

4.9 PARKS AND RECREATION

The Section identifies the existing parks and recreation conditions within the City of Cypress and analyzes the impacts associated with buildout of the proposed General Plan Update. Information in this Section is based on information from the Cypress Recreation and Park District Recreation, *Parks and Open Space Master Plan*, June 1999, and correspondence with the City of Cypress Recreation and Park District.

4.9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RESOURCES

Cypress' open space and recreation resources include parks, schools, community facilities, and privately owned recreation facilities. Combined, these resources offer the community's residents a number of recreational opportunities.

RECREATION FACILITIES

The Cypress Recreation and Park District operates 19 park sites encompassing approximately 82 acres (refer to Exhibit 4.9-1, *Existing Recreation Facilities*.) The City classifies parks as community, neighborhood, or mini facilities based on size. Each park classification has a general area of service and typical park facilities, as described in Table 4.9-1.

**Table 4.9-1
CYPRESS PARK STANDARDS**

Park Type	Typical Minimum Size	Service Area	Typical Facilities
Community	10 acres	1 to 1½ miles	Athletic fields, picnic areas, community centers
Neighborhood	3 to 5 acres	½ mile	Tot lots, public facilities, multi-use court
Mini	Less than 1 acre	¼ mile	Tot lot, open space

Source: City of Cypress Recreation and Park District.

Community Parks. A community park serves neighborhoods within one to one and one-half miles of the site and generally encompasses over ten acres. Both active and passive uses are generally provided at these parks, offering recreation opportunities for large groups of people. Field sports, individual and group picnicking, play areas, and community centers are commonly found at these large parks.

Cypress contains two community park facilities, Arnold/Cypress Park and Oak Knoll Park, encompassing approximately 14.5 and 22 acres, respectively. Both parks include a variety of facilities, listed in Table 4.9-2. Arnold/Cypress Park offers active recreation opportunities through ball fields, volleyball courts, playground facilities, lighted roller hockey rink and lighted softball field. This park also includes a multi-purpose room available for public use, which can accommodate 75+ individuals. Additionally, Oak Knoll Park offers a number of active recreation opportunities and includes an exercise course, lighted sports fields, and lighted sand volleyball courts. The Cypress Community Center is also located at Oak Knoll Park.

INSERT 11" x 17" EXHIBIT 4.9-1
"Existing Recreation Facilities"

**Table 4.9-2
EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

		Acres	Facilities														
			Community Room(s)	Baseball Field	Softball Field	On-Site Parking Lot	Volleyball court	Picnic Facilities	Tot Lot	Multi-Use Court	Exercise Course	Roller Hockey Facility	Horseshoe Pit	Restroom	Nature Facility	Basketball Court	
Community Parks	Arnold/Cypress Park	14.55	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		
	Oak Knoll Park	22.00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Neighborhood Parks	Baroldi/Sycamore Park	1.50						●	●								
	Cedar Glen	2.54				●		●	●	●							
	Eucalyptus	2.50						●	●	●			●				
	Evergreen	5.06				●		●	●	●				●			
	Manzanita	4.04						●	●	●							
	Maple Grove North	3.14						●	●	●							
	Maple Grove South	1.87						●	●	●							
	Peppertree	2.61						●	●	●							
	Pinewood	2.41						●	●	●							
	Rosen/Acacia	1.00						●	●								
	Darrel Essex	2.50	●				●		●	●					●		
	Willow	2.90							●	●	●				●		
	Nature Park	5.75														●	
Veterans	6.40				●	●		●	●	●				●		●	
Mini-Parks	Damron	0.46							●								
	Laurel	0.17															
	Vessels	0.63							●								
Total Park Acreage		82.03															
Source: City of Cypress Recreation and Park District, August 2000.																	
● = Existing Facility																	

Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood parks are typically smaller in size than community parks, generally covering three to five acres in area. This type of park serves the immediate neighborhood within one-half mile walking distance, or a population ranging between 2,500 and 5,000. Many neighborhood parks are located adjacent to elementary schools to benefit from the additional open space acreage available at school sites. These parks normally include tot lots, picnic facilities, and a multi-use court.

Cypress has 14 neighborhood parks, contributing approximately 45 acres to the City's recreation/open space land. Table 4.9-2 outlines the facilities available at the City's neighborhood parks.

The Cypress Nature Park is a unique neighborhood park, which is a passive nature facility that also serves as a flood control retention basin. Some of the City's most significant native and non-native plants and animals are located in the Nature Park.

Mini-Parks. Mini-parks encompass less than one acre of land and are usually located near schools or residential developments. In Cypress the land that is designated for mini-parks is owned by the Cypress Elementary School District, while the Cypress Recreation and Park District owns and maintains the mini-park equipment. These sites serve as playgrounds for children or as a place for workers to relax in an urbanized environment. Cypress has three mini-park sites.

Schools. The City also has access to recreational facilities at 12 school sites, contributing an additional 119 acres to the City's open space and recreation resources (refer to Table 4.9-3, *School Facilities in Cypress*). School sites are available for public recreational use after school hours and on weekends. During school hours, only students can occupy the school premises.

One elementary school in Cypress, MacKay, is currently closed. The School District currently leases the MacKay School site property to the Head Start Program, ABC Development and Alton School (Special Education). Despite the "closed" status of this elementary school site, City residents are able to utilize the open space land.

Oxford Academy is a six-year college preparatory secondary school (grades 7-12) open to students that live within the boundaries of the Anaheim Union High School District. During the school hours, the school facility and adjoining open space are available only to the Academy. However, the Cypress Recreation and Park District schedules youth sports leagues at Oxford Academy during off-school hours.

In addition to these schools, Cypress College contains 93 acres of open space (inclusive of parking) and includes large playing fields, a running track, tennis courts, a swimming pool, and handball courts among its recreational facilities. Cypress College is part of the North Orange County Community College District and permits public use of its facilities during specified hours by reservation. Fees are charged for use of certain facilities, such as reserving playing fields for organized practices.

Bike Paths. Bicycle trails provide access to schools, parks, and other open space areas within a community. An inventory of existing and proposed bicycle paths are included in Exhibit 4.9-1, *Existing Recreation Facilities*. The trail system includes Class I, II, and III paths. Class I bike paths are separate from the street and are the highest quality bike path. Class II and III are both located on the street. Class II paths include a designated bike lane and Class III paths are only marked by a sign.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Cypress has a number of facilities and programs that supplement the City's recreation resources. The City coordinates with many groups to provide these recreational programs to Cypress residents. Programs include sports activities, youth services, classes, cultural arts, and senior citizen/human services. A schedule listing available recreation classes is published quarterly by the Cypress Recreation and Park District.

The Cultural Arts Commission is dedicated to improving cultural arts in the City. The Cultural Arts Commission operates as an advisory commission to the City Council. In addition to the Commission's advisory role, they support a number of programs including an Arts Week, Quarterly Arts Recognition and High School Recognition, Holiday Home Decorating Contest, and various excursions. The Commission along with Friends of Cultural Arts (FOCCA) and assistance of the City's Recreation and Park District, sponsors or supports the following events: Summer Concert Series, Scholarships and Oktoberfest.

**Table 4.9-3
SCHOOL FACILITIES IN CYPRESS**

	Acreage	
	Total	Open Space
Anaheim Union High School District		
Cypress High	39.70	21.89 ²
Lexington Junior High	20.30	13.30 ²
Oxford Academy	24.00	16.33 ²
Cypress Elementary School District		
Arnold Elementary	13.08	6.84
Cawthon, Robert Elementary	10.19	7.62
Damron, Charles Elementary	9.81	7.13
King Elementary	12.68	8.81
Landell, Margaret Elementary	10.50	7.55
MacKay, Daniel Elementary ¹	10.00	6.51
Morris, Juliet Elementary	10.17	7.62
Swain, Christine Elementary	10.95	8.15
Vessels, Mildred Elementary	10.26	7.36
Total	181.64	119.11
Source: Correspondence from Jill Evans from Anaheim School District and Terry Scott from Cypress Elementary School District on January 11, 2000.		
Notes:		
1. The School District currently leases the MacKay School site property to the Head Start Program, ABC Development and Alton School.		
2. Open Space numbers were taken from the 1993 General Plan Update and the 1986 General Plan.		

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities host many of the City's recreation and cultural programs.

Community Center. The Cypress Community Center, located in Oak Knoll Park, is 18,000 square feet in size. A number of classes, including art, exercise, and etiquette, are regularly held at the Community Center, along with special festivities such as the Community Festival. The Community Center is also available for private rentals (wedding receptions, etc.) on weekends. According to the Recreation and Park District, the Community Center is actively utilized and reservations must be made well in advance for City activities and private rentals.

Civic Center. The Civic Center is located near the geographic center of the City and is surrounded by expanses of landscaped open space. Facilities located at the Civic Center include the City Hall, council chambers, City police department, library, and tennis courts. The open space at the Civic Center serves as a visual relief from the urban environment and also functions as a place for recreational and cultural programs, such as Concerts on the Green and the Holiday Sing.

The Cypress branch of the Orange County Library, containing approximately 112,566 volumes, sponsors a number of programs including Pre-School Storytime and the Fun Club for Children.

Senior Center. The Cypress Senior Center is located on Grindlay Street, just north of the Civic Center. The facility features a social galleria, exercise room, crafts room, billards room, social services office areas, large meeting room, kitchen, and office areas. The City offers a variety of educational, recreational, and social service programs through the Senior Center to address the needs of senior citizens.

Cultural Arts Facility. Space for the Cypress Civic Theater, is located at the Oxford Academy, just southwest of the Civic Center. The open space at the Oxford Academy is maintained by the City in lieu of lease payments. The Cypress Civic Theatre Guild, a private organization, coordinates six theatre performances annually. The City supports the theatre by allowing the Guild to utilize the cultural arts facility at no cost.

A number of other programs provided by the City's Recreation and Park District are conducted at the Community Center. Classes in the arts are provided by the Recreation and Park District, including dance, art and music classes. The Cultural Arts Commission supports a number of community events, such as Arts Week, Juried Art Exhibit and the Elementary Art Program. Currently, no Cultural Arts Facility is available; the activities the Cultural Arts Commission support are hosted at the Community Center.

Community Art Gallery. The Community Art Gallery is located at the Community Center. A number of displays are shown throughout the year and are sponsored by the Cypress Art League and the City.

REGIONAL PARKS

A regional park typically serves several communities and contains substantially more acreage than parks in individual communities. Regional parks have a variety of recreation facilities including golf courses, a lake for boating, swimming facilities, and both winter and summer sports centers.

While there are no regional park facilities within Cypress, nearby jurisdictions operate a number of regional recreational facilities. Five regional parks within close proximity to Cypress include:

- El Dorado Park/Nature Center,
- Heartwell Park,
- Cerritos Regional Park,
- Rynerson Park, and
- El Rancho Verde Park and Bicycle Path.

El Dorado Park in Long Beach includes four fishing lakes, an archery course, five miles of biking/walking trails and picnic facilities. The adjoining Nature Center includes two lakes (no fishing), trails, and a small museum. Heartwell Park also located in Long Beach, is a more active park with baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and volleyball facilities. Adjacent to both El Dorado Park and Heartwell Park are public golf courses.

Other nearby regional park facilities include Cerritos Regional Park (84 acres), Rynerson Park (55 acres situated adjacent to the San Gabriel River north of Lincoln Avenue), and El Rancho Verde Park and Bicycle Path (a 12- mile strip park running through the communities of La Palma and Buena Park). A public golf course, Old Ranch Country Club, is located in Seal Beach.

PRIVATE FACILITIES

In addition to public facilities, several private recreational facilities in Cypress contribute to the open/recreational resources within the community.

Commercial/Industrial Open Space Facilities. Many companies provide on-site recreation and open space areas for employees to promote the employee's well being.

The Cypress Business Park contains a number of large businesses, some of which offer indoor recreational facilities or outdoor open space areas with informal seating that offer a place for employees to relax. The City will continue to encourage developers to provide on-site recreation and open space facilities.

Commercial Recreation. Three private commercial recreation uses are located within the Cypress boundaries: the Cypress Golf Club, the Los Alamitos Race Track, and the Navy Golf Course.

Cypress Golf Club: Is a 106-acre public golf course located in the southwestern portion of the City, adjacent to the Los Alamitos Race Track. The facility includes an 18-hole course, driving range and clubhouse. The clubhouse is a two-level 25,000 square foot facility housing administrative offices, a lounge, a pro shop, and a restaurant.

Los Alamitos Race Track: The track is adjacent to the Cypress Golf Club, is home to quarter horse and harness racing and is visited by approximately 1.2 million people annually. As the only commercial racetrack facility in Orange County, Los Alamitos functions as a significant regional recreation resource for the City.

Navy Golf Course: A portion of the golf course is located in southern Cypress and is available for use by military personnel and their relatives.

Cemetery. The Forest Lawn Cemetery serves as the western entrance to the City along Lincoln Avenue. Forest Lawn's 150 acres of rolling green lawns serve as visual relief from the surrounding urbanized area. In addition, people utilize the area daily for quiet strolls and private reflection.

4.9.2 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 which 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 recreational 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 categorized 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 level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant and unavoidable impact.

4.9.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- **BUILDOUT OF THE CITY OF CYPRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN UPDATE MAY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS TO THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY.**

Level of Significance Before Policies/Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

The City of Cypress has approximately 82 acres of parks, including community, neighborhood, mini, and nature parks. According to Cypress' adopted park standards, the City has a shortfall of almost 65 acres of public open space. Meeting these standards seems infeasible, if not physically and financially impossible for the City. Only a few scattered parcels remain in residential neighborhoods that could become park land, and financial resources are limited for acquisition of these sites.

There is a need for a new neighborhood park within the northwest portion of the City. The Cypress Recreation and Park District is proposing to purchase three acres of land for the development of a park within this area to address this need. In addition, with the growing popularity in recent years of roller hockey, skate boarding, and inline skating, Cypress has made plans to meet these needs. A Roller Hockey Rink for organized youth and adult leagues was constructed at Arnold/Cypress Park in 1998, and skate board and roller skating features are being planned for all the parks within Cypress.

Table 4.9-4 lists shortfalls/surpluses in park acreage based on the City's adopted standard. Despite the shortage of vacant land, Cypress may obtain parkland through the following methods: parkland dedication requirements, specific plans, parkland lease arrangements, assessment districts, developer land dedications and exactions, and the local assistance grants.

Parkland Dedication Requirements. The parkland dedication requirements (or fees-in-lieu) in the subdivision ordinance should remain at three acres per 1,000 residents. The remaining one and one-half acres per 1,000 residents are provided at school sites.

**Table 4.9-4
EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK ACREAGE NEEDS**

	Acreage Required			Available Acreage from Existing and Proposed Parkland		Surplus/Shortfall	
	Population	Parks 3.0 Acres/1,000	School Playground 1.5 Acres/1,000	District Parks	School Playgrounds	District Parks	School Playgrounds
2000	49,031 ¹	147 acres	73.5 acres	82.03 acres	119.11 acres	-64.97 acres	+45.61 acres
2020	51,524 ²	154.6 acres	77.3 acres	82.03 acres	119.11 acres	-72.57 acres	+41.81 acres

Source: City of Cypress Recreation and Park District.

1. State of California, Department of Finance, January 1, 2000 Estimate.
2. General Plan Buildout population projection.

Funds for park development are limited and financing mechanisms for future facilities must be explored. Financing options to investigate include assessment districts and developer land dedications and exactions.

California Department of Parks and Recreation Local Assistance Grants. The Local Services Section of the State Department of Parks and Recreation administers grant programs that provides funds to local and state agencies and other organizations. Grants are generally for park, recreation and resources related projects.

The passage of the “Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond of 2000” (Proposition 12) provides funds for local assistance grants, as provided for in Sections 5096.310, 5096.331 through 5096.345 and 5096.348 of the Public Resources Code. The following grant programs to be administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation include: 1) Grant Program for Improvement to those units of the State Park System administered by Local Agencies; 2) California Heritage Grant Program; 3) Per Capita Grant Program I (Statewide); 4) Per Capita Grant Program II (Small Cities and Districts); 5) Roberti-Z’bert-Harris Grant Program; 6) Riparian and Riverine Habitats Grant Program; 7) Non-motorized Trails Grant Program; 8) Murray-Hayden (Urban Youth Services) Grant Program; 9) Dr. Paul Chaffee Zoological Program; 10) National Marine Sanctuaries Grant Program; 11) Urban Centers and Education Grant Program; and 12) Regional Youth Soccer/Baseball Facilities Grant Program.

The City is eligible for funds through the per capita grants, and could compete for other funds such as the Roberti-Z’bert-Harris Grants.

Policies in the Proposed General Plan Update: The Conservation/Open Space and Recreation, Land Use, and Air Quality Elements include the following policies:

- COSR-6.1 Continue to require new developments to provide recreational opportunities for their residents in accordance with the City's park standard, three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- COSR-6.2 Preserve existing recreational and park facilities and develop new park and recreational facilities (including skating-oriented facilities) and/or programs as necessary to maintain an adequate level of service and a wide variety of programs.
- COSR-6.3 Maximize the recreational opportunities offered by existing open space and recreation resources so that they serve the greatest portion of the community.
- COSR-6.4 Where feasible, community, neighborhood and mini-parks should be located adjacent to school sites, but the prime locational criterion will be how well local neighborhoods are served.
- COSR-6.5 Continually reassess the community's recreational and open space standards and opportunities in relation to satisfying the needs of the population.
- COSR-6.6 Design new and renovated parks for convenient and accessible use by handicapped, elderly, and otherwise less mobile persons within the community.
- COSR-6.7 Evaluate and, where feasible, utilize the opportunities offered by abandoned road and railroad rights-of-way and similar environmentally impacted or unused linear open space to construct low maintenance greenbelts and multi-use trails.
- COSR-6.8 Preserve public and private open space lands for active and passive recreational opportunities.

- COSR-6.9 Continue to cooperate with the Anaheim Union High School and Cypress School Districts for the maximum feasible use of public facilities to meet recreational needs. In addition, pursue joint-use agreements with Cypress College.
- COSR-6.10 Encourage all future public neighborhood and community parks in the City to be designed as joint-use facilities contiguous with public schools, sharing playfields, playgrounds, and other amenities wherever possible.
- COSR-6.11 Encourage and, where appropriate, require the inclusion of recreation facilities and open space within future residential, industrial and commercial developments.
- COSR-7.2 Work closely with other public agencies, including other parks and recreation departments and school districts, in developing cooperative park and recreation programs.
- COSR-7.4 Provide as wide a range of recreational opportunities as possible, including athletics, arts, crafts, and cultural arts programs and facilities for all ages and interest groups.
- COSR-7.5 Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are developed with facilities appropriate to all ages, including athletic fields, active play areas, passive open space, tot lots and picnic areas.
- COSR-7.6 Develop long-term agreements with the School District and, as appropriate, other agencies that will maximize joint-use and multiple-use of facilities, eliminate program uncertainty, and reduce overall operations and maintenance costs.
- LU-1.7 Where feasible, increase the amount and network of public and private open space and recreational facilities for active or passive recreation as well as for visual relief.
- LU-4.6 Continue to emphasize the Civic Center as the focal point of the community, civic, cultural, and recreational activities.
- LU-5.1 Encourage within economic capabilities a wide range of accessible public facilities and community services, including fire and police protection, flood control and drainage, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities and other governmental and municipal services.
- LU-10.7 Determine the need and desirability for providing a public multi-use trail along the former Union Pacific right-of-way.
- AQ-1.4 Develop neighborhood parks near concentrations of residents to encourage pedestrian travel to the recreation facilities.

Mitigation Measures: In addition to the policies listed above, the following mitigation measures are recommended to further reduce any impacts.

- 4.9-1 Develop cooperative arrangements with adjacent park departments and park and recreation districts for providing a coordinated set of recreational programs and a broader range of recreational resources than currently available.
- 4.9-2 Continue to employ cooperative use arrangements with the Anaheim Union High School District and the Cypress School District in providing additional recreational resources. If necessary, these cooperative use arrangements can be formalized into

written agreements. Past practice has been to cooperate on a regular but informal basis. In addition, pursue joint-use agreements with Cypress College.

- 4.9-3 Continue to work with various civic and recreation oriented private groups (e.g., Boys Club and YMCA) in providing a recreational program that is well coordinated and responsive to changing community needs.

Level of Significance After Policies/Mitigation: Significant and Unavoidable Impact.

4.9.4 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

All parks and recreation impacts associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update for the City of Cypress would be less than significant by adherence to/compliance with policies in the proposed General Plan Update and with the imposition of mitigation measures. No unavoidable significant parks and recreation impacts would occur.

Development under the proposed General Plan Update would create unavoidable significant impacts related to parks and recreation facilities. These impacts are primarily based on the premise that the City currently falls short of meeting the acreage requirements for park facilities. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would enhance this deficiency. Although measures related to parks and recreation needs would be implemented on a project-by-project basis, it is anticipated that these impacts would remain unavoidable and significant.