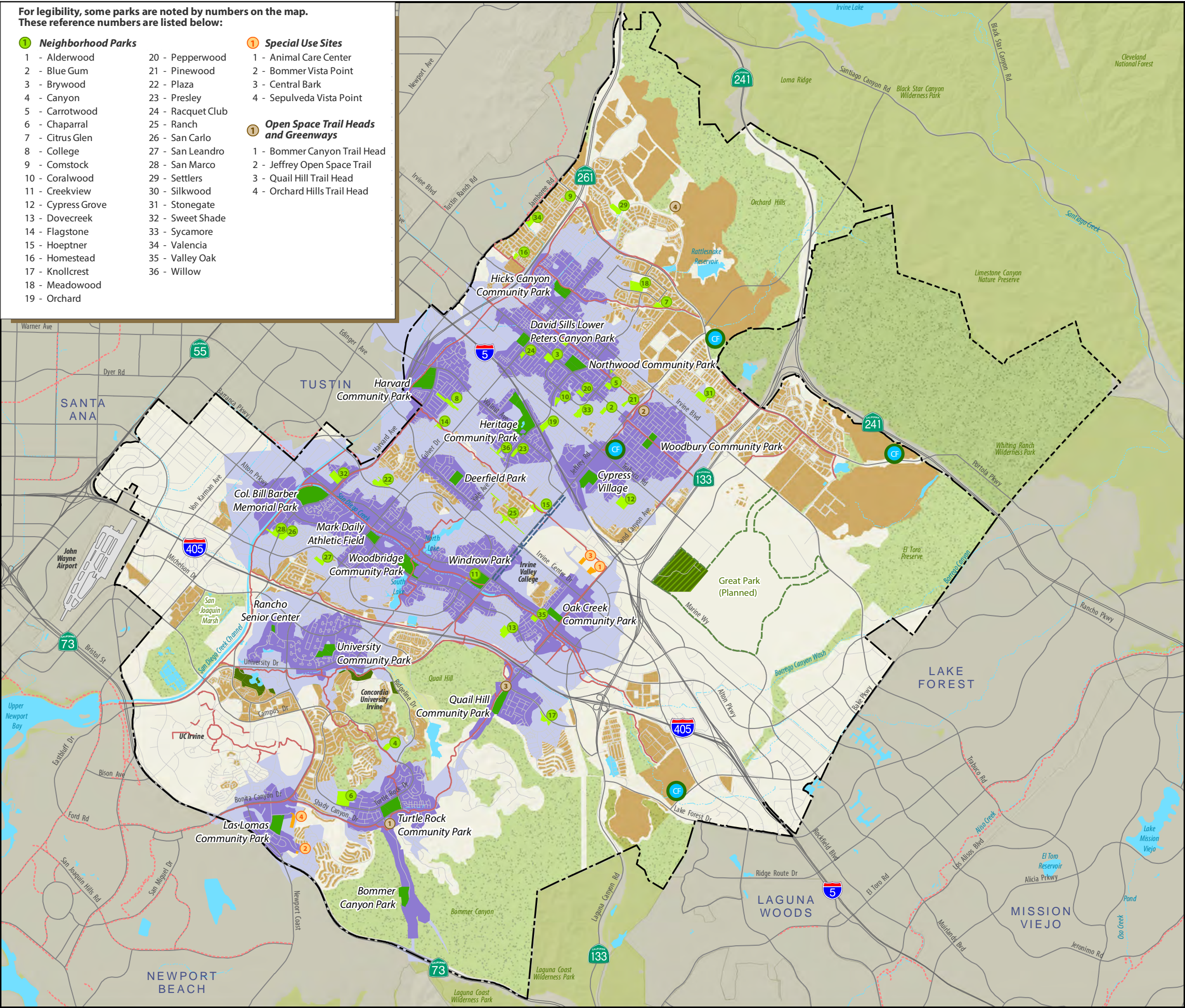
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IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 3: Access to Community Parks

Service Areas

- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

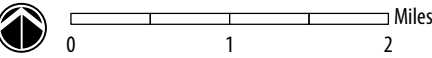
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

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- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
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August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

IV. PARK CONDITION AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The City has established and maintained high quality parks by implementing comprehensive design and development standards and through its excellent maintenance system.² The park condition and capacity assessment identifies ways to enhance City parks when facilities are approaching the end of their lifespan or parks are being renovated and refreshed to accommodate emerging recreation trends, changing park uses and community needs.

METHODOLOGY

MIG conducted a physical assessment of Irvine's community and neighborhood parks, evaluating the overall condition of public park sites, capacity of each site for added recreation activities and opportunities for future enhancements. The condition of 12 categories of park features was evaluated on a scale of one to five, with one being very poor, two being below average, three being satisfactory, four being above average and five being exceptional. In addition, qualitative observations were made of each site and the overall character of Irvine's parks. Site visits occurred between January 28 and February 13, 2015 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Appendix D provides a description of the park conditions, capacity evaluation criteria and the scoring of specific facilities within each park.

Park features evaluated include:

- Buildings / Restrooms / Shelters
- Landscaping / Vegetation
- Lighting
- Natural Areas
- Parking Areas
- Paths/Trails
- Paved courts
- Play Equipment
- Signage
- Site Amenities (picnic tables, benches, site furnishings)
- Sports fields and facilities
- Turf

² City of Irvine Park/Public Facility Standards (2005), and Park and Public Facility Standards, DRAFT (June 27, 2014).

OVERALL PARK CHARACTER

The site evaluations considered overall park character in terms of quality, usability and function to identify potential opportunities to enhance amenities for park users, the environment and the surrounding community. Park character includes elements that give a park its individual personality. Landscaping, layout, soft and hardscapes, amenities, material textures and colors, trees, pathways and design themes are all elements that contribute to a park's character. Collectively, Irvine's parks contribute to the City's character as a community. In this section we will look at a four of these categories and how they are currently impacting park character in Irvine. The categories we will focus on include: landscaping, trees, pathways and design themes.

Each category is discussed individually based on observations made during the site visits.

Landscaping

Irvine's parks include turf grass as a primary landscaping feature. Planting beds are focused, typically in street frontage planters and planters surrounding social areas, and usually contain ornamental shrubs. A limited plant palette appears to be used in the majority of parks with planters, including Indian Hawthorn and Natal Plum. This is typical for park settings, as these are plants that are readily available from large retail distributors, familiar to maintenance staff and tolerant of heavy pruning. A few parks incorporated a wider variety of plants in planters, such as healthy, flowering shrubs, perennial grasses or native plantings.

- Landscaping and turf grass were generally in satisfactory condition, with nearly all sites rated at least "3" on the scale. Some overwatering was observed in the field. There are many opportunities to reduce turf and add drought-tolerant plantings to minimize the consumption of water resources. Some parks have areas that could be transformed into native plant or drought-tolerant demonstration gardens. Parks that have the opportunity for turf removal and capacity for the introduction of native and drought-tolerant plantings include Cypress, Harvard, Heritage, Oak Creek, Quail Hill, Alderwood, Canyon, Chaparral, Creekview, Dovecreek, Flagstone, Hoeptner, Homestead, Meadowood, Ranch, San Carlo, San Leandro, Settlers, Silkwood and Willows.

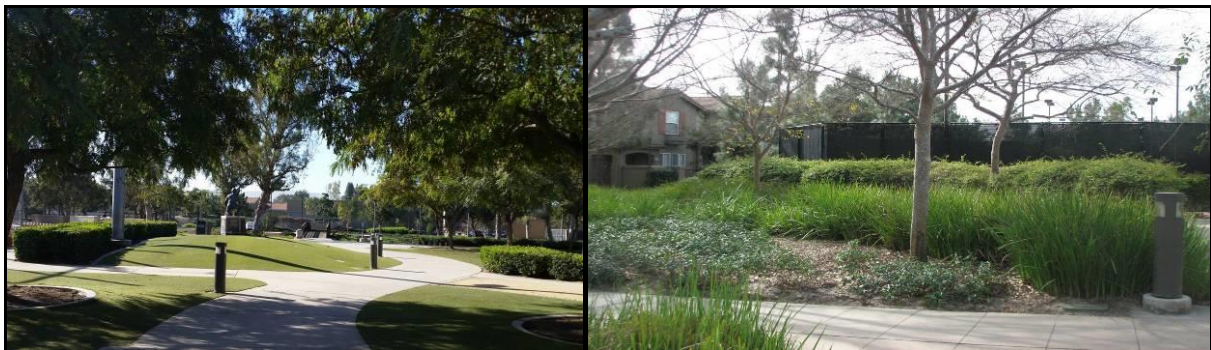
Park Condition and Capacity Assessment

- Shrubs in planters were also generally in satisfactory condition. In some parks, shrubs were aging and surrounded by patches or bare, hard-packed earth. There are opportunities to diversify the planting palette for planters and landscape beds.

Trees

Many of Irvine's parks have large, mature shade trees, which contribute to their overall character. A variety of tree species are planted throughout the park system, including California Pepper Tree, Strawberry Tree, Pine, Oak, Ficus, London Plane, California Sycamore and Eucalyptus. Deciduous trees are common, although they do not provide shade during winter months. Some parks, such as Cypress, lack shade along pathways because the trees are young and have small canopies. Throughout the community outreach process, parks without shade was frequently noted as a concern.

The photos below depict the tree canopy and pathways in two of Irvine's parks, illustrating typical conditions.



Windrow Community Park (above left), Homestead Park (above right)

Internal Pathways

The majority of Irvine's parks contain defined concrete sidewalks and pathways. Some also contain walking and exercise trails made of decomposed granite or dirt. In particular, the decomposed granite pathway surrounding Northwood Park appeared to be very well utilized for walking and running. Most pathways were in above-average condition – rated at least “4” on the scale – and contribute to the well-maintained character of parks in general.

Design Theme

Themes were utilized at four playgrounds and two parks, though art did not appear to be integrated into the park designs. The playground themes included a patriotic color palette at Bill Barber, nautical equipment and colors at Heritage and custom castle play equipment at Northwood and Plaza Parks. Both Bommer Canyon and Turtle Rock were designed to complement their natural surroundings with rustic building materials, dirt trails and native plant materials. A constructed stream at Turtle Rock further enhanced the natural theme and allowed for a hands-on nature experience. Not surprisingly, Mapita questionnaire participants identified Turtle Rock Community Park as a frequently visited site.

PARK CONDITION AND CAPACITY

The site evaluations also considered the condition and capacity of park features. The mix and type of available features and amenities has a direct impact on the quality of visitor experience. In this section, the following park features are discussed:

- Amenities, to include benches, picnic tables, trash cans, drinking fountains, signage, shade structures and barbeques;
- Pedestrian and bike access, which are the park access points for visitors arriving on foot and by bike;
- Play areas, which include spaces designed for play and age-specific playgrounds;
- Small and mid-sized social spaces that serve 20 people or less; and
- Large social spaces that serve groups of 20 or more.

The site evaluation results and observations on specific facilities, such as athletic fields and courts, are discussed in Section V of this document.

Amenities

Irvine's parks provide amenities throughout the system, the majority of which are in above average condition, or rated at least "4" on the scale.

- *Seating is sufficient at most parks:* The seating options were in good condition and comfortable. Benches are often located near play areas, athletic facilities, restrooms or other high-use elements. These locations serve the majority of users

who prefer to sit near high-activity areas. However some users, such as teenagers and seniors, may prefer to be further away from busy areas where they can socialize privately yet still have a view of pedestrian activity. These types of seating areas could be included in or added to more parks.

- *Picnic tables are grouped for use:* Groupings generally include one or more tables designed to accommodate highchairs, wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
- *Trash can and recycling receptacles are present:* The types provided were more varied and less standardized than other amenities.
- *Drinking fountains are provided:* These are attached to buildings or are free-standing in a variety of styles. Attached drinking fountains were rated in above-average condition, while some free-standing fountains were noted to have plumbing issues.
- *Signage and lighting appear to be standardized and in above-average condition:* Standard signage included a welcome sign indicating park name and rules. However, few parks included any additional signage. Those that did often included signs that were aging or discolored, such as the disc golf and par course instructional signs.
- *Shade and trellis structures are present at many parks:* Seating under these structures is anchored and not moveable and sometimes limited. Trellis design is decorative with plaster or stone veneer pilasters and wood beams. Vines have been planted and are growing up and over the structures resulting in a pleasing, natural look. Most shade structures were in above-average condition.
- *Barbeques were present at many parks:* The condition of barbecues was generally satisfactory.

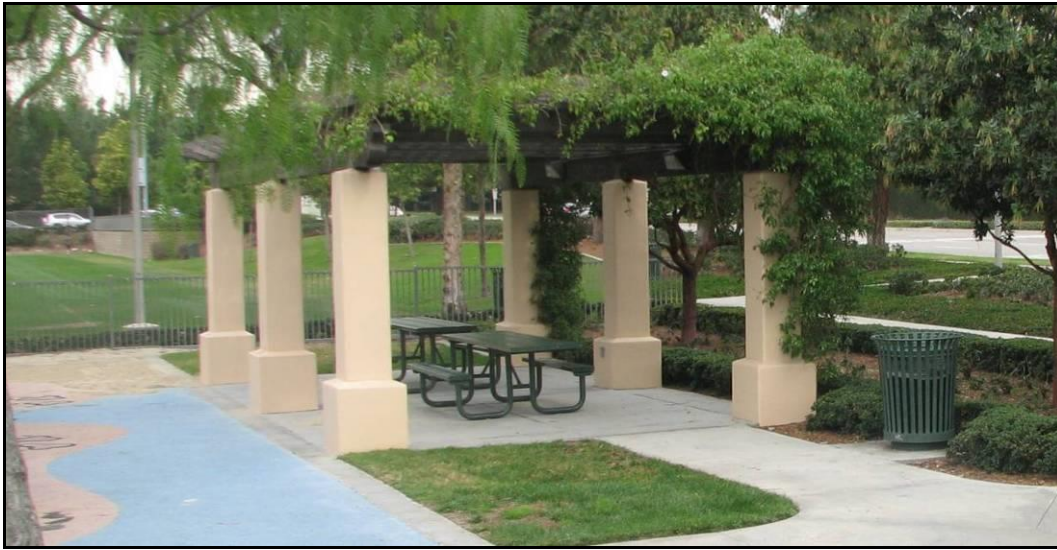
The photos on the following pages illustrate the amenities that are typical in Irvine's neighborhood and community parks.

Needs Assessment



Bommer Canyon (above left), Deerfield (above right), Blue Gum (Bottom)

Park Condition and Capacity Assessment



David Sills (above)



David Sills (above left), Deerfield (above right)

Pedestrian and Bike Access

Irvine's parks offer multiple, well-marked access points from surrounding residential areas. The access points are predominately concrete, with some decomposed granite or natural surface connections to the citywide trail system. As observed in the field, two parks in particular appear to be lacking important connectors, evidenced by informal footpaths worn into the turf and hillside at Orchard Park and the street

Needs Assessment

frontage planters at Mark Daily. These field observations will be considered in conjunction with the Park Access Analysis results and the Mapita results at a later stage of the Master Plan process to craft recommendations about the best way to enhance individual sites.

Most schools under the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) that are adjoining parks generally blended together without barriers or fences to separate the adjoining facilities. Some of the Tustin Unified School District schools include marked gates separating the park property from the school property, such as at Valencia Park and Myford Elementary School.

In situations where busy streets separate parks from neighboring uses, undercrossings and bridges are sometimes used to provide pedestrian connectivity and avoid at-grade crossing along major streets. These are often functional but not well-lit or welcoming spaces.



Marc Daily Athletic Field (above left), Creekview (above right)

CAPACITY

Throughout the park system, opportunities exist to enhance pedestrian and bike access to Irvine's parks. On-street crosswalks can be improved to encourage individuals to walk and bike while alerting vehicles to the proximity of parks. Introducing new end-of-trip amenities can also support bike and pedestrian access. For example, Alderwood and Deerfield have capacity to include bike fix stations. Their proximity to bike lanes, or current function as staging areas for cyclists, make them ideal places for self-service kiosks with workstands and air pumps that are available to bicyclists 24 hours a day.

Play Areas

Irvine provides numerous play opportunities for children. During the site visits, play areas were observed to be the most activated and utilized areas of most parks. Most of Irvine's play areas are in above-average condition – rated at least “4” on the scale – and offer a variety of equipment such as post and platform play structures, swing sets, sand play and spring riders. Play environments mostly consisted of adjacent 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old areas. Both natural shade from the tree canopy and structural shade features were incorporated at almost every site. Amenities such as trash cans, picnic tables and benches were present nearby to support use of the play areas.

Each of the younger children's play areas is designed with a half sand and half rubberized safety surfacing, an age-appropriate play structure and a bay of swings with toddler seats. Sometimes one or more spring riders are provided.

The older children's play areas each include half sand and half rubberized safety surfaces, swing sets and occasionally a climbing wall feature. Overall, the play environments were well organized and comfortable.

Custom design themes, such as the nautical theme at Heritage Park playground and the castle theme at Northwood Park playground, were present at several facilities. System-wide, however, there is limited variety in the range of available play experiences.³ Unprogrammed, natural play spaces, art features, interpretive elements, grass-covered hills, modular play elements, water play features and community or sensory gardens were rarely observed.

³ Recognizing the need for adventure play, the City is renovating Adventure Playground in University Park. Construction will begin in 2015.

Needs Assessment



Typical Play Equipment, Irvine Parks

Brywood (above left), Hicks Canyon (above right), San Leandro (bottom)



Heritage Community Park, Nautical Themed Play Equipment

As part of the Master Plan, a specific ADA evaluation of playgrounds was conducted in March 2015. Each play area was visited by an International Code Council (ICC) Accessibility Inspector / Plans Examiner and evaluated for compliance with the ADA. Those findings are presented separately and will be combined with Needs Assessment findings in recommendations to be developed in the next phase of the Master Plan process.

CAPACITY

There is space available for Irvine to expand play areas and experiences in several ways, especially as older equipment is retired and ADA requirements lead to play area renovations. There were very few elements that provided a higher level of challenge for older children. Incorporating more challenging equipment such as climbing boulders, rope and net structures, and climbing spires would be one way to hold older children's attention in play areas and create more play value. Parks such as Homestead and Settlers in particular appear to have capacity to add more

Needs Assessment

challenging activities. Both parks have 400+ sq. ft. of relatively flat turf area adjacent to existing play equipment.

Interactive art features and natural play elements were also rarely seen during the evaluation. Children are curious and are naturally drawn to unique structures in the landscape such as statues and sculptures, especially when they replicate animals and insects. Several of Irvine's parks would be suitable to accommodate nature play. The stream at Turtle Rock is a great example of a location where nature play could be encouraged within a park context. Simple improvements can be added such as log steppers, climbing rocks and trees, hallowed out log tunnels and mounded turf grass. Incorporating natural elements can be an economical, safe and environmentally-friendly way to spark imagination and creativity. Parks such as Coralwood and Pepperwood appear to have capacity to add play elements such as interactive art features, sand and water play or nature play.



Example of Interactive Art, Santa Ana, California

Sensory gardens are areas that contain plants and materials that engage the sense of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound. They are a relatively new trend that is suitable for all ages but often incorporated in children's play areas. They are also great for children with developmental disabilities and sensory processing disorders. This type of installation would be well-suited to a park with high use such as Northwood.



Example of Sensory Garden, BCA Singapore

Through the public engagement process for the Master Plan, the desire for integrating educational features into parks and introducing more nature play activities was noted on several occasions.

Social Spaces (Small to Mid-Size)

For this analysis, small to mid-size social spaces are defined as gathering places that typically serve less than 20 people. In Irvine's parks, these spaces usually consist of a grouping of benches or picnic tables.

Tables and benches are almost always permanently mounted in a fixed location. The number of picnic tables is based on Irvine's facility design standards, with groupings often strategically placed near shade trees or underneath shade structures. In play areas, most benches were spaced far apart from one another, not grouped together. Picnic tables were often solitary or in groups of two. Smaller shade structures usually included two picnic tables.

While sufficient amounts of seating were present at each park, the placement and orientation did not foster small group interaction and socializing. In many instances, people were forced to stand in order to interact with others. Informal spaces and

Needs Assessment

movable furnishings are not common and could be incorporated more frequently into Irvine's parks.



Typical Social Spaces, Irvine Parks

Creekview (above left), David Sills (above right), Blue Gum Park (below right)

A common theme documented from the community outreach process was the desire for more passive areas with comfortable, shaded seating, especially for activities like reading and enjoying quiet time alone.

CAPACITY

Irvine's parks tend to have very small social spaces for one to four people or very large social spaces for 20 or more. Several parks, such as Blue Gum and David Sills, have capacity to incorporate more mid-size group seating for five to 15 people. The majority of seating options in these spaces leaned toward accommodating adults with fixed seating features. Incorporating movable seating into parks is not always an option, but including more flexible seating might provide more comfortable places to accommodate larger groups. Plop benches, which are flat benches with no back or arm rests, allow park users to choose which direction he or she wants to face and how to sit. The flat surface also allows easy access for children. Reclining benches are another option that is appealing to all ages. Seatwalls are also an alternative to benches and can offer seating options directly within or bordering an activity zone.



Reclining seat example (above left), plop bench example (above right)

Plazas are informal spaces for people to meet and socialize and could be provided in more parks where the context is appropriate. Plazas flourish when they are in highly traveled areas, easily accessible from the street and have a number of features such as: decorative concrete, seating, shade, sculptures, water features, food vendors and signage. Plazas with moveable or flexible seating would benefit parks that connect several neighborhoods and schools such as College Park. Meadowood Park also has capacity for an enhanced plaza area under the existing shade pagoda. Additional seating, food vendors or art installations could provide key features to help activate the space.



Orange County Great Park (above)

Social Spaces (Large Group)

For this analysis, large group social spaces include gathering places that are designed to serve 20 or more people.

Many of Irvine's parks offer large gathering areas for parties and events. These are often in the form of a concrete surfaced area with mounted picnic tables and a permanent overhead shade structure. Shelter designs vary by park and include concrete, plaster, wood and metal. Several parks also offer amphitheater or stage areas for musical and performance gatherings. These vary greatly in size and design based on the park and setting. The larger amphitheaters are spacious enough to serve 100 or more people. The smaller amphitheaters are ideal for 100 or less people.

In addition to the formally developed spaces, turf areas are often turned into social spaces filled with lawn chairs and pop-up canopies during sports tournaments.

Together the parks offer a variety of settings for large formal or informal gatherings, including picnic shelters and gazebos available for reserved uses. Bommer Canyon Community Park has a larger, unique event space with tables and outbuildings consisting of a rustic ranch theme. Many of these buildings were preserved from the historic cattle ranching operations that occurred at this site. Unlike other sites, this event space is only available by reservation and fee, and it can be sold out during popular months. Several of the parks, such as Bill Barber and Sweet Shade, also

Park Condition and Capacity Assessment

offer facilities that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for group sizes of up to 50 people.



Northwood (above left), Las Lomas (above right), Bommer Canyon (bottom)

CAPACITY

Irvine's existing large group social spaces are mostly formal, with fixed seating and permanent overhead structures. There is an opportunity to diversify the types of spaces provided in terms of the level of formality and the park settings in which they are located. The high level of interest in the Bommer Canyon gathering space indicates there is a need for more spaces with informal character that are located in more secluded settings. In addition, there are many opportunities to enhance the infrastructure of turf areas to facilitate their use as flexible large group social spaces. Outdoor classroom spaces would be appropriate for parks with educational programs or those that are adjacent to schools. Parks such as Turtle Rock, San Marco,

Sycamore and Valencia have the capacity to add to and enhance large social spaces.

PARK CAPACITY SUMMARY

The park condition and capacity assessment identified several areas for potential improvements and enhancements. Categories for Enhancements and Additions include: Play Areas, Social Spaces (small, mid-size, large), Athletic Facilities, Specialized Outdoor Facilities or Indoor Facilities. Enhancements refer to improvements such as replacing play surfacing or updating plant materials. Additions refer to the incorporation of new features such as adding a play feature or athletic field. These insights are based on site observations, taking into consideration recreation trends and factors such as current demographic and cultural needs of the surrounding community, standards and operational needs and sustainability. Table 3 lists the categories used to observe park condition and capacity and provides a summary of the potential capacity of existing parks (for more detail see Appendix D). A total of 19 community parks and 35 neighborhood parks were included in the capacity assessment.

Table 3: Park Capacity Summary

Category	Community Parks		Neighborhood Parks	
	Enhance	Add	Enhance	Add
Play Areas	8	1	15	3
Social Spaces (Small to Mid-Size)	2	4	4	7
Social Spaces (Large)	1	0	0	3
Athletic Facilities	4	0	2	1
Indoor Facilities	3	7	0	0

V. RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Recreation facilities in parks and open space support self-directed opportunities as well as organized programs and events. This section evaluates facility needs for the following types of public facilities:

- Outdoor athletic facilities
- Indoor facilities
- Swimming pools
- Other types of outdoor facilities, including a variety of elements such as children's playgrounds, disc golf, spraygrounds, dog runs and trails

METHODOLOGY

The approach to determine recreation facility needs relied on a three part methodology: a facility standards review, an assessment of facility access and an analysis of local and regional trends.

Park Facility Standards

In the Needs Assessment, the provision of recreation facilities was evaluated by comparing the existing inventory of facilities with City standards. The City applies population-based standards to identify the number of park facilities needed to support residential development. These take the form of either one facility per number of people served or the square footage of an indoor facility needed to serve 10,000 residents.

The City is in the process of updating its adopted park facility standards⁴ for the development of public and private parks. The 2014 Draft *Park and Public Facility Standards*⁵ was used to analyze recreation facility needs since this document reflects the City's most current thinking on facility standards, which have evolved since their adoption in 2005. Table 4 summarizes the 2014 standards used in the analysis. As

⁴ City of Irvine. Park/Public Facility Standards. 2005.

⁵ City of Irvine. Park and Public Facility Standards, DRAFT June 27, 2014.

noted in the table, IUSD and private parks are expected to play a role in meeting select standards. The City coordinates with private developers when private parks are planned and built to ensure facility standards are followed. City staff also coordinate with IUSD, Tustin Unified School District, and Concordia University to schedule sports and other recreation programs as per facility joint use agreements. However, City parks planning staff do not keep an inventory of the facilities provided in private parks or at schools, nor does it track the condition of these facilities or their replacement. Consequently, this standards analysis focuses on the number of public facilities provided by the City alone at its parks.

Table 4: Irvine Recreational Facility Standards

Recreational Facilities			Standard (Facility per Population)	Responsible Agency		
Fields and Courts				City	Private	IUSD
Soccer Fields	Unlighted	1 / 4,250		20%		80%
	Lighted	1 / 8,500		90%		10%
Baseball/ Softball	Unlighted	1 / 2,500		20%		80%
	Lighted	1 / 5,000		75%		25%
Basketball Courts	Unlighted	1 / 1,250		10%	(1)	90%
	Lighted	1 / 5,000		60%	(1)	40%
Volleyball Courts	Unlighted	1 / 5,000		33%	(1)	67%
Racquetball/ Handball	Unlighted	1 / 5,000		25%	(1)	75%
Tennis Courts	Lighted	1 / 2,500		33%	67%	
Public Community Buildings						
Community Center		10,000 s.f. / 10,000				
Senior Center		1,000 s.f. / 10,000				
Youth/ Family Center		Included in Community Center				
Art Center		1,000 s.f. / 10,000				
Gymnasium		1,000 s.f. / 10,000				
Public Pools						
50 meter competition		1 pool / 100,000				
Other Facilities						
Children’s Playground ⁽¹⁾		1.8 s.f / Person outside of Planning Area 36				
		1.2 s.f / Person in Planning Area 36				

Source: City of Irvine Public Park and Facility Standards (Draft), June 27, 2014. This is an in-process update of the City's Park/Public Facility Standards, which were adopted in 2005.

Notes: (1) Can be provided in public or private parks, as long as available to all residents generating the need for the facility.

While non-residents, employees and visitors may use facilities in Irvine, facility standards are based on the City's residential population alone. Table 5 identifies the population projections used to assess current (2015) and future (2025) needs when the 2014 draft facility standards are applied. This helps identify facility needs. In addition, it also helps determine where these in-process standards should be considered for additional modifications.⁶

Table 5: Irvine Growth Projections, Years 2015 and 2025

Year	2015	2025
Population	258,094	317,998

Source: Orange County Projections, Center for Demographic Research, CSU Fullerton, July 2014

Facility Access

Similar to the park access analysis, ArcGIS Network Analyst was used to determine service areas for selected City recreation facilities based on actual routes of travel to each site. The analysis took into account travel at distances of ¼ mile, ½ mile, one mile and two miles depending on the uniqueness of the facility. Specialized facilities such as swimming pools and gymnasias tend to attract users from greater distances.

Local and Regional Trends

As per the methods noted in Section II of this report, public feedback was collected through a variety of tools and techniques in order to understand specific needs and local trends for recreation facilities. Unlike City standards, which are based on resident needs alone, the public engagement findings include the desires of residents, visitors and employees who have an interest in City parks. Additional trends related to the provision of facilities are noted to provide context for observations. These notes are based on the expertise of City staff, as well as MIG's

⁶ The next phase of the Master Plan project will address City policies for the provision of facilities, plus identify where additional facilities are recommended. The Needs Assessment analysis provides documentation to support policy decisions in the next phase.

understanding of national trends and best practices in parks and recreation planning, as well as professional experience in other communities.

OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Outdoor athletic facilities include sports-related fields and courts for both organized and informal play. These facilities often take up the most physical space at a park. During game times and weekends, they have the potential to draw large crowds. Both lighted and unlighted sports fields and courts are provided in the City of Irvine. Additional details on the City's athletic facility inventory can be found in Appendix A.

Outdoor Athletic Facility Standards

According to Irvine's draft facility standards, the City and IUSD share responsibilities for meeting standards for specific types of athletic facilities, with a percentage of total facilities provided by each. In addition, for basketball, volleyball and handball/racquetball courts, draft standards note that private parks may address a portion of facilities to be provided by the City at public parks. It notes that 67 percent of lighted tennis courts should be provided by private parks.⁷

Table 6 compares the numbers of existing City fields and courts with the numbers projected to be needed in 2015 and 2025 to achieve the City's percentage of the standards. As shown in the table, the City meets or exceeds the 2014 draft standards in three of the nine categories. The three categories – Soccer Field (unlighted), Soccer Field (lighted) and Racquetball/Handball Court (unlighted) – are shaded in gray. Additional facilities of all types will be needed in 2025 to meet these standards. Figure 1 illustrates the number of existing City facilities and the total numbers needed in 2015 and 2025 to meet proposed City standards.

At this time, City standards do not account for facilities provided at regional parks, such as the Orange County Great Park. This site addresses both regional and local needs and may also address the demand heard in some public outreach activities for tournament complexes.

⁷ The City of Irvine applies these standards when private parks are planned. The City does not keep a comprehensive inventory of private park facilities nor track what percentage of its standards are met by private parks.

Table 6: Outdoor Athletic Facilities Standards and Needs (2015 and 2025)

Athletic Field or Court Type	Athletic Field or Court 2014 Standard ⁸	City Responsibility (% of City Facilities Needed to Meet Standard)	# of Existing City Fields and Courts (2015)	Total # of City Fields and Courts Needed	
				2015	2025
Soccer Field (unlighted)	1/4,250	20%	13	12	15
Soccer Field (lighted)	1/8,500	90%	27	27	34
Baseball/ Softball Field (unlighted)	1/2,500	20%	18	21	25
Baseball/ Softball Field (lighted)	1/5,000	75%	28	39	48
Basketball Court (unlighted)	1/1,250	10%	14	21	25
Basketball Court (lighted)	1/5,000	60%	17	31	38
Volleyball Court (unlighted)	1/5,000	33%	16 ⁽¹⁾	17	21
Racquetball/ Handball Court (unlighted)	1/5,000	25%	14 ⁽²⁾	13	16
Tennis Court (Lighted)	1/1,200	33% ⁽³⁾	64	71	87

(1) Seven of the 16 provided by the City are lighted.

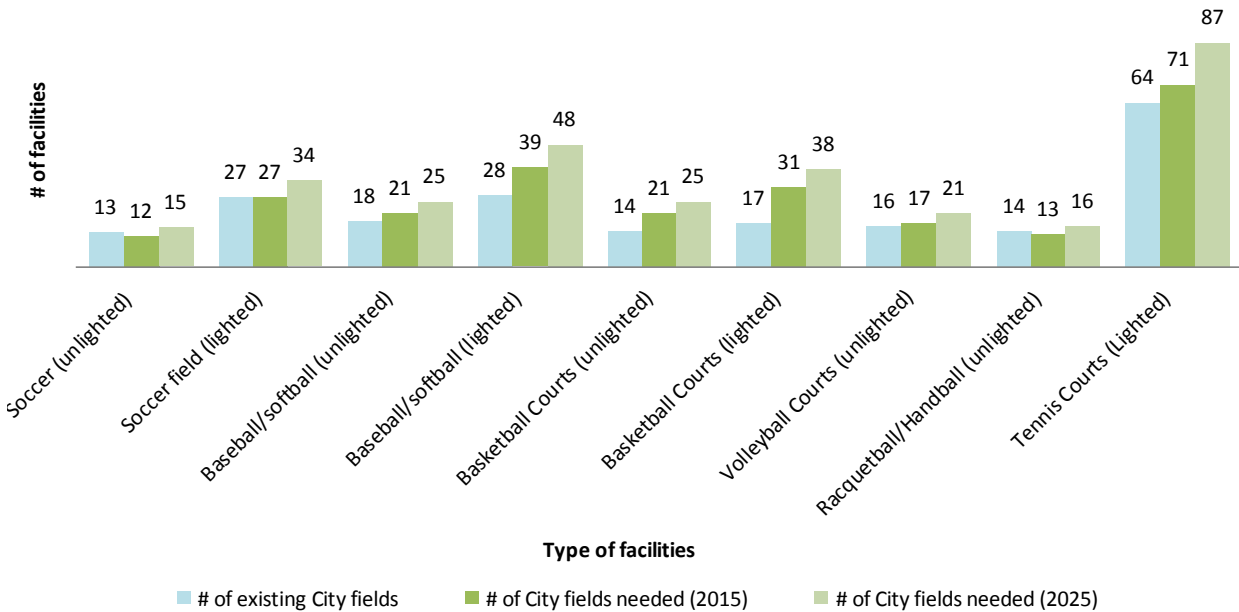
⁸ The City is in the process of updating its facility standards. The 2014 draft standards were used in this analysis.

Needs Summary

(2) Eleven of the 14 provided by the City are lighted.

(3) The remaining 67% of the tennis courts are to be provided by private entities.

Figure 1: Athletic Facilities Needed to Meet Proposed City Standards



PLANNED PARK FACILITIES AND NEEDS BY TYPE

The City is planning new park facilities to meet projected needs as the community continues to grow. Appendix C provides an overview of planned public facilities. Planned facilities are also factored into the standards analysis below. The comments note circumstances that affect facility needs, plus indicate where Orange County Great Park facilities are planned but not taken into account into needs based on draft facility standards.

- **Soccer Fields:** By 2025, two additional unlighted and seven additional lighted soccer fields will be needed. Currently, nine new fields are planned to be built at City neighborhood and community parks. However, factors such as overlays, lighting and use by multiple sports will affect whether draft standards are met. For example, two of the planned fields are proposed as overlays, which would not be playable year-round. Four of the fields are planned for neighborhood parks, where the provision of lighting should take nearby neighbors into consideration. One

lacrosse and football field is planned for Gateway Community Park, which will help address the scheduling demand for rectangular field space. In addition to the planned City fields, 18 soccer fields are planned for the Orange County Great Park to help meet regional needs, but these are not taken into account to satisfy City standards.

- *Baseball or Softball Fields:* Seven additional unlighted and 20 additional lighted baseball or softball fields will be needed by 2025. Six softball fields and five baseball fields are planned in future community and neighborhood parks including Portola Community Park, Gateway Community Park, Los Olivos Community Park and Northwood Point Neighborhood Park. A few of these may have soccer overlays in the outfields and would be playable seasonally. As per standards, 16 additional fields will be needed. The local demand for ball diamonds will partially be met by the 12 ball diamonds planned to be constructed at the Orange County Great Park to help meet regional needs. These are not taken into account to satisfy City standards.
- *Basketball Courts:* Seven additional unlighted and 14 more lighted basketball courts are needed to meet the 2014 draft standard. The City has plans to construct six new lighted basketball courts by 2019 in Gateway Community Park and Los Olivos Community Park. In addition, two lighted basketball courts are planned in Oak Creek Community Park and two new unlighted basketball courts recently opened at Cypress Grove Neighborhood Park. Even with these additions, the City does not meet the 2014 draft standard and still needs 13 lighted courts and five unlighted courts to meet its standards in 2025. The Orange County Great Park will add four courts when fully developed to meet regional needs.
- *Volleyball Courts:* Five more volleyball courts will be needed by 2025. The City plans to build one volleyball court at Portola Community Park by 2018. It will still need to build four additional courts by 2025 to meet the needs of the projected population. The Orange County Great Park will add five sand volleyball courts when fully developed to meet regional needs.
- *Racquetball or Handball Courts:* Two courts will be needed by 2025. One handball court is planned for construction at Gateway Community Park. As per standards, one additional court will still be needed.
- *Tennis Courts:* A total of 23 additional courts will be needed by 2025. The City plans to construct 13 lighted courts between 2017 and 2019. Two unlighted tennis courts were completed in early 2015 at Cypress Grove Neighborhood Park. With a

total of 15 new tennis courts planned, the City has to build eight additional courts to meet the standards by 2025.

Athletic Field Access

Athletic fields are typically provided in larger parks with sufficient acreage to support required field space, support amenities and parking. Lighted sports fields may be better suited to community parks or neighborhood parks where field lighting will not disturb nearby neighbors. These factors affect field distribution. For this reason, an access analysis was conducted to identify residential areas served by existing athletic fields.

SOCCER FIELD ACCESS

Map 4: Access to Soccer Fields depicts access to soccer fields in City parks based on ¼ mile, ½ mile and one mile distances. Because of the role that other fields play in meeting needs, it also shows access to fields provided at the Orange County Great Park and IUSD sites programmed by the City for public use.

Key Findings

- *Most existing residential areas are served at driving distances:* Although few neighborhoods have access to soccer fields within ¼ to ½ miles (typical walking or biking distances), many residents have a soccer field within a mile of their home. As noted in several public engagement activities, insufficient parking is an issue at several parks with sports fields. Especially during games, lots must accommodate four teams per field during the transition as one game is ending and the next team is warming up to play. Given the space requirement for fields and parking, converting additional park space to parking is not desired.
- *School fields are a critical part of services in many areas:* There are many gaps in soccer field access based on the provision of City fields alone. Via joint-use agreements, school fields help meet needs in several areas, even though school fields are typically not maintained at the same level as City fields.
- *Future soccer field development will be important for serving new residential areas:* To support geographic access in the future, soccer field development will be critical at Portola, Gateway and Los Olivos, the three planned community parks.

- *Planned parks will not serve all future residential areas within a one mile driving distance:* Even after planned parks are developed, soccer field access will still be needed in developing residential areas of Irvine, including north Irvine beyond Settlers Neighborhood Park. South Irvine near the universities is also underserved.

BALL DIAMOND FIELD ACCESS

Map 5: Access to Ball Diamonds illustrates service areas for City parks with fields for baseball or softball based on $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and one mile distances.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

1 Neighborhood Parks

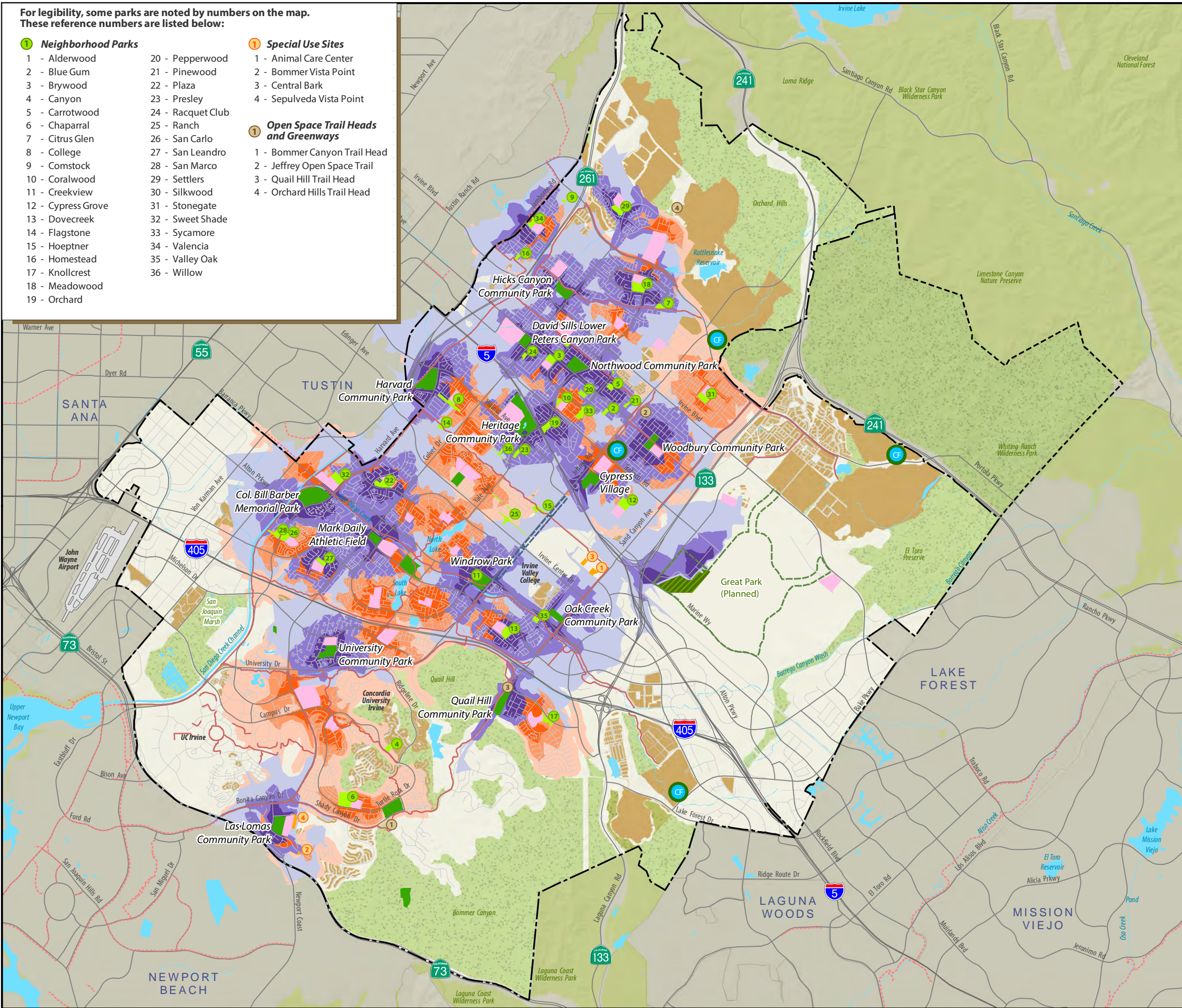
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Alderwood | 20 - Pepperwood |
| 2 - Blue Gum | 21 - Pinewood |
| 3 - Brywood | 22 - Plaza |
| 4 - Canyon | 23 - Presley |
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| 15 - Hoepfner | 34 - Valencia |
| 16 - Homestead | 35 - Valley Oak |
| 17 - Knollcrest | 36 - Willow |
| 18 - Meadowood | |
| 19 - Orchard | |

1 Special Use Sites

- 1 - Animal Care Center
- 2 - Bommer Vista Point
- 3 - Central Bark
- 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

- 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
- 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
- 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 4: Access to Soccer Fields

Service Areas

Fields at City Parks

- 1/4 mile
- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile

Fields at Schools

- 1/4 mile
- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

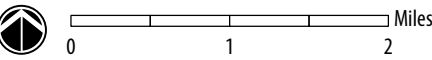
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies
- Schools



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

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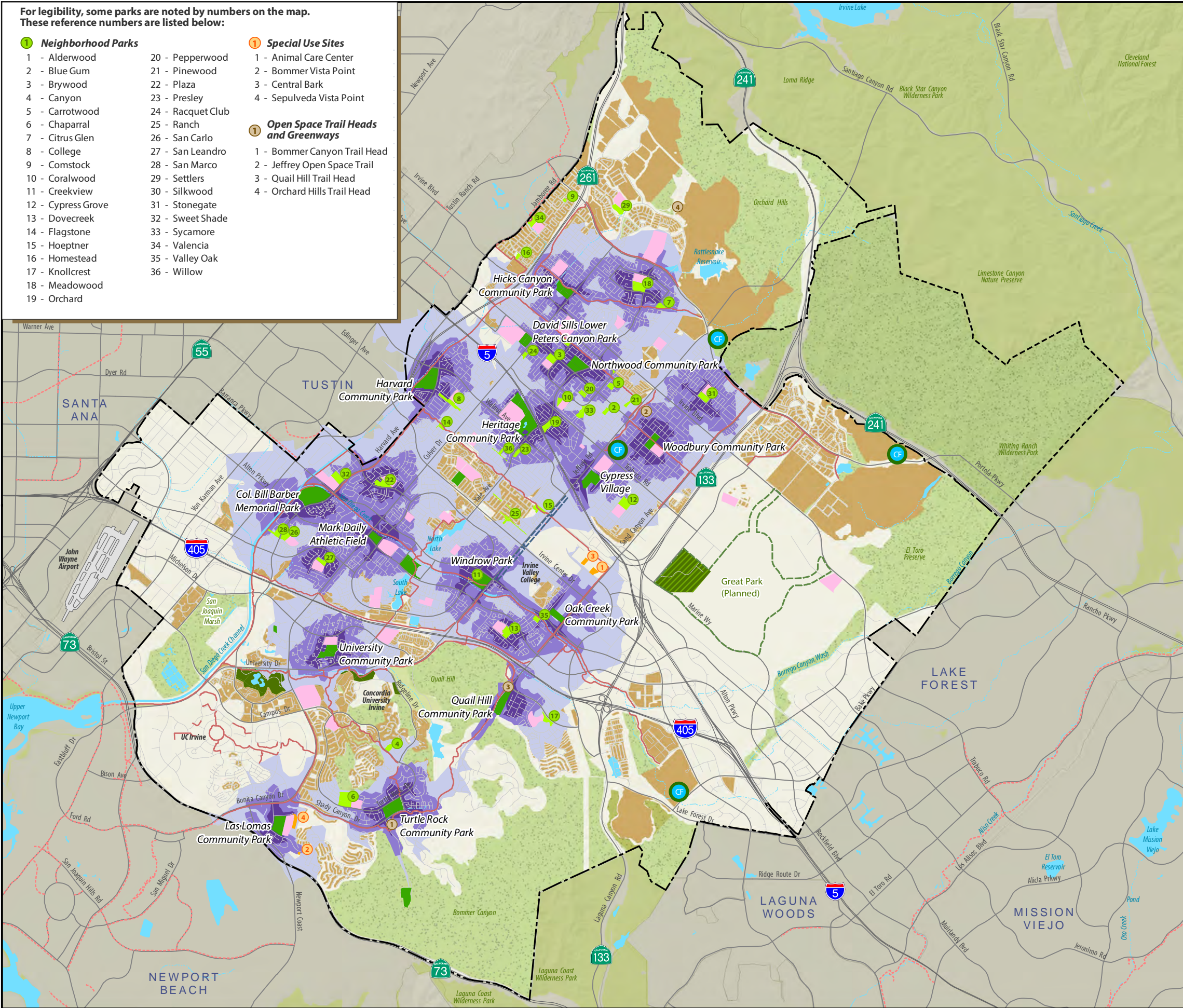
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1 Special Use Sites

- 1 - Animal Care Center
- 2 - Bommer Vista Point
- 3 - Central Bark
- 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

- 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
- 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
- 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 5: Access to Ball Diamonds

Service Areas

- 1/4 mile
- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

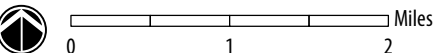
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies
- Schools



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

Key Findings

- *Many existing residential areas are served at driving distances:* Few neighborhoods have access to ball diamonds within walking or biking distances, but many residents have a baseball or softball field within a mile of their home.
- *Gaps in service may be addressed by school fields:* In several areas where there are gaps in service, schools may be playing a role in meeting needs.⁹ As shown on the map, some schools are located near parks where ballfields are provided. However, schools could be addressing needs in areas where parks lack sufficient space to accommodate ballfields, such as near Deerfield Park, or in areas that lack nearby community parks, such as northeast of Northwood High School.
- *Future ballfield development will be important for serving new residential areas:* To support geographic access in the future, ballfield development will be critical at the three planned community parks and the Orange County Great Park.
- *Planned parks will not serve all future residential areas within a one mile distance:* Enhanced ballfield access will still be needed in developing areas of Irvine, including north Irvine beyond Settlers Neighborhood Park.

Local and Regional Trends

Trends related to sports fields are noted based on public outreach findings and observed trends in sports facility development and programming.

- *Focus Groups:* Participants wanted an increase in the amount of sports fields for football and soccer.
- *Stakeholder Interviews:* Stakeholders mentioned the need for more lighted fields, both flexible and dedicated fields for traditional and emerging sports, and the need for drop-in opportunities for people who are not part of an organized sports league or program but still would like to experience those sports.
- *Mapita:* Having access to amenities or facilities such as sports fields and courts emerged as a strong theme and reason for picking a favorite park.
- *Survey:* There is a strong interest and participation in health and fitness activities for youth and adults. More than 10 percent of respondents said adults in their

⁹ Data on the joint use of school baseball and softball fields are not available.

household played tennis. Between 10 percent and 23 percent of respondents said youth in their household played tennis, baseball, a variety of sports, basketball or soccer.

- *Webpage Emailed Feedback:* Participants provided comments on constructing more sand volleyball courts in the City. Specifically, one comment suggested building a sand volleyball court in the Lower Peters Canyon Park that could inspire Beckman High School to form a varsity beach volleyball team.
- *Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaire:* Responses indicated that participation in soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball was increasing, suggesting that the following are needed to meet the anticipated needs now and in the next five years:
 - More baseball, softball and football fields throughout the City
 - Batting cages in Hicks Canyon and Quail Hill Community Parks
 - Soccer fields in north Irvine
 - An increased use of IUSD stadiums
 - A dedicated lacrosse field
- *Community Workshop:* Respondents noted that emerging sports and activities such as pickleball will require space as they gain in popularity. They really liked or would consider both dedicated and undeveloped sports fields for reserved and drop-in use.
- *Program Participation Trends:* Many agencies are reporting an increasing demand for rectangular athletic fields due to increasing soccer interest from both youth and adults and growing participation in non-traditional sports such as lacrosse, rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Some communities are experiencing a decreasing need for diamond ballfields due to decreasing participation levels in baseball and softball. Racquetball, handball and tennis are also declining in popularity in many communities. However, City staff report a higher participation level in tennis than in many other communities. These trends will affect future needs.
- *Trends for Year-round Play:* While competitive sports used to be played in traditional seasons (winter, spring and fall), sports in many communities are now played year-round to increase skill development and train youth for advanced competitive play. This includes special camps and tournaments during the summer. Irvine's sunny weather also makes it possible to continue outdoor sports play through the winter, when other communities turn to indoor sports. Year-round

participation can increase field demand and limit traditional periods of field rest for turf restoration.

- *Emerging and Resurging Sports Trends:* Regional and national trends show emerging or resurging interest in sports such as pickleball, petanque, cricket, rugby, lacrosse, futsal, dodgeball, kickball and badminton, particularly as more ages become involved in sports programs. Sports that are growing in popularity are also reinventing themselves in non-traditional ways. For example, soccer has grown to include outdoor and indoor soccer, futsal, soccer tennis and more recently foot golf and bubble soccer. This has led to the need for facility variation, such as grass and artificial turf fields, indoor sports space such as gymnasiums and field houses, covered outdoor courts and multipurpose sports courts suitable for tennis, pickleball, handball, racquetball and soccer tennis.
- *Multipurpose Fields and Facilities:* The City is beginning to explore the provision of sport field overlays and dual-use fields for uses such as lacrosse and football, which would allow smaller spaces to support a variety of sports uses. Overlays increase the impact of use on fields and can create user conflicts that should be resolved proactively through sports facility allocation policies that identify an equitable process for scheduling. To address need, many communities are providing artificial turf fields lined for multiple sports, such as soccer, football and lacrosse, rather than fields dedicated to one sport alone. Also, the space for one regulation-sized field may be designed to allow for two youth-sized fields across the main fields. As noted above, multipurpose athletic courts with removable nets also allow for cross-over use between different sports. Practice field space can accommodate special events where a separate events venue is not available.
- *Increasing Adult and Senior Sports:* As part of the increased interest in health and wellness, trends show that many communities are programming athletic fields to allow more play for young adults, older adults and seniors. This type of programming may be especially effective in communities such as Irvine with an increasing senior population and strong interest in fitness and exercise. Irvine's current field allocation policies have been established to ensure equity for all organizations based on age and residency. Irvine residents and older participants receive priority for allocations of City and School District facilities (IUSD and TUSD).

Outdoor Athletic Facility Findings and Needs

- *Facility standards should be re-evaluated to reflect participation and trends in sports:* According to trends noted by the National Sporting Goods Association,¹⁰ sports participation has changed dramatically since 2005 when the City's current standards for athletic facilities were adopted. Still, the 2014 draft facility standards suggest there is a "need" for facilities that are not as popular as they were 10 years ago. In the next phase of Master Plan development, the City should discuss its draft standards and identify where revised standards are warranted. This will help the City better project needs for the next 10 years.
- *The role of regional sports facilities should be defined:* When fully developed, the Orange County Great Park will play a major role in meeting local and regional sports needs. Since City standards are resident-based, only a percentage of Orange County Great Park facilities are addressing local needs as per City standards. Data tracking on the use of Orange County Great Park sports fields and facilities will help determine what percentage of users are City residents so standards can be updated.
- *Sports needs are broader than traditional sports:* Currently, City numerical and design standards for athletic fields and courts are focused on traditional sports, such as baseball, basketball, soccer and tennis. As non-traditional sports such as pickleball, lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee continue to grow in popularity, additional facilities will be needed to support diverse recreation opportunities. Introductory programs, camps and classes may be needed to increase participation in these newer activities.
- *Guidelines for sports access and distribution are needed:* In addition to facility design guidelines and numerical standards for number of people served, many communities define park and facility standards based on the typical distance residents are expected to travel to reach them. For example, a city may strive to provide basketball courts in all neighborhood parks within a ½ mile service distance of most residents. These types of distribution standards would allow the City of Irvine to better support pedestrian and bike access to athletic facilities as one way to meet the growing interest in health and fitness opportunities.

¹⁰ National Sporting Goods Association. Sports Participation in the United States, 2015 Edition.

Needs Summary

- *Parking management needs to be addressed:* The larger sports parks often host several simultaneous games throughout the course of a weekend, which can create parking issues. A number of opportunities should be considered in the next phase of the project to address parking issues. Field observations in the Park Condition and Capacity Analysis noted that some parks have additional parking areas located off-site, such as at the Mark Daily Athletic Fields. Some parks have the capacity to reconfigure parking lots; others could benefit from clearer wayfinding signage and better lighting at undercrossings to improve bike and pedestrian access. Still other sites may benefit from shared parking arrangements.
- *Field and facility allocation policies may need updating to ensure equity in use:* The City of Irvine has defined field allocation policies and involved a Sports Committee in overseeing field scheduling. As interest in fitness and sports grows and evolves to include more diverse participants, recreation staff and sports providers may need to discuss future policies to encourage play from all ages, different skill levels from introductory to semi-professional, male and female participants, traditional and non-traditional sports, drop-in and organized sports, and other uses such as community events. The provision of sport field overlays and multipurpose facilities will increase the need to address equitable allocation and scheduling.
- *Improvements may be needed at fields to address ADA compliance:* Older parks were built before current standards for spectator and player access were updated in the ADA. There are opportunities to improve accessibility at many of Irvine's sports fields including those at Harvard, Mark Daily, University, Windrow, Coralwood and Stonegate Parks. During a recent inspection, fields at these sites did not offer ADA access to dugouts or to spectator bleachers.
- *Continued attention to sports facility condition and maintenance is needed:* Athletic facilities were evaluated during site assessments. Most are well maintained and in above-average condition. More details can be found in Appendix D. During the peak use season, it is not unusual for ballfields to be groomed three times a week. The high use of sports fields, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts and even the track at Northwood Park require that these facilities be well-groomed and ready for walk-on or programmed use. While restricting use to "reservation only" helps maintain the quality of competitive facilities, it limits general recreational use.

- *The role of IUSD facilities needs to be clarified:* As noted in the standards analysis, IUSD facilities play an important presumed role in meeting City standards for athletic facilities. However, the City does not maintain an inventory of these facilities or ensure their quality, condition and playability. Where City fields are restricted in use to “reservation only,” school facilities are presumed to be meeting recreational needs for drop in use. In terms of ensuring sports facility equity, the provision of school facilities in meeting City standards should be clarified.

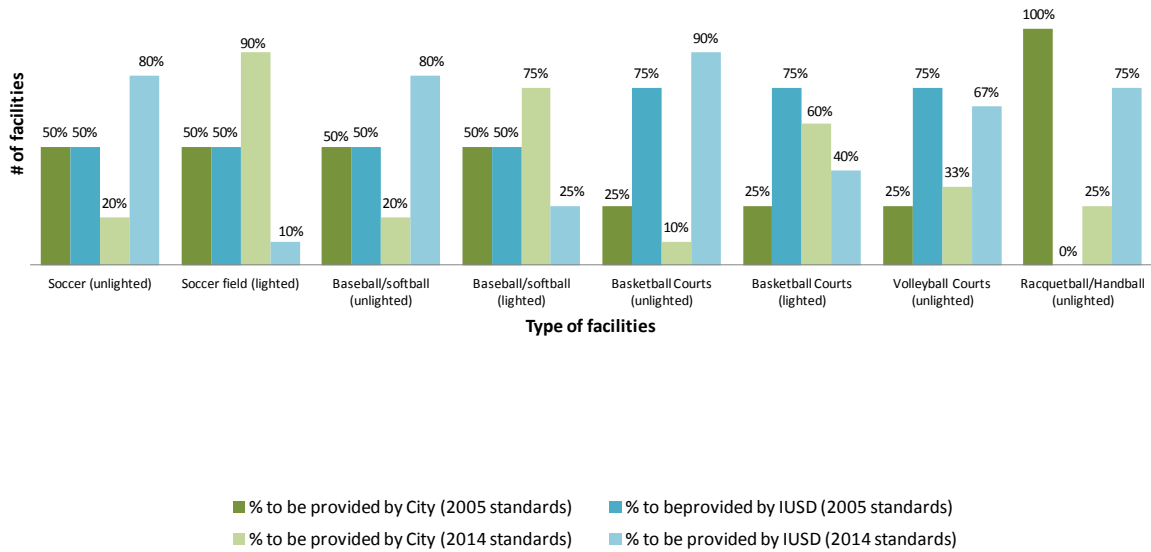
The role of IUSD in providing facilities changed dramatically when athletic facility standards were last reviewed and adopted in 2005: Figure 2 illustrates this change. The 2014 draft facility standards would require IUSD to provide an increased share, from 67 to 90 percent, of unlighted soccer fields, baseball or softball fields, basketball courts and volleyball courts. In return, the City is providing more lighted facilities. It is unclear why standards focus on joint use opportunities with IUSD alone, and not other schools or private developers. It is also unclear if the City focus on lighted game-quality facilities sufficiently supports drop-in opportunities for play. A policy discussion regarding these standards is warranted.



Dove Creek Park

Needs Summary

Figure 2: Proposed Changes in Facility Standards 2005-2014



Sources: City of Irvine, Park/Public Facility Standards, 2005; Public Park and Facility Standards (Draft), June 27, 2014



David Sills (left), Northwood (right)

INDOOR PARK FACILITIES

The City of Irvine provides 10 community centers, two senior centers, a fine arts center and nature center in its neighborhood and community parks (see Appendix A). It does not currently provide gymnasias, although residents have access to IUSD gymnasias during certain hours via existing joint-use agreements.

Indoor Facility Standards

The City of Irvine has established standards for several types of indoor facilities. Table 7 identifies those standards as well as facility needs to serve the City's 2015 and 2025 projected populations.

Table 7: Indoor Facilities Standards and Needs (2015 and 2025)

Indoor Facility Type	Standard (Square Feet per Population) ¹¹	City Responsibility (% of City Facilities Needed to Meet Standard)	Total Square Feet of Existing City Indoor Facilities	Total Square Feet of City Indoor Facilities Needed in	
				2015	2025
Community Center	10,000 s.f. per 10,000	100%	78,720 s.f.	258,094 s.f.	317,998 s.f.
Senior Center	1,000 s.f. per 10,000	100%	41,610 s.f.	25,809 s.f.	31,799 s.f.
Arts Center	1,000 s.f. per 10,000	100%	18,600 s.f.	25,809 s.f.	31,799 s.f.
Gymnasium	1,000 s.f. per 10,000	100%	0 s.f.	25,809 s.f.	31,799 s.f.

When applying the 2014 draft facility standards, existing senior centers exceed the square footage needed in the next 10 years (shaded in gray above). However,

¹¹ The City is in the process of updating its facility standards. The 2014 draft standards were used in this analysis.

current community centers, arts centers and gymnasias do not meet 2015 needs, when evaluated by the 2014 draft standards. A closer look at indoor facility standards is warranted in assessing needs.

PLANNED FACILITIES AND NEEDS BY TYPE

- *Community Centers:* The square footage associated with the City's 10 existing community centers falls far short of achieving the 2014 draft standard. To meet the proposed service level, approximately 180,000 square feet is needed now, or a total of 240,000 square feet will be needed by 2025. For context, existing community centers range from 3,000 square feet to 19,772 square feet in size. It appears the standard proposed for community centers in 2014 is the same standard that was applied for all community buildings collectively in 2005, including community centers, senior centers, youth and family centers, art centers and gymnasias.

At this time, the City plans to construct approximately 100,000 square feet of new community centers. The City would still be in need of 140,000 square feet by 2025 even if all planned new facilities were constructed at the following existing and planned parks: Quail Hill, Oak Creek, Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial, Hicks Canyon, Portola, Los Olivos and Gateway community parks (see Appendix C). However this square footage also includes space for a gymnasium at Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park and a wilderness center at Quail Hill Park. While many other communities have combined standards to support multi-purposed facilities, gymnasias and wilderness centers in Irvine have their own separate standard.

- *Senior Centers:* When 2014 draft facility standards are applied, the City's two existing senior centers already exceed the square footage needed in the next 10 years. However, current facilities are already used at capacity and the City is planning to build another senior center at Trabuco Community Park.
- *Fine Arts Centers:* The City's 2014 draft standards indicate that Irvine will need an additional fine arts center by 2025. Standards suggest that the square footage of this facility could be slightly smaller than the existing fine arts center at Heritage Park. However, other factors such as programming needs should be used to determine the size of any future facility. No additional arts centers are planned at this time.
- *Gymnasias:* The City's 2014 draft facility standards suggest that more than 30,000 square feet of gym space is needed by 2025. Two gymnasias are currently planned

for construction at Gateway Community Park and Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park. While the gym at Bill Barber Park is planned to include 18,500 square feet of space, the gym at Gateway Park may be much smaller, with the proposed community center and gym together totaling 12,000 square feet. A larger gym may be needed to support desired programming options.

Indoor Facility Access

COMMUNITY CENTER ACCESS

Indoor facilities provide specialized programming that can attract people from greater distances. Map 6: Access to Community Centers depicts access and service areas for all existing community centers, showing pedestrian and bike access at ½ mile and auto access at one and two miles. It also shows the location of all planned community centers, including ones to be located at existing parks and others proposed for planned new community parks.

Key Findings

- *Existing residential areas are well served:* At a distance of two miles, the City is well served by existing community centers. Few neighborhoods have access to community centers within walking or biking distances, but most community center users are willing and have the resources to drive to these sites to take advantage of quality programs.
- *Planned community center development will be important for serving new residential areas:* As the community grows, planned community centers at the following locations will help the City continue to provide access to community centers within two miles: Hicks Canyon, Gateway, Portola, Oak Creek, Quail Hill, Los Olivos parks.
- *Two planned sites are in existing served areas:* The planned facilities at Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park and the planned Trabuco community park would be located within the ½ mile service area of existing community centers at Sweet Shade Park and Woodbury Park respectively. These facilities will offer different types of indoor recreation opportunities to avoid duplicating services. The community center at Bill Barber is anticipated to include a gymnasium, while the facility at Trabuco will focus primarily on senior programs.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

1 Neighborhood Parks

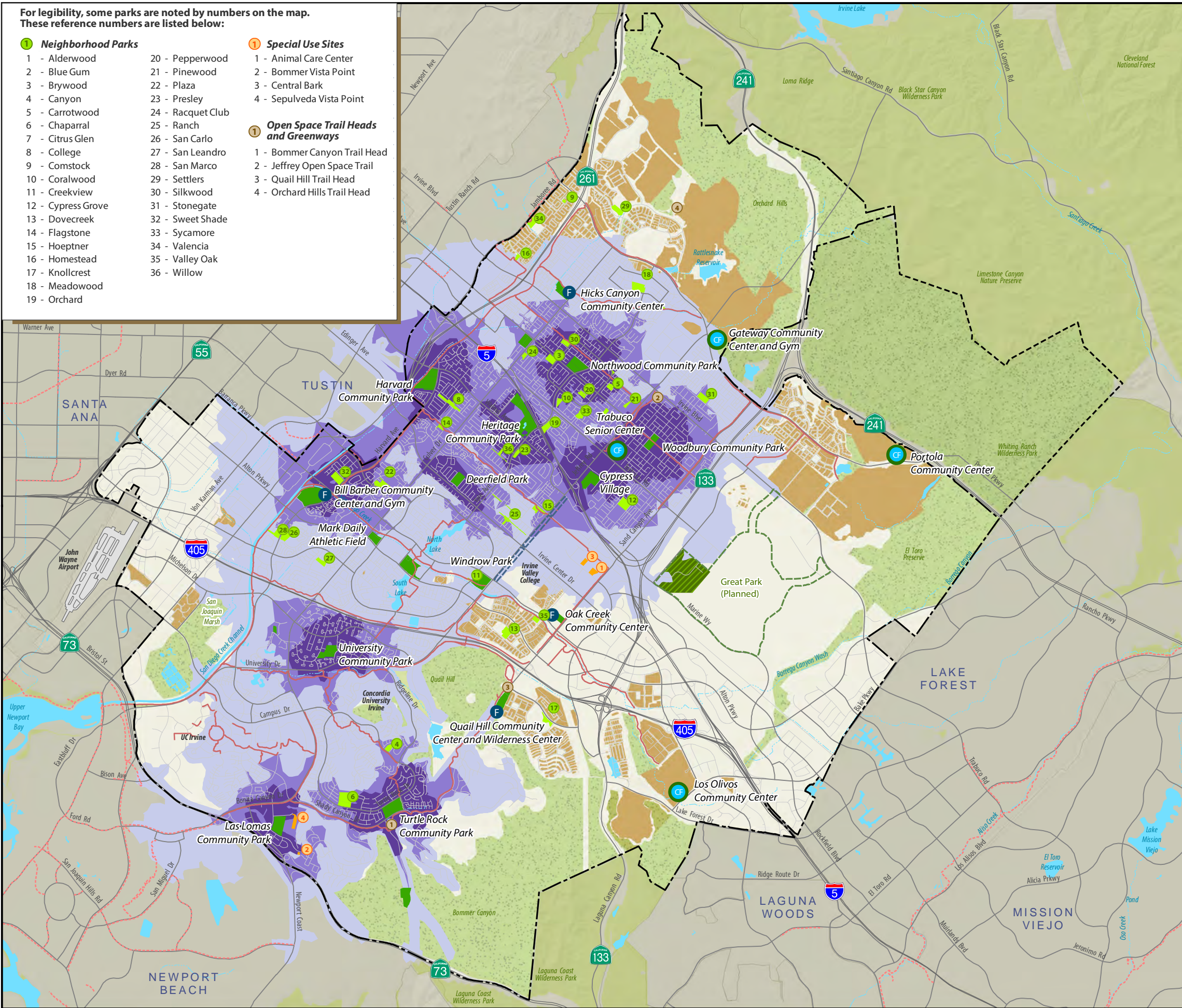
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| 19 - Orchard | |

1 Special Use Sites

- 1 - Animal Care Center
- 2 - Bommer Vista Point
- 3 - Central Bark
- 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

- 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
- 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
- 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 6: Access to Community Centers

Service Areas

- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile
- 2 miles

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Recreation Facility (at Existing Community Park)
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

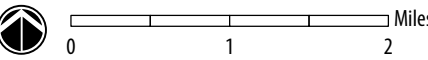
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

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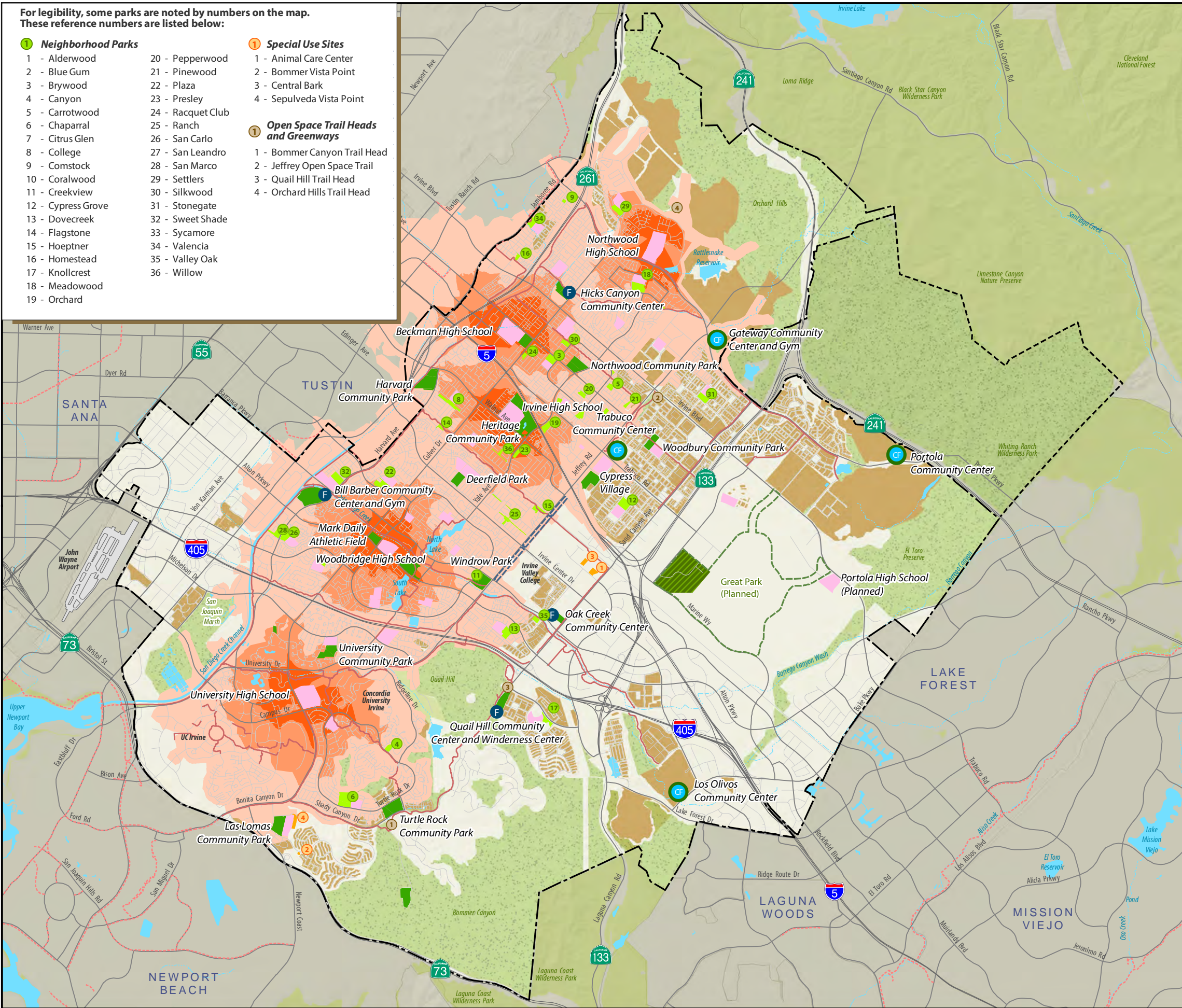
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- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 7: Access to Public Indoor Gyms

Service Areas

- 1/2 mile
- 1 mile
- 2 miles

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park and Facility
- Recreation Facility (at Existing Community Park)
- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

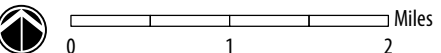
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies
- Schools



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

GYMNASIUM ACCESS

Map 7: Access to Public Indoor Gyms depicts access to the five high school gymnasiums that the City schedules for youth and adult league basketball: Beckman, Irvine, Northwood, University and Woodbridge. The map illustrates service areas based on travel distances of ½ mile, one and two miles. It also shows the location of planned community centers and planned community centers with gymnasiums that could help meet future needs.

Key Findings

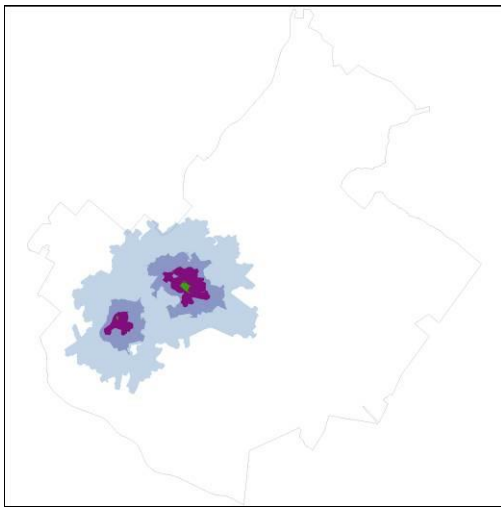
- *Residents have limited access to public gyms:* Even at a two mile travel distance, there are many residential areas that do not have access to public gymnasiums. Current access is concentrated in the City's core residential areas, with the periphery underserved. Current access is based on the use of school facilities that are not available for recreation programming or general use throughout the school day. However, joint use agreements for the use of gym at school sites, including the gym and aerobics room at Concordia University, are important in meeting community needs.
- *Planned gymnasium development will be important for serving new residential areas:* As the community grows, a planned gymnasium at Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park would improve service for West Irvine, even though this site is located within the two mile service area of Woodbridge High School. A much smaller gymnasium is planned at the proposed Gateway Community Park. A larger gym in this area would be important to serve the newer residential development anticipated in north Irvine, as shown on the map in brown.
- *Current and future residential areas in southeast Irvine will be unserved:* Even with the development of two new gymnasiums, existing and planned residential areas near the proposed Los Olivos Community Park, proposed Quail Hill Community and Wilderness Center, proposed Portola Community Park, Orange County Great Park and Las Lomas Community Park are underserved. A joint-use agreement for gym use at the planned Portola High School could help address gym needs in this area.
- *Employment areas in west Irvine lack access to a gymnasium:* A community park is proposed for the Irvine Business Complex (Planning Areas 36). While this could be an outdoor park, a smaller greenspace with an indoor multi-purpose recreation

facility and gym could be considered as an option for addressing community recreation needs in this area.

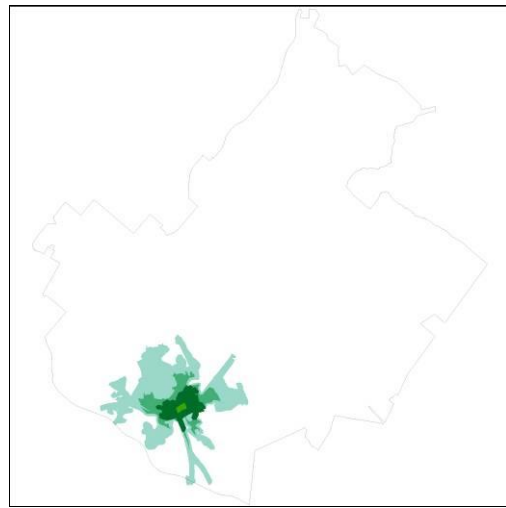
ACCESS TO OTHER SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

Figure 3 shows a series of small “pin” maps displaying service areas for existing senior centers, nature centers and fine arts centers within Irvine city limits, based on access at ½ mile, one mile and two mile travel distances.

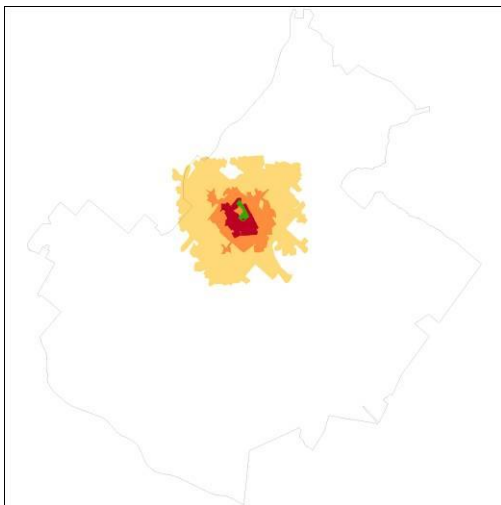
Figure 3: Access to Senior, Nature and Fine Arts Centers



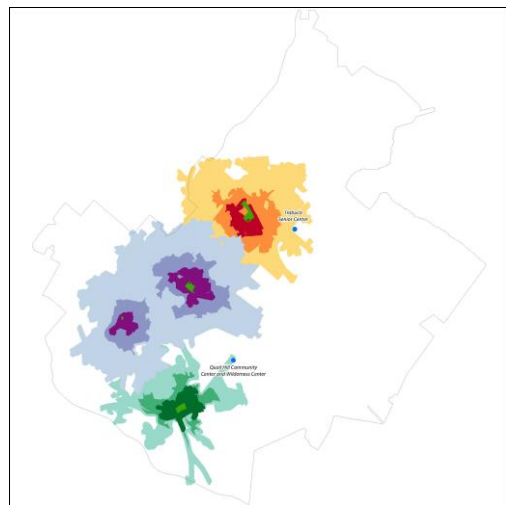
Senior Center Distribution



Nature Center Distribution



Fine Arts Center Distribution



Combined Distribution of Facilities

Key Findings

- *Unique park facilities are currently concentrated in the western half of the City:* Because of their uniqueness, specialized facilities attract residents from across the community. However, their distribution is still a consideration to ensure equitable access to the specialized recreation programs that occur at these facilities. Currently, access is easier for residents on the western half of the City.
- *Existing and planned nature centers are adjacent to open space:* The Turtle Rock Nature Center is located to take advantage of and connect to nearby open space resources and trails. A new wilderness center is planned for Quail Hill Community Park, which is located at the edge of the two mile service area for the Turtle Rock Nature Center. This would position the nature center and wilderness center in the same vicinity. Similar opportunities are not planned near open space areas in north or east Irvine. However, the City has limited access to open space in north and east Irvine. Public access is currently restricted to docent-led activities and users quickly cross into County of Orange open space.
- *The planned Trabuco Multi-Generational Center will expand access to senior programs:* The development of a new facility at the northeast corner of Trabuco Road and Jeffrey Road will make senior programming easier to reach from the northern and eastern areas of the City.
- *Specialized facility needs should be considered further in east Irvine:* As the community grows, access to specialized indoor facilities may be needed in the northeast and east part of Irvine. However, needs for a fine arts center should consider the role played by the Palm Court Arts Complex at the Orange County Great Park. Development of a nature center at Orchard Hills or Portola could be considered, but should involve a discussion of policies that limit access to open space areas in this vicinity.

Local and Regional Trends

The following information is based on public outreach findings and observed trends in indoor facility development and programming.

- *Focus Groups:* Participants noted that the following would be welcome additions to the existing system:
 - More senior centers in northern Irvine (Trabuco/Jeffrey area)

Needs Assessment

- A gymnasium that could house a variety of indoor sports currently not well-supported within the City, such as volleyball, indoor basketball, gymnastics, futsal (indoor soccer) and badminton
 - Increased daycare facilities
 - Festival and events venues with adequate utility and support infrastructure
 - Nature center in northern Irvine
 - Outdoor amphitheatre space
 - Multipurpose space or community theater for the creative arts, including dance, theatre and other performances
 - Flexible, inclusive indoor space equipped with appropriate technology to support meetings and programs
 - Community centers with multipurpose rooms
- *Stakeholder Interviews:* Stakeholders mentioned building a flexible gymnasium for all ages that can accommodate activities such as basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, badminton, futsal, gymnastics etc. Stakeholders also wanted to ensure that gymnasiums provide programming for all ages and experience levels. They also emphasized that new gymnasiums should be centrally located in a neighborhood.
 - Stakeholders also mentioned need for additional staff at community centers. They asked for additional facilities that provide space for various cultural activities, community groups, non-profits and a centralized visitor center. Planned spaces for teenagers, unprogrammed afterschool space for children, a nature center in the northern portion and childcare facilities in newly developed areas of the City were also mentioned.
 - Expanding programs, services and activities for all ages, but especially for seniors and people with disabilities, was discussed. Stakeholders mentioned increased needs for senior/older adult services in newer areas of the City, as well as a desire for continued improvements to existing senior facilities.
- *Mapita:* For some sites, such as Heritage Community Park, access to amenities or facilities such as community centers and arts centers was cited as a key reason for picking a favorite or most frequented park.
- *Intercept Survey:* Respondents selected indoor gymnasium and fitness spaces as the second most popular choice after trails when they were asked which types of facilities they would like to see more of in Irvine.

Needs Summary

- *Webpage Emailed Feedback:* There was a comment on expanding the Lakeview Senior Center Billiard Room to make additional space for pool tables given the increase in senior population in that part of Irvine. Some people expressed interest in joining the Lakeview Senior Center Listserv to get more information on events, facility use and the senior facilities programming. There was a comment that proposed constructing a multi-sport indoor recreational facility with an indoor velodrome (250 meter), volleyball and basketball courts and a 400 meter running track on the upper level. This participant also suggested adding a few weight rooms, yoga/gymnastic area with shower and food services to this indoor recreational facility.
- *Sports/Aquatics Online Questionnaire:* Responses suggested more indoor facilities for gymnastics, basketball and volleyball are needed to meet the anticipated demand now and in the next five years. There was a suggestion to add these facilities to Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park.
- *Community Center Development Trends:* Indoor facilities are major investments. Current industry trends and best practices favor the development of larger community centers, greater than 40,000 square feet in size, to create efficiencies in staffing, utilities and operations. These facilities typically include multi-purpose space that is suitable for use by not only a variety of age and interest groups, but also for fitness classes and other uses.
- *Senior Center Development Trends:* In many communities, space for older adults and seniors is incorporated into community centers, rather than provided at stand-alone senior centers. This has been seen as an effective method of serving active seniors who benefit from the shared fitness and social spaces more common in larger recreation facilities. Additionally, many aging Baby Boomers prefer to use multigenerational facilities rather than dedicated facilities for “seniors.”

Indoor Park Facility Findings and Needs

- *Needs for additional gymnasias could be met through a new model of community center development:* The City needs additional space for community centers and gymnasias to meet 2025 standards. Current trends and best practices favor the development of large, multi-purpose recreation and community centers that include gymnasias and other types of fitness space as yet one of many amenities. Community outreach suggests that exercise, health and fitness are among the community’s top priorities, yet there is limited public indoor fitness and gym space, and what exists is shared with schools. Gym access would be improved by

building the two planned gymnasias and incorporating gymnasium and/or fitness space into other existing community centers. The new gymnasium/community center proposed for Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial Park could serve as a model for this new type of facility.

- *IUSD joint-use agreements for high school gymnasium space need to be maintained and enhanced:* Given the lack of existing public gymnasias, the use of school facilities is important—even if schools limit access to select after-hours use. As east Irvine develops, a joint use agreement with Portola High School will be needed to serve this area.
- *More indoor space is needed for seniors, but not necessarily at senior centers:* The City exceeds its standards for senior centers. However, Irvine’s senior and older adult population is growing rapidly. Public outreach comments suggest additional senior space is needed. A new senior center is planned for Trabuco Community Park. Given trends favoring the development of multi-use community centers, the City may also address needs for more active seniors by designing future community centers as highly accessible facilities that have space for senior programs, health and fitness.
- *Consider market needs for addressing cultural and fine arts in one center:* The City needs additional art center space and currently supports fine arts alone. In addition to the fine arts, public outreach findings note a desire for space for performing arts activities, events and programs. While the City currently provides a few small outdoor amphitheaters, an indoor venue could provide enhanced programming opportunities for both fine and cultural arts. A market, financial feasibility and programming study would be needed to further evaluate whether a new theater venue would be needed by 2025.
- *Design more multi-purpose, flexible indoor spaces:* A common theme from the various public engagement events was the need for more multi-purpose indoor spaces that could house a variety of programs, serve multiple age, interest and skill level groups, and even provide indoor gym or fitness space. This approach deviates from the current indoor facility model in Irvine, where each building is dedicated to a specific use.
- *Expand indoor/outdoor programming space for nature interpretation:* Community outreach findings show a strong community interest in nature-based recreation, interpretive programs, and access to open space areas. The City is responding by planning the construction of the Quail Hill Wilderness Center. East Irvine lacks this

type of programming space. There may be opportunities to consider future nature education at the planned Gateway Community Park, Portola Community Park or the Orchard Hills Trailhead, such as indoor or outdoor classrooms. Connectivity to trails and open space areas would support this type of facility; however, public access is limited in open space areas in north and east Irvine.

- *Create a long-term strategy to refresh aging facilities:* Several existing centers are older, showing wear and dated design. Renovations may be needed in the future to sustain and maximize use for programming.¹² Programming staff should be involved in discussions regarding facility design and renovation to ensure to the best degree possible that programming space and support amenities such as storage rooms, check-in desks, restrooms and facility technology are sufficient to address programming needs over the next 20 to 30 years. The newly renovated, LEED Gold certified Northwood Community Center and new facility at Cypress Community Park are examples of newer facilities designed for long-term use.
- *Locate specialized facilities at community parks, distributed across the community for equitable access:* Indoor facilities are typically most successful when paired with other types of recreation amenities to encourage synergies of indoor/outdoor programming. In order to accommodate an indoor facility, parks must have a large area of unprogrammed and/or underutilized space. Indoor facilities are best situated at community parks, though larger neighborhood parks may also be able to accommodate smaller facilities.

SWIMMING POOLS

Various types of recreational and competitive pools are currently provided by the City, IUSD and private entities. The City provides two 50-meter competitive pools at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center (WAC), plus a third smaller pool. The two competitive pools are currently maintained by the City, although construction of one was funded by IUSD. There is also a 50-meter outdoor pool at Northwood High School (NHS) that was constructed by IUSD and is maintained by the City. The pool is jointly programmed. Homeowners Associations provide pools for leisure and

¹² Separate from this planning process, a facilities assessment is being conducted to evaluate long-term facility condition and renovation needs.

recreational swimming, some of which are also used for swim team practices and competitions.

Public Pool Standards

For public pools, standards are based on the provision of 50-meter pools only. The City also established standards for private pools, which are not addressed in this report.

Table 8: Swimming Pool Standards and Needs (2015 and 2025)

Swimming Pool Type	Pool Standard (Facility/Population) ¹³	City Responsibility (% of City Facilities Needed to Meet Standard)	Total # of Existing City Pool Facilities	Total # of City Pool Facilities Needed	
				2015	2025
50-meter competition	1 / 100,000	100%	2	2	3

Note: The City owns two existing pools. A joint use agreement provides partial use of a third pool.

As shown in Table 8, the City is meeting its 2014 draft standard. A joint-use agreement with IUSD to schedule programs at NHS Aquatic Center during designated hours partially satisfies future needs for a third pool facility by 2025.

Swimming Pool Access

Map 8: Access to Swimming Pools illustrates the areas served by existing swimming pools at different travel distances: ½ to two miles for public competitive pools and ¼ to ½ mile for private pools. This includes access to pools operated by the City, IUSD and private Homeowners Associations.

¹³ The City is in the process of updating its facility standards. The 2014 draft standards were used in this analysis.

For legibility, some parks are noted by numbers on the map. These reference numbers are listed below:

1 Neighborhood Parks

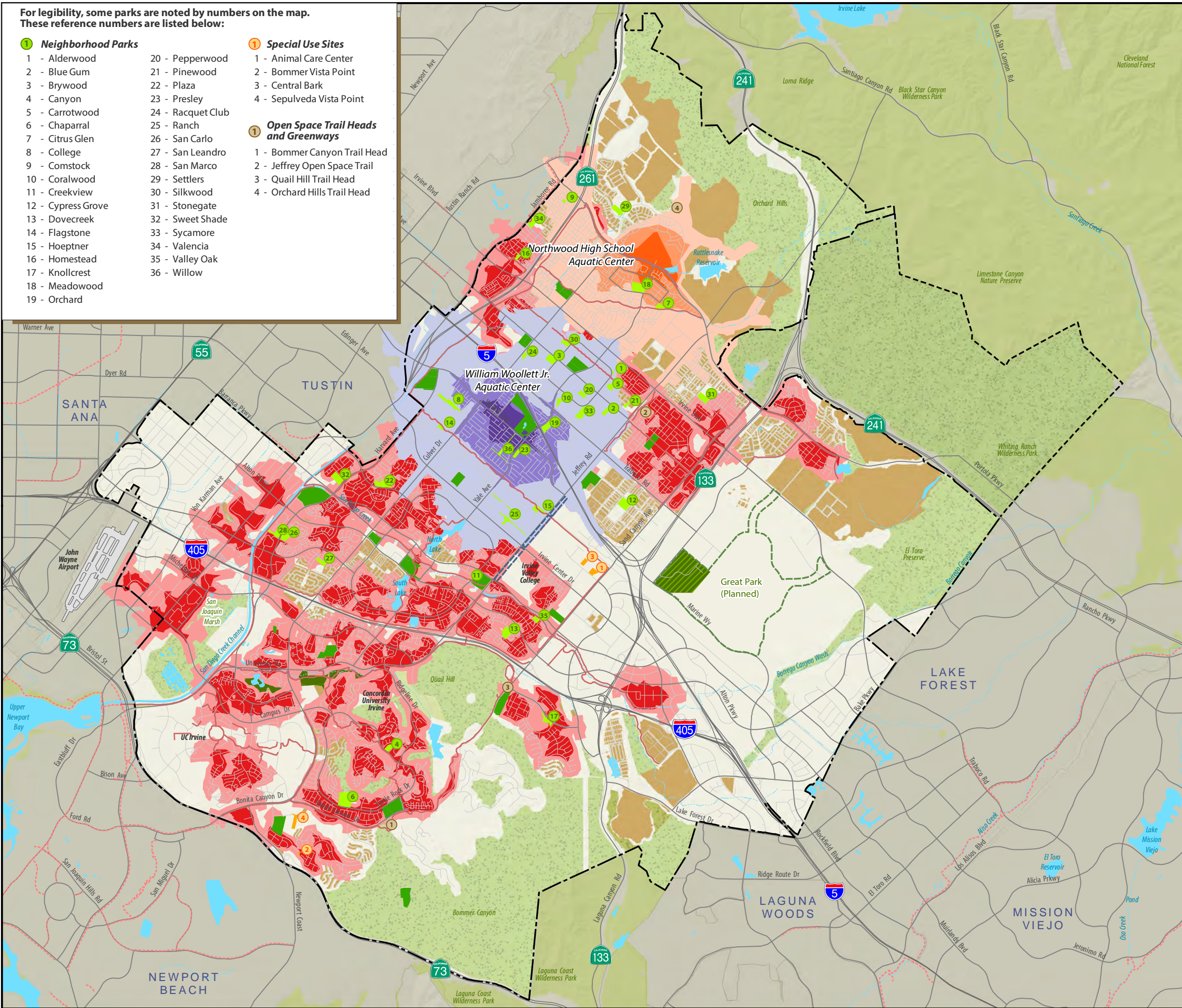
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Alderwood | 20 - Pepperwood |
| 2 - Blue Gum | 21 - Pinewood |
| 3 - Brywood | 22 - Plaza |
| 4 - Canyon | 23 - Presley |
| 5 - Carrotwood | 24 - Racquet Club |
| 6 - Chaparral | 25 - Ranch |
| 7 - Citrus Glen | 26 - San Carlo |
| 8 - College | 27 - San Leandro |
| 9 - Comstock | 28 - San Marco |
| 10 - Coralwood | 29 - Settlers |
| 11 - Creekview | 30 - Silkwood |
| 12 - Cypress Grove | 31 - Stonegate |
| 13 - Dovecreek | 32 - Sweet Shade |
| 14 - Flagstone | 33 - Sycamore |
| 15 - Hoeptner | 34 - Valencia |
| 16 - Homestead | 35 - Valley Oak |
| 17 - Knollcrest | 36 - Willow |
| 18 - Meadowood | |
| 19 - Orchard | |

1 Special Use Sites

- 1 - Animal Care Center
- 2 - Bommer Vista Point
- 3 - Central Bark
- 4 - Sepulveda Vista Point

1 Open Space Trail Heads and Greenways

- 1 - Bommer Canyon Trail Head
- 2 - Jeffrey Open Space Trail
- 3 - Quail Hill Trail Head
- 4 - Orchard Hills Trail Head



IRVINE PARKS AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Map 8: Access to Swimming Pools

Service Areas

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Woollett Pool | Northwood High School |
| 1/2 mile | 1/2 mile |
| 1 mile | 1 mile |
| 2 miles | 2 miles |
- Private Pools
- 1/4 mile
 - 1/2 mile

Planned Park and Recreation Facilities

- Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST) - Planned
- Great Park - Planned

Irvine Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites (Vistas and Facilities)

Other Park and Facility Providers

- Orange County Great Park
- William R. Mason Regional Park

Open Space

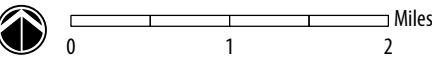
- Irvine Open Space
- Surrounding Open Space

Bike Paths

- Irvine Class I Bike Paths
- Other Class I Bike Paths

Base Map Features

- Irvine City Boundary
- Irvine Sphere of Influence
- Major Streets
- Creeks/Drainage Channels
- Residential Lands
- Water Bodies



August 2015
Sources: City of Irvine, OCTA and OC Parks.

KEY FINDINGS

- *Competitive swimming opportunities are well-supported in the north central part of the City:* While WAC and NHS Aquatic Center attract people from greater distances, both are located in the north-central part of the City.
- *Private pools are well distributed to meet leisure swimming needs:* Smaller private pools, which attract residents from nearby neighborhoods, are well distributed across the community. A few existing residential areas lack these nearby swimming opportunities, such as the neighborhoods around Cypress Village and Cypress Grove parks and near Woodbridge Community Park.
- *Private pools will be needed to serve new residential areas:* Most existing neighborhoods have access to private pools. As the community grows, new residential areas will also need nearby swimming opportunities, as per the City's guidelines. The City can facilitate access to new recreational swimming opportunities by continuing to work with developers to ensure the provision of private pools.
- *The City should target unserved areas for the development of a new competitive pool:* When a new competitive pool is developed, access would be enhanced by locating a new facility in the southern part of the City.

Local and Regional Trends

Trends related to swimming are noted based on public outreach findings and observed trends in sports facility development and programming.

- *Focus Groups:* Participants noted a variety of park amenities, programs and recreational facilities that would be welcome additions to the existing system. The list below represents a summary of all ideas related to aquatic centers:
 - Develop an additional aquatic center or water park with amenities that are attractive to children and youth
 - Ensure that a new facility includes a regulation-size pool
 - Reduce capacity stress on the WAC complex
 - Expand the Northwood aquatic facility to accommodate swim events
 - Consider a water park with slides and a lazy river
 - Improve ADA access to pools and other facilities

- *Survey:* Swimming was reported as the top recreation activity for 41 percent of youth based on frequency of participation and was in the top five reported activities for adults. Only two percent of respondents indicated that more swimming pools are the change they would most like to see in Irvine.
- *Trends in Regional Pool Development:* Where a suitable market exists, industry trends suggest that large aquatic facilities designed to serve an entire city or region tend to be more successful. These facilities typically contain an expansive recreational pool and they may also have a pool to support competitive swimming. Regional aquatic facilities are often developed through a partnership with other organizations or the private sector. This type of facility should be located in a regional park or as a stand-alone facility that is easily accessible from a major arterial and provides sufficient parking. A common standard for this type of use is one facility per 250,000 people. Regional-scale pools are able to attract and draw larger crowds and people tend to come from a further distance and stay longer. This translates into the potential to sell more admissions and increase revenues to offset operational costs.
- *Leisure Pool Trends:* Even with strong rates of swimming participation, a nationwide trend has seen swimming shift from an activity that is oriented around competitive aquatics with deeper and colder water to a more recreational approach that emphasizes shallow, warm water, socialization and interactive play. The idea of incorporating slides, current channels or lazy rivers, fountains, zero-depth entries and other water features into pool designs has proven to be extremely popular for recreational users. Leisure pools appeal to youth, families and increasingly seniors who prefer the warmer water pools for swimming and low impact aqua fitness programs.
- *Core Aquatic Programs:* Despite the recent emphasis on recreational swimming, the more traditional aspects of aquatics remain a part of most aquatic centers. Such programs include swim lessons, water safety instruction, lap swimming, competitive swimming, water polo, diving and aqua fitness.
- *Lower-cost Spraygrounds:* The provision of water play opportunities are increasing. Spraygrounds or splash pad systems designed for water recirculation use significantly less water than flow-through systems, making these facilities a viable respite for community members during drought years. Unlike a wading pool there is no standing water so these features provide a fun yet safe environment

where drowning is not a concern and lifeguards are not necessary. They are less expensive to build and operate than traditional neighborhood pools.

Swimming Pool Needs

- *Pool needs should be studied further:* City standards call for an additional 50-meter competitive pool in 2025. The City should study in more detail what type and scale of facility is needed. Given the operational costs of such a facility, the City should conduct a financial feasibility, market and operations study to evaluate different types of swimming options and services. Given the national prominence of aquatics events in Irvine, the City could consider a permanent national or international venue for aquatics events, so that temporary support facilities do not have to be added to WAC to meet this need. On the other hand, given community demands for larger-scale recreational swimming opportunities, the City could consider a 50-meter pool as part of an indoor/outdoor swimming complex with leisure swimming options, room rentals for parties, concessions, reservable cabanas, event support facilities for dive-in movies and other programs, and similar revenue-generating features to offset operational costs.
- *The role of the City in supporting recreational swimming should be defined:* Private pools currently address most needs for leisure or recreational swimming. While there are neighborhoods that do not have pools, the City is not expected to fill these gaps. While the City does not have standards for recreation and leisure swimming, it does play an important role in meeting recreational swimming needs. WAC includes three pools, with the third pool supporting recreation swim opportunities such as those noted in the side bar.¹⁴ Additional programming and lessons are offered at NHS. However, staff report that the majority of pool time is currently taken for lessons and lap swimming, leaving little time for open swim and events. In

WAC and NHS Recreational Programming

- Aqua zumba
- Camps
- Diving & polo
- Health & safety
- Lap swim
- Learn-to-swim
- Parties
- Rec swim
- Senior splash
- Water aerobics

¹⁴ Source: City of Irvine. Aquatics Participation Data 2007-2013.

conjunction with the development of a competitive pool, City needs for recreational swimming and programming should be addressed.

- *Parking management needs to be addressed:* WAC is located at the highly popular Heritage Park, which also includes a community center, fine arts center, child resource center, youth program center, amphitheater, water spray feature, six sports fields, the City's largest tennis complex and other amenities and facilities. It is also located next to a high school. The site lacks sufficient parking for aquatics and the problem is exacerbated during high-use periods for other facilities. A parking plan is needed for this site. A new pool should be situated on an arterial at an accessible site without so many competing uses that pose a parking problem.
- *Additional water play opportunities are needed:* In addition to swimming, public feedback included many suggestions for water play areas and water parks, which are especially popular in Southern California during the summer. These could be addressed in conjunction with needs for a new swimming pool or separately as community park amenities. Irvine's park system includes one small spray feature at Heritage Park, and it is often named as one of the best in Orange County. Unfortunately, it is not a recirculating system and might be shut down for summer 2015 due to current water restrictions. A recirculating system at this splash pad is needed. Parks such as Valencia, Las Lomas or Northwood appear to have capacity to add a splash pad if the opportunity arises.

OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Other non-athletic outdoor facilities include playgrounds, disc golf courses, dog parks, skate parks, nature trails, fitness par courses, amphitheaters and bike parks. These facilities are provided by the City and, in some cases, within private parks and regional parks such as the Orange County Great Park and William R. Mason Regional Park.

Facility Standards

The City does not have standards for most types of specialized outdoor facilities. Its standard for playgrounds, noted in Table 9, provides different requirements for playground square footage inside and outside Planning Area 36, which is the Irvine Business Complex.

Table 9: Playground Standards and Needs (2015 and 2025)

Facility Type	Standard (square feet of children's playground/ ¹⁵ population)	City Responsibility (% of City Facilities Needed to Meet Standard)	Total Square Feet of Existing City Children's Playground	Total Square Feet of City Children's Playground Needed	
				2015	2025
Children's playground	1.8 s.f. / person outside of Planning Area 36 1.2 s.f. / Person in Planning Area 36	100%	Data not available ⁽¹⁾	258,094 s.f.	317,998 s.f.

Note: (1) The City's Park and Facility Inventory and Park Play Equipment Inventory does not include square footage.

The City of Irvine provides playgrounds in 32 neighborhood and 12 community parks. It has planned playgrounds for three new community parks and two new neighborhood parks. The City is also in the process of renovating the Adventure Playground at University Park, with an anticipated completion date of November 2015. As noted in Section IV of this document, the City continues to invest in playgrounds and update these on a regular basis.

Facility Access

An access analysis was not conducted for non-athletic outdoor recreation facilities because their distribution does not conform to other facility patterns. However, equity in dispersal is an important consideration in identifying new locations for facility development. The numbers of facilities provided and their service area distance will vary depending on the uniqueness of the facility. Facilities typically found in neighborhood parks, such as playgrounds, are typically provided within ¼ or ½ mile

¹⁵ The City is in the process of updating its facility standards. The 2014 draft standards were used in this analysis.

of most residents. Other facilities may attract residents in several villages, Citywide, or even regionally depending on their size, scale, and availability of support amenities such as parking.

Local and Regional Trends

The following information is based on public outreach findings and observed trends in facility development and programming.

- *Focus Groups:* Participants expressed a desire for space designated for self-directed, drop-in, informal play and casual recreation opportunities. Three categories of non-traditional park spaces were suggested: passive recreation space for activities such as yoga, Tai Chi, sitting and socializing, theater and festival spaces, and interactive play opportunities for children. Other desired amenities include dog parks, community gardens and a bicycle park. A Disc Golf Task Force Focus Group also met to identify a suitable location for an adequate disc golf course.
- *Stakeholder Interviews:* Throughout the stakeholder interviews, participants noted their desire for community gardens, bike and skate parks and spaces for unprogrammed activities. Increased trail access to open space, loop trails and trails connected to open space areas were also mentioned frequently.
- *Mapita:* Although the Mapita survey focused on the City's developed parks, participants frequently emphasized access to natural areas and trails as a prominent part of their park experience in Irvine. When asked which park facility elements they would like to see more of, respondents most frequently selected nature trails as the top option.
- *Intercept Survey:* Many respondents indicated that access to trails and more challenging activities would make their park experience more enjoyable. Tai Chi was written in by a participant and subsequently also received strong support from other intercept participants.
- *Webpage Emailed Feedback:* Increased access to trails accounted for the most common response of all comments emailed to the City. Comments included improving access to trails in open space areas and multi-purpose trails for biking. Respondents also noted their desire that additional trails be constructed to provide more trail-related recreation opportunities.

Needs Summary

- *Survey*: When asked to prioritize potential projects for completion, 70 percent of respondents identified additional multipurpose facilities for active and passive uses as a high or medium priority. Similarly, 72 percent identified enhanced play experiences for children as a high or medium priority.
- *Community Workshop*: A variety of responses at activity stations and in a Visual Preferences Survey noted preferences for the following:
 - Space for emerging sports and activities that are gaining in popularity, such as pickleball
 - Flexible park spaces that adapt to a range of uses beyond sports, such as movies, art, concerts, etc.
 - Better access to parks, facilities and open space areas to make recreation experiences more enjoyable.
 - More nature trails and a mix of both hard and soft-surfaced trails
 - Different types of play opportunities
 - Traditional dog parks as well as dog runs
 - Informal, multipurpose event and programming space
 - Park landscaping that mixed natural features with more manicured turf areas
- *Other Outdoor Recreation Trends*: Along with feedback from outreach activities, there are several outdoor recreation trends that could impact the use of parks and recreation facilities in Irvine. Overall, outdoor recreation activities have some of highest participation rates across the country.¹⁶
 - *Dog Parks*: From 2005 to 2010, the number of dog parks in the 100 largest cities in the United States increased 34 percent.¹⁷
 - *Play Areas*: A large body of research supports the importance of play for children.¹⁸ Places to play support physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing. Nature play areas have become a popular addition in

¹⁶ Outdoor Industry Association. The Outdoor Recreation Economy Report. 2012. Sports and Fitness Industry Association Topline Report. 2013.

¹⁷ NRPA. Parks & Recreation Magazine. May 2013: 22.

¹⁸ What Is Play and Why Is It Important? Playwales.org. November, 2014.

park systems, allowing children to connect, interact, learn and play in a natural setting.

- *Natural Surface Trails:* Across the country, trail related activities such as running, jogging and bicycling are the most popular outdoor activities for youth and adults.¹⁹
- *Bike Skills Areas:* Bike skills areas, pump tracks and natural surface trails are popular additions to parks, often accommodating off-street biking in constrained spaces.²⁰
- *Skate Parks:* Among youth, skateboarding has the highest frequency of participation nationally.²¹

Park Facility Needs

- *Updated standards are needed for children's playgrounds to encourage diverse and unique play opportunities:* Many agencies provide design guidelines for play areas requiring all neighborhood parks and community parks to include play elements. There may be additional guidelines for community parks to include thematic play, adventure play, water play, nature play or some other type of unique play experiences. Of the 12 City parks without playgrounds, none are ideal to add a play area. However, eight community parks and 16 neighborhood parks have capacity to enhance play opportunities when playgrounds are replaced. (See Appendix D for sites where adding or enhancing playgrounds is advisable). Standards can be updated to reflect the desired diversity rather than size or square footage of play areas.
- *Increased trail access and opportunities are needed:* One of the recurring themes during the public outreach process was the need for additional or better access to trails. While the City's *Bicycle Transportation Plan* (2011) identifies needs for on-street and off-street bikeways, other types of trails are needed. Trail needs include more open space trails, loop trails or nature trails in community parks, trail networks connecting the City's Northern and Southern Open Spaces, multi-purpose trails for recreation, plus enhanced access to existing local and regional

¹⁹ Outdoor Foundation. Participation Topline Report. 2014

²⁰ Outdoor Foundation. Participation Topline Report. 2014

²¹ Outdoor Foundation. Participation Topline Report. 2014

Needs Summary

trails. While equestrian trails are provided in Irvine, the public demand for trails focused more on everyday use by walkers, joggers, hikers, bicyclists and similar recreation users. More trailheads and trail support amenities, such as signage, restrooms and parking may be needed to improve access to open space where trailhead development and trail use does not conflict with resource protection goals.

- *Additional amenities and facilities are needed to connect residents to nature, open space and the outdoors:* As noted in outreach activities, there is a need for parks with more natural landscaping, plus amenities and facilities that would connect people to nature. For example, the abundance of birds and butterflies at Sycamore Park was noted during the Park Assessment. Interpretive signage describing them or viewing stations at this site would help connect residents to nature. Homestead would be a good setting for a native garden, community garden or climbing boulders. The playable creek at Quail Hill Park is an example of an existing feature that provides a unique natural-looking recreation opportunity and park experience.
- *A new disc golf course is needed:* As noted in the Park Evaluation, the existing disc golf course at Deerfield Park is in satisfactory condition, receiving a rating of “3” in the Park Assessment.. The disc golf signs are showing wear, and a new location is needed to avoid conflicts in site use. Members of the Disc Golf Task Force Focus Group noted that the City has an opportunity to provide a higher level of service by creating a hybrid course that caters to a level between a championship and recreational course. Site needs include rough terrain or natural course obstacles, plus support amenities such as shade, lighting, seating, restrooms, signage and parking.
- *More dog parks are needed:* Irvine currently has one dog park in a centralized location, associated with the City’s Animal Care Center. According to community outreach, another dog park or several smaller dog runs are needed in dispersed locations, ideally within community parks, to better meet dog-walking needs and serve residents who recreate with their pets.
- *Increase the diversity of experiences:* As noted in Section IV (Park Evaluation), parks tend to repeat a similar mix of recreation options. A variety of recreation facilities are needed to expand and enhance recreation opportunities. These include the trending athletic facilities described previously and additional facilities such as the following:
 - Tai chi

Needs Assessment

- Skate park or skate spots
- Outdoor exercise equipment or fitness par courses
- Community gardens
- Bike park or pump track
- Events venue or multi-purpose events space
- Nature interpretation signage and venues
- *Maintain the condition of all outdoor park facilities:* The Park Assessment noted that most of the City's outdoor facilities were in above-average condition (see Appendix D). Exceptions are the disc golf course and fitness par courses, which were in below-average to satisfactory condition and in need of updating and minor repairs. Some of the more unique outdoor facilities may receive higher use that increases wear and tear. More attention to maintenance may be needed at these sites.

VI. NEXT STEPS

Using the City's park standards as a measuring stick, this document has assessed the extent to which public parks and park facilities are meeting, and will continue to meet, the recreational needs of Irvine residents. In addition to comparing existing park facilities against City standards, this document has integrated commentary on national and regional recreation trends as well as feedback collected during an extensive community engagement process.

As evidenced by the findings in this document, further discussion may be needed to determine whether the City's park standards continue to align with community recreation needs. Broader policy questions like these will be addressed in the final Master Plan, supplemented by system-wide and site-specific recommendations for existing parks and park facilities. The findings and suggestions made in this Needs Assessment will help guide City decision-makers as they work to identify priority projects for Irvine's parks and park facilities over the coming decade.



Appendix A:

Parks and Park Facilities Inventory

Table A-1: Irvine Parks and Park Facility Inventory by Classification

CITY PARKS	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES							OTHER		NOTES		
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbeques	Electrical Outlets	Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit	Adjacent to School			
Community Parks																																						
Bommer Canyon	15.0				1 u								1	1		•	1						1	•	•			2	1			25	1	•			Creek, restricted hours, gated; Cookhouse	
Bill Barber Marine Corp Memorial	48.0	4	3	4 u				6				2	1	1			6						1	•				5	17	2		24	4	•	•r		Tennis office, Roller Hockey Facility	
Cypress	17.9	2	1				1	3				1	1					1									1	5			8	6	•					
David Sills Lower Peters Canyon	10.3		1					8				1															1	2			8	2						
Deerfield	10.1				2	1	1		4	2			2	1			1	1									1	5		1	11	4	•	•r	•	Community Center		
Harvard	26.9	7	4	4 u													1	1					•				2	8	1		10	5	•			Harvard Sk8 Park (Skate Park), Community Center		
Heritage	36.5	3 1bu	3		1 u			3 1hu	12	2		3	2	1	1	1		1	1			1	2				4	11			29	22		•r	•	Community Center, Child Resource Center, Athletic Building, Fine Arts Center, Youth Program Center, William Woollet Jr. Aquatics Center		
Hicks Canyon	16.7	2	2									1	1				2						•				1	3	1		6	4	•					
Las Lomas	18.3	2	2					2	2	1 u			2	1			2	1									1	6	1		14	7			•	Community Center		
Mark Daily Athletic Fields	9.8	4 1b	2	2 u																			•				1	2					•					
Mike Ward - Woodbridge	22.0				1 u			2		4	1				1	•	1			1			•				3	2			4	2	•	•r		Lakeview Senior Center, Adult Day Health Care Services Center		
Northwood	17.7	2 1bu	2 u				1	2 hu	2	2 u	1		1	1			2	1									3	4			14	4	•	•r		1/2 mile track, Community Center		
Oak Creek	11.7	1 bu	2									2					1										1	2			8	8	•					
Quail Hill	16.0	2	3					2									1						•				1	4			3	2	•			Trail crossing to stage area		
Rancho San Joaquin	2.1																			1		1				1	1					1	•			Rancho Senior Center, Historical Society Museum		
Turtle Rock	25.1	1 bu			1				4			3	1	1			1	1	1				•	•			2	5			28	12	•	•r		Creek, Turtle Rock Community Center, Turtle Rock Nature Center		
University	16.3	1	3		2			1 h	4	3			2	1			3	1									1	3			12	2	•		•	Adventure Playground, Community Center		
Windrow	18.9	2	1	4 u				1 h															•				1	3	1		4		•					
Woodbury	10.7	2	1 u					2					2	1			3	1					•				1	2			11	4	•	•r	•	Community Center		
Community Parks Subtotal	350.0	35	30	14	8	1	2	16	45	14	2	3	21	11	5	1	2	26	9	1	2	1	5	10	2	0	33	86	6	1	219	90	15	7	5			
Neighborhood Parks																																						
Alderwood	0.7													1														1			3			•				
Blue Gum	2.7				1 u								1	1														1			2	3		•				
Brywood	6.0	2 u	1 u										1	1			1											1		1	7	6			•			
Canyon	3.4							1 hu					1	1													1	1			3	2		•				
Carrotwood	3.1		1 u		1 u			1 u					1	1			1 u											1				1						
Chaparral	9.6						1						2	1									•					1			6	6						
Citrusglen	3.1								4				1	1			1						•				1	1			4	2	•	•				
College	7.6				1 u								1	1														1			10	7		•	•			
Comstock	1.0							1 u					1	1			1										1	1			3	2	•	•				
Coralwood	2.7												1	1														1			6	2		•	•			
Creekview	0.7																						•					1			3							
Dovecreek	7.8	2 u	1 u										1				1						•				1	3			4	2	•		•			
Flagstone	2.3													1			1						•					1			7	2		•				
Hoepfner	2.2								2				1	1									•					2						•				
Homestead	2.1								3				1	1			1						•				1	3			4		•	•				
Knollcrest	5.0								2				2				1										1	4			4	2	•	•				
Meadowood	10.1	2 u	1 u		1			1 u					1	1			1										1	1			8	2	•		•			

CITY PARKS	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES							OTHER		NOTES			
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbeques	Electrical Outlets	Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit	Adjacent to School			
Orchard	6.0	1 ^u	1 ^u					2				2	1				1									1	1			8	3							
Pepperwood	3.1											1	1														1				4		•					
Pinewood	2.1											2	1				1										1				6	4		•				
Plaza	7.7	1 ^u	1 ^u									1					1									1	2			11	6	•		•				
Presley	2.9				1							2	1				2										2			6	6		•	•				
Racquet Club	2.2								2			1	1														1			2	1		•					
Ranch	8.7											1	1				1														2		•					
San Carlo	6.0								2			1	1				2										1			12	5		•	•				
San Leandro	4.0	2 ^{1u 1bu}	1 ^u									2	1				1									1	1			9	2			•				
San Marco	5.1							1 ^u				1	1				1							•			1	2			6	2		•				
Settlers	6.0		1 ^u		1 ^u			2				1	1				1										1	2			6	3	•		•			
Silkwood	3.9				1 ^u							1	1											•				1			4	1		•				
Stonegate	6.0	1 ^u	1 ^u		1 ^u			2	2			2					1										1	4			6	2						
Sweet Shade	7.9							2 ^u				2	1				1	1	1								1	3			4	2	•	•			1/4 mile track, Community Center	
Sycamore	6.9											1	1				2										1			7	3		•					
Valencia	6.0		1 ^u									1	1				1							•			1	1			4	2	•	•	•			
Valley Oak	3.0							1 ^u	2			1	1				1							•			1	1			8	6	•	•				
Willows	3.6							1 ^u				1	1				2										2			5	2		•					
Neighborhood Parks Subtotal	161.2	11	10	0	8	0	1	15	19	0	0	0	40	30	0	0	0	28	1	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	16	52	0	1	178	95	11	24	11			
Special Use Sites																																						
Animal Care Center	5.0																					4				2	2									Cat building, 2 Dog kennel buildings, Building Number 13		
Bommer Vista Point	0.5																						•			1	1						•					
Central Bark Dog Park	2.8																									1	1									Off leash areas (large/small dog areas). Porta-potties. Dog drinking fountains.		
Sepulveda Vista Point	1.3																													3							Restricted hours, gated	
Special Use Sites Subtotal	9.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	4	0	0	3	0	1	0	0				
Totals for Park Facilities	520.8	46	40	14	16	1	3	31	64	14	2	3	61	41	5	1	2	54	10	1	2	1	9	22	2	0	53	142	6	2	400	185	27	31	16			

Revised 05/26/15

u Unlighted
h Half court only
b Backstop only
r Reservable

Table A-2: Regional Parks Inventory

Other Providers	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES										OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES							OTHER		NOTES			
		Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Batting Cages	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Nature Center	Senior Center	Fine Arts Center	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Outdoor Sinks	Picnic Tables	Barbeques	Electrical Outlets	Bounce Houses Allowed w/ permit		Adjacent to School		
Regional Parks																																						
Orange County Great Park	230.0		4					4					1	1	1	1					1	1														Gallery, Artist's studios, demonstration garden, farmer's market, Walkable Historic Timeline, Visitors Center, Great Park Balloon, Carousel, Special event space, Festival site		
William R Mason Regional Park	339.0	2					3		6				3	1	1	1	•	1						•	•	•	3					21					123 acre golf course	
Orange County Parks Subtotal	569.0	2	4	0	0	0	3	4	6	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals for Other Providers	569.0	2	4	0	0	0	3	4	6	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0		

Revised 05/22/15

u Unlighted
h Half court only
b Backstop only
r Reservable

Table A-3: Irvine Open Space Inventory

CITY OPEN SPACE	Developed Acreage	Undeveloped Acreage	Total Acreage	Developed Amenities & Facilities								Programming Opportunities			
				Hard-surface Trail	Soft-surface Trail	Interpretive signage	Trailhead	Picnic Tables	Shelter	Parking	Restroom	Guided Hikes	Self Guided Hikes	Nature interpretation	Environmental Education
Southern Open Space Preserve		1,880.5	1,880.5												
Bommer Canyon Trailhead	3.2		3.2		•		1				1	•	•	•	•
Quail Hill Trailhead	2.8		2.8		•		1	4			1	•	•	•	•
Northern Open Space Preserve		4,554.8	4,554.8												
Orchard Hills Trailhead	1.7		1.7		•		1	2		1	1	•		•	•
Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST)	35.5		35.5	•	•			4			1				
Turtle Rock Areas		75.7	75.7												
Totals for Open Space	43.2	6,511.0	6,554.2	1	4	0	3	10	0	1	4	3	2	3	3

Revised 5/22/15



Appendix B:

Private Park Case Studies



APPENDIX B: PRIVATE PARK CASE STUDIES

INTRODUCTION

Private parks are recreation facilities owned and maintained by private entities such as Homeowners Associations and apartment management companies. These facilities are not owned and maintained by the City, meaning that public access is typically limited. Private parks usually serve the immediate neighborhood, multi-family developments or Homeowners Associations of which they are a part. In Irvine, there are hundreds of private parks distributed throughout the City, ranging in a wide variety of sizes and providing an assortment of recreational amenities and facilities.

Although the City keeps track of the private park system through the development process, a complete inventory of all of the private parks was not available as of Spring 2015. To provide an understanding of the private parks in Irvine, including typical size and amenities, this appendix examines the inventory within three planning areas as case studies. The number of outdoor recreation facilities (e.g. pool, child play areas, picnic areas), park amenities (e.g., restrooms, shade structures), indoor facilities (e.g. fitness center, community center), athletic facilities (e.g. basketball or tennis courts) and trail facilities (e.g., trail access, soft and hard surface trails) are inventoried for each planning area.

The planning areas chosen illustrate the different range of private park offerings based on when the neighborhoods were built, the type of housing that was developed and where the planning area is located. The private park case study planning areas include Woodbridge (Planning Area 15), the Irvine Business Complex or IBC (Planning Area 36) and Lower Peters Canyon (Planning Area 4).

WOODBIDGE (PLANNING AREA 15)

Woodbridge (Planning Area 15) is centrally located in Irvine, surrounded by the neighborhoods of Westpark, El Camino Real, Oakcreek and University Park. It is bounded into a fairly neat rectangle by Interstate 405, Jeffrey Road, Irvine Center Drive and Culver Drive. San Diego Creek cuts through Woodbridge, creating two

separate residential areas. Each surrounds one of two large man-made lakes – North Lake and South Lake. Woodbridge’s Yale Loop creates a large, curving ring around the planning area connecting all of the neighborhoods and parks. The planning area is nearly entirely residential, with only a narrow band of centralized commercial shopping centers. The residential areas are generally single-family detached homes built between 1975 and the mid-1990s and overseen by a master Homeowners Association called the Woodbridge Village Association (WVA), which contains 33 smaller neighborhood-specific sub or maintenance associations.

Woodbridge is home to four elementary schools, two middle schools and Woodbridge High School. Though three large community parks lie toward the center of the planning area, Woodbridge has no neighborhood parks. It does however have 41 private parks that are spread fairly evenly and widely throughout the residential areas; all of these parks are maintained by the WVA. The parks are an average of two acres each, generally have a large open play area and contain a variety of standard features. There are 22 pools, 18 spas, 22 child play areas, nine volleyball courts and eight basketball courts.

Many of the parks maintained by the WVA present unique amenities, such as the two beach clubs: both feature a lagoon with sandy beaches for play and swimming, water slides, fire pits and docks with boat rentals. The lakes themselves are stocked with fish by the WVA, which allows residents to fish under strict guidelines and with a permit only. The WVA also maintains two tennis clubs and programs classes, leagues and tournaments, and operates a pro shop for its residents. Other programming run by the WVA includes yoga, water aerobics, dog obedience classes and a vehicle that provides games and activities for children age 12 and under. At the Woodbridge Community Center, the WVA offers Arts and Crafts classes, swap meets and special events such as Comedy Night and Parent’s Night Off.

Of the 185 features and amenities inventoried, over half (55 percent) were outdoor recreation facilities. The total acreage was quite high at 84.10 acres and the average acreage was 2.05 acres per park.



Woodbridge Lagoon (source: Coldwell Banker)



Woodbridge North Lake (source: Trulia)

IRVINE BUSINESS COMPLEX (PLANNING AREA 36)

The Irvine Business Complex or IBC (Planning Area 36) is on the western edge of Irvine, adjacent to the Cities of Santa Ana, Newport Beach, and Costa Mesa, as well

as John Wayne International Airport. The IBC has a combination of mixed-use, industrial, commercial and residential zoning. The residential areas are primarily high-density condos and apartments with no single-family detached homes. Most of the 15,000 housing units approved in the IBC have been entitled, but not all have yet been constructed. In fact, one-third of the private park plans that were reviewed for this case study were either in the planning or construction phases. There are currently no community parks, neighborhood parks or public schools in the planning area.

Though there may appear to be an extraordinarily high number of private parks, many of these are simply small spaces scattered across the same property. The average size of a private park within the IBC is lower than the average size in the other two planning areas examined, so although residents have access to a higher number of locations, each location is smaller and may accommodate fewer people and offer fewer amenities.



Camden Main and Jamboree apartments swimming pool (source: Camden Property Trust)

The private parks are generally located within compact complexes, behind closed doors or gates, and are not easily accessed by residents from nearby complexes.

The average acreage of a private park in the IBC is only 0.42 acres, the smallest of the three planning areas studied. Though the overall amount of area dedicated to private parks is relatively low, the overall number of amenities and facilities is higher in comparison to other private park amenities in other planning areas. Of the facilities and amenities offered by private parks in the IBC, less than half (41 percent) are outdoor recreation facilities, proportionally more than the other planning areas. Only six percent are athletic facilities. Private parks in this planning area have more indoor facilities and social space than in other planning areas. There are also some unique amenities that do not fall in any of the standard categories, such as numerous outdoor fireplaces, a few arcade-style game rooms, spin rooms, yoga rooms, steam rooms, massage rooms, a zen garden with tai chi area and a bowling alley.

LOWER PETERS CANYON (PLANNING AREA 4)

Lower Peters Canyon (Planning Area 4) is one of the northern-most areas of Irvine, bordering the City of Tustin and the Irvine neighborhoods of Orchard Hills, Northwood and Walnut. Though the area contains some commercial uses in the southwestern part of the planning area, it is primarily residential, consisting of single-family homes and some apartment complexes built mainly after 2000.

Lower Peters Canyon has a number of points of interest within it. The planning area contains two elementary schools as well as Beckman High School. It is home to two community parks: Hicks Canyon Community Park near Hicks Canyon Elementary School and Lower Peters Canyon Park adjacent to Beckman High School. Lower Peters Canyon is also home to three neighborhood parks: Valencia Park, Comstock Park and Homestead Park.

Overall, the facilities and amenities provided in Lower Peters Canyon are primarily outdoor recreation facilities. Of the 146 facilities and amenities catalogued, nearly half of these are outdoor recreation facilities (including pools, spas and children's play areas). The overall average acreage of private parks in Planning Area 4 is 0.78 acres and the overall total acreage is 30.61 acres.

Though there are a few small private parks within closed apartment complex gates, most of the private parks are situated in single-family home neighborhoods. In addition to calculating the grand totals for all parks in Lower Peters Canyon, private parks were also distinguished between those that are and are not associated with an

apartment complex. Those associated with an apartment complex are smaller but often contain more amenities. The private facilities within closed apartment complex gates tend to include a pool and spa area, a tot-lot and a small area of open space. These are often split into two to three separate areas on the grounds, each much less than one acre in size. The average size of a private park associated with an apartment complex is just 0.44 acres, compared to the average acreage throughout the Planning Area of 0.78 acres. While these parks are smaller, they typically have more amenities.

Private parks in single-family neighborhoods are larger, up to 3.54 acres for the largest and average 1.12 acres each. Though they take up more space, they do not necessarily have as many amenities. They nearly all have a large open play area and at least one shade structure. These private parks are concentrated on the eastern side of the planning area and are generally linked by walking paths including the Venta Spur paved trail that winds throughout the neighborhood.



*Swimming pool and clubhouse located at Somerset Apartments within Lower Peters Canyon
(source: Irvine Company Apartments)*

SUMMARY

Table B-1 provides an overview of the inventory information contained in Tables B-2 through B-5. All three planning areas have a large number of private parks with outdoor recreation facilities including pools, spas, child play areas and open play areas. They were, however, more limited in the number of athletic facilities, having mainly tennis courts and basketball courts.

There are also differences that can be seen between the three planning areas. Woodbridge contains the most private park acreage (84.10 acres) and has the largest average size parks (2.05 acres), as represented in Table B-1. The IBC contains by far the most indoor recreation facilities, having a substantially higher number of fitness centers and multi-use rooms, though the average acreage per private park (0.42 acres) is much lower than the other two planning areas examined.

Table B-1: Private Park Facilities Summary for PA 15, PA 36 and PA 4

Facilities and Amenities	Woodbridge (PA 15)		IBC (PA 36)		Lower Peters Canyon (PA 4)		Overall	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Outdoor Recreation Facilities	102	55%	164	41%	81	55%	347	48%
Park Amenities	40 ⁽²⁾	22%	121	31%	32	22%	193	27%
Indoor Facilities	0 ⁽¹⁾	0%	84	21%	21	14%	105	14%
Athletic Facilities	43	23%	23	6%	7	5%	73	10%
Trails Facilities	0	0%	4	1%	5	3%	9	1%
Total	185	100%	396	100%	146	100%	727	100%
Total Acreage	84.10		32.57		30.61		147.28	
Average Acreage	2.05		0.42		0.78		0.91	

Source: City of Irvine Community Development Department submitted park plans, Woodbridge Village Association Facilities Map <wva.org/Form/21440~80616/Amenities>

Notes: (1) Park amenities include restrooms, concession stands and shade structures

(2) Indoor facilities and restroom information not available

IBC's low average acreage and higher than average number of indoor facilities is likely connected to the fact that the private parks in this planning area are associated with large apartment complexes. On the other hand, Woodbridge's large average acreage is likely reflective of the fact that all of these parks are in single-family home neighborhoods. The Lower Peters Canyon area has a mixture of these types of private parks, which is reflected in the way its average acreage is between the other two planning areas investigated. It can be concluded that neighborhoods with more apartment complexes may have smaller private parks with more indoor facilities while neighborhoods consisting more of single-family homes may have larger private parks, while both will have access to a good number of the common features between these two types: pools, spas, child play areas and open play areas.

Table B-2: Private Parks and Park Facility Inventory for Planning Area 15

Source	Private Park Name	Built?	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES							OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							INDOOR FACILITIES						TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES			NOTES			
				Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Wading Pool	Spa	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Multi-Use Room	Kitchen	Fitness Center	Fine Arts Center	Gymnasium	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail		Restrooms	Concession Stand	Shade Structure
Planning Area 15 (Woodbridge)																																	
WVA website	Arbor Park	•	1.10											1																		*NOTE* List of amenities at WVA parks is incomplete and does not show numbers of amenities, only Yes/No if they have it, does not show indoor facilities*** • rentable facility (outside) The Woodbridge lakes are privately owned and are stocked and operated under a domesticated fish breeder's license. As such, fishing is restricted to registered residents who have been issued a WVA Fishing Permit, Fishing Regulations and Log Booklet. No fishing is allowed from the bridge, gazebos, docks or beach area.	
WVA website	Arrowhead Park	•	2.00	1 ^u			1						1	1																	•		
WVA website	Ashwood Pool/Park	•	2.00	1 ^u			1				1		1	1	1																•	rentable facility (inside)	
WVA website	Birdsong Park	•	2.00	1 ^u									1	1	1																•		
WVA website	Blue Lake Swim Club/Park	•	4.00				1				1		1	1	1																•		
WVA website	Bluejay Park	•	1.00											1	1																•		
WVA website	Briarglen Pool/Park	•	2.00	1 ^u							1		1		1																•		
WVA website	Brookside Pool/Park	•	0.60								1		1		1																•		
WVA website	Clearbrook Pool/Park	•	2.00											1	1																•	rentable facility (inside)	
WVA website	Cobblestone Park	•	2.00				1							1	1																•		
WVA website	Creeside Pool/Park	•	2.20											1	1																•	rentable facility (inside)	
WVA website	Crestbrook Park	•	2.00												1																•		
WVA website	Daybreak Park	•	2.00	1			1								1																		
WVA website	Echo Run Park	•	2.00											1	1																•		
Plan and WVA website	Fallbrook Park	•	2.00								1		2	1	1														1		•	splashpad	
WVA website	Fallingstar Pool	•	2.00								1		1																		•	rentable facility (inside)	
WVA website	Firwood Pool/Park	•	2.00								1			1	1																•	rentable facility (inside)	
WVA website	Lemongrass Pool	•	2.00								1																				•	rentable facility (inside)	

WVA website	Meadow Pool/Park	•	2.00							1			1	1																•	rentable facility (inside)					
WVA website	North Lake Beach Club	•	4.20	1						1			1		1															•	areas, swimming, muliple water slides, fire pits, boat docks, and boat rentals.					
WVA website	North Lake Gazebo	•	1.10												1															•	rentable facility (outside)					
WVA website	North Lake Tennis Club/Park	•	5.00					10					1		1															•						
WVA website	Pebblewood Park	•	0.70							1				1		1														•						
WVA website	Peppergrass Park	•	2.00											1																•						
WVA website	Sandpiper Park	•	0.50											1																						
WVA website	Shorebird Pool/Park	•	2.00	1 ^u							1		1	1	1															•	rentable facility (inside)					
WVA website	Smokestone Pool/Park	•	2.00	1 ^u							1		1		1		1													•	bocce ball court					
WVA website	South Lake Beach Club	•	4.50								1				1		1													•	areas, swimming, muliple water slides, fire pits, boat docks, and boat rentals.					
WVA website	South Lake Gazebo	•	0.60												1															•	rentable facility (outside)					
WVA website	South Lake Tennis Club	•	7.00					10							1															•						
WVA website	Springacre Park	•	2.00			1								1	1															•	rentable facility (outside)					
WVA website	Springbrook Park	•	1.30				1							1	1															•						
WVA website	Springvale Pool	•	1.00								1		1																	•						
WVA website	Stonecreek Swim Club/Park	•	2.00					1			1		1	1	1															•						
WVA website	Timber Run Pool	•	1.00				1	2			1		1																	•						
WVA website	Wildwood Pool/Park	•	2.00	1 ^u					1		1		1	1	1															•	rentable facility (inside)					
WVA website	Windjammer Pool/Park	•	2.00								1		1	1	1															•	rentable facility (inside)					
WVA website	Wintermist Pool/Park Retention Basin	•	1.70				1				1		1	1	1															•	rentable facility (inside), garden club					
WVA website	Woodflower Pool/Park	•	2.00								1		1	1	1															•						
WVA website	Woodpine Pool/Park	•	2.00								1			1	1															•	rentable facility (inside)					
WVA website	Woodspring Pool	•	0.60								1		1																	•						
Planning Area 15 Grand Totals			84.10	9	0	1	8	23	1	1	22	0	18	22	32	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	39					
Planning Area 15 Average Size			2.05																																	

u Unlighted
h Half court only
i Indoor

Table B-3: Private Parks and Park Facility Inventory for Planning Area 36

Source	Property Name	Private Park Name	Built?	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES							OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES			NOTES				
					Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Wading Pool	Spa	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Multi-Use Room	Kitchen	Fitness Center	Gymnasium	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail		Restrooms	Concession Stand	Shade Structure	
Planning Area 36 (IBC)																																		
Plan	Avalon Irvine	Courtyard A - Play Area	•	0.07									1	1																				
Plan	Avalon Irvine	Courtyard B - Outdoor Lounge	•	0.06																												seating with cushions		
Plan	Avalon Irvine	Courtyard C - Recreation Area	•	0.17									1	1							1										•	Bocce Court, game tables (4), "cabana" (second shade structure?)		
Plan	Avalon Irvine	Recreation Area	•	0.35								1	1															1		•				
Plan	Avalon Irvine (expansion)	Recreation Area	•	0.24								1	1							1	1							1		•				
Plan	Avenue One	Pool Area	•	0.34							1	1	1																		•			
Plan	Avenue One	Active Area	•	0.14										1			1															Bocce Court		
Plan	Avenue One	Recreation Area	•	0.10				1 ^{hi}												1	1	1						1						
Plan	Avenue One	Tot Lot Area	•	0.05									1	1																				
Plan	Avenue One	Active Area (Expansion)	•	0.11									1	1																	•	Putting Green		
Plan	Axis 2300	Recreation Area	•	0.28								1	1	1	1					1											•			
Plan	Calypso	Pool Area	•	0.22								1	2								1	1						1		•	"clubhouse" (shade structures = cabanas, 1080 sq feet of shade)			
Plan	Calypso	Meditation Area/Outdoor Grill Area	•	0.12										1											•					•	(so-called "nature trail" on plan) Tai Chi area, meditation mat			
Plan	Calypso	Tot Lot/Play Area	•	0.12									1												•					•	(so-called "nature trail" on plan)			
Plan	Camden Main & Jamboree	Main Rec Area	•	0.33								1	1																		•			
Plan	Camden Main & Jamboree	Tot Lot Courtyard Area	•	0.18										1																	•	showed two play structures, Google Earth shows one)		
Plan	Camden Main & Jamboree	Recreation Building	•	0.12																1	1	1						1			media room, billiards, cyber café, steam room, dry sauna, yoga room			
Plan	The Carlyle at Colton Plaza	Recreation Area	•	0.41								1	1		1																•	fire place		
Plan	The Carlyle at Colton Plaza	Community Building	•	0.05																1	1	1							1			media room		
Plan	Central Park West	Planning District A	•	0.33				1 ^h					1	1																	•			
Plan	Central Park West	Planning District B	Approved	0.33										2																	•			
Plan	Central Park West	Planning District C	Approved	0.66				1 ^u				1	1		1													1			(junior olympic plus wading pool)			
Plan	Central Park West	Planning District D	•	2.02	1							1	1	2		1	1				3	1	1					2		•	multipurpose plaza, "community building," yoga/aerobics room			
Plan	Central Park West	Planning District 7	•	0.16								1	1															1		•				
Plan	Charter Apartments	Recreation Area	•	2.65					1			2	1	1	2													1		•	"Recreation Building" called out with no specific amenities listed NOTE: property			
Plan	Granite Court	Recreation Area	•	0.11									1								1	1	1					1		•	fire pit			

Plan	Modera	Recreation Area	•	0.23								1	1							1	1	1						1	•	fire place	
Plan	Main Street Village	Recreation Area 1	•	0.44								1	1		1					3	1							2	•	"recreation room," fire place,	
Plan	Main Street Village	Recreation Area 2	•	0.22			1	1 ^{uh}				1	1	1	1	1													•	Earth Note: Seems to have more areas than the detail in the plan lists and the plan	
Plan	Marquee Park Place	Area 1	•	0.27								1	1	2	2					1	1	1			•			1		bocci court, shower, fire place, billiard room, media room, library	
Plan	The Metropolitan	Area 2	•	1.08			1					1	1	1	1						2	1						1	•	NOTE: plans provided very bad, contradictory, confusing, no map provided	
Plan	Villa Siena	Major Recreation Area	•	2.08								1	2		4					1	1	1						1	•	showers, aerobics room, lounge	
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 2	•	1.42					2					1																	(tennis courts are lit)
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 3	•	0.20				1 ^h						1	1														•	"entry gazebo structure," "Corner monument, (basketball court subterranean)	
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 4	•	1.59								2	1		1							1						1		(lap pool and children's wading pool) "community gathering seating area,"	
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 5	•	0.20								1	1									1						1			
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 6	•	0.35								1	1															1			
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 7	•	0.33			1																								
Plan	Villa Siena	Area 8	•	0.32				1 ^h							1															•	
Plan	Villa Siena	Interior Pedestrian Corridor	•	n/a												1									•						"accent garden" Note: acreage included in another area
Plan	Plaza (I and II)	Podium Area	•	0.92								1	1	1								1						2	•	Fireplace, steam room, massage rooms	
Plan	Plaza (III and IV exp)	Recreation Building Facilities	•	0.01																1	1	1						1			
Plan	Plaza (III and IV exp)	Podium Area	•	0.10										1		1														•	
Plan	Plaza (III and IV exp)	Pool Area (Tower III Roof)	•	0.08								1																1	•	pool equipment room	
Plan	Watermarke	Area F	•	0.26								1	1															1	•		
Plan	Watermarke	Area G	•	0.26								1	1							1		1						1	•		
Plan	Watermarke	Area H	•	0.72								1	2															1	•		
Plan	Watermarke	Area I: Dog Park	•	0.31	1 ^u										1															•	
Plan	Watermarke	Area J	•	0.28											2															•	
Plan	Watermarke	Area E	•	0.75				1 ⁱ	3																						*underground basketball court
Plan	Watermarke	Club Leasing and Fitness Center	•	0.13																1		1						2			table, board games, ping pong table, bumper pool, foosball table), library, theater,
Plan	2801 Kelvin	Recreation Area	Under Construction	0.25								1	1							1	1	1						1	•	firepit, double-sided fireplace	
Plan	2801 Kelvin	East Courtyard	Under Construction	not given										1	1															•	
Plan	360 Fusion	Rooftop Pool	Approved	0.38								1	1							1	1	1						2	•	double-sided fireplace, fire pit,	
Plan	360 Fusion	West Courtyard	Approved	0.16										1	2															•	fire pit
Plan	360 Fusion	East Courtyard	Approved	not given																										•	fire pit
Plan	360 Fusion	Activity Paseo	Approved	not given											1															•	bocce court, dog area
Plan	Modera	Recreation Area	Under Construction	0.19								1	1							1	1	1						1	•		
Plan	Modera	Backyard Area	Under Construction	0.13										1	2															•	

Plan	Avalon III	Recreation Area	Approved	0.28								1	1							1	1	1							1	•	double-sided fireplace		
Plan	Elements	Community Building: Fitness Room	Approved	0.69										1								2							2			spin room, yoga room, steam room	
Plan	Elements	Community Building: Club Room/Bowling Alley	Approved	0.28																1	1								2			bowling alley, gaming area	
Plan	Elements	"Sports" Pool	Approved	0.39								1	1	1															2	•	open area termed yoga area		
Plan	Elements	"Ultra Lounge" Pool	Approved	0.38								1	1																2	•	fireplace		
Plan	Elements	"Family" Pool	Approved	0.30								1								1									2	•	splash pad		
Plan	Elements	Tennis Club	Approved	0.39					2																				2	•	spectator bleachers		
Plan	Elements	"Zen" Pool	Approved	0.32								1	1																2	•	fire pit		
Plan	Elements	"Elements" Park	Approved	1.70				2	uh					2	3															•	"multi-purpose sport court" (four square, hop scotch), carousel,		
Plan	Elements	Central Plaza	Approved	0.59																												retail" directly adjacent (including café, minimart, business center)	
Plan	Elements	Corner Plaza	Approved	0.77										1																•			
Plan	Equity I	Recreation Area	Approved	0.18								1	1							1	1	1							1	•	fireplace		
Plan	Equity II	West Recreation Area	Approved	0.24								1	1							1	1	1							1	•	Equity I based on the site map and total acreage		
Plan	Equity II	East Recreation Area	Approved	0.18								1	1							1	1								1			Equity I based on the site map and total acreage	
Plan	Equity II	Rooftop Terrace with Tot Lot	Approved	0.50										1	2														1	•	"game area," dual-sided fireplace, bar counter (area acreage estimated)		
Plan	Metropolis	Building A	Under Construction	not given									1																	•	bar area, fire pit		
Plan	Metropolis	Main Pool Area	Under Construction	0.75								1	1									1							3	•	bowling alley, club room		
Plan	Metropolis	Tot Lot	Under Construction	0.06										1	1															•	fire place		
Plan	Metropolis	Plaza - Public Neighborhood Park	Under Construction	0.01																										•	"walking street"		
Plan	Milani Apartments	Private Neighborhood Park	Approved	0.21								1	1							3	1	1							2	•	fire place		
Plan	Park Place	Park Area 1	Under Construction	0.46								1	1	1								1							1	•	clubhouse, fireplace, *could be nearing completion by now		
Plan	Park Place	Park Area 2	Under Construction	0.27								1	1							1		1							2	•	*could be nearing completion by now		
Plan	Park Place	Park Area 3	Under Construction	0.24								1	1							1									1			*could be nearing completion by now	
Planning Area 36 Totals (Built and Planned)				32.57	2	0	3	9	8	0	1	43	4	44	28	43	1	0	1	0	0	32	23	29	0	0	1	2	1	62	0	59	
Planning Area 36 Average Size				0.42																													
Planning Area 36 Totals (Existing Only)				21.28	2	0	3	6	6	0	1	26	3	28	19	26	1	0	1	0	0	18	14	17	0	0	1	2	1	29	0	32	
Average Size				0.44																													

u Unlighted
h Half court only
i Indoor

Table B-4: Private Parks and Park Facility Inventory for Planning Area 4

Hide this column (internal use only)	Source	Private Park Name	Built?	Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES							OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							INDOOR FACILITIES						TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES		NOTES				
					Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Wading Pool	Spa	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphitheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Multi-Use Room	Kitchen	Fitness Center	Fine Arts Center	Gymnasium	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail		Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Shade Structure	
Planning Area 4 (Lower Peters Canyon)																																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Anacapa Apartments - Area 1	•	0.84								1		1								1	1	1				•					"clubhouse", resident business center "direct access to Lower Peters Canyon Regional trail"	
Apartment	Google Earth	Anacapa Apartments - Area 2	•	0.45								1		1	1																			
Apartment	Google Earth	Etancia Apartments	•	0.33								1		1								1	1	1								•		
Apartment	Plan	Las Palmas Apartments - Linear Park at Windrow	•	1.52											2	1												•					"multi-use court - unlighted"	
Apartment	Plan	Las Palmas Apartments - Primary Rec Center	•	0.85								1		1								1		1							1			
Apartment	Plan	Las Palmas Apartments - Secondary Rec Center	•	0.41								1		1																	1			
Apartment	Google Earth	Montecito Vista Apartments	•	0.25								1										1	1										Google Earth estimation; outdoor fireplace, activity room, library	
Apartment	Google Earth	Serrano Apartment Homes - Area 1	•	0.47								1		1	1	1						1	1	1								•	space courtyards throughout property acreage not added	
Apartment	Google Earth	Serrano Apartment Homes - Area 2	•	0.68								1		1																		•		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 1	•	0.50								1		1								1	1	1								•		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 2	•	0.41								1	1	1																		•		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 3	•	0.20											1	1																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 4	•	0.20												1																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 5	•	0.20												1																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 6	•	0.20												1																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 7	•	0.20												1																		
Apartment	Google Earth	Solana Apartments - Area 8	•	0.16											1	1																		
Apartment	Plan and Google Earth	Somerset Apartments - Area 1	•	0.22								1		1																				Google Earth check revealed necessary revisions
Apartment	Plan and Google Earth	Somerset Apartments - Area 2	•	0.17								1		1								1	1	1									"business center"	
Park	Plan	Bel Air Gardens (Grass Valley/Malibu)	•	0.58								1	1																		1	•	gathering fireplace/bbq area	
Park	Plan	Bella Vista Park (30 Pacific Crest)	•	3.54				1 u				1	1	1	1	1	1											•		1	•	connects to Venta Spur paved trail that goes throughout neighborhood		
Park	Plan	California Pacific Homes (off Farwell/Culver)	•	0.33								1																			1	•		
Park	Plan	Forest Glen Park	•	3.00					3			1		1																	1	•	plans nearly impossible to make out	
Park	Plan	Monecito Gardens (17 Pacific Grove)	•	0.63											1	1																•		

Park	Plan	Northeast Park (Pacific Crest/Rosenblum)	•	0.56											1																		•					
Park	Plan	Northwest Park (Pacific Crest/Amargosa)	•	0.33											1																		•					
Park	Google Earth	Open Space Area (48 Sorenson)	•	0.05											1																			small open space in residential area				
Park	Plan	Pasadena Gardens (Grass Valley/ Meadowood)	•	0.61											1																	•						
Park	Plan	Private Park (Kirkland/Bellvue)	•	0.99								1			1	1															1							
Park	Plan	San Marino Gardens (29 Grass Valley)	•	0.56												1																•						
Park	Plan	Santa Barbara Gardens (Forest Glen/Spring)	•	0.78												1				1												•	interactive play area, game tables					
Park	Plan	Southwest Park(Bella Rosa/Montelena)	•	0.77								1		1								1								•				outdoor fireplace				
Park	Plan	The Family Park (Spring Valley/Villoria)	•	1.04								1		1	1	1															1	•						
Park	Plan	The Hacienda II (Spring Valley/Meadow Valley)	•	0.74				1 ^h				1		1																	1	•			entertainment/bbq area, game tables			
Park	Plan	The Picnic Garden (73 Spring Valley)	•	0.76												1				1												•						
Park	Plan	The Plantation (Meadow Valley/Gate Park)	•	2.41				1 ^u							1	1				1		1										•	interactive play area					
Park	Plan	The Promenade (45 Atascadero)	•	2.95												1															•	•		"pedestrian trail linkage", "paseo to civic park"				
Park	Plan	The Village Green II (Grass Valley/Monrovia)	•	0.75				1 ^u								1																•						
Park	Plan	William Lyon Homes (off Farwell/Culver)	•	0.96								1		1	1	1															1	•						
39	Planning Area 4 Grand Totals			30.61	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	21	3	17	12	23	1	0	0	4	0	8	6	7	0	0	0	1	0	4	10	22						
	Planning Area 4 Average Size			0.78																																		
19	Private Parks associated with Apartments Only			8.27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	11	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	5						
	Average Size			0.44																																		
20	Private Parks not associated with Apartments			22.3	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	9	2	6	6	15	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	17						
	Average Size			1.12																																		

u Unlighted
h Half court only
i Indoor

Table B-5: Private Parks and Park Facility Inventory Summary

	Acreage	Average Acreage	ATHLETIC FACILITIES							OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES								INDOOR FACILITIES					TRAILS			PARK AMENITIES				
			Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Course	Fitness Par Course	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Racquetball / Handball Court	Shuffleboard Court	Pool	Wading Pool	Spa	Child Play Area	Open Play Area (Turf)	Amphtheater / Stage	Lake / Pond	Horseshoes	Group Picnic Area	Community Center	Multi-Use Room	Kitchen	Fitness Center	Gymnasium	Other	Off-Street Trail Access	Soft-surfaced Trail / Nature Trail	Hard-surfaced Trail	Restrooms	Concession Stand	Shade Structure
Planning Area 4																														
Planning Area 4 Grand Totals	30.61	0.78	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	21	3	17	12	23	1	0	0	4	0	8	6	7	0	0	1	0	4	10	0	22
Planning Area 15																														
Planning Area 15 Grand Totals	84.10	2.05	9	0	1	8	23	1	1	22	0	18	22	32	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	39
Planning Area 36																														
Planning Area 36 Totals	32.57	0.42	2	0	3	9	8	0	1	43	4	44	28	43	1	0	1	0	0	32	23	29	0	0	1	2	1	62	0	59
Planning Area 36 Existing Only Totals	21.28	0.44	2	0	3	6	6	0	1	26	3	28	19	26	1	0	1	0	0	18	14	17	0	0	1	2	1	29	0	32



Appendix C:

Planned Public Parks and Park Facilities

Downloaded from <http://ajph.org/> at University of California, San Francisco on June 11, 2015



APPENDIX C: PLANNED PUBLIC PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES

OVERVIEW

As of Spring 2015, there are a number of parks, community centers and other facilities that have been planned for development. While these elements are in different stages of planning, they eventually will add to the existing inventory of parks and facilities available to the residents of Irvine. The information is sourced from park design or construction plans except where otherwise noted and is subject to change as the review process unfolds. The information is presented here to cross check against recreation needs noted in the Needs Assessment.

PLANNED PARKS

Community Parks

There are currently five new planned community parks: Trabuco Community Park, Portola Community Park, Los Olivos Community Park, Gateway Community Park, and a thus far unnamed IBC Community Park. All of these parks except for the IBC Community Park will be constructed by the Irvine Company and have estimated completion dates ranging from late 2015 to 2020. Standards require that an IBC Community Park will be a minimum of four acres; however, details such as location and timeline are currently pending and will affect the actual size.

Trabuco Community Park will be a 2.6-acre park located in Planning Area 9 at the northeast corner of Trabuco Road and Jeffrey Road. Los Olivos Community Park will be located North of Lake Forest Drive and west of Irvine Center Drive and will contain 12.45 acres. Portola Community Park will span 25 acres in the Portola Springs neighborhood at the southeast corner of Portola Parkway and I-241. Gateway Community Park will be built in two phases, the first developing 40.9 acres and the second adding another 29.6 acres. This park will be located at the northeast corner

of Portola Parkway and Jeffrey Road, near the villages of Stonegate and Eastwood. Table C-1 details the planned community parks .

Table C-1: Planned Community Parks

Park Name	New Land	Planned Athletic and Indoor Facilities	Estimated Completion
Trabuco Community Park	2.6 acres ⁽¹⁾	7,500 s.f. senior center	2015/2016
Portola Community Park	25 acres ⁽²⁾	2 softball fields 2 soccer fields 3 tennis courts 6 pickle-ball courts 1 sand volleyball court 11,920 s.f. community center	2017-18
Gateway Community Park (Phase 1)	40.9 acres ⁽³⁾	4 softball fields with soccer overlay 6 tennis courts 6 basketball courts 1 handball wall 1 sand volleyball court batting cages 12,000 s.f. community center and gymnasium	2018
Gateway Community Park (Phase 2)	29.6 acres ⁽³⁾	3 baseball fields with soccer overlay 1 lacrosse/football field	2020
Los Olivos Community Park	12.5 acres ⁽²⁾	1 baseball field 1 soccer field 1 basketball court 2 tennis courts 6,000 s.f. community center	2019
IBC Community Park	4 acres ⁽⁴⁾	TBD	TBD

Sources: (1) Construction Plans

(2) Park Design Plans currently under revision

(3) Planning Areas 1 & 2 CP Master Plan

(4) IBC Vision Plan

Neighborhood Parks

There are five future neighborhood parks currently planned for the City. In Planning Area 40, also known as Cypress Village, there is a planned four-acre park to be located midway between 8th Street and Trabuco Road, west of Ridge Valley. This neighborhood park with an estimated completion in 2017 is currently slated to have two soccer fields, although the design is still in review. In Northwood Point (Planning Area 5), there are plans for a 6.13-acre park with one baseball field with soccer overlay and two tennis courts. This park is also in the design review phase and has an estimated completion date of 2017. There are also three one-acre neighborhood parks planned in the IBC. One of these parks is to be purchased and constructed by the City at a date to be determined, while the other two will be part of residential construction projects.

The Orange County Great Park

The Orange County Great Park has many planned improvements as outlined in the *Orange County Great Park Master Plan* and updated in the *Second Agreement with City of Irvine as Adjacent Landowner* (2013), which outlines the agreement between the City and Heritage Fields, the company which will be responsible for building much of the Great Park. In addition to the 200 acres that already exist, there will be an additional 688 acres of park land and facilities. Table C-2 details the planned athletic facilities.

Table C-2: Planned Orange County Great Park Athletic Facilities

Athletic Facility	Number of Planned Facilities
Ball Diamond	12
Soccer Field	18
Batting Cages	TBD
Basketball Court	4
Tennis Court	25 (24 + 1 championship court)
Sand Volleyball Courts	5

Golf Course	One 188-acre golf course
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Sources: Orange County Great Park Corporation, <<http://www.ocgp.org/>>, 2014; City of Irvine (2015)

The Great Park will also feature a 178-acre wildlife corridor, a 71-acre agricultural area, 40 acres of Bosque Improvements, a 36-acre Upper Bee Canyon area, 84.3 acres of restored Agua Chinon Wash and a Cultural Terrace.

PLANNED INDOOR FACILITIES

There are many planned public indoor facilities that will be built across the City in the coming years. Some of them are planned as part of new community parks and others are being added to existing parks. Table C-3 details these community centers, senior centers, wilderness centers and gymnasias.

Table C-3: Planned Community Facilities

Community Facilities	Size	Location	Estimated Completion
Community Facilities at Future Parks			
Trabuco Multi-Generational Center	7,500 s.f.	Trabuco Community Park	Fall 2015
Portola Community Center	11,920 s.f.	Portola Community Park	2017-18
Gateway Community Center and Gymnasium	12,000 s.f. ⁽¹⁾	Gateway Community Park	2018
Los Olivos Community Center	6,000 s.f.	Los Olivos Community Park	2019
Community Facilities at Existing Parks			
Quail Hill Community Center and Wilderness Center	11,800 s.f.	Quail Hill Community Park	2017
Oak Creek Community Center	6,000 s.f.	Oak Creek Community Park	TBD

Bill Barber Community Center and Gymnasium	45,000 s.f. ¹	Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park	TBD
Hicks Canyon Community Center	5,500 s.f.	Hicks Canyon Community Park	TBD

Sources: (1) Planning Areas 1 & 2 CP Master Plan

(2) City of Irvine.

Several community centers have planned upgrades or expansions in the future including: Harvard Community Center, Deerfield Community Center and Heritage Community Center. The specifics of these upgrades have yet to be determined.

OTHER PLANNED FACILITIES

In addition to these parks and facilities, there are also a few planned park enhancements to add facilities to existing parks. For example, the Quail Hill Park is set to begin construction in summer 2015 on a nature trail and adventure play area in conjunction with the new community center is also being built. Oak Creek Park has plans for future parking and recreation space. This site has been considered for the potential development of two practice soccer fields or a disc golf course. Orchard Park is in the conceptual design phase for a dog run.

An existing Adventure Playground, located in University Community Park, has been closed for an extensive redesign process. The City Council approved plans, specifications, and contracts for the Adventure Playground in August 2014. Many elements are proposed for the site including imaginative play, physical challenges such as climbing and ropes, a sensory garden, mud and water play, and building and construction opportunities. The City will begin construction in early 2015 and estimates completion by the end of 2015.

¹ Of this, 18,500 s.f. is the gymnasium.

Needs Assessment

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Appendix D:

Park Condition and Capacity Evaluation



APPENDIX D: PARK CONDITION AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

MIG conducted a physical assessment of Irvine’s community and neighborhood parks, evaluating the overall condition of park sites, capacity of each site for added recreation activities and opportunities for future enhancements. Site visits occurred between January 28 and February 13, 2015 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This appendix provides descriptions of the park conditions, capacity evaluation criteria and the scoring of specific facilities within each park.

PARK CONDITION EVALUATION

Table D-1 summarizes the findings of the park condition evaluation.

Categories:

- *Entry/Parking Area*: includes hardscape, vegetation and layout within the main entrance to the park, including parking lots if present
- *Play Area 2-5*: includes hardscape, play surfacing, vegetation, play equipment and layout of the play area designed for use by children ages 2 through 5
- *Play Area 5-12*: includes hardscape, play surfacing, vegetation, play equipment and layout of the play area designed for use by children ages 5 through 12
- *Hard-Surfaced Courts*: includes surfacing, striping and equipment associated with courts for basketball, tennis, racquetball, handball and shuffleboard
- *Athletic Facilities*: includes vegetation, surfacing, striping and equipment associated with baseball fields, softball fields, soccer fields, batting cages and volleyball courts
- *General Amenities*: includes benches, picnic tables, trash cans, drinking fountains and barbeques
- *Buildings/Restrooms/Structures*: includes concession buildings, restrooms and shade structures
- *Paths/Trails*: includes concrete pathways, decomposed granite exercise loops and unpaved trails
- *Signage*: includes all types of signage within the park

- *Lighting*: includes all types of lighting within the park
- *Landscape/Vegetation*: includes shrubs, perennials, groundcovers and decorative turf grass within the park
- *Open Turf Areas*: includes large expanses of turf for active or passive recreating

Rating:

- 1 = Very Poor
- 2 = Below Average
- 3 = Satisfactory
- 4 = Above Average
- 5 = Exceptional

PARK CAPACITY EVALUATION

Table D-2 summarizes the findings of the park capacity evaluation.

Categories:

- *Play Areas*: includes areas of play for children 12 and under
- *Social Spaces (small and mid-sized)*: includes gathering places that typically serve fewer than 20 people
- *Social Spaces (large)*: includes gathering places that typically serve 20 or more people
- *Athletic Facilities*: includes sports-related fields and paved courts for both organized and informal play
- *Specialized Outdoor Facilities*: includes outdoor facilities such as dog parks, skateparks, nature trails, fitness par courses, splash pads, native plant gardens, community gardens, rain gardens and disc golf courses
- *Indoor Facilities*: includes any indoor facility such a community center, senior center, fine arts center, youth programs center, nature center and gymnasium

Rating:

- E = Enhance: renovating, updating or replacing equipment, materials and facilities
- A = Add: adding new equipment, materials and facilities

Table D-I: Park Condition Evaluation

	Entry/Parking Area	Play Area 2-5	Play Area 5-12	Hard-Surfaced Courts	Athletic Facilities	General Amenities	Building/Rr/Structures	Paths/Trails	Signage	Lighting	Landscape/Vegetation	Open Turf Areas
Community Parks												
Bommer Canyon	4					4	4	4	5	4	4	
Colonel Bill Barber	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4
Cypress	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	3
David Sills Lower Peters Canyon	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Deerfield	4	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
Harvard	3			4		4	3	4	2	4	3	2
Heritage	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Hicks Canyon	4	3	3		4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3
Las Lomas	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	4
Mark Daily Athletic Fields	4				3	3	4	2	4	4	3	4
Mike Ward - Woodbridge	4			4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
Northwood	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Oak Creek		3	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4
Quail Hill	4			4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Rancho San Joaquin	3					4	4	4	4	4	3	4
Turtle Rock	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3
University	3	5	5	3	2	2	5	4	5	5	4	4
Windrow	3				4	4	5	5	4	4	3	4
Woodbury	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Neighborhood Parks												
Alderwood						2		3		2	1	3
Blue Gum	5	5	5		4	4		4	4	4	4	4
Brywood	4	4	4		4	4		4	4	4	4	4
Canyon	4	2		4		3	4	4	3	4	3	3
Carrotwood	5	3	3	4	4	4		3	4	4	4	4
Chaparral		4	4			3		3	3	3	3	3
Citrus Glen	4	3		5		3	3	4	4	4	4	4
College		5	5			4		5	4	4	3	2
Comstock*												
Coralwood	3	4			4	4		4	4	4	4	4
Creekview						3		4	4	4	3	2
Dovecreek	3	3	3		4	4		3	4	4	2	3
Flagstone						3		5	3	5	3	3
Hoeptner			4	4		3		5	3	4	4	5

	Entry/Parking Area	Play Area 2-5	Play Area 5-12	Hard-Surfaced Courts	Athletic Facilities	General Amenities	Building/Rr/Structures	Paths/Trails	Signage	Lighting	Landscape/Vegetation	Open Turf Areas
Homestead	5	4	4	5		4	4	4	4	4	5	4
Knollcrest	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	4	4	4	4
Meadowood	2	5	5	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	3
Orchard	4	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Pepperwood	5	4	4			4		4	4	4	4	4
Pinewood	4	5	5			4		5	4	4	4	4
Plaza	4	3	3		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Presley		2	3		3	4	3	2	2	2	2	3
Racquet Club	4	4	4	4		5		4	4	4	4	4
Ranch			3			3		2	3	4	3	4
San Carlo		2	2	3		3		3	3	3	2	3
San Leandro	2	4	3			4	4	3	3	2	2	3
San Marco	3			3		2	3	3	3	3	2	2
Settlers	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4
Silkwood		4	4			3		3		3	2	3
Stonegate	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4
Sweet Shade	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Sycamore	5	4	4			4		4	4	4	5	5
Valencia	4	2	2		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Valley Oak	5	4	4	4		4						
Willows		5	5	5		4		4	3	5	3	3

*Comstock was closed and could not be evaluated.

Table D-2: Park Capacity Evaluation

	Play Areas	Social Spaces (small and mid-sized)	Social Spaces (large)	Athletic Facilities	Specialized Outdoor Facilities	Indoor Facilities
Community Parks						
Bommer Canyon					E	
Colonel Bill Barber		E				A/E
Cypress	E				E	
David Sills Lower Peters Canyon	E	A				
Deerfield	E				A	A
Harvard				E	E	A
Heritage		A			E	A/E
Hicks Canyon	E	E				A
Las Lomas	E				A	
Mark Daily Athletic Fields				E		
Mike Ward - Woodbridge		A				
Northwood	A/E				A	
Oak Creek	E				E	A
Quail Hill					E	A
Rancho San Joaquin						
Turtle Rock			E			E
University	E	A		E		
Windrow				E		
Woodbury						
Neighborhood Parks						
Alderwood					A/E	
Blue Gum	E	A				
Brywood	E					
Canyon	E				E	
Carrotwood	E	A/E				
Chaparral					E	
Citrus Glen	E					
College		A				
Comstock*						
Coralwood	A	A		E		
Creekview					E	

	Play Areas	Social Spaces (small and mid-sized)	Social Spaces (large)	Athletic Facilities	Specialized Outdoor Facilities	Indoor Facilities
Dovecreek	E				E	
Flagstone					E	
Hoeptner					E	
Homestead	E	E			A/E	
Knollcrest						
Meadowood		E			A/E	
Orchard						
Pepperwood	A					
Pinewood						
Plaza	A/E	A				
Presley	E					
Racquet Club	E	A				
Ranch	E				E	
San Carlo	E				E	
San Leandro					E	
San Marco			A	A	E	
Settlers		A			E	
Silkwood					E	
Stonegate				E		
Sweet Shade						
Sycamore	E		A		A	
Valencia	E	E	A		A	
Valley Oak	E					
Willows					E	

*Comstock was closed and could not be evaluated.