

4.6 PARKS AND RECREATION

A. INTRODUCTION

This section of the Draft EIR addresses the Project's potential impacts on the public parks and recreation facilities administered by the City of Pasadena ("City"). The analysis identifies and describes the existing parks and recreational facilities in the Project vicinity and focuses on whether existing facilities are sufficient to accommodate the growth that would be generated by the Project. The section also evaluates the Project's consistency with applicable City goals and policies that address parks and recreation.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Local Area

City recreational facilities include parks, community centers, swimming pools, playgrounds, lawn bowling greens, stages and amphitheaters, sports courts and fields, natural open space areas, passive areas, community gardens, paseos, and plazas. In total, the City contains 391.2 acres of parkland and 502.3 acres of open space, including four Citywide parks, five community parks, and 15 neighborhood parks.¹ The City also contains a variety of public outdoor spaces that are not classified as parks but do provide recreational experiences. These spaces include pocket parks, botanical gardens, public plazas, paseos, golf courses, and the grounds of museums and historic sites. In addition to these facilities, the City promotes the joint use of public school facilities and park facilities to accommodate the demand for recreation opportunities Citywide.

Two community parks lie within 0.5 miles of the Project Site. Villa Park, at 363 E Villa Street is approximately 0.3 miles north of the Project Site. Villa Park comprises 10.5 acres and contains a community center, a playground, picnic tables, restrooms, one indoor basketball court, two outdoor basketball courts, a concession stand, a gymnasium, a multipurpose field, a soccer field, and a swimming pool. Memorial Park is 0.5 miles west of the Project Site. This 5.3-acre park contains an amphitheater, picnic tables, restrooms, an exercise course, and a senior center. Also within 0.5 miles of the Project Site is James Madison Elementary School. The City has a joint use agreement with the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) to allow public use of the outdoor recreation space at the school. Other nearby open space that allows for passive recreation includes the grounds of City Hall and open space on the Fuller Theological Seminary campus. The broader area includes regional parkland, such as the Arroyo Seco open space network (Hahamongna Watershed Park, Brookside Park, Rose Bowl, and Lower Arroyo) and the Angeles National Forest.

¹ Pasadena General Plan Draft EIR, Section 5.12 Recreation (2015).

C. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Element & Master Plan

Adopted in November 2007, the Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Element, a component of the City's General Plan, identifies the goals and objectives for open space, parks, and recreation facilities and programs. When combined with the Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan, it provides the background data, recommendations, and implementation programs for using, maintaining, and expanding additional parks facilities and recreation programs. The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element identifies a service area for neighborhood parks that extends to a one-half mile radius from the park and notes that Citywide parks may be used by residents throughout the city for activities that cannot be accommodated in other parks.

2. Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 4.17

Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) Chapter 4.17 was authorized pursuant to Section 66477 of the California Government Code, also known as the Quimby Act. The Quimby Act authorized cities and counties to enact ordinances requiring the dedication of land, or the payment of fees for park and/or recreation facilities in lieu thereof, or both, by developers of residential subdivisions as a condition to the approval of a tentative map or parcel map. The City of Pasadena collects residential impacts fees to offset the impact of new residential development on City parks and park facilities. These fees are used for acquiring new parkland, construction of new park facilities, and improving existing park facilities. Adopted in 1988, Ordinance 6252—New Residential Impact Fee requires that any person developing new housing units pay an impact fee, which is included as either a condition of approval when subdividing a parcel or a prerequisite for obtaining a building permit. Impact fees are paid into a special fund maintained by the City's director of finance and disbursed to pay for park or recreational facility improvements, as outlined in Chapter 4.17 of the PMC.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Thresholds of Significance

The Project is considered to have a significant impact on parks and recreation, if it would:

Threshold 4.6-1: Result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provisions of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks.

Threshold 4.6-2: 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.

Threshold 4.6-3: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

2. Project Impacts

The City does not have a minimum service ratio for parks. Policy GSRP 6.3 of the City's General Plan (Green Space, Recreation, and Parks Element) identifies the City's parkland policy as: "Adequate Developed Parkland. Acquire or otherwise make available local parkland and open spaces in sufficient quantity to meet the community demand for facilities and programs identified in the Master Plan."

The Project would involve the demolition of the 173 existing apartment units and improvements on site, and the construction of a new residential community containing 307 apartments, for a net increase of 134 units. Based on the City's average household size of 2.42 persons per household,² the construction of the Project would result in approximately 325 net new residents. Within a City of 142,250, a net increase of 325 would have a negligible effect on the ratio of population to park acres.

According to the City's Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Element, an acceptable walking distance to parks is considered a 0.50-mile walk. As discussed previously, there are two community parks and one joint-use school/park within a 0.50-mile radius of the Project Site.

Additionally, the proposed Project would feature more than an acre of on-site open space, including approximately 40,000 square feet of interior courtyards, an amenity lacking in the current site

² Pasadena General Plan Draft EIR, Section 5.10 Population and Housing (2015).

configuration. This on-site amenity is expected to meet some of the increase in recreational demand associated with the new population of the site; which would offset the demand on existing community parks. As such, the increase in the use of existing parks would not be burdensome such that physical deterioration of the facilities would occur. Additionally, the applicant would be required to pay the Residential Impact Fee, as required by Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 4.17, to offset the impact of new residential development on City parks and park facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

E. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts occur when impacts from a proposed project combine with similar impacts from other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects in a similar geographic area. The City is anticipating an increase in residential population from projects approved or proposed. As discussed in the EIR prepared for the General Plan update, the projected increase in population would result in a need for additional parkland. However, it is speculative to consider whether future park facilities, which would be subject to environmental review under CEQA prior to development, might have significant impacts. Furthermore, the contribution of this Project to the need for future parkland is not considerable due to (1) the relatively small increase in population; and (2) the Project's meeting the standards of being located within 0.50 miles of a park, per the Green Space, Parks, and Recreation Element and Master Plan. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

F. MITIGATION MEASURES

Project-level and cumulative impacts on parks and recreation would be considered less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

G. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Project level and cumulative impacts on parks and recreation would be considered less than significant.