

## 4.10 PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS

### 4.10.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes the existing conditions related to parks and recreation within the City of Cerritos. Identification of impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update and appropriate mitigation measures are provided.

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RESOURCES

Open space and recreational resources in the City of Cerritos include neighborhood, community and regional parks, community centers, trails, golf courses and aquatic facilities in addition to other outdoor and indoor facilities available to the public.

#### URBAN OPEN SPACE

The City of Cerritos maintains 21 parks in addition to the Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course. These open space areas for recreation include:

- Mini-Parks;
- Neighborhood Parks;
- Community Parks;
- Regional Parks;
- Sports Facilities (golf courses, ball fields, aquatics, skate park, etc.);
- Railway and Bikeways; and
- Greenbelts.

Table 4.10-1, *City of Cerritos Park and Recreation Inventory*, outlines the services available at each recreational facility. Exhibit 4.10-1, *Open Space and Recreational Facilities*, shows the location of these facilities within the City.

The City of Cerritos has established a standard requiring three acres of park space per 1,000 residents. Chapter 17.40 of the Cerritos Municipal Code provides regulatory standards for parkland development. As a condition of approval of final subdivision maps, or approval of any residential development within the City, when a tract map is not required, the project applicant is required to dedicate land or pay a fee in lieu thereof, or both at the discretion of the City. Currently, Cerritos has approximately 238 acres of parkland, which includes community, neighborhood and regional parks.

The development guidelines for park facilities within the City of Cerritos are shown in Table 4.10-2, *City of Cerritos Park Development Guidelines*. They include size and facility guidelines for community, neighborhood and mini parks within the City.

**Table 4.10-1  
City of Cerritos Park and Recreation Inventory**

Park Sites	Acreage	Ball Diamond	Basketball/Volley	Island Playground	Meeting Room	Plenic Shelter/Sazebo	Racquetball Outdoor	Racquetball Indoor	Restrooms	Play Areas	Spray Pool	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	Staffing	Jogging Track	Outdoor Amphitheatre	Golf Course	Fitness Center	Skate Park	Sand Volleyball
Bettencourt Park <sup>(5)</sup>	2.5		•							•										
Brookhaven Park	0.7		•							•										
Cerritos Park East <sup>(1)</sup>	29.9	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•						
Ecology Park	1.5		•							•										
El Rancho Verde Park	5.3																			
Friendship Park	3.9	•	•			•								•						
Frontier Park	2.6	•	•		•	•			•	•				•						
Gonsalves Park	5.2	•				•			•	•										
Gridley Park	10.4		•							•										
Heritage Park <sup>(3)</sup>	15.3	•	•	•	•	•			•	•				•						
Jacob Park	5.1		•							•										•
Liberty Park <sup>(2)</sup>	10.9	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•		•
Loma Park	0.8					•				•										
Rainbow Park <sup>(5)</sup>	2.5									•										
Reservoir Hill Park	4.6									•										
Rosewood Park	8.0	•	•			•				•										
Saddleback Park	1.5		•							•										
Satellite Park	1.9	•	•			•				•										
Sunshine Park	3.7	•	•			•				•				•						
Westgate Park	4.5	•	•		•	•			•	•	•		•	•						
Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center	--								•			•		•				•		
Iron Wood Nine Golf Course	22.1								•					•			•			
Cerritos Regional Park, Sports Complex and Skate Park <sup>(4)</sup>	45.5	•	•			•			•	•		•	•	•					•	
Community Gym at Cerritos High	--		•						•					•						
Community Gym at Whitney High	--		•						•					•						
Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park	3.8				•	•			•					•				•		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192.2</b>																			

Source: City of Cerritos Recreation Services Division, July 2001.

Notes: (1) Cerritos Park East includes a Community Center.

(2) Liberty Park also includes a Community Center.

(3) Heritage Park also includes a Community Center.

(4) The total acreage for the park is 86.5 acres. The acreage includes a 45.5-acre Skate Park and sports complex that the City of Cerritos leases from County of Los Angeles and maintains.

(5) This park is outside the Cerritos City limits within the City of La Palma, but is maintained by the City of Cerritos (refer to Table OSR-3).

L = Lighted

Link to Exhibit 4.10-1  
Open Space and Recreational Facilities  
11 x 17 – color

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**Table 4.10-2  
City of Cerritos Park Development Guidelines**

Park Type	Typical Size	Service Area	Typical Facilities
Community	> 10 acres	1 to 1½ miles	Athletic fields, picnic, community centers
Neighborhood	3 to 5 acres	½ mile	Play lot, multi-use courts
Mini	Less than 1 acre	¼ mile	Play lot, open space

### Community Parks

Community Parks are typically greater than 10 acres and service an area of one to one and one-half miles. They provide amenities for both active and passive uses. Athletic fields, picnicking areas, play lots and community centers are common facilities found at these locations.

Cerritos has three community parks: Cerritos Park East, Heritage Park and Liberty Park. All three of these parks have a community center equipped with meeting facilities. They provide play areas in addition to athletic fields. Liberty Park also has a fitness center, indoor racquetball court and an outdoor amphitheatre.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically three to five acres and service the immediate neighborhood, within a one-half mile area. Amenities include tot lots, multi-use courts and picnic areas.

Cerritos has 15 neighborhood parks, providing 59.7 acres of recreational space. The amenities at each park location vary and are listed under [Table 4.10-1, \*City of Cerritos Park and Recreation Inventory\*](#). These parks are distributed throughout the City, providing a variety of recreation areas for residents.

Cerritos maintains two additional parks located in the neighboring City of La Palma. They are Bettencourt Park and Rainbow Park. Refer to [Table 4.10-3, \*Parks Maintained by City of Cerritos\*](#).

**Table 4.10-3  
Parks Maintained by City of Cerritos**

Park Name	Type	Size	Location
Bettencourt Park	Neighborhood	2.50 Acres	La Palma
Rainbow Park	Neighborhood	2.50 Acres	La Palma

## **Regional Parks**

Cerritos Regional County Park, Sports Complex and Skate Park consist of over 86 acres including a 25-acre sports complex leased from the County of Los Angeles. The park provides several athletic fields, tennis courts, picnic areas and a swimming pool.

## **RECREATION/OPEN SPACE RESOURCES**

### **Golf Course**

The Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course is a nine-hole executive golf course owned by the City of Cerritos. A night-lighted driving range is also available on-site.

### **Indoor and Outdoor Swim Facilities**

The Cerritos Olympic Swim and Fitness Center is an enclosed 50-meter pool with dressing rooms, press box area and seating capacity for 1,200 spectators. The Swim and Fitness Center includes retractable skylights, illumination and cooling louvers and a solar panel system that collects 96 percent of the energy required to heat the pool water to 84 degrees year round and 100 percent of the energy required to heat the water used for showers. The Cerritos Regional County Park provides a 50-meter outdoor swimming pool open during the summer months by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.

### **Bikeways and Trailways**

A variety of bikeways are provided throughout the City. Trailways are located along the San Gabriel River Channel and Coyote Creek flood control facilities. Exhibit 4.10-2, *Bikeways and Trailways Map*, shows the locations of these paths.

### **Equestrian Trails**

The City provides equestrian trails along the San Gabriel River Channel and Coyote Creek drainage facilities. Exhibit 4.10-2 depicts the location of these trails.

### **Open Space For Public Health and Safety**

Certain open space areas in Cerritos provide for protection from potentially harmful natural and man-made hazards. Open spaces adjacent to overhead electrical wires, pipelines or setbacks from drainage channels or retention basins are examples of open space used for public health and safety. Jacob, Gridley, Liberty and El Rancho Verde Parks are linear parks, providing open space buffers from residential and public school uses. Exhibit 4.10-3, *Open Space for Public Health and Safety*, provides an overview of open resources for public health and safety.

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C E R R I T O S   G E N E R A L   P L A N   E I R

Link to Exhibit 4.10-2  
Bikeways and Trailways Map  
11 x 17 – b&w

Insert Exhibit 4.10-3  
Open Space for Public Health and Safety  
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## **RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The City of Cerritos offers several recreation programs in conjunction with community groups. These programs include sports activities, youth services, classes, cultural arts and senior citizen/human services. The City's Adaptive Recreation programs are designed for people with special needs and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They provide reasonable accommodations for recreation programs and facilities enabling participation by individuals with disabilities.

A Community Services Program listing special events, sports and classes is published quarterly. The program is included in the issues of "The Cerritos News," mailed to all homes and businesses in the community. The Recreation Services Division involved more than 1,119,000 people in programs, use of facilities and sponsored events during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

### **After School Programs**

After school and summer recreation programs are provided under the supervision of the City's Special Activities Department, and in conjunction with ABC Unified School District. Frontier Park, Sunshine Park, Friendship Park and Westgate Park provide children with activities such as sports, crafts, table games and a monthly excursion to local sites including Cerritos Olympic Swim and Fitness Center, Skate Depot and El Dorado Nature Center. The Carmenita Recreation Academic Study Hall provides middle school students with after-school activities.

### **Teen Programs**

The Recreation Services Division provides a variety of activities designed specifically for the teen population of Cerritos. City staff, middle school and high school administrators from the ABC Unified School District and the City's youth participate in open-forum discussions to define interests and desires for recreation opportunities and teen programs. In addition to the sport/fitness classes and leagues, dance, music, aquatics and golf classes, 11 bi-monthly activity nights are provided for Cerritos teens at the community centers.

### **Day Camps**

Day camps are held throughout the year for children and young adults. They provide opportunities for education and social enrichment. The Recreation Services Division conducted 28 different day camps during the 1999-2000 fiscal year for children ages 5 through 14.

### **Senior Activities**

The Cerritos Center at Pat Nixon Park provides structured and informal recreational opportunities for the City's seniors. Seniors can participate in bingo, movies, dance lessons, arts and crafts or day excursions.

The Cerritos Center provides a variety of fitness and wellness programs, educational classes and workshops. Counseling and social services including legal aid, tax preparation assistance, social security, Medicare and health assistance are also provided.

### **Community Gymnasiums**

The City of Cerritos and the ABC Unified School District work together to provide community-wide access to the Cerritos and Whitney High School gymnasiums. In addition, the tennis courts at Cerritos High School are available for public use. Organized sports classes are offered to adults and youths at both locations.

### **Performing Arts Programs**

The indoor stage at Cerritos Park East and outdoor facility at Heritage Park allows for the staging of children's musicals and annual talent show.

### **Special Events**

A variety of other events provided by the City include, Concerts in the Park, Movie nights and other specialized shows. Additional programs and activities are scheduled throughout the year.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Public and private school facilities provide additional open space resources for the City of Cerritos. The City has 22 public and private schools located within its boundaries. Exhibit 4.10-4, *School Facilities*, shows the locations of these schools.

The ABC Unified School District and the City of Cerritos work together to provide services and facilities for the City's youth. The Recreation Services Division utilizes resources at Cerritos, Whitney and Gahr High Schools for various programs and activities. Refer to Table 4.10-4, *School Facilities in Cerritos*.

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C E R R I T O S   G E N E R A L   P L A N   E I R

Link to Exhibit 4.10-4  
School Facilities  
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**Table 4.10-4  
School Facilities in Cerritos**

School	Acreage
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	
Bragg Elementary	11.51 acres
Carver Elementary	5.28 acres
Cerritos Elementary	9.30 acres
Gonsalves Elementary	8.80 acres
Juarez Elementary	7.05 acres
Leal Elementary	9.44 acres
Nixon Elementary	9.26 acres
Stowers Elementary	9.74 acres
Wittmann Elementary	8.92 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<b>79.27 acres</b>
<b>Middle Schools</b>	
Carmenita	11.20 acres
Haskell	12.11 acres
Tetzlaff	18.38 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<b>41.69 acres</b>
<b>High Schools</b>	
ABC Adult	30.18 acres
Southeast ROP	11.61 acres
Cerritos	37.56 acres
Gahr	28.47 acres
Tracy	--
Whitney	15.32 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<b>123.14 acres</b>
<b>Private</b>	
Concordia Lutheran	4.52 acres
Joy Preschool	0.24 acres
Valley Christian High School	15.09 acres
Valley Christian Middle School	14.85 acres
Cerritos College	74.20 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<b>144.49 acres</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>388.29 acres</b>
Source: ABC Unified School District, GIS Data, City of Cerritos.	

## PRIVATE FACILITIES

### Commercial/Industrial Open Space Facilities

Cerritos has a large employment base, increasing the need for daytime open space resources. These resources are utilized for breaks, lunch hours and quiet time. Cerritos businesses contribute to open space resources by providing these areas for employees.

## 4.10.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

In accordance with CEQA, the effects of a project are evaluated to determine if they will result in a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIR is required to focus on these effects and offer mitigation measures to reduce or avoid any significant impacts that are identified. The criteria, or standards, used to determine the significance of impacts may vary depending on the nature of the project. Parks and recreational impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could be considered significant if they cause any of the following results:

- ❑ Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; and/or
- ❑ Does the project include recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been characterized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant impact level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant and unavoidable impact.

## 4.10.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN UPDATE COULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS TO THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF PARKLAND AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY.

**Level of Significance Before Policies/Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** The City of Cerritos has approximately 228 acres of parkland, including community, neighborhood and regional parks. The State of California standard for park open space is 3 acres for every 1,000 residents. The City is approximately 99 percent developed, so there is little potential to acquire and develop additional parkland.

The City of Cerritos had a total population of 52,100 in 2001<sup>1</sup> and 187.2 acres of parkland. Based on the State and City adopted park standard of three acres per 1,000 residents, the City exceeds their target acreage of 156.3 acres<sup>2</sup>. The proposed General Plan Update projects the population to be approximately 53,009 in 2020<sup>3</sup>. This increase would result in approximately 3 acres of needed parkland. The City currently shows a parkland surplus of approximately 30.9 acres. Therefore, the City has extensive park facilities and resources to accommodate implementation of the proposed General Plan Update.

Cerritos maintains several recreation facilities and programs for its residents. The City has identified the provision of park and recreation facilities and programs for those who live and work in the City of Cerritos as one of its goals (OSR-2). Policies OSR 2.1 and OSR 2.2 provide for the protection and enhancement of open space within Cerritos and policies OSR 3.2 and OSR 4.1 provide for recreational facilities and programs based on the needs of the residents. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would further reduce any impacts on parkland and recreation facilities within the City to less than significant levels.

#### **Policies in the Proposed General Plan Update:**

- OSR-1.2      Work with ABC Unified School District to encourage the use of school sites as additional community open space resources.
- OSR-1.3      Ensure no net loss of open space acreage occurs.
- OSR-1.4      Promote the development of open space amenities, such as artwork, sitting areas, etc. in parks and other open space areas to encourage their use.
- OSR-2.1      Continue to exceed the State's and the City's park guideline of three acres per 1,000 residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: 2000: [www.dof.ca.gov](http://www.dof.ca.gov), State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 City/County Population Estimates, with Annual Percent Change, January 1, 2001 and 2002. Sacramento, California, May 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Using the City population of 52,100 people in 2001, Cerritos would need 156.3 acres of parkland to meet the parkland to population ratio of 3 acres per 1,000 people.

<sup>3</sup> Based upon a total of 15,871 dwelling units and 3.34 persons per household.

- OSR-2.2 Carefully consider geographic locations, hours of operation and other factors influencing access when evaluating future park and facility locations.
- OSR-2.3 Enhance access to and utilization of recreational facilities by those with disabilities.
- OSR-2.4 Ensure parks and recreational facilities are developed with amenities that are appropriate to persons of all ages.
- OSR-3.1 Strive to update and modernize existing recreational and park facilities through the provision of updated equipment and facilities.
- OSR-3.2 Continuously monitor residents' needs so that future development of open space and recreational resources reflect the desires of Cerritos residents.
- OSR-4.1 Ensure recreational resources provide for a variety of recreational needs so that the widest range of Cerritos residents utilize these facilities.
- OSR-4.2 Continue to update and modernize existing recreational and park facilities.
- OSR-5.2 Provide a GIS-based inventory of existing open space to assist in the management of this resource.
- OSR-7.1 Ensure all residents of Cerritos are aware of recreational opportunities through the regular distribution of information about programs.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation measures beyond the policies identified in the proposed General Plan Update are required.

**Level of Significance After Policies/Mitigation:** Less Than Significant Impact.

#### 4.10.4 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

All parkland and recreational facilities impacts associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would be less than significant by adherence to and/or compliance with policies in the proposed General Plan Update. No unavoidable significant parkland impacts would occur as a result of buildout of the proposed General Plan Update.