



APPENDIX I
COUNTY OF ORANGE
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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DATE: August 17, 2007
TO: Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Director, Resources & Development Management Department
SUBJECT: HBP Staff Analysis of HBP Facilities Inventory Assessment – Findings Report

As part of the Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) Strategic Plan process initiated last year, an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Supervisors was appointed to work with HBP staff in completing the last phases of the Plan. At the suggestion of the Committee members, HBP staff directed the County's Strategic Plan consultant, Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG), to prepare an independent assessment of how HBP Facilities align with the goals and policies of the Recreation and Resources Elements of the County's General Plan.

REPORT SUMMARY

Facilities Assessed

The *Findings Report* is an assessment of **all** of the facilities in HBP's inventory, with the following **exceptions**:

- Facilities within the **Newport Bay Tidelands** owned by the County (and overseen by HBP). These facilities have a Tidelands-only funding source separate from other HBP facilities; they will be assessed at a later date.
- **Trails** included in the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails (overseen by HBP) and **Class I** (off-road) **Bikeways** included in the County's Bikeways Plan (portions of which are maintained by HBP). Trails and Class I Bikeways will also be assessed at a later date; however, trails and bikeways serving HBP facilities are noted in the report.
- **Local Parks** in unincorporated territory. They are noted in the report, but no assessment is provided. Local parks remain in the County's inventory only until the areas in which they are located are either annexed or incorporated.

The facilities assessed are organized into categories that generally reflect references in the General Plan; the categories are as follows, along with the number of facilities per category and an example of each:

- **Non-Coastal Regional Parks** – 19; Mile Square Regional Park
- **Beach Parks** – 6; Salt Creek Beach

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- **Shoreline Beaches** – 8; Thousand Steps Beach
- **Nature Preserves** – 4; Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve
- **Aquatic Harbor Park** – 1; Sunset Harbour Marina
- **Historic Parks** – 7; Heritage Hill Historic Park
- **Outlying Park Parcels** – 5; Caspers Ridgeline Extension
- **Proposed Regional Recreation Facilities** – 5; Olinda Regional Park

The facilities are rated as to their alignment with nine criteria identified by MIG from a review of the Recreation and Resources Elements of the County's General Plan; four rating categories are utilized:

1) Fully aligned; 2) Mostly aligned; 3) Partially aligned; and 4) Minimally aligned.

Overall Conclusion

The report finds that **almost all** of the HBP facilities assessed (42 of 55) **fully align** with the goals and policies of the Recreation and Resources Elements of the County's General Plan, **covering virtually all of the approximately 38,000 acres that HBP manages**. The 13 facilities that are described as not being fully aligned with those goals and policies are mostly small and/or isolated.

Specific Facility Conclusions

All facilities in the following categories are **fully aligned** with the goals and policies:

- **Nature Preserves (4)**
- **Beach Parks (6)**
- **Aquatic Harbor Park (1)**
- **Historic Parks (7)**
- **Proposed Regional Recreation Facilities (5)**

All facilities in the **Non-Coastal Regional Parks (19)** category are **fully aligned** with the goals and policies, with **one exception**:

- Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park – described as **minimally** aligns with the goals and policies.

Only one of the facilities (Santa Ana River Mouth Beach) in the **Shoreline Beaches (8)** category is **fully aligned** with the goals and policies; the **seven exceptions** involve small facilities with constrained access:

- Three Arch Bay Beach – Laguna Beach – **minimally** aligns
- Totuava Bay Beach – Laguna Beach – **minimally** aligns
- 11th Street Beach – Sunset Beach – **mostly** aligns
- Bayside Drive Beach – Newport Beach – **mostly** aligns
- Table Rock Beach – Laguna Beach – **mostly** aligns
- Thousand Steps Beach – Laguna Beach – **mostly** aligns
- Poche Beach – San Clemente – **mostly** aligns

None of the facilities in the **Outlying Park Parcels (5)** category are **fully aligned** with the goals and policies:

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- Glass Creek (Limestone and Whiting) – **partially** aligns
- Santiago Oaks “Annex” – **partially** aligns
- Badlands Park (Aliso and Wood) – **mostly** aligns
- Seaview Park (Aliso and Wood) – **mostly** aligns
- Caspers Ridgeline Extension – **mostly** aligns

RDMD/HBP EVALUATION OF REPORT

- Of the 42 findings in the report indicating that facilities **fully align** with the goals and policies of the Recreation Element of the County’s General Plan, RDMD/HBP agrees with 40 of them. We disagree that the following two facilities fully align:
 - Mariner’s Beach and North Star Beach (Beach Parks category) – these adjacent properties (11 acres) comprise a portion of a slightly larger beach that has been used for the past fifteen years principally by the Newport Beach Aquatic Center (crew, kayaks, etc.) under a Joint Powers Agreement between the County and the City of Newport Beach.
 - Crescent Bay Park (Beach Parks category) – this is a small view park within the City of Laguna Beach.Both of these facilities should be considered for conveyance to an appropriate public entity.
- RDMD/HBP agrees with the “minimally aligns” finding regarding Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park as it relates to its current use. Because a large portion of the park property will not be ready for acceptance for decades due to oil production, the park acreage owned by the County along with the limited improvements (principally, a playground) could be considered for conveyance to another public entity.
- RDMD/HBP agrees with the findings regarding Shoreline Beaches, with two exceptions. Upon further review of the parcel by RDMD/HBP staff, the Santa Ana River Mouth Beach appears to be a remnant parcel and does not justify characterization as a stand-alone, “regional” beach. Along with six of the seven facilities noted as either “minimally” or “mostly” aligns, it should be considered for conveyance to an appropriate public entity. All of the six other properties are either very small or have constrained access or both, characteristic of local facilities. 11th Street Beach is characterized in the same way; however, because it is located in unincorporated territory, it should remain in the County inventory until the area is annexed or incorporated.
- RDMD/HBP disagrees with four of the findings regarding the five **Outlying Park Parcels**. The report evaluated these parcels as stand-alone “regional parks” based principally on their separation from the main body of a park and their less-than-100 acres size. RDMD/HBP disagrees with the idea that an “outlying” parcel must be evaluated as if it were a separate park. Rather, RDMD/HBP believes that non-contiguous parcels can be considered integral to the main body of a park.

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Accordingly, for the reasons noted below, four of the five parcels should be retained by the County:

- Santiago Oaks “Annex” – Because of its distance from the main part of Santiago Regional Park and its limited access, the property is more appropriate as a nature preserve. This would allow for the preservation of its significant ridgeline open space with commanding views of Orange County; in the future, access could be enhanced through the development of loop trails. Consequently, the property should be retained and re-designated as a Nature Preserve.
- Badlands Park is actually a five-acre section within the South Laguna Ridgeline trail area of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The larger area is only slightly outlying from the main body of the park, offers commanding views of the coastline and provides resource preservation of unique soils and rare maritime chaparral habitat. Additionally, the parcel, as part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, is included in the County properties that are encumbered by the bonds issued to pay off the County’s bankruptcy and, therefore, would be unavailable for conveyance to another entity until after 2017.
- Seaview Park is not an outlying parcel from Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, but is within the boundaries of the park. While not “wilderness”, it provides a developed “activity node” for picnicking and the enjoyment of commanding views of both the coastline and the main park. Similar to Badlands Park, the parcel, as part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, is included in the County properties that are encumbered by the bonds issued to pay off the County’s bankruptcy and, therefore, would be unavailable for conveyance to another entity until after 2017.
- Caspers Ridgeline Extension, while outlying from both Caspers Wilderness and O’Neill Regional Parks, the parcels contain the main trail linkage between the two parks and provide a managed buffer to the Cleveland National Forest and the National Audubon Sanctuary, permitting greater oversight of hundreds of acres of resource preservation and scenic preservation easements around the private communities of Dove Canyon and Coto de Caza. Also, the parcel, as part Caspers Wilderness Park, is included in the County properties that are encumbered by the bonds issued to pay off the County’s bankruptcy and, therefore, would be unavailable for conveyance to another entity until after 2017.
- RDMD/HBP has identified an **Outlying Park Parcel** not included in the report that should be assessed separately. The Aliso Creek and El Toro Road habitat area (PR70T-801.1 and adjacent 802) is outlying from Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and has no trail connections to the park. Also, Parcel 802 has only a local trail connecting two local Aliso Viejo parks – “Wingspan Park” and “Hummingbird Park”.

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RDMD/HBP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Direct staff to investigate the possible conveyance of the following twelve facilities to public entities appropriate to own and maintain them and return to the Board prior to initiating any action involving conveyance:
 - Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park
 - Santa Ana River Mouth Beach
 - Three Arch Bay Beach
 - Totuava Bay Beach
 - Bayside Drive Beach
 - Table Rock Beach
 - Thousand Steps Beach
 - Poche Beach
 - Crescent Bay Park
 - Glass Creek Outlying Parcel
 - Aliso Creek and El Toro Road habitat area
- Direct staff to develop a similar assessment of facilities within the Newport Bay Tidelands owned by the County relative to their alignment with the goals and policies of the General Plan.
- Direct staff to complete a real estate inventory of: 1) trails included in the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails and 2) Class I Bikeways included in the County's Bikeways Plan and then develop a similar assessment of those facilities relative to their alignment with the goals and policies of the General Plan.


Bryan Speegle, Director

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Harbors, Beaches and Parks **Facilities Inventory Assessment**

Findings Report

Prepared for:

Orange County Board of Supervisors

and the

**Resources and Development Management
Department**

Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Prepared by:



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Chapter I - Introduction and Summary of Findings

The following report is the product of an independent analysis of the inventory of the Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) facilities recently completed by the Resources Development and Management Department (RDMD). The inventory of the HBP regional recreational facilities is available in the HBP Program Management Office. The analysis was done using criteria – see Tables 1 to 4 – from the General Plan.

This first chapter describes the purpose of the report, how the criteria used to make assessments were developed, and how these criteria were then applied to the facilities in the inventory. The first chapter also provides an overview of the findings resulting from this assessment.

The second chapter provides information and data for facilities, the criteria used in the assessment, and the assessment of each facility in terms of these criteria. The assessment is summarized in the form of a matrix for each facility; the degree to which each facility is aligned with each applicable criterion.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this review is to assess the extent to which each of the facilities owned, operated or managed by Harbors Beaches and Parks (HBP) is consistent with the Orange County General Plan (General Plan) policies and criteria for regional recreational facilities, and the County's core mission of operating and maintaining regional parks and recreation services. Findings from this analysis will be used by the Board of Supervisors and RDMD staff as they review the relation of these facilities to the General Plan and the HBP Strategic Plan.

The independent assessment of the HBP land and facilities inventory was carried out by MIG.

CRITERIA

To assess the facilities required clarifying the General Plan policies that define the nature and character of a regional recreational facility. Per the Government Code (Sec. 65400), the land use and property acquisition or disposal of property by local agencies such as the County must be consistent with the General Plan. The Government Code requires local agency General Plans to include elements addressing open space and recreation policies. For these reasons, the criteria for this analysis are based on the County General Plan policies relevant to HBP facilities.

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The MIG team reviewed the Recreation Element, the Resources Element and other relevant elements of the General Plan. From this review, MIG staff identified an initial set of criteria to apply to each of the County park facilities listed in the facilities assessment inventory.

Prior to applying the criteria to the land and facilities inventory, MIG reviewed the draft criteria with RDMD/HBP staff to ensure they were complete and accurate. The following are the broad criteria categories identified from the General Plan:

- **Sufficient size** to provide diverse activities and ensure accessibility
- **Countywide significance** due to recreational and/or scenic attractions (unavailable in local parks)
- **Special importance** due to historic, scientific, educational, special resource, or revenue producing reasons
- **Strategic value** by protecting/preserving open space, natural resources, and/or ecological habitats
- **System wide importance** due to linkages with other parks via the regional trail system.

The General Plan does not have just one all encompassing set of criteria that applies equally to all regional recreational facilities. Given the wide variety of types of facilities, it is important to recognize and clarify the variations in the criteria for defining a regional recreational facility. Each of the following categories of facilities has its own set of criteria as defined in the General Plan.

- Non-coastal regional parks (which includes all natural, urban and wilderness regional parks.)
- Nature preserves
- Coastal regional parks (which includes all beaches and harbors)
- Historic parks
- Local parks in unincorporated areas of the County

Although there are similarities in the criteria across all the park categories, the variations are important and were taken into account to ensure an accurate assessment of each facility. As an example, according to the General Plan a regional park should be “approximately 100 acres or more in size.” However, the minimum of 100 acres applies primarily to non-coastal regional parks, and not to coastal facilities or other categories (General Plan page VII-45, goal 3, policies 4

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and 5).¹ Although a key consideration, this criterion was not intended to function as an absolute threshold for urban, natural and wilderness regional parks. In some cases, other criteria besides geographic size were applicable. Among these criteria were whether or not the potential or current site is “of historical, scientific, educational, special resource, or revenue-producing importance.” (VII-45, Goal3, Policy 4)²³

For coastal facilities, from the perspective of both the General Plan and the County’s core mission of operating and maintaining regional parks and recreation services, whether or not a regional facility is sufficiently large to offer on-site services capable of meeting the needs of a large number of visitors from throughout the county is a critical criterion.⁴ Even where considered regionally significant per other General Plan guidelines, some coastal properties are too inaccessible to permit the County to effectively operate and manage the facility as a regional facility, given the core mission for the County regional park system. This is generally the case for those coastal facilities described as shoreline beaches. In these circumstances, since they are generally accessible only to local community residents, such shoreline beaches and coves function more like local parks rather than regional recreational facilities.

The criteria specific to each of the five categories of regional recreational facilities are provided in Tables 1 to 4 starting on page 10.

METHODOLOGY

MIG applied the final set of criteria to the facility⁵ assessment inventory previously developed by RDMD/HBP staff. The inventory covered every facility currently owned, operated and managed by HBP, including 45 regional parks, 24 local parks in unincorporated areas, as well as four sites anticipated by the General Plan to become regional parks in the future, for a total of 73 separate

¹ Goal 3, Policy 4 applies the 100 acres size criteria to what it terms “non-coastal regional parks.” Goal 3, Policy 5, which instead applies to coastal acquisitions, does not include any reference to the 100-acre size criteria, but only that there be “general public access.”

² Goal 3, Policy 4 lists the exceptions to the 100-acre size criteria for non-coastal regional parks.

³ The General Plan does not offer a definition for what it characterizes as sites of “historic or scientific interest.” Instead, it relies on “testimony and evidence” provided on a case-by-case basis (General Plan VII-46 Goal 3, Policy 8) to determine what sites qualify.

⁴ On page VII-45, Goal 3, Policy 5, the General Plan describes a regionally significant coastal acquisition as one with “potential general public access.” Goal 3, Policy 3 describes the acquisition of projects “...to which participants are willing to travel distances within Orange County beyond their local communities.” General Plan VII-41 describes beach parks as, “comparatively large beach areas (able)...to accommodate large numbers of users.”

⁵ A “facility” includes land and structures owned, managed or operated by HBP or a concessionaire or other agency (e.g. cities) for HBP.

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facilities. An overview of the 73 facilities is provided in the RDMD/HBP inventory⁶.

There are five sites included as parts of one of the 73 facilities, but which are not connected to the main body of the facility. These “outlying park parcels” were identified in a map of the regional park system provided by RDMD/HBP staff (see Exhibit A: Harbors, Beaches and Parks [HBP] Managed Facilities) and in the aerial photos of each park also included in the inventory. These five outlying park parcels were assessed with the same criteria.

In addition to the name of the regional recreational facility, the inventory overview listed the following information for each facility:

- HBP facility number (e.g. PR70T, BE74M, and HS07A)
- Number of acres owned in fee by the County
- Number of acres owned as an easement by the County
- Number of other acres (e.g. leased, irrevocable offer of dedication⁷, local park, etc.)
- City boundaries
- Fiscal Year 05-06 revenue⁸
- Fiscal Year 05-06 expenses
- 2006 number of visitors⁹
- Percentage of visitors from within each County District, , and from outside the County based on:
 - Reservation data ¹⁰
 - Survey data ¹¹
- Constraints (e.g. Natural Community Conservation Planning Program¹², etc.)

⁶ Dana Point Harbor was excluded from this analysis.

⁷ When a developer is required to set aside property to the County for parks or other purposes, the property is irrevocably offered for dedication to the County; the County can then accept it at any time. An Irrevocable Offer of Dedication (IOD) can be included directly on a subdivision map or can be described in a separate real estate document, duly approved and recorded.

⁸ Source: financial data from RDMD budget and accounting

⁹ Source: staff estimates generated monthly and annually

¹⁰ Source: Infospherix

¹¹ Source: Responsive Management and initial estimates requested of staff using facility-specific techniques.

¹² Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) is a program that identifies and provides for the regional protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity. The primary objective of the NCCP program is to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem level while accommodating compatible land use.

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More detailed information for each regional recreational facility included a one-page overview of the park, which featured the following:

- A brief description of the facility
- Location
- Primary activities available in the facility
- Total size in acres
- Recreation features
- Natural features
- Special events/unique activities
- Estimated annual attendance
- Expenses (fiscal year 05/06)
- Revenues (fiscal year 05/06)
- Park-involved organizations

Aerial photographs of each park identified each parcel within the facility, numerically coded to correspond to an accompanying list of each parcel in the facility, identifying the type of parcel (fee, easement, etc.) and the number of acres in each parcel. Some facilities consist of more than 100 parcels, while others have only a few. The map of the entire regional park system mentioned above (Exhibit A) also identifies each individual parcel.

Information provided by RDMD/HBP staff was supplemented by data from accessing the HBP website which provided more in-depth information on some facilities, including the history of the site. Where feasible other descriptive information on beaches and other park sites could be found on other non-HBP websites when needed.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The following assessment is organized in terms of each of the major regional recreational facility categories previously identified. This is a synopsis of the more detailed findings, which are presented in Chapter 2.

Non-Coastal Regional Parks

Twenty-six regional recreational facilities, including five distinct “outlying park parcels” were assessed per the criteria specific to this category

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Facilities Aligned with General Plan Criteria

The following urban, natural and wilderness regional recreational facilities are consistent with the General Plan criteria (see Table 1) for non-coastal regional parks. All of these regional recreational facilities were sufficient in size to provide diverse activities and ensure accessibility, and in addition were either of special importance due to historic and scientific reasons, or of countywide significance due to recreational and/or scenic attractions. Many were both.

- Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
- Carbon Canyon Regional Park
- Caspers Wilderness Park
- Clark Regional Park
- Craig Regional Park
- Featherly Regional Park
- Irvine Regional Park
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- Laguna Niguel Regional Park
- Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
- Mason Regional Park
- Mile Square Regional Park
- O'Neill Regional Park
- Peters Canyon Regional Park
- Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park
- Weir Canyon Wilderness Park
- Yorba Regional Park

One non-coastal regional facility currently only minimally aligns with the General Plan criteria for regional facilities but if further developed may more fully align in the future. Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park lies adjacent to a significant ecological reserve but the facility itself currently functions more as a local neighborhood park due to its limited size and uncertainty as to when additional planned acreage will become available¹³.

¹³ Currently, 34 acres are owned in fee by the County. The remaining 80 irrevocably-offered acres are affected by oil operations and the County's concern about liability for clean-up of the property. The next phase of property acquisition will be 24 acres, dependent on relocation of some above-ground pipelines. The final 56-acres are currently not available for acquisition because of uncertainty about when oil operations will end. The oil leases permit operation until they are not economically beneficial to the lease holders.

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- Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park

Outlying Park Parcels

Five “outlying park parcels” were identified. These properties are associated with regional facilities but are located outside the boundaries of the main body of the facility.

At least three of the five outlying park parcels are aligned with the criteria for non-coastal regional recreational facilities. . All three of these offer scenic attractions¹⁴ of countywide significance (see facility assessment matrix on pages 42 to 44). They are also located adjacent to or near the larger parks with which they are associated, and are linked by trails to the larger park¹⁵. In addition, the Caspers Wilderness Park ridgeline extension provides a vital open space buffer that enhances the County’s ability to protect an existing open space resource of national significance, the Cleveland National Forest.

- Badlands Park (associated with Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park)
- Seaview Park (associated with Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park)
- Ridgeline Extension of Caspers Wilderness Park

Two of the outlying park parcel facilities partially align with the criteria for non-coastal regional parks. One of these is large enough to function as a regional recreational facility, but it has not yet been developed due to questions regarding its accessibility, lack of off-street parking, and uncertainty regarding scenic views or other assets of countywide significance.

- Santiago Oaks Regional Park “Annex” (Parcels PR 22D 801, 801.1, 801.2, 801.3, and 901.02)

The Glass Creek outlying park parcel may have potential as a regional recreational facility but primarily in relationship to the vastly larger nearby, Limestone and Whiting Wilderness Park. It is also located on the Mountains to the Sea Trail, and includes significant native habitat. This site was originally acquired to mitigate for development elsewhere. In the past, the City of Lake

¹⁴ A “scenic attraction” is not defined in the General Plan although it describes regional parks as “scenic attractions of countywide significance and generally not available in local parks” (see page VII-39). The General Plan describes one of the benefits of open space, which includes regional parks, as “scenic vista enhancement.” (page VI-89)

¹⁵ Per the General Plan, the regional trail system is designed to provide biking, equestrian, and hiking linkages between regional recreational facilities (see VII-50 Goal 3, Policy 21) uniting separate facilities into a network of parks.

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Forest has expressed interest in acquiring the site as a local park. There are deed restrictions that come with the property, which will have to be taken into account when considering its future.

- Glass Creek

Table 1: Regional Recreational Facility Criteria for Non-Coastal Regional Parks

Criteria – Definitions and Indicators		Location in General Plan
A1	Approximately 100 acres or more in size	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4)
A2	Sites of historic, scientific education, special resource importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history</i> 	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4), VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)
A3	Sites...of revenue-producing importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Per fiscal year revenue and expense data</i> 	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4)
B	Offer recreational or scenic attractions of countywide significance (those unavailable in local parks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sufficiently significant to attract visitors from elsewhere in the County beyond immediately adjacent communities (per annual visitor attendance figures)</i> ▪ <i>Attracts visitors from outside the County (per annual visitor attendance figures)</i> ▪ <i>Unique natural topographic and/or biological resources on site</i> ▪ <i>Provides a natural place fully distinct and separate from the built environment; a refuge from the normal reality of most residents</i> ▪ <i>Provides recreational activities that enable visitors to experience this natural environment, which are compatible with that environment (hiking, camping, mountain biking, etc.)</i> 	VI-91, VII-39, VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 3)
C	Sufficient size to provide diverse activities accessible to all County residents: picnicking, camping, swimming, recreational sports, educational activities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Can accommodate a large number of varied passive and active recreational activities, individuals and groups at the same time.</i> ▪ <i>Size enhances overall flexibility –ability to add to or replace facilities as recreational needs of the population change over time</i> 	VII-39, VII-45 (Goal 2)

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Criteria – Definitions and Indicators		Location in General Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient size to accommodate both recreational and environmental resource needs/objectives (e.g. may include wilderness zones consisting of land retaining its primeval character (VII-35)) Includes extensive trail systems and facilities 	
D	<p>Satisfy open space and/or recreation needs of current and future residents of Orange County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the open space and recreation needs of many cities Is reasonably accessible Enables the regional park system to accommodate increased demand for recreation & open space as the population increases Meets identified recreational deficiencies of a wide area of the County (e.g. north OC). 	VI-91, VII-44 (Goal 1)
E	<p>Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain (and possibly link) large areas of open space Accessed by bike lanes/trails "The County ... shall seek scenic public trail linkages throughout ... (the) parks network..." 	VI-89, VI-91 IV-32 (Policy 1.5) VII-50 (Goal 3, Policy 21)
F	<p>Buffers Open Space Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The open space area enhances or buffers an existing open space resource of national significance, i.e. the Cleveland National Forest and coastal zone resources 	VI-92 #3
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	VII-47 (Goal 3, Policy 12)

Nature Preserves

Nature Preserves are a fourth sub-category of non-coastal regional recreational facilities with the primary role of protection of significant natural resources. These facilities are assessed using a different set of General Plan criteria. All four of the nature preserves currently in the regional system are consistent with this key criterion – the protection of significant natural resources. These four nature preserves also provide opportunities for carefully managed passive recreational activities, such as hiking and nature study, which ensures compatibility with their primary protection and preservation function.

- Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve

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- Modjeska Canyon Nature Preserve
- Talbert Nature Preserve
- Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Table 2: Regional Recreational Facility Criteria for Nature Preserves

Criteria – Definitions and Indicators		Location in General Plan
A1	Approximately 100 acres or more in size	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4)
A2	Sites of historic, scientific education, special resource importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history</i> 	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4), VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)
A3	Sites...of revenue-producing importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Per fiscal year revenue and expense data</i> 	VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 4)
B	Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Important Ecological Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The regional parks provide permanent habitat (VI-17)</i> ▪ <i>These areas provide a focus for natural resource preservation, conservation, and protection functions (VI-91)</i> ▪ <i>Permits only very limited improvements to be installed (VII-48, Goal 3, Policy 17.4)</i> ▪ <i>Visitor activities focused on interpretive outings confined to existing trails only. (VII-48, Goal 3, Policy 17.4)</i> ▪ <i>Interpretive programs and scientific research permitted (VII-48, Goal 3, Policy 17.4)</i> 	VII-41 VI-17 VI-89 VI-102 (Goal 1, Obj. 1.1) VII-48

Coastal Regional Parks

Fourteen regional recreational facilities were assessed per the criteria specific to this category, thirteen beaches and one marina facility.

All of the following “beach parks,” and marina are consistent with the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks, aligning with five or more of the criteria for coastal regional recreational facilities. These coastal facilities are sufficiently large to provide services for a large number of visitors and are accessible. By attracting large numbers of visitors from throughout the County and outside the County, they demonstrate they are recreational and scenic attractions of countywide significance.

- Aliso Beach

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- Capistrano Beach
- North Star Beach & Mariner's Beach
- Salt Creek Beach
- Sunset Beach
- Sunset Harbor

Two “shoreline parks” were consistent with three or more of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional recreational facilities. Although significantly smaller than the beach parks, they are able to attract more visitors than other shoreline parks, or have some capacity to do so.

- Santa Ana River Mouth
- Thousand Steps Beach

Three other shoreline beaches are in spectacular locales but are not accessible to the general public. For this reason they are consistent with only one of the General Plan criteria for coastline regional recreational facilities.

- Table Rock Beach
- Three Arch Bay Beach
- Totuava Bay Beach

The remaining regional coastal facilities are not consistent with the General Plan criteria. Small size combined with limited to difficult accessibility limit their use to local residents or other visitors who are highly motivated.

- 11th Street Beach
- Bayside Drive Beach
- Poche Beach
- Table Rock Beach

A unique anomaly among the coastal regional parks is neither a beach nor a harbor. Given its small size it might be grouped with other local parks owned by the County in unincorporated areas, except this “local” park is found within an incorporated city. It functions as an accessible “view/lookout” park that offers what is described as a spectacular coastline view, which strongly aligns with the criterion of providing a “scenic attraction of countywide significance.”

- Crescent Bay Point Park

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Table 3: Regional Recreational Facility Criteria for Coastal Regional Parks

Criteria – Definitions and Indicators	Location in General Plan
<p>A Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A “coastal acquisition with general public access shall be of regional significance”</i> ▪ <i>Large beach areas with sizable flat, sandy acreage to accommodate large numbers of users</i> ▪ <i>Provides facilities to serve visitors (restrooms, showers, concessions, etc.)</i> 	<p>VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 5) VII-41</p>
<p>B Sufficient Size – Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>On-site or nearby convenient parking</i> ▪ <i>Generally accessible by more than only pedestrian access</i> 	<p>VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 5)</p>
<p>C Offer recreational or scenic attractions of countywide significance (those unavailable in local parks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sufficiently significant to attract visitors from elsewhere in the County beyond immediately adjacent communities (per annual visitor attendance figures)</i> ▪ <i>Attracts visitors from outside the County (per annual visitor attendance figures)</i> ▪ <i>Unique natural topographic and/or biological resources on site</i> ▪ <i>Provides a natural place fully distinct and separate from the built environment; a refuge from the normal reality of most residents</i> ▪ <i>Provides recreational activities that enable visitors to experience this natural environment, which are compatible with that environment (hiking, camping, mountain biking, etc.)</i> 	<p>VI-91, VII-39, VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 3)</p>
<p>D Satisfy open space and/or recreation needs of current and future residents of Orange County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Contributes to the open space and recreation needs of many cities</i> ▪ <i>Is reasonably accessible</i> ▪ <i>Enables the regional park system to accommodate increased demand for recreation & open space as the population increases</i> ▪ <i>Meets identified recreational deficiencies of a wide area of the County (e.g. north OC).</i> 	<p>VI-91, VII-44 (Goal 1), VII-45 (Goal 3, Policy 3)</p>
<p>E Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Maintain (and possibly link) large areas of open space</i> 	<p>VI-89, VI-91</p>

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Criteria – Definitions and Indicators		Location in General Plan
	▪ <i>Accessed by bike lanes/trails</i>	IV-32 (Policy 1.5)
	▪ <i>“The County ... shall seek scenic public trail linkages throughout ... (the) parks network...”</i>	VII-50 (Goal 3, Policy 21)
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	VII-47 (Goal 3, Policy 12)

Historic Parks

There are currently seven historical facilities in the regional park system. All seven appear to be of importance to countywide cultural or scientific history as supported by testimony or evidence¹⁶. Three of the seven have received national designation either as a National Historic Landmark or in the National Register of Historic Places. Two are designated as California State Historical Landmarks, while the remaining sites also provide tangible evidence toward understanding how the people and places of Orange County have changed over the past century and more. Although the General Plan does not define what qualifies as “historic” or what form of testimony or evidence is required to receive that designation, it is reasonable to assume that sites so designated are unique in the history of Orange County, California or the United States, and need protection to ensure that connection to the past is still available for the benefit of both current and future generations.

- George Key Ranch Historic Park
- Heritage Hill Historic Park
- Irvine Ranch Historic Park
- Modjeska Historic Home and Garden
- Old County Courthouse
- Ramon Peralta Adobe
- Yorba Historic Cemetery

¹⁶ Per the General Plan, the primary criterion for determining if a site is of historic importance is whether that claim is “supported by testimony and evidence.” (VII-46, Goal 3, Policy 8)

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Table 4: Regional Recreational Facility Criteria for Historic Parks

Criteria ¹⁷ – Definitions and Indicators		Location in General Plan
A	<p>Historic Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history 	VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)
B	<p>Scientific Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history 	VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)
C	<p>Educational Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history 	VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)
D	<p>Special Resource Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history 	VII-46 (Goal 3, Policy 8)

Proposed Regional Recreational Facilities

This inventory assessment includes five proposed regional recreational facilities anticipated in the General Plan (VI-99, VI-101, VII-44). Two are proposed to be urban regional parks, one is proposed to become natural regional park, another a natural regional park or possibly a nature preserve, and the fifth is a wilderness regional park. For this reason, these five parks were assessed per the General Plan criteria for non-coastal regional parks.

All five of these facilities are aligned with the criteria for non-coastal regional parks. They all appear to be of sufficient size to provide diverse activities and ensure accessibility, even the one site of 85 acres. In addition, they all include either recreational/scenic attractions of countywide significance, or of potentially historical importance. For instance, the parks that may be built on the site of two former military bases may follow the model established by Mile Square Regional Park but with the opportunity to incorporate a significant historical element. Once all planned acreage become available, Olinda Regional Park could become the largest regional park in north Orange County.

¹⁷ The General Plan does not present these as separate distinct criteria which are to be applied separately to each potential historic acquisition. For this reason, an historic regional recreational facility is fully consistent with the regional plan as long as it meets one of these four criteria. For purposes of this report the criterion were listed separately to clarify what aspect of each facility was applicable in each assessment.

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- Baker Canyon Wilderness Park
- Los Alamitos Naval Air Station Regional Park
- Olinda Regional Park
- Prima Deschecha Regional Park
- Tustin Lighter Than Air Station (L.T.A. S.) Regional Park

Local Parks

Twenty-two local parks in unincorporated areas of the County were included in the inventory of HBP facilities. These facilities do not serve a regional role and so they were not assessed according to criteria for regional parks.

In the facility assessment chapter, the local parks are organized by size and by County District. Hopefully, this will help clarify the current extent and nature of this category of parks. The key question is then whether any of these “local parks” is potentially providing more than a sub-regional role in the overall park system. In terms of the size of each park and the anticipated service area, all of these parks likely fulfill the primary roles of all local parks, i.e. as intended they are simply serving neighborhood and community recreation needs¹⁸

¹⁸ Per the General Plan, page VII-10, local parks are generally distinguished by their geographic service area, clientele, facilities, size and location.

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Chapter II – Regional Recreational Facilities Assessments

This chapter focuses on each facility in the regional park system to assess the extent to which it is aligned with criteria for regional recreational facilities derived from the General Plan. Since the criteria used are specific for each category of regional recreational facility, this chapter is organized by facility category in the following order:

- Non-Coastal Regional Parks
- Nature Preserves
- Coastal Regional Parks
- Historic Regional Parks
- Proposed Regional Recreational Facilities
- Local Parks

Each section provides a profile of the category, including a brief overview of the type of facilities included in the category, a list of the facilities by name, and the specific assessment criteria used. This is then followed by detailed data in a matrix format for each facility that summarize the results of the assessment.

Non-Coastal Regional Parks

This category includes three types (or sub-categories) of regional recreational facilities, all of which are defined in the General Plan. The primary distinction between these non-coastal regional parks is the extent of recreational development and other man-made improvements that are allowed in the facilities.. These three subcategories of regional parks are:

- *Urban Regional Parks*
- *Natural Regional Parks*
- *Wilderness Regional Parks*

URBAN REGIONAL PARK

A regional recreational facility generally located within an urbanized area that provides any one or number of intense recreational facilities such as sport centers, playfields, golf courses, riding and hiking trails, county bikeways, and swimming. The facility may also provide more passive activities such as picnicking and camping. The environmental resources are generally man-made and domesticated, and the principal attractions are constructed by man. (VII-39)

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There are currently seven urban regional recreational facilities in the park system:

- Carbon Canyon Regional Park
- Clark Regional Park
- Craig Regional Park
- Laguna Niguel Regional Park
- Mason Regional Park
- Mile Square Regional Park
- Yorba Regional Park

NATURAL REGIONAL PARKS

A regional recreational facility which is in a more natural setting with predominant aesthetic and passive type activities such as picnicking, camping, nature and hiking trails, support facilities, and limited organized recreation. Development may be limited to necessary utilities, leaving the area in as near natural state as possible, with minimal domestication, in recognition that natural topography and biological resources of the site are the principal attractions of the park. (VII-39)

There are currently six natural regional facilities in the park system:

- Featherly Regional Park
- Irvine Regional Park
- O'Neill Regional Park
- Peters Canyon Regional Park
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park
- Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park

The parcels of land included in the inventory for Santiago Oaks Regional Park land (Parcels PR22D-801, 801.1, 801.2, and 801.3) that is separated from the rest of the park. For purposes of this assessment, these parcels were measured against the same criteria as if they were a separate regional facility.

WILDERNESS REGIONAL PARKS

A regional recreational facility in which the land retains its primeval character with minimal improvements and which is managed and protected to preserve natural processes. The facility: 1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; 2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and

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unconfined type of recreation; 3) is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and 4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value. (VII-40)

There are currently six wilderness regional facilities within the park system:

- Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
- Caspers Wilderness Park
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
- Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
- Weir Canyon Wilderness Park

Although most of the wilderness facilities encompass a single geographic area with well-defined boundaries, a few have additional areas that exist outside the main body of the park. These external areas resemble an archipelago typically connected to the main body of the park by trails or other features. For purposes of this assessment, these nearby or adjacent islands were also measured against the same criteria, and include the following:

- Badlands Park (a part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park)
- Seaview Park (a part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park)
- Caspers Wilderness Park Ridgeline Extension
- Glass Creek (a part of Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park)

The following criteria were used to assess the extent to which the non-coastal facilities satisfy guidelines for regional parks as described in the General Plan. The first three criterion are considered equally important, as a site smaller than 100 acres is considered regionally significant if it has historic, scientific, special resource, or revenue producing importance

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General Plan Criteria for Non-Coastal Regional Parks

- *Approximately 100 acres or more, or*
- *Historic, Scientific, Education or Special Resource Importance (testimony/evidence), or*
- *Net Revenue-Producing Importance*
- *Recreational/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance*
- *Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility¹⁹*
- *Satisfy Open Space and/or Recreation Needs of Residents (Current and Future)*
- *Linkage in a Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails*
- *Buffers open space areas of national significance*
- *Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles*

FACILITY ASSESSMENT MATRICES FOR NON-COASTAL REGIONAL PARKS

A facility assessment matrix has been prepared for each of the non-coastal regional parks listed above, as well as the “outlying park parcels.” The matrices are presented in four sections representing the sub-categories described above, and are in alphabetical order within each of these subcategories:

- Urban Regional Parks
- Natural Regional Parks
- Wilderness Regional Parks
- Wilderness Regional Parks – with nearby or adjacent regional park facilities (“park islands”)

Each matrix has nine rows, one for each criterion. For each criterion, there are two columns labeled “no” or “yes”, indicating whether or not the facility appears to be consistent with the criterion. In some instances, the letter “P” will be inserted to indicate there appears to be potential for alignment with that criterion, even if the facility presently is not aligned with the General Plan. A question mark (?) will appear if there is insufficient information to make an assessment. A third column contains “notes and comments” providing information to support each assessment.

¹⁹ The type of recreational facilities and activities provided in a non-coastal regional recreational facility will vary depending on whether the facility is an urban park, natural park, or wilderness park. An urban park will likely have both active and passive recreational amenities, while a natural or wilderness park will need include only passive recreational facilities (e.g. trails) appropriate for hiking, nature study and the like to be considered fully utilized for recreational purposes. Also, see Table 1, criteria C for additional information on what qualifies as providing “sufficient size to provide diverse activities accessible to all County residents.”

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An “overall assessment” for each facility is provided below its matrix. This overall assessment totals the number of criteria in the General Plan with which the facility is consistent. It also summarizes the extent to which the facility appears to be aligned with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities. As not all criteria are equally important or relevant in all instances, it is not necessary for a facility to meet all the criteria to be considered fully aligned with General Plan requirements for a regional recreational facility. Each facility is assessed as to whether it:

- Fully aligns with General Plan requirements
- Mostly aligns with General Plan requirements
- Partially aligns with General Plan requirements
- Minimally aligns with General Plan requirements

Non-Coastal Regional Parks: Facilities Assessments

Urban Regional Parks

- Carbon Canyon Regional Park
- Clark Regional Park
- Craig Regional Park
- Laguna Niguel Regional Park
- Mason Regional Park
- Mile Square Regional Park
- Yorba Regional Park

Natural Regional Parks

- Featherly Regional Park
- Irvine Regional Park
- O'Neill Regional Park
- Peters Canyon Regional Park
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park
- Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park

Wilderness Regional Parks

- Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
- Caspers Wilderness Park
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

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- Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
- Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
- Weir Canyon Wilderness Park

Park Islands (Separated From Main Body of Regional Parks)

- Badlands Park (w/Aliso and Wood Canyons)
- Seaview Park (w/Aliso and Wood Canyons)
- Ridgeline Extension of Caspers Wilderness Park
- Glass Creek (w/ Limestone Canyon & Whiting)
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park “Annex”

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NON-COASTAL REGIONAL PARKS MATRIX

Urban Regional Parks

Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Carbon Canyon Regional Park - (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	124 acres total – all leased (60 acres are developed, with the remainder in a more natural state)
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		Park opportunity created by construction of an earthfill dam for flood control
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$191,979 revenue; \$1,201,267 expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106,966 visitors, and only 10.3% from within the Third District; 43.6% from rest of County and over 50% from outside Orange County; the 10th largest number of visitors among all the County regional recreational facilities and 7th largest among urban facilities. Ten acre grove of Coastal Redwoods – the only stand of redwood trees in Orange County;
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Features active sports – eight tennis courts, three volleyball courts, and two ball fields; numerous picnic shelters and a lake and a natural area (Carbon Creek, redwood grove), supporting a variety of active and passive recreation activities. One of seven north County regional parks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Contributes for a variety of open space and recreation uses in North Orange County.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	p	Relatively isolated from the rest of the regional park system; however, east end now links with Chino Hills State Park via Telegraph Canyon Trail; potential connection to two other regional parks (Craig and Clark) if Fullerton Trail is completed, linking three of the key north County regional parks
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Private property on most park boundaries
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
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Overall Assessment

A facility designed primarily to provide recreational opportunities in an area of the County comparatively deficient in regional recreational facilities. The facility is consistent with five of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Clark Regional Park (Fourth District)			
A1	~ 100 acres or more		● 104 acres (97 acres – fee owned parcels, 7 acres – leased parcels)
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		● Rich fossil record showcased in the park's interpretive center
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●	\$280,544 in revenue; \$1,255,805 expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		● Unique fossil exhibits; attracts 243,747 visitors in 2006; 29.6% of visitors from within the Fourth District, 44.4% from County overall, and 55.6% from outside County; reservations data shows similar pattern. The 6 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities, and 5 th largest among urban facilities.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		● Includes both active (ball field and playgrounds) and passive recreation areas (walking, picnicking, lake fishing, as well as natural areas for hiking and bicycling. One of seven North County Regional Parks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		● Successfully integrates/provides both open space and recreational services in North Orange County
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	p Potential trails connection to two other North Orange County Regional Parks (Clark and Carbon Canyon) if Fullerton Trail is completed
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●	Not applicable in this location
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		● Yes

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
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Overall Assessment

A significant paleontological resource of countywide significance; plus provides a regional recreation/open space facility in an area of the County relatively deficient in these services. The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with one more criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Craig Regional Park (Third and Fourth I Districts)			
A1 ~ 100 acres or more		●	129 acres (33 acres – fee owned parcels, 96 acres – lease park parcels)
A2 Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance		●	One of two regional parks in the 4 th District, which it shares with the 3 rd District; provides passive recreation/open space opportunities in a heavily urbanized area
A3 Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$213,091 in revenue; \$1,373,427 expenses
B Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	290,330 visitors in 2006; per survey data 100% of visitors are from the County and 83% of them from within the District; reservation data indicates nearly 30% come from outside the County, 30.7% from outside the District but within the County, and 39.5% within the District. The 5 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 4 th largest among urban facilities.
C Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Provides a wide variety of recreation activities in a traditional park setting (picnicking, ball fields, playgrounds, fishing, walking, etc). One of seven north Orange County Regional Parks.
D Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides open space/recreation services in a heavily urbanized area
E Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	p	Lies halfway between Clark Regional Park and Carbon Canyon Regional Park, trails connection possible if Fullerton Trail is completed.
F Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Not Applicable in this location

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

One of the few regional facilities offering regional recreation services in an area of the County comparatively deficient in those recreational services. The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria and is potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Laguna Niguel Regional Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	228 acres total – 227 fee owned parcels, and .51 acres easement parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance	●		Serves primarily a recreational function
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$316,407 revenue; \$1,662,167 expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	350,039 annual visitors – per survey 100% from within County, and 64.3% from within the District; The 3 rd largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 2 nd largest among urban facilities. Unique feature – remote-controlled model airplane field and 44 –acre fishing lake
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Functions as an urban park providing traditional park features such as turf fields, picnic areas and playgrounds with gently rolling terrain
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides a variety of passive recreational features and significant open space adjacent to developed communities
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Western boundary of park connects to the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park via Niguel Trail, which in turn connects it to the overall regional trail system
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	The facility is surrounded by development except at the westerly boundary where Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park is located across Alicia Parkway.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Mason Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	339 acres – total fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance	●		4 th park to open under the county master plan of regional parks; no other special importance of note
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$619,392 - revenue; \$1,662,167 -expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Annual attendance of 346,693 – 21.2% from within District, 75.8% from County overall, and 24.2% from outside County. The 4 th largest number of visitors among all County regional facilities and 3 rd largest among urban facilities.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Wide range of recreation activities – picnic areas, softball, walking (mainly local and community) and bicycling trails, volleyball courts, physical fitness vita course, three tot lot playgrounds, amphitheater and 9-acre lake. A 70-acre 18-hole regulation golf course is owned jointly with the Irvine Ranch Water District.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides both open space and recreation needs – includes 70 acres of native vegetation – within an urbanized developed area near UC Irvine and Concordia University

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Proposed Irvine Coast Trail will run through the park and to nearby Perris Canyon trail, linking the park to Upper Newport Bay and other parts of the regional system
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Mile Square Regional Park (Second District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	607 acres – all fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		Largely a recreation-oriented destination
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance		●	\$2,900,726 in annual revenue; exceeds annual expenses of \$2,279,991 for net revenue of \$620,735; one of the few regional parks to generate net revenue
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Annual attendance of 398,812; 26.76% within District, 93.3% from County overall, and 6.7% from outside County. The 2 nd largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the largest number visitors among urban facilities. Largely a recreation-oriented destination but extent and variety attract people from all over the County
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample size for diverse activities. One of seven north County Regional Parks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	One of the only regional parks in this District; provides a wide range of recreational and open space services in an urban, developed community.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●		Not linked directly by trails or bike paths to rest of regional park system; however, located relatively near Santa Ana River Trail which is approximately one mile to the east.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Surrounded by development
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

Scale and diversity of recreation facilities make it a significant regional attraction. The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Yorba Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	140 total acres – all fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$253,548 - revenue, \$1,651,434- expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	211,325 annual visitors – 30.4% within District, 73.9% from County overall, and 26.1% from outside County. The 7 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and 6 th largest among urban facilities. A one mile long linear park adjacent to the Santa Ana River, provides a river setting
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	The park includes large turf fields, picnic areas (400 tables), four small lakes and a ball field complex. Also includes the Santa Ana River riding and hiking trail. One of seven north County Regional Parks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides recreational facilities and open space opportunities in a narrow swath between the cities of Anaheim, Yorba Linda and the Santa Ana River.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Directly linked to other parks in the regional system, most prominently Featherly Regional Park, because of the Santa Ana River Trail which extends south to the coast.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides an open space buffer for the Santa Ana River
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with seven of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for a regional recreational facility.

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Natural Regional Parks²⁰

Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Featherly Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	364 acres – all fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Surrounds a non-channelized section of the Santa Ana River; provides riparian habitat within the floodplain
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance		●	\$129,031 in revenue; expenses not known
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	One of the few locations providing access to a natural, unchannelized portion of the Santa Ana River; no visitor figures available.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample size for camping and other outdoor recreation activities; includes RV site for 16 hookups. One of seven north Orange County Regional Parks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Emphasis on camping but also picnicking, hiking, equestrian activities, nature study;
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Key component of the Santa Ana River Greenbelt - the 30-mile long Santa Ana River Northern tip lies adjacent to Chino Hills State Park, which via Coal-Gypsum Canyon Trail can provide access to Cleveland National Forest.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides protection for an unchannelized portion of the Santa Ana River
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

A key component of Santa Ana River Greenbelt; plus a unique countywide resource by providing access to a natural, unchannelized portion of the river; The facility is consistent with all nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

²⁰ As noted previously, recreational amenities and activities appropriate for a natural regional recreational facility will differ from those available in an urban regional recreational facility. “Diverse activities” in a natural regional recreational facility will include a variety of passive recreational activities, such as biking, hiking, equestrian, nature study, and possibly camping, unlike diverse activities in an urban park that may also include more active recreational activities such as field sports, etc.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Irvine Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	474 acres – all fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	One of the oldest regional parks in the state of California (established in 1897);
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$831,741 – revenue; \$2,195,057 - expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	661,556 visitors – largest number of any regional park (excluding beaches) Only 23% of visitors from within the district, nearly 76% from County overall, and nearly 25% from outside the County; In addition to both traditional park facilities and natural areas, includes unique ones such as the Orange County Zoo and the Irvine Park Railroad.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Traditional park facilities include turf and picnic areas, ball field, playground and a lake, plus natural areas and a network of riding and hiking trails
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Has met a variety of open space and recreation needs of Orange County residents for over 100 years and continues to do so.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Situated at the nexus of several other regional parks, including Santiago Oaks, Weir Canyon and Peters Canyon, plus Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. Connected via trails like Peter Canyons Trail, which if fully completed could provide a link to the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides a buffer between nearby communities and the Irvine Ranch Nature Reserve
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with eight of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
O'Neill Regional Park (Third and Fifth Districts)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	Total of 3924 acres – 3321 fee owned parcel acres, and 603 easement parcel acres
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance		●	Includes the site and remnants of the Mission Viejo Assistencia.
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$451,354 -revenue; \$1,488,262 – expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	126,356 annual visitors; 12.5% within District, and 83.3% from County overall; 16,7% from outside the County. The 8 th largest number of visitors among County regional recreational facilities and the 2 nd largest among natural regional recreational facilities .
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample size for diverse activities; provides rare opportunity for camping.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Camping, small events facility; over 22 miles of riding and hiking trails.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Trabuco Creek Trail runs the length of the park and links at northern end to Live Oak Canyon Trail
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	A portion buffers the Cleveland National Forest.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes?

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with eight of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Peters Canyon Regional Park (Third and Fifth Districts)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	342 total acres – 340 acres fee owned parcels, 2 acres of IOD parcels, 27 acres of easements
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$19,211 -income; \$266,007 – expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	37,677 annual visitors; 75% from within District and 100% from County overall. The 14 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 4 th largest number among natural County facilities. Extensive variety of native habitat and wildlife; 55-acre reservoir serving both residents and migratory birds, two-mile long canyon and steep ridgelines
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample space for a diversity of activities compatible with a natural setting; 9 miles of riding and hiking trails with scenic overlooks.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Open space that provides passive recreational uses appropriate for a natural regional recreational facility.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Easily connected to other regional parks both to the north and south via regional trail system; completion of Peters Canyon Trail to the south will provide a link to Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Surrounded by developed communities
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with six of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Santiago Oaks Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	1372 total acres – 928 acres are fee owned parcels, 24 acres are IOD parcels, and 420 acres are easement parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		A producing orange grove. While not on the Register of Historical Landmarks, it would likely qualify. The grove is one of the last vestiges of Orange County's citrus industry.
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$79,935 - revenue, and \$673,169 - expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	56,208 annual visitors; 41.2% from within District, 94.1% from County overall, and 5.9% from outside the County. The 12 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 3 rd largest among natural facilities.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample space for diverse activities; now limited to event facilities area and 26 miles of riding and hiking trails
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Open space that provides passive recreational uses appropriate for a natural regional recreational facility.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	The trail system provides connections to the adjacent Irvine Regional Park and to the Anaheim Hills Trail System. Also lies adjacent to the proposed Weir Canyon Wilderness Park
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Together with Irvine Regional Park and Weir Canyon Wilderness Park it does buffer the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Access is available but restricted by site characteristics.

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with seven of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park (Second District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more	●	p	114 acres total – 34 acres in fee owned parcels and 114 acres in IOD parcels; the latter may not be available for many years due to operating oil wells; so effective park is only 34 acres
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$44,592 - expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	28,445 annual visitors; The 15 th largest number of visitors among County regional facilities and the 5 th largest among County natural regional recreational facilities. Provides scenic viewpoint of Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, former wetlands that are currently being restored
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility	●	p	Effectively the size of a large community park, it currently provides areas for picnicking, playgrounds and some hiking. Has the potential to function more as a regional park if it expands to its full potential of 114 acres.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●	p	Has the potential to contribute to future open space needs, but in its current configuration is restricted in its ability to do so.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	p	Not currently linked by trails to any other park in the regional system. Ultimately will provide a linkage from Huntington Beach's Central Park to Pacific Ocean and the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Buffers Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

Currently does not function as a regional park due to small size, limited range of recreational activities; it has potential as a regional park facility in the future if planned additional acreage is ever added to the park. Meanwhile functions more as a local neighborhood park. The facility is, at present, consistent with three of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with four additional criteria. In its current configuration, it is only minimally aligned with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Wilderness Regional Parks

Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	Total - 3669 acres (3302 fee owned acres, 314 easement acres, 53 IOD acres); easements primarily for resource preservation and scenic preservation
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Lies entirely within Coastal NCCP; extensive variety of native habitat and wildlife; archeological and paleontological sites, including the best marine fossil deposits in the park system
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$34,812 -revenue; \$425,307 - expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	124,692 annual visitors (18% from elsewhere in County, 9% from outside County); The 9 th largest number of visitors among County regional facilities and the largest number among wilderness facilities. Passive recreation, trails, and dramatic views.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample size for diverse, passive recreational activities compatible with wilderness - hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, nature study. Over 30 miles of riding and hiking trails
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Open space and a variety of passive recreational amenities compatible with character of a wilderness facility.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	A major element of the Aliso Creek Corridor, which includes the 15-mile Mountains to the Sea Trail linking the Cleveland National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Surrounded by development with a link at the northwesterly corner to the Laguna Coast open space areas.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with seven of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Caspers Wilderness Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	8962 acres total (5109 fee owned parcels, 2489 fee owned parcels not open to the public, 1000 easement acres, and 364 IOD acres)
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Historic Starr Ranch; preservation of ecological habitats
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$219,665 -revenue; \$1,445,194 -expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	64,716 visitors; 21.4% from within the district, 85.7% from County overall, and 14.3% from outside the County. The 11 th largest number of visitors among County regional facilities and the 2 nd largest among wilderness facilities. Open space with spectacularly varied topography, vegetation, and passive recreation opportunities in a wilderness setting
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Largest regional facility in the system. Ample size for diverse passive recreational activities compatible with wilderness. Over 35 miles of riding and hiking trails
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	One of the few opportunities for camping (?) Passive recreation and trails. Most remote park from population centers in Orange County
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	The County park, along with the Cleveland National Forest, and the Starr Ranch Sanctuary seen as opportunity to create a major conservation and recreation open space area for Orange County residents.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Together with the adjacent 3779 acre Starr Ranch Sanctuary operated by the Audubon Society, the park buffers the Cleveland National Forest in the Southeast County.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

The park is consistent with eight of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	6,480 acres – 3776 fee owned acres, 219 IOD 1 acres, 198 easement owned acres, and 2287 leased acres.
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Part of Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmarks Program. ²¹ Diverse native habitat and wildlife, only natural lakes in Orange County, waterfall in Laurel Canyon; major component of Central NCCP
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$24,720 - revenue; \$430,748 - expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	23,980 visitors – 35% from within District, nearly 95% from County overall; only 5% from outside County; The 16 th largest number of visitors among County regional recreational facilities and the 4 th largest number among wilderness facilities. Passive recreation and trails. Offers spectacular coastal and mountain views amidst native habitat and wildlife.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	One of the largest HBP facilities. Ample size for diverse activities. Includes new Nix Center. Now limited mainly to trails, etc.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Major open space with passive recreational uses, including 30 miles of riding and hiking trails.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Part of the South Coast Wilderness Area, which also includes Aliso and Woods Canyons Wilderness Park, Crystal Cove State Park, The City of Irvine Open Space, and Irvine Ranch Land Reserve
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Surrounded by development on three sides, with ocean on the fourth.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with seven of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

²¹ National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are designated by the U.S. Secretary of Interior for natural areas in both public and private ownership. They are recognized as outstanding examples of the natural heritage of the country, alongside national parks, recreation areas and monuments. Nationwide, fewer than 600 sites have received this special designation.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park (Third and Fifth Districts)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	Two parts together total 8892 acres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion #1 = 6217 total acres – 2503 fee ownership parcels not open to the public, 3452 IOD parcels, and 262 easement parcels Portion #2 = 2675 acres – 2349 acres fee ownership parcels, IOD parcels – 34 acres, easement parcels – 202 acres.
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Part of Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmarks Program. “Sinks” of Limestone Canyon - a huge, steep-walled sandstone ravine compared to a miniature Grand Canyon also Red Rock Canyon, diverse native habitat and wildlife
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$34,118 revenue; \$477,887 -expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	49,824 visitors – 25% within District, 79.2% in County overall, and 20.8% from outside County; The 13 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 3 rd largest among wilderness facilities.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	One of the largest HBP facilities. Over 35 miles of riding and hiking trails; Potential for diverse activities; now limited to trails.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides open space and passive recreational uses limited primarily to trails.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Northern end of Aliso Creek Greenbelt,
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides limited buffer for the Cleveland National Forest
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Accessible but limited by topography and lack of roads

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with eight of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	1026 total acres – 554 acres are fee ownership parcels, and 482 acres are easement parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$5886 - revenue; \$264,441-expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	11,494 visitors annually, 25% from within District and 100% from County overall. The 17 th largest number of visitors among all County regional recreational facilities and the 5 th largest among wilderness facilities. Unique one-acre butterfly garden
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample size for diverse activities; now limited to trails, hiking.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Open space with passive recreational uses appropriate for wilderness setting; a five mile network of trails for hiking, equestrians and mountain biking.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Located in between O'Neill Regional Park to the west and Caspers Wilderness Park to the east; could be connected to the latter with the completion of Wagon Wheel Trail
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Generally surrounded by development.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with five of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Weir Canyon Wilderness Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	386 total acres – 224 acres are fee owned parcels, and 162 acres are easement
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Part of Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmarks Program
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		No data available
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	No data on # of visitors Described as “a small jewel amidst the increased development of the Anaheim Hills region” (source:Trails.com)
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Ample space for passive recreational activities; including hiking, mountain biking, horse riding, nature study
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Open space located adjacent to ridgeline residential development in the Anaheim Hills with passive recreational uses compatible with wilderness setting.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Situated above Weir Canyon, the park includes a network of riding and hiking trails, which connect to the adjacent Santiago Canyon Regional Park and Irvine Reserve Land Trust property.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides an open space buffer to the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with eight of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Outlying Park Parcels – nearby or adjacent regional park facilities

Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Badlands Park (a part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park) (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more	●		Approximately 30 acres
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Interesting geologic formations – encompasses eroding sandstone cliffs with exposed slopes; site of an ancient beach dating back 10 million years
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		None
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Dramatic scenic viewpoints of the coastal landscape and Pacific Ocean; recently cited by California Auto Club as one of the ten best coastal viewpoints in Southern California
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility	●		By itself too small to provide a wide range of recreational activities.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Small site with limited access, primarily via walking trail.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	p	Along with adjacent Seaview Park, potential connect to the Aliso Creek Corridor
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Bounded by development
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

Provides many of the features and benefits associated with Orange County regional parks, although in a small package: unique geologic formations and spectacular scenic viewpoints of Pacific Ocean. Located near and classified as part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, but physically separated by residential community. Although the facility is consistent with just three of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with one additional criterion, the small size of the facility is not as critical a consideration as the nature (geologic features and scenic viewpoints) and location of the facility (adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons). It mostly aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Seaview Park (a part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park) (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more	●		Approximately 31 acres
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Provides dramatic scenic viewpoints of the Pacific Ocean from coastal bluffs
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility	●		By itself too small to provide a wide range of recreation activities
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Small site with limited access via walking trail.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●	P	Connection with trails in the adjacent Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park provides potential link to the Aliso Creek 19-mile greenbelt..
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Bounded by developments
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Overall Assessment

Lies between Badlands and the main body of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, of which it is considered a part, but physically separated by adjacent residential neighborhood. Along with Badlands Park it helps form a chain of regional facilities along coastal bluffs; providing scenic views of the Pacific Ocean. The facility is consistent with two of the nine criteria and is potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It partially aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Ridgeline Extension of Caspers Wilderness Park (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	Constitutes 15% of Caspers Wilderness Park (1391 acres of the total of 8962 acres); a distinct part extending northward along ridgelines as a relatively narrow peninsula/extension from the main body of the park
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Functions as an open space buffer for the adjacent Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary and Cleveland National Forests
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		As part of the Caspers Wilderness Park revenues likely exceeded by expenses
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Same as rest of park - spectacularly varied topography, vegetation, and wildlife providing recreation opportunities in a wilderness setting
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		●	Riding and hiking trails along ridgeline and other passive recreational activities compatible with wilderness
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Defines and protects a major open space area created by the confluence of Caspers Wilderness Park, Cleveland National Forest and the Starr Ranch, while providing additional passive recreational opportunities compatible with wilderness setting.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		●	Bell View Trail originates within main body of Caspers Wilderness Park running along the entire north-south length of this ridgeline extension and into the Cleveland National Forest.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		●	Provides an open space buffer along the western edge of the Starr Ranch Sanctuary, and the Cleveland National Forest.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		Difficult access in an emergency

Overall Assessment

Provides significant benefits as strategically located open space buffer and a riding and hiking corridor. This facility is consistent with seven of the nine criteria. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park – Glass Creek (Parcel PR50S-101.03)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more	●		58.63 acres - all fee owned parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Includes a grove of native Black Walnut.
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	City of Lake Forest has in the past expressed interest in acquiring the site to develop an interpretive center, nature trails and related facilities; located at confluence of two creeks with year round water flows
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility	●		Small size for a regional facility
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	Small facility surrounded by residential and commercial development; with potential to serve those areas as a natural and recreational resource. Connects to regional Mountains to the Sea Corridor.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Potential rest stop along the Aliso Creek/Mountains to the Sea Trail
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Does not buffer open space.
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with two of the nine criteria and potentially consistent with three additional criteria. Underlying deed restrictions will have to be considered if facility were to be transferred to a non-regional use, as facility was acquired to mitigate for development elsewhere. It partially aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Santiago Oaks Regional Park Annex– Parcels PR22D-801, PR22D 801.3, PR22D 901.02, and PR22D 801.2, PR 22D 801.1 (Third District)

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	Total of 161.3 acres detached from the main body of the park; 112.74 acres are fee park parcels, and 24.44 acres are IOD parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance	●		
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	No recreational uses, but the facility offers passive, scenic open space to surrounding development and passers-by.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	Steep terrain in IOD parcels (24.44 acres) reduces the effective size of the park to 112.74 acres, which is still above the minimum for a regional park;
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	No active recreational use but has the potential for at least passive uses.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails	●		Is not connected by trails or bike lanes to the main body of the park or any other regional park.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		Does not sit adjacent to any other open space areas
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Overall Assessment

Although classified as a part of Santiago Oaks, because it is approximately two miles away and not linked to the main body of the park by any trails, it was analyzed as a separate, stand-alone facility. In terms of size, the park satisfies General Plan criteria even excluding those parcels considered too steep to be accessible.. There is no available street parking and the interior of the park is not yet easily accessible. The facility is consistent with two of the nine criteria and is potentially consistent with two additional criteria. It partially aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Nature Preserves

Nature preserves represent a fourth type of non-coastal regional facility but per the General Plan are defined in terms of a different set of criteria. Given the purpose and nature of nature preserves, they should contain even less impact from manmade development than wilderness parks.

NATURE PRESERVES

Areas where the acquisition and maintenance are undertaken primarily for protecting significant natural resources, rather than for conventional recreation activities. The objective is to limit recreational experiences under close supervision to interpretive programs that foster knowledge about and appreciation for the natural resource values of the site, and for the importance of environmental protection generally. Facilities are made available for scientific research. (VII-41)

There are currently four nature preserves within the HBP system:

- Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve
- Modjeska Canyon Nature Preserve
- Talbert Nature Preserve
- Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Given the more specialized function of nature preserves, there is a more tightly focused set of criteria with which to assess the extent to which these regional facilities are aligned with the General Plan.

General Plan Criteria for Nature Preserve Regional Parks

- *Approximately 100 acres or more, or*
- *Historic, Scientific, Education or Special Resource Importance (testimony/evidence), or*
- *Net Revenue-Producing Importance*
- *Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Ecological Habitats*

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NATURE PRESERVES MATRIX

Nature Preserves

Nature Preserve Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Fremont Canyon Nature Preserve (Third District)			
A1 ~ 100 acres or more		●	145 acres – all fee owned parcels, but not open to the public
A2 Historic/Scientific/ Education/Special Resource Importance		●	Described by some as “Yosemite of Orange County” (source: Irvine Land Ranch Reserve); also functions as part of a regional wildlife corridor; contains largest natural spring in the northern region of the Cleveland National Forest
A3 Revenue-Producing Importance	●		No available data
B Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Important Ecological Habitats		●	. Located within the boundaries of the Cleveland National Forest, as open space in perpetuity to protect numerous sensitive and endangered species, and unique open spaces.

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with three of the four General Plan criteria. Picturesque rock formations, caves; ridgelines offer scenic views; although closed to general public to protect sensitive habitat, the Nature Conservancy offers weekly docent-led hikes, and other controlled outings. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Modjeska Canyon Nature Preserve (Third District)			
A1 ~ 100 acres or more		●	651 acres – all fee owned parcels
A2 Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	A significant protected natural area offering diverse habitats and wildlife; located entirely within the boundaries of Cleveland National Forest
A3 Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$15,589 expenses; no revenue reported
B Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Important Ecological Habitats		●	Acquired primarily for the purpose of protecting significant natural resources + provides buffer for adjacent Cleveland National Forest

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with three of the four General Plan criteria. A significant protected natural area offering diverse habitats and wildlife that is located entirely within the boundaries of the Cleveland National Forest. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Nature Preserve Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Talbert Nature Preserve (Second District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	182 total acres – all fee owned parcels Divided in two parts – North Talbot Reserve – 91.5 acres, and South Talbot Reserve – 88.5 acres
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Remnant of wetlands system
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$0 revenue; \$62,203 - expenses
B	Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Important Ecological Habitats		●	Restored coastal wetlands, formerly the dominate feature of the County coastline prior to urban development Habitat consists of six separate plant groups, representative of the habitats and plant communities along the Santa Ana River

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with three of four General Plan criteria. Primarily protects significant natural resources. However, the nature preserve does provide some passive recreational activities - 19,945 annual visitors, includes small traditional park with turf and picnic areas; a trail system allows for observation of natural resources without interfering with wetland habitats, and the trail system links to other regional recreational facilities up and down stream along the Santa Ana River. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Nature Preserve Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve (Second District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	142 total acres – 136 acres are fee owned parcels, and 6 acres are leased parcels
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	Situated adjacent to the State's 750 acre Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve One of the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California – State wide significance as a wetland on the Pacific (migratory bird)Flyway. Muth Interpretive Center – a major educational resource
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		\$22,977 - revenue; \$891,903 -expenses
B	Protection of Natural Resources/Preservation of Important Ecological Habitats		●	Considered a "critical estuary" habitat – one of the most pristine remaining estuaries in Southern California One of the finest bird watching locations in North America

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with three of the four General Plan criteria. Protects significant natural resources; rather than for conventional recreational activities. However, it does attract a significant number of visitors who come for passive recreational and educational purposes: 115,042 annual visitors – 16.1% within the District, 87.1% from County overall and 12.9% from outside County. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

COASTAL REGIONAL PARKS

The General Plan identifies four different types of coastal properties, which are:

- *Beach Parks*
- *Shoreline Parks*
- *Aquatic Harbor Parks*
- *Multi-Purpose Harbors*

These four types share the same overall criteria, which differ from the criteria for non-coastal facilities. Instead of sites of 100 acres or more, the General Plan states that, “any coastal acquisition with potential general public access shall be of regional significance.” This is interpreted to mean that a coastal regional park should be sufficiently large and accessible to accommodate visitors beyond just the immediate local population.

BEACH PARKS

A regional beach usually with an adjacent or upland park area which provides hiking and picnicking areas, restrooms, quiet nature areas, unstructured activity areas, and other park-like facilities. A beach park may contain day camping facilities, boardwalks or piers, and related concession facilities, together with facilities for volleyball, basketball, and parking. Typically, these are comparatively large beach areas with sizable flat, sandy acreage to accommodate large numbers of users. (VII-41)

There are currently five beach parks within the park system:

- Aliso Beach
- Capistrano Beach
- North Star Beach & Mariner’s Beach
- Salt Creek Beach
- Sunset Beach

SHORELINE BEACHES

A regional ocean- front beach that generally provides for only those recreational activities usually associated with the shoreline and adjacent tidelands areas that are used for swimming, diving, shore fishing, tide pool study, etc. Shoreline beaches commonly do not have parking and restroom facilities, are situated within cove areas, and are accessible only by pedestrian access ways on bluffs. (VII-41)

There are currently eight shoreline beaches within the park system:

- 11th Street Beach
- Bayside Drive Beach
- Poche Beach
- Santa Ana River Mouth Beach
- Table Rock Beach

APPENDIX I

- Thousand Steps Beach
- Three Arch Bay Beach
- Totuava Bay Beach

AQUATIC HARBOR PARKS

A regional harbor providing facilities typical of both a regional harbor and a regional park including on-shore camping. (VII-41)

MULTI-PURPOSE HARBORS

A regional harbor providing a variety of recreational facilities such as: boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, play, and marine preserve areas with facilities for both short- and long-term small craft anchorage. Such harbors are equipped with facilities for marine supply and aid, and contain extensive commercial facilities of a tourist, recreational, and/or fishing nature. (VII-41)

There is currently one multi-purpose harbor within the HBP system:

- Sunset Harbor

OTHER REGIONAL COASTAL FACILITIES

In addition, a mini-lookout park in Laguna Beach, Crescent Bay Point Park is also seen as a regional coastal facility. Although it cannot be classified in any of the above categories, it is considered regionally significant because of its unique coastline view.

CRITERIA

The criteria for coastal regional parks reflects the extent to which there is an opportunity on or near the site to provide facilities and services that can accommodate a large numbers of visitors that may be drawn to recreational or scenic attractions of countywide significance.

General Plan Criteria for Coastal Regional Parks

- *Sufficient Size - Services for Large Number of Visitors*
- *Sufficient Size - Accessibility*
- *Recreational/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance*
- *Satisfy Open Space and/or Recreation Needs of Residents (Current and Future)*
- *Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking trails*
- *Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles*

APPENDIX I

COASTAL REGIONAL PARKS MATRIX

Beach Parks

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Aliso Beach (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	27 acres total – 15 acres are fee owned parcels and 12 acres are easement parcels; sufficient to handle over 1,000,000 visitors annually (1,108,493)
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	Able to provide a total of 226 parking spaces – 146 adjacent to the beach and another 120 spaces located nearby in the inland portion of the park
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	32.4% of visitors from within the District; 56.8% from the County overall, and 43.2% from outside the County Features a combination of geological features (sandy beaches, rocky promontories, and scenic coastal foothills) that combine to form a recreationally appealing coastal area.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides wide range of water-related recreation activities – swimming, surfing, skin diving, paddle boarding, fishing, sunbathing, tidepool exploration etc, tot lot, etc. Park is in two sections – the beach and an inland area surrounded by native coastal chaparral
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails		p	Potential linkage to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park with completion of proposed off-road paved bikeway that would have its gateway/staging area in the inland portion of the Aliso Beach Park
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Additional Information

Annual revenue of \$155,373; annual expenses of \$668,249

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with five of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional facilities and potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Capistrano Beach (Capo Beach) (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	7 acres – all fee park parcels Nearly ½ million visitors annually (498,243) Public restrooms Outside showers Concession building – food & beverages, beach supplies, fishing gear rental and sales
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	140 parking spaces adjacent to the beach
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	31.6% of visitors from within the District; 63.2% from within the County overall, and 36.8% from outside the County
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Seven volleyball courts, basketball court with lighting, fire rings, family picnic area in addition to swimming, surfing, and fishing
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information

Revenue exceeds expenses - \$59,663 in annual revenue and \$29,905 in annual expenses

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with five of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional facilities. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
North Star Beach & Mariner's Beach – Newport Beach (Second District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	12 acres total – North Star Beach – 8 acres of fee owned parcels, and Mariner's Beach – 4 acres of fee owned parcels Location of Newport Aquatic Center, with showers, and restrooms
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	Free parking
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Located in Back Bay across from the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Only kayak, canoe and rowing launch within the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve Swimming at the beach
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information

The County does not operate or maintain this facility, but the County and the City of Newport Beach are joint fee owners of the property, which is leased to the Upper Newport Bay Aquatic Center, a non-profit corporation. A joint power authority was established in 1987 and the lease with the Aquatic Center is for 25 years.

Overall Assessment

This facility is consistent with five of the six General Plan criteria for coastal facilities. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Salt Creek Beach – Dana Point (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	47 acres total – 40 acres are fee owned parcels, and 7 acres are IOD parcels; almost a mile of beach Over two million visitors in 2006 (2,096,021) Restroom facilities with outside showers, beach concession building for food and beach supplies
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	Landscaped parking with 463 spaces Readily accessible from nearby PCH
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	28.3% of visitors from within District, 56.5% from County overall, and 43.5% from outside the County Situated beneath scenic cliffs, includes a large sandy beach sheltered by rock promontories
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	A popular surfing location, as well as swimming, body surfing, sunbathing and tidepool exploration. Above the beach is a small park with turf and picnic areas. Park was developed to help relieve overcrowding of parks and beaches
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails		●	Gateway to Salt Creek Trail with potential connection to rest of the regional trail system.
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information

\$487,839 in annual revenue; \$937,641 in expenses

Overall Assessment

Facility is consistent with with all of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Sunset Beach (Second District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	48 acres – all fee owned parcels 350,135 visitors annually Public restrooms, lifeguard service
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	627 space parking spaces – 100 space parking lot + free street parking along parkway running the length of the community; all shared with local community residents
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	17.9% of visitors from within the District, 46.2% from within County overall, and 53.8% from outside County (highest out of County percentage of any Orange County beach, due to North County location)
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Ample space for recreational activities – swimming, body and board surfing Family picnic area, playground/tot lot, volleyball courts, fishing, bicycling
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●	P	No direct link to other parks in the regional system; completion of proposed bike lane into Seal Beach could provide a link
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Yes

Additional Information

\$5000 annual revenue; \$179,096 in expenses

Overall Assessment

This facility is consistent with five of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks, and potentially consistent with one additional criterion. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Shoreline Beaches

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
11th Street Beach – Sunset Beach (Second District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		5 acres on Pacific Coast Highway. Strip of County-owned beach in Sunset Beach on Huntington Harbour.
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		No on-site parking
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance	●		A kayak launch area.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		By itself probably not
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information:

Overall Assessment

This facility is not consistent with the major criteria for coastal regional parks. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Bayside Drive Beach - Corona Del Mar (Second District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		5 acres – total/fee owned parcels # of visitors not known Restrooms provided
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Free street parking only Access at Harbor Patrol office
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance	●		
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Relatively small beach within residential community Extent of available recreation activities not known.
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information

Overall Assessment

Small size and limited accessibility means it functions more like a local park. The facility is not consistent with the major General Plan criteria for coastal regional facilities. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Poche Beach – San Clemente (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		1 acre No facilities
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Free street parking but a long distance to the beach. Public access via a stairway and underpass beneath PCH and railroad tracks
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance	●		
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Approximately 200 feet of shoreline between residential development on one side and Shorecliffs Community Center on the other.
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		No access

Additional Information

Overall Assessment

. With no facilities, it has limited ability to serve a large number of visitors. This facility is not consistent with General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Santa Ana River Mouth Beach (Second District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	5.14 acres A small sandy strip that runs on both sides of the river mouth constrained by Nature Preserve. Lifeguard provided Separated from the much larger Huntington State Beach by the Least Tern Nature Preserve
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	Metered parking nearby; access via underpass beneath PCH
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Swimming, surfing
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		By itself, limited by the physical constraints of its location; more of an extension of Huntington State Beach or the Santa Ana River corridor.
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails		●	Starting point/gateway for the Santa Ana River Trail
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	Adjacent to PCH

Additional Information

Overall Assessment

Biggest asset is its strategic location at the mouth of the Santa Ana River and as gateway to Santa Ana River Trail; This facility is consistent with four of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It mostly aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Table Rock Beach (Laguna Beach) (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		1 acre – 2 fee owned parcels
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Small beach with new stairway access No parking on site, need to park on or near PCH Located within/adjacent to residential neighborhood
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Described as “the best secret beach in OC, hidden at the bottom of hundreds of rickety wooden steps” ... views of the coves, natural arch (#28 in OC Weekly – Best of Orange County)
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Limited size and accessibility
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		

Additional Information

Overall Assessment

This facility is consistent with one of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks given its small size, limited accessibility, and comparative inability to serve a large number of visitors; however, it is definitely considered a recreational and scenic attraction of countywide significance. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Thousand Steps Beach (Laguna Beach)(Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	3 acres – 2 acres are fee owned parcels, and .7 acres are easement parcels (does not contain lateral access easements along the beach) 82,000 annual visitors Bathroom, shower
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		A small beach with difficult stairway access (230 steep steps) Parking only on PCH and nearby residential streets
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Popular beach for surfing, swimming, diving, exploring tide pools
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Despite limited size and difficult access, the beach does draw a relatively large number of visitors
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		

Additional Information

Overall Assessment

Despite small size a popular beach that attracts a large number of visitors and has some services. Given physical constraints, this facility is consistent with three of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It partially aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Three Arch Bay Beach (Laguna Beach)(Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		.25 acres - .23 acres are fee owned parcels and .02 acres are easement parcels (does not contain lateral access easements)
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Small beach with no landside public access
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	A small sliver of a much larger private beach, considered “one of the most beautiful as well as historic portions of our ...Orange County coast.”
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		Inaccessible
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		

Additional Information:

Overall Assessment: Great location but very limited size and no accessibility; this facility consistent with only one of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

Totuava Bay Beach (Laguna Beach)(Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Access easement
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Very scenic, but largely inaccessible
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)	●		
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles	●		

Additional Information

APPENDIX I

Coastal Regional Park Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
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Overall Assessment

This facility is consistent with only one of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It minimally aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Aquatic Harbor Parks

Coastal Regional Park Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
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Multi-Purpose Harbors

Coastal Regional Park Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Sunset Harbor (Sunset Beach)(Second District)			
A Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors		●	63 acres – all fee owned parcels 30,374 annual visitors Orange County Sheriff's Department Harbor Patrol substation
B Sufficient Size – Accessibility		●	276 slip marina, car parking areas
C Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Public boat launch ramp with multiple lanes, boat and trailer parking, boat repair yard, and public picnic areas
D Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Provides a diverse range of uses. Located adjacent to Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
E Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information

\$506,103 in annual revenue; \$890,521 in annual expenses

Overall Assessment

The facility is consistent with five of General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It fully aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

Mini-Lookout Park

Coastal Regional Park Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Crescent Bay Point Park (Laguna Beach) (Fifth District)				
A	Sufficient Size – Services for Large Number of Visitors	●		1.39 acres – fee owned parcels On street parking only Paved walkway with circular concrete benches for view of ocean Jointly owned by the County and City of Laguna Beach, and maintained by the City
B	Sufficient Size – Accessibility	●		Located in residential area but accessible from street; wheelchair accessible
C	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		●	Small park on a bluff overlooking the ocean; offers panoramic views of the ocean and shore; viewing area along lawn and paved walkway
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		●	Spectacular 180 degree view of the ocean and coastline Park was constructed in early 1970's out of what would have been 4 building lots
E	Linkage/Gateway to Regional Riding/Hiking Trails	●		
F	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		●	

Additional Information:

Overall Assessment: In terms of size this is a local park that functions primarily as a “view/lookout” park but spectacular 180 degree view of coastline could be classified as a “scenic attraction of countywide significance.” The facility is consistent with three of the General Plan criteria for coastal regional parks. It partially aligns with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

APPENDIX I

HISTORIC REGIONAL PARKS

HISTORIC REGIONAL PARKS

Historic regional parks encompass both non-coastal and coastal facilities that are among those sites considered regionally significant for reasons other than size. These are “sites/projects of historical or scientific interest...determined and supported by testimony and evidence to be of importance to the countywide cultural or scientific history...” (VII-46)

HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites preserve and enhance Orange County's archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources. Frequently, historical sites are the setting for events, which strive to inform people about the County's heritage of social, cultural, economic and scientific values. (VII-42)

There are currently seven historical regional parks in the system:

- George Key Ranch Historical Park
- Heritage Hill Historic Park
- Irvine Ranch Historic Park
- Modjeska Historic Home and Garden
- Old County Courthouse
- Ramon Peralta Adobe
- Yorba Historic Cemetery

Criteria for assessing whether or not a site is of historical or scientific interest is relatively straightforward but requires “testimony and evidence” to that effect. Only one of these criteria, but especially evidence or testimony of historic or scientific importance, need be present to be fully aligned with the General Plan criteria for historic parks.

General Plan Criteria for Historic Parks

- *Historic Importance*
- *Scientific Importance*
- *Educational Importance*
- *Special Resource Importance*

APPENDIX I

HISTORIC REGIONAL PARKS MATRIX

Historic Regional Parks

Historic Sites (archeo, paleo, historic) Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
George Key Ranch Historic Park (Placentia)(Fourth District)				
A	Historic Importance		●	George Key home built in 1898 and listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks The County of Orange purchased Key Ranch to ensure the preservation of an important part of Orange County's agricultural past
B	Scientific Importance	●		
C	Educational Importance		●	Features a museum, 1 acre of the original orange grove, two self-guided pathways Department of Education-lead programs and tours
D	Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information

2 acres – fee owned parcels

4601 annual visitors – 33.3% from the County overall, and 66.7% from outside the County

Annual revenue - \$7451; Annual expenses - \$297,143

Overall Assessment

Fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites, especially designation on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

APPENDIX I

Historic Sites (archeo, paleo, historic) Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Heritage Hill Historic Park (Lake Forest) (Fifth District)				
A	Historic Importance		●	California State Historical Landmark #199 4 historic buildings representing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serrano Adobe – 1863 ▪ El Toro Grammar School – 1890 ▪ St. George Episcopal Mission – 1891 ▪ Bennett Ranch House – 1908
B	Scientific Importance	●		
C	Educational Importance		●	Only historical site in Orange County to offer a chronological interpretation of the County's past through a combination of historic buildings spanning several periods of historical development Guided Tours Living History program offered to fourth grade children Hands-on program offered to third grade children
D	Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information

4 acres – fee owned parcels

17,666 annual visitors – 41.7% within District, 75% from County overall, and 25% from outside the County

Annual revenue - \$40,107; Annual expenses - \$409,273

Overall Assessment

Fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites, especially with designation as a California State Historical Landmark and its educational function.

APPENDIX I

Historic Sites (archeo, paleo, historic) Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Irvine) (Third District)			
A Historic Importance		●	Site of the Irvine Company's agricultural headquarters; and other original ranch structures New County library is a replica of original Irvine family home destroyed by fire in the 1960's.
B Scientific Importance	●		
C Educational Importance		●	
D Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information

17 acres – fee owned parcels; 29,075 annual visitors; Annual revenue - \$30,906; Annual expenses - \$265,040

Overall Assessment

The site is important given key role of Irvine Company has played in helping to shape Orange County. It fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites,

Modjeska Historic Home and Garden (Third District)			
A Historic Importance		●	National Historic Landmark Retreat from 1888 to 1906 for Helena Modjeska, a world-renowned Shakespearean actress and Orange County pioneer Historic gardens Stone building, home of famed horticulturalist Theodore Payne
B Scientific Importance	●		
C Educational Importance		●	Docent led tours 4 times monthly
D Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional information

21 acres – fee owned parcels; 2,317 annual visitors – 100% from within County; Annual expenses - \$153,078

Overall Assessment

Fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites, especially designation on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

APPENDIX I

Historic Sites (archeo, paleo, historic) Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Old County Courthouse (Santa Ana) (First District)				
A	Historic Importance		●	National Register of Historic Places State of California Historic Landmark Southern California's oldest court building – completed in 1901 and fully restored One of the few remaining Romanesque Revival-style buildings in the region
B	Scientific Importance	●		
C	Educational Importance		●	Orange County History Center – includes Old Courthouse Museum, Orange County Archives, library of Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Tours for adult and school groups
D	Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information

2 acres – fee owned parcels; 123,230 annual visitors; Annual revenue - \$400; Annual expenses – \$134,883

Overall Assessment

Fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites, especially designation on the National Register of Historic Places and as a State of California Historic Landmark

Ramon Peralta Adobe (Anaheim) (Third District)				
A	Historic Importance		●	Built in 1871, only original adobe remaining today in the Santa Ana Canyon
B	Scientific Importance	●		
C	Educational Importance		●	Museum features exhibits, artifacts and timeline murals for period from 1769 to present
D	Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information:

.24 acres; 394 annual visitors; Annual revenue - \$20,252; Annual expenses – \$6,148

Overall Assessment

As only original adobe today in the Santa Ana Canyon, it fully aligns with General Plan criteria for historic sites.

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Historic Sites (archeo, paleo, historic) Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Yorba Historic Cemetery (Yorba Linda) (Fourth District)				
A	Historic Importance		●	Second oldest cemetery in Orange County (established in 1858) and among the oldest in California
B	Scientific Importance	●		
C	Educational Importance		●	Monthly public tours
D	Special Resource Importance	●		

Additional Information

1 acre –fee owned parcel; 394 annual visitors; Annual expenses - \$29,301

It is adjacent to a small “local” park owned and maintained by Orange County

Overall Assessment: Given its status as the second oldest cemetery in Orange County, it fully aligns with the General Plan criteria for historic sites.

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PROPOSED REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Other regional facilities include recent or planned future regional parks. These sites would be considered non-coastal facilities, which were accordingly assessed using the criteria for non-coastal facilities.

There are currently four facilities listed as proposed regional recreational facilities.

- Baker Canyon Wilderness Park
- Los Alamitos Naval Air Station Regional Park
- Prima Deschecha Regional Park
- Tustin L.T.A.S. Regional Park

The two military bases (one operational, one closed) are candidates as future urban regional parks, Prima Deschecha is planned as a natural regional park, and Baker Canyon is planned to be a wilderness park.

General Plan Criteria for Proposed (Non Coastal) Regional Parks

- *Approximately 100 acres or more, or*
- *Historic, Scientific, Education or Special Resource Importance (testimony/evidence), or*
- *Net Revenue-Producing Importance*
- *Recreational/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance*
- *Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities Accessible*
- *Satisfy Open Space and/or Recreation Needs of Residents (Current and Future)*
- *Linkage in a Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails*
- *Buffers open space areas of national significance*
- *Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles*

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OTHER REGIONAL PARKS MATRIX

Proposed Regional Recreational Facilities

Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Baker Canyon Wilderness Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	670 acres – future grant deed Part of recent gift of open space by The Irvine Gift
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		p	RDMD/HBP field tours scheduled in June will assess significance of facility
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		Not likely to produce revenue due to habitat restrictions
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		p	Nature Conservancy literature describes hike with views of the Red Rocks, Elephant Peak and Limestone Canyon.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Could be linked to a chain of regional parks and other key open space reserves “from Weir Canyon and connecting east through ...Fremont Canyon and Baker Canyon (to) Limestone and Hicks Canyon” (Source: Irvine Company)
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		p	Provides open space protection within the boundaries of Cleveland National Forest
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		p	Not easily until access is developed

Overall Assessment

Proposed to hold initially as a nature preserve until access is developed, when it will then be categorized as a wilderness regional park. Once this occurs, it is expected that the facility will be consistent with eight of the General Plan criteria for non-coastal regional parks. It will fully align with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Los Alamitos Naval Air Station Regional Park (Second District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		p	115 acres Portion of existing active military airfield
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		p	Planned regional park at site of active military base with aviation history dating back to 1928.
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance		p	
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		p	Potential to provide regional recreation activities of countywide significance; follows prototype set by Mile Square Park, which is also the site of a former airfield.
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	Potential to provide a wide range of diverse recreation activities.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	As a regional park, Los Alamitos would help the County respond to the need for regional recreation and open space services in North Orange County
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Conceivably could be linked by bike paths to the San Gabriel River Trail, which lies to the west.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		An opportunity to provide open space but not as a buffer; surrounded by developed urban communities
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		p	

Overall Assessment

Has potential to be consistent eight of the General Plan criteria as an urban regional park, and also as a historic park. However, this airfield is designated as the Federal Disaster Center for Southern California. The runways are capable of handling the largest military aircraft. The likelihood that all or a large portion of the base will be closed seems remote. If developed, it will fully align with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria	No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Olinda Regional Park (Third District)			
A1 ~ 100 acres or more		●	682 acres –118 acres fee owned parcels, 564 acres land transfer from other agencies
A2 Historic/Scientific/Education/Special Resource Importance	●		
A3 Revenue-Producing Importance		p	
B Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		p	A proposed regional park, most of which is still part of the Olinda Alpha Landfill, slated for closure in 2021 and transfer to the County park system at that time. Will add to the regional park system in North Orange County
C Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	
D Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	Once open it will serve an open space need in a part of the County relatively deficient of regional parks
E Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Once park is opened it will include trails that link to the overall regional system, including nearby Carbon Canyon Regional Park and adjacent Chino Hills State Park
F Buffers Open Space Areas		p	Could provide an open space buffer between City of Brea development and regional open space areas to the north.
G Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		p	

Overall Assessment

Once full park is open (after 2021) it will be the largest regional park in North County; in terms of future potential the facility is potentially consistent with eight of the General Plan criteria for regional parks, and currently consistent with one. It will fully align with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Prima Deschecha Regional Park (San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano) (Fifth District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more		●	1524 acres – land transfer from other agencies and 45 acres easement owned+ Potential regional park on site of a landfill. Landfill is still in operation, and transition to recreation activities are not anticipated in the near term; some recreational activities (e.g. trails) may be phased in on an interim basis depending on conditions.
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		p	Per EIR – “Preserve regionally significant habitat on the site which will be set aside as natural reserves and which can be used throughout the region for educational purposes.” (<i>Final Draft SEIR to the 2001 General Development Plan – August 2006</i>)
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance	●		
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		p	Per EIR – among recreation and open space objectives are “preferred activities that include a variety of passive and limited active recreational uses which respond to the changing recreational needs in the region.”
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Per EIR – “provide essential linkages to the existing multiple use trails in the area...”; proposed Prima Deshecha Trail and San Juan Trail could provide links to Caspers Wilderness Park and the coast line.
F	Buffers Open Space Areas		p	Potential buffer between San Clemente or San Juan Capistrano and the Ranch Plan NCCP Preserve
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		p	

Overall Assessment

Has potential to be consistent with seven criteria and is consistent with one for non-coastal regional or potentially as a nature preserve, but this will not take place until the land fill is closed. If developed, it will fully align with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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Non-Coastal Regional Parks Criteria		No	Yes	Notes/Comments
Tustin L.T. A. S. Regional Park (Third District)				
A1	~ 100 acres or more	●		85 acres – Future Federal conveyance parcels Portion of former Marine Corps Air Station, part of planned 1,584 city acre master planned infill project
A2	Historic/Scientific/Education/ Special Resource Importance		●	60-year old North Blimp Hanger (7-acres, 170-feet tall) located within the proposed regional park – listed on the National Register of Historic Places
A3	Revenue-Producing Importance		p	Hanger may include ancillary non-recreational commercial uses. County currently reviewing concession proposals.
B	Recreation/Scenic Attractions of Countywide Significance		p	60-year old North Blimp Hanger
C	Sufficient Size to Provide Diverse Activities and Accessibility		p	Although smaller than most other non-coastal regional parks, the site is flat and highly usable.
D	Satisfy Open Space/Recreation Needs of County Residents (Current/Future)		p	The central Orange County location would benefit residents from throughout the County.
E	Linkage in Chain of Regional Recreation Facilities or Trails		p	Located near the midway point of the Mountains to the Sea Trail (park will be just to the west of the Peters Canyon Trail)
F	Buffers Open Space Areas	●		
G	Accessible to Law Enforcement/Emergency Vehicles		p	

Overall Assessment

This facility is consistent with one and potentially consistent with six General Plan criteria. Preservation of North Blimp Hanger will provide this location with a historic resource of regional significance; 85 acres should be sufficient to provide a range of intense recreational activities. If developed, it will fully align with General Plan requirements for regional recreational facilities.

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LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

To ensure that sufficient public park land was set aside in new developing communities, the County has established local parks in unincorporated areas of the County. The primary purpose was two-fold: meet the local recreational needs of residents in unincorporated areas, and fulfill a stewardship role for future cities that after their incorporation would assume responsibility for these local parks.

According to the General Plan, local parks “fulfill the specialized role of meeting neighborhood and community recreation needs...(and) generally are distinguished by their geographic size, clientele, facilities, size and location. Local parks include all sub-regional public parks in the unincorporated area...” There are four principal types of local parks:

MINI-PARKS

A small, passive local park, generally of 2,500 square feet to one acre in size; essentially substitutes for backyards in higher density areas. Mini-parks are essentially substitutes for backyards and are normally provided in higher density areas. (VII-10)

There are currently nine mini-parks in the park system.

- Canterra Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Cherry Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Emerald Bay Park (Laguna Beach adjacent)
- Hilltop Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Holderman Park (North Tustin)
- Modjeska Canyon Community Park
- Roger Stanton Park (Midway City)
- Poets Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Weatherwood Park (Ladera Ranch)

VIEW/LOOKOUT PARKS

Generally small (under two acres) passive sites, either natural or landscaped, to take advantage of a specific site opportunity from which unique views can be enjoyed. (VII-11)

There are currently no view/lookout parks in the unincorporated areas of the County. Crescent Bay Point Park in Laguna Beach does function as a view/lookout park, but as it is within the boundaries of an incorporated city and jointly managed by the County and the City of Laguna Beach is not listed here.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Any general use local park serving the recreation needs of a particular neighborhood within a community. The size varies from two to 20 acres depending on the population within its service area and the extent of desired amenities. Typically, neighborhood

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parks have a maximum service radius of one-half mile and are within walking or bicycling distance of park patrons. (VII-11)

Utilizing size only as criteria, there are ten neighborhood parks in the system.

- Bent Tree Park (Cowan Heights/Lemon Foothills)
- Cypress Point Park (Coto De Caza)
- Esplanade Park (North Tustin)
- Founders Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Pajaro Park (Rancho Santa Margarita)
- Rush Park (Rossmoor)
- Sunset Beach Parks –North and South (Sunset Beach)
- Town Green Park (Ladera Ranch)
- Wagon Wheel Park (Coto De Caza)
- Woodgate Park (Yorba Linda)

COMMUNITY PARKS

A 20- to 50-acre local park designed to meet the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. These parks are intended to serve drive-to clientele within a radius up to three miles. They contain facilities that require more space than neighborhood parks (e.g. multi-purpose playfields, court sport facilities, swimming pools, and community centers with adequate off-street parking). They are generally included in large planned communities. (VII-11)

In terms of size, there are currently two community parks in the system, although one or more may serve a larger regional role.

- Coto Sports and Recreation Park
- Ladera Ranch County Park

The primary criteria for local parks are the size of the facility and the likely extent of its service area. The central question is whether any of these “local parks” have the potential to attract visitors from outside the immediate community, or even the County as a whole.

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LOCAL PARKS MATRIX

Local Recreational Facilities in Unincorporated Communities

Location	# Acres / Type of Park	Notes/Comments
First District		
Roger Stanton Park		
Midway City	1 acre/mini-park	
Second District		
Rush Park		
Rossmoor	9 Acres/ neighborhood park	
Sunset Beach Parks – North and South		
Sunset Beach	Total – 13 acres/ neighborhood park (North Sunset Beach Park – 10 acres, South Sunset Beach Park – 3 acres)	A narrow linear park running parallel to Sunset Beach, a Regional Beach. Separated by a single row of residences
Third District		
Bent Tree Park		
Cowan Heights/Lemon Foothills	6 acres/neighborhood park	Directly adjacent to Peters Canyon Regional Park
Esplanade Park		
North Tustin - community service area	5 acres/neighborhood park	A very narrow, linear park in residential neighborhood
Holderman Park		
North Tustin – community service area	.2 acres/mini-park	Located around the corner from Esplanade Park
Modjeska Canyon Community Park		
Modjeska Canyon	.50 acres/mini-park	
Fourth District		
Woodgate Park		
Yorba Linda	3 acres/neighborhood park	Located directly adjacent to Yorba Historic Cemetery Both parks could be viewed as part of the same overall complex

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Fifth District

Eight of the local parks in the 5th District are located in Ladera Ranch, and are accordingly grouped together here

Canterra Park		
Ladera Ranch	1 acre/mini-park	Pool, tot lot
Cherry Park		
Ladera Ranch	1 acre/mini-park	Pool, large green, tot lot
Founders Park		
Ladera Ranch	14 acres/neighborhood park	Basketball, softball field, swings, picnic areas, sand volleyball
Hilltop Park		
Ladera Ranch	1 acre/mini-park	Tot lot, picnic tables, open play area
Ladera Ranch County Park		
Ladera Ranch	23 acres/community park	Described as, "a 24-acre county regional sports park shared by surrounding Orange County neighborhoods." Features four softball and baseball diamonds, six league-standard soccer fields, tot lot play areas, nigh lighting, group picnic areas, concessions, and restrooms
Poets Park		
Ladera Ranch	1 acre/mini-park	Garden paths, child's maze, T-ball field, picnic area
Town Green Park		
Ladera Ranch	2 acres/neighborhood park	Community rose garden, gazebo bandstand, pedestrian paths
Weatherwood Park		
Ladera Ranch	1 acre/mini-park	T-ball field, winding paths, tot lot, picnic area

In the Fifth District, there are five other local parks managed by HBP

Cypress Point Park		
Coto de Caza	3 acres/neighborhood park	
Coto Sports and Recreation Park		
Rancho Santa Margarita	27 acres/community park	

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Emerald Bay Park		
Unincorporated area adjacent to Laguna Beach	1 acre – mini-park	Park is located between beach and PCH
Pajaro Park		
Rancho Santa Margarita	3 acres/neighborhood park	
Wagon Wheel Sports Park		
Coto De Caza	13 acres/neighborhood park	Lies directly adjacent to Thomas F. Riley Regional Park; separated by OSO Parkway