



5.13 PARKS

The section identifies potential impacts to parks and recreation facilities that could result from implementation of the proposed project. Information in this section is primarily based upon information received from the City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department.

5.13.1 REGULATORY SETTING

DUARTE MUNICIPAL CODE

Duarte Municipal Code Chapter 19.82, Dedication of Land for Park and Recreational Purposes, requires the dedication of land, payment of a fee, or both for the purposes of providing park and recreational facilities to residential developments. According to *Duarte Municipal Code* Section 19.82.030, the Council has found and determined that the public convenience, health, interest, safety, and welfare require that two and one-half acres of property, for each 1,000 persons residing within this City, shall be devoted to park and recreational purposes.

5.13.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The City of Duarte offers a variety of recreation programs for all ages. Programs include family events, healthy choices education, recreation classes, share mentoring, sports, and youth activities. Program offerings are year-round and seasonal.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Table 5.13-1, Parks and Recreation Facilities, identifies the closest parks and recreation facilities to the project site. Northview Park, located approximately one-quarter mile north of the project site, is the nearest park for use by residents within the area.

**Table 5.13-1
Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Park/Facility	Location	Size
Sports Park	1401 Central Avenue	12.25 acres
Northview Park	1433 Highland Avenue	2.02 acres
Duarte Park	1344 Bloomdale Street	2.96 acres

Source: Cesar Monsalve, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Duarte, May 28, 2013.
City of Duarte, Parks & Recreation, http://www.accessduarte.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=72, accessed June 10, 2013.

s.f. = square feet.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEMAND

The City has an established parkland-to-population requirement of 2.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons. The City's current (2013) population is 21,554 persons¹. In order to meet the City's parkland-to-population ratio, the City would need 53.9 acres of parkland. The City currently has 52.31 acres of parkland within its jurisdictional boundaries.² According to the *General Plan*, the City also leases 26.54 acres from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational purposes, which is used to meet the City's parkland-to-population ratio. Thus, the City is currently exceeding its parkland-to-population ratio. Additional recreational opportunities are provided in wilderness areas, utility and floodway easements, bike, equestrian, and hiking trails, and a golf course.

5.13.3 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The issues presented in the Initial Study Environmental Checklist (Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*) have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if it causes one or more of the following to occur:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; and/or
- Affect existing recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

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

5.13.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

OVERVIEW OF THE DUARTE STATION SPECIFIC PLAN (PROPOSED PROJECT)

The proposed Duarte Station Specific Plan includes a Recreation/Open Space land use designation, which includes 0.80 acres of passive open space in the form of a greenbelt. This greenbelt serves as a buffer between the high density residential development located along the Specific Plan's western edge and the adjacent single-family neighborhood to the west. The eastern-most extension of the green space may be narrowed or broken up into smaller open spaces throughout the Specific Plan Area to provide an area for residents, employees, or visitors to relax, enjoy a picnic, or throw a frisbee or a ball. Outdoor open space amenities such

¹ State of California Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, January 2011-2013, With 2010 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2013.

² City of Duarte website, Parks, http://www.accessduarte.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=231, accessed June 18, 2013.



as swings, a splash pad, or a jungle gym could also be provided. However, a minimum of 0.80 acres of open space must be included for open space and buffering purposes.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD INCREASE THE USE OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CREATING THE POTENTIAL FOR PHYSICAL DETERIORATION OF FACILITIES.**

Impact Analysis: Potential development associated with implementation of the proposed project would create additional demand on existing parks and recreation facilities within the City. Development of 475 residential dwelling units could result in a potential population increase of 1,430 persons.³ Based upon the City's parkland to population requirement of 2.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, implementation of the proposed project would result in a need for approximately 3.6 acres of parkland. The proposed Specific Plan would require a minimum of 0.80 acres of open space be provided within the Plan Area to provide open space and a buffer between existing and proposed residential uses.

Development of the proposed Specific Plan would occur in phases over multiple years, based on market demand; thus, any increase in demand for parks and recreation facilities would occur gradually as additional development is added to the area. Given that the City's current parkland and leases with Duarte Unified School District, implementation of the proposed project would not create significant impacts regarding the need for additional parkland or recreational facilities.

Future residential development within the Specific Plan Area would be required to dedicate land and/or pay fees for the purposes of providing park and recreational facilities in accordance with *Duarte Municipal Code* Chapter 19.82. Dedication and/or payment of the applicable fees and the provision of open space as required in the Specific Plan would further reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.13.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- **DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND OTHER RELATED CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE CITY.**

Impact Analysis: Development associated with implementation of the proposed project and related cumulative projects within the City would increase demand on City parks and recreation facilities. The Specific Plan requires a minimum of 0.80 acres of open space be provided within the area. Additionally, residential development would be required to dedicate land and/or pay fees for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities consistent with the applicable

³ Based on 3.01 persons per household per State of California Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, January 2011-2013, With 2010 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2013.



City's *Municipal Code* requirements. The inclusion of recreational amenities into the development of related cumulative projects would be assessed on a project-by-project basis. However, all applicable projects would be required to dedicate land and/or pay fees for parkland in accordance with the applicable City's *Municipal Code*. Thus, cumulative impacts related to the demand for parks and recreation services would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.13.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant project and cumulative impacts related to parks and recreational facilities. As such, no significant unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the Duarte Station Specific Plan.

5.13.7 SOURCES CITED

City of Duarte, Cesar Monsalve, Duarte Parks and Recreation Director, written correspondence, May 28, 2013.

City of Duarte, *Parks*, http://www.accessduarte.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=231, accessed June 18, 2013.

City of Duarte, *City of Duarte Comprehensive General Plan 2005-2020*, August 14, 2007.

City of Duarte, *City of Duarte Municipal Code*, current through Ordinance 838, passed July 31, 2012.

State of California Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, January 2011-2013, With 2010 Benchmark*, Sacramento, California, May 2013.