

7 RECREATION

The Community Vision adopted as part of the Community Plan update calls for furthering access to trails and open spaces, restoring and enhancing the open space network formed by parks, canyons, and the Chollas Creek corridor, and improving existing parks in order to promote a safe and attractive public realm.

Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation, walking, and community gathering in the Encanto Neighborhoods. The Community Plan Update provides policies to create a comprehensive parks strategy to accommodate the community through 2035.

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GOALS

1. A sustainable park and recreation system that meets the needs of a variety of users such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the underserved teenage population
2. A program to incentivize the provision of publicly accessible, but privately maintained open space as part of new development
3. Provision of expanded recreational opportunities through joint use or leasing of public and private facilities.
4. Preservation, protection and enhancement of the integrity and quality of existing parks, open space, and recreation programs in the Encanto Neighborhoods.
5. A sustainable park and recreation system that meets the needs of Encanto residents by using “green” technology and sustainable practices in all new and retrofitted projects.
6. A comprehensive plan for pedestrian and bikeway connections between parks and open space lands within the Encanto Neighborhoods as well as to surrounding communities
7. Accessible bicycle and pedestrian trail corridors along Chollas Creek.
8. Enhance recreation facilities in Encanto by optimizing access by foot, bicycle, public transit, automobile, and alternative modes of travel.
9. Retrofit all existing park and recreational facilities to meet the highest level of ADA to accommodate persons with all disabilities.
10. Provide a balance of recreational facilities in the Encanto Neighborhoods that are available for programmed and non-programmed uses.
11. A comprehensive plan for open space system preservation and management of Las Chollas Creek and area canyons
12. An open space system in the Encanto Neighborhoods for the preservation and management of significant natural resources and enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities.

TABLE 7-1: RECREATION TOPICS ALSO COVERED IN OTHER PLAN ELEMENTS

RECREATION TOPIC AREAS	LAND USE	MOBILITY	URBAN DESIGN	ECONOMIC PROSPERITY	PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND SAFETY	CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY	HISTORIC PRESERVATION	ARTS AND CULTURE
Park and open space land designations	x							
Legible overall open space network			x					
Joint-use facilities at schools, community facilities					x			
Open space, including Chollas Creek corridor						x		

The Recreation Element includes specific policies addressing the following topic areas: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Preservation, Accessibility and Open Space Lands. These policies and recommendations, along with the broader goals and policies of the General Plan, provide a comprehensive parks strategy intended to accommodate the community throughout the next twenty years.

Recreation topics overlap with other Community Plan chapters, as shown in Table 7-1. Joint-use facilities at schools are relevant in the Public Facilities, Services and Safety chapter; open space also has value for Conservation and Sustainability, and the parks system helps to produce the community’s identity, an urban design concern.

7.1 Parks and Recreation Facilities

Population-based Parks and Recreation Facilities Standards

The San Diego General Plan Recreation Element describes three categories of parks: Open Space Lands, Resource-based Parks, and Population-based Parks. This section covers Population-based Parks. Population-based parks and recreation facilities are typically located within close proximity to residents and are intended to serve the daily recreational and leisure needs of the neighborhoods and communities at a recommended rate of a minimum 2.8 useable acres per 1,000 residents.

Population-based parks consist of six categories of park types: 1) major park; 2) community park; 3) neighborhood park; 4) mini park; 5) pocket park or plaza; and 6) special activity park. Typically, major parks are a minimum 20 acres and serve single or multiple communities and provide specialized facilities that serve large populations. Community parks are a minimum of 13 useable acres, serve a population of 25,000, and provide active and passive recreation. Neighborhood parks are 3 to 13 useable acres, serve a population of 5,000 within approximately one mile radius, and are accessible primarily by foot or bicycle. Mini parks are 1 to 3 useable acres within a half mile radius; Pocket parks and plazas are typically less than 1 useable acre within a quarter mile radius from residents to be served. The size of special activity parks vary depending upon the activity and population to be served. Useable park land, by Plan standards, must have a slope of less than two percent in graded, active use areas, or a slope of less than ten percent for unstructured recreational or passive use areas.

The General Plan also establishes minimum guidelines for recreation centers and aquatic complexes based on population. A recreation center, typically 17,000 square feet in size, should be provided for every 25,000 residents, and an aquatic complex should be provided for every 50,000 residents.

Meeting City Standards for Population-based Parks and Recreation Facilities

Population-based park requirements are calculated based on the land use recommendations in this community plan update at full community development, and the park acreage and recreation facilities recommendations in the General Plan.

For the Encanto Neighborhoods, the projected population at full development is projected to be _____. Therefore, according to General Plan Guidelines for population-based parks, the community should be served by a minimum of _____ useable acres of park land. Of the _____ useable acres, there should be _____ useable acres of community parks and _____ useable acres of neighborhood parks or park equivalencies as defined in this community plan update. Additionally, the Encanto Neighborhoods should have at least 2.75 recreation centers for a total of 46,280 square feet, and approximately one community swimming pool.

Existing Population-based Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Encanto Neighborhoods

The park system which serves the Encanto Neighborhoods is shown on Figure 7-1. It includes two community parks: Encanto Community Park in the northeast and Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Community



Martin Luther King, Jr. Park is the largest park in the Encanto Neighborhoods and provides play structures, walking/jogging paths, and recreation facilities.

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Joint-use school sites (top), trails (middle) and privately-owned, publicly-accessible open space (bottom) are other potential park equivalencies. Examples here are from other communities.

Park in the southeast. Both parks include a recreation center, and a combination of ball fields and areas for passive enjoyment. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park also includes a swimming pool.

The Planning Area includes three neighborhood parks: Emerald Hills Park, Gompers Park and John F. Kennedy Park. All provide children’s playgrounds, comfort stations, and passive recreation. Emerald Hills Park also includes tennis and multi-purpose courts.

Two City -owned, but currently undeveloped, mini-parks, Valencia (La Paz) and Santa Isabel, are within the planning area. Walls of Excellence is a pocket park/plaza recognizing outstanding local residents for contributions to the community.

Recreation Opportunities and Parks Equivalencies

Opportunities for additional park land and recreation facilities within the Encanto Neighborhoods are anticipated to come primarily through property acquisition, redevelopment of private and public properties and through the application of park equivalencies. Where vacant land is limited, unavailable or is cost-prohibitive, the City’s General Plan allows for the application of park equivalencies to be determined by the community and City staff through a set of guidelines. Facilities that may be considered as population-based park equivalencies include: 1) joint use facilities; 2) trails through dedicated open space; 3) privately-owned publicly-used parks; 4) non-traditional parks, such as roof top or indoor recreation facilities; 5) portions of resource-based parks; and 6) park facility expansion or upgrades. The

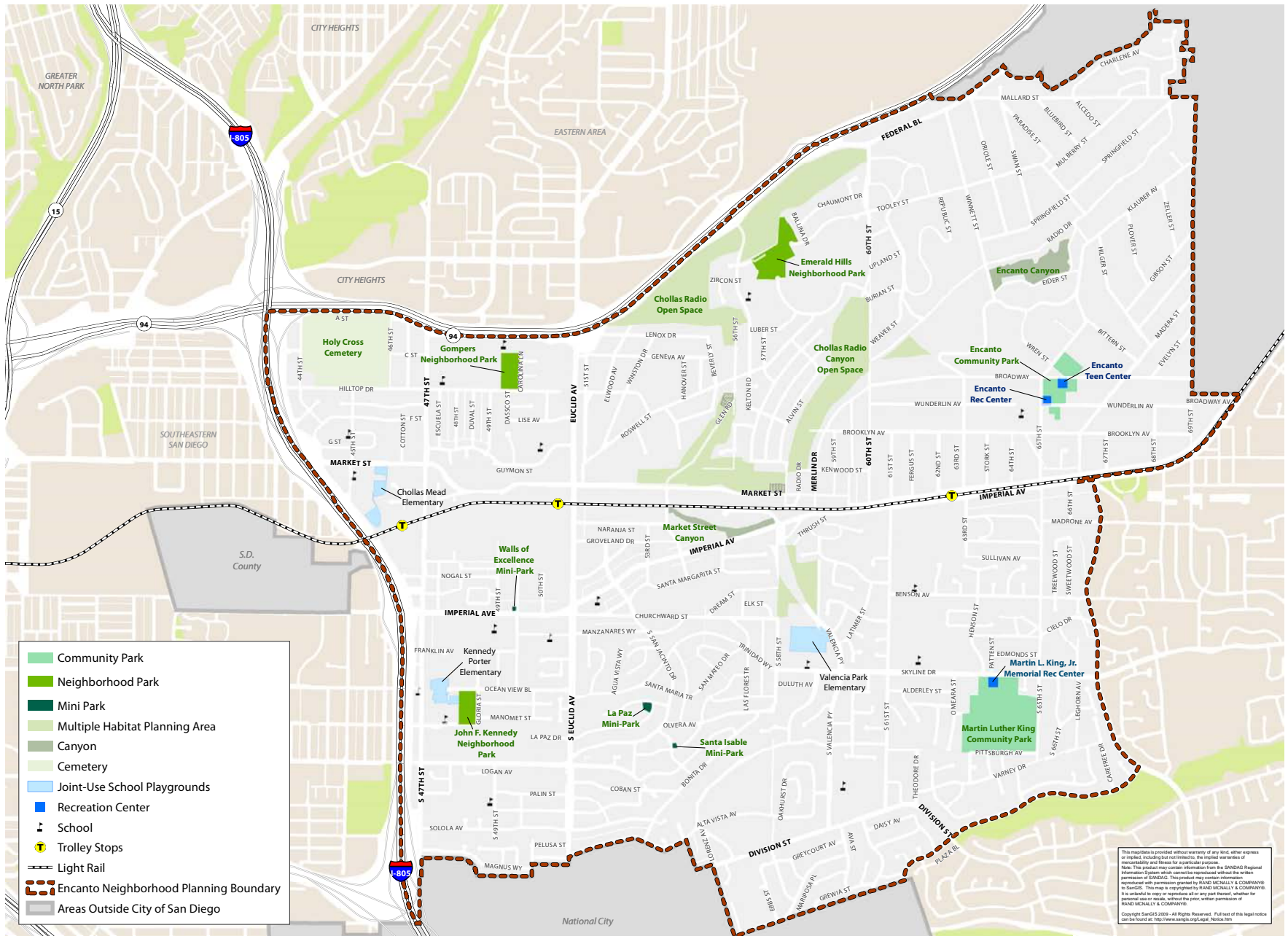
Encanto Neighborhoods is an urbanized community where park equivalencies are appropriate for satisfying some of the community’s population-based park needs.

Through the community plan update process, the community and City staff identified and evaluated population-based park and recreation opportunities, as well as potential park equivalency sites for their recreational value, uses and functions, public accessibility, consistency with General Plan policies and guidelines, and other land use policy documents, including the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan. It was determined that a variety of sites and facilities within the Encanto Neighborhoods do, or could, serve as population-based parks or park equivalencies.

The Euclid+Market Land Use and Mobility Plan (EM-LUMP) includes a conceptual plan for a series of park spaces of varying sizes and functions, and open space all connected by a creekside pathway for a continuous greenway from 47th Street on the west to Merlin Street on the east, along the South Branch and Encanto Branch of Chollas Creek, as well as to the north along the Emerald Hills Branch.

The Chollas creek corridors, as a whole, are not considered population-based parks. However, proposed parks along the creek corridor will provide needed recreation space and create connections between communities. Trails that connect parks that feature such amenities as benches, picnic tables, exercise stations or areas for passive enjoyment should be considered “park-equivalent” portions of open space corridors. See Section 7-4: Open Space Lands for more discussion of open space along Chollas Creek.

FIGURE 7-1: EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



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Table 7-2 identifies existing and some 23 potential park or joint-use sites in Encanto Neighborhoods. Some sites that have high potential and represent a variety of settings are briefly described below.

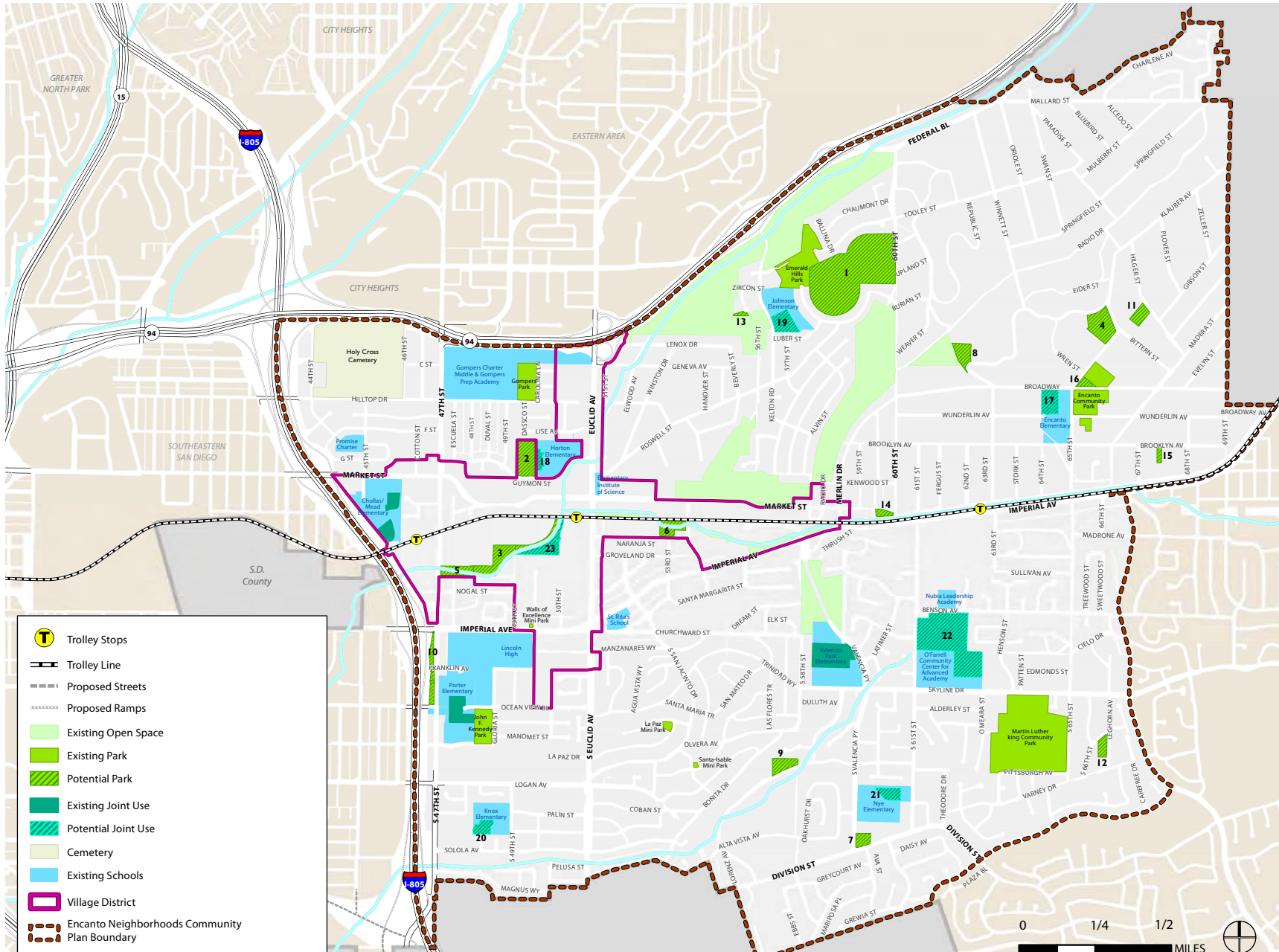
- Site 1 could expand the adjacent Emerald Hills Park to create a major park in conjunction with the existing telecommunications facility.
- Site 5 along Castana Street east of 47th Street, lies along Chollas Creek and adjacent to a significant concentration of expected development in the Euclid and Market area. The City would need to purchase the land from the Water Department for park purposes if it is no more value to the Water Department. Sites 3 and 23 are also included in EMLUMP, and are located on privately-owned land.
- Site 6, on Naranja Street, would provide a new park in an area expected to experience development and an area that is already park-deficient, and located directly along a segment of Chollas Creek. Park development would require purchase of private property and could be created in tandem with the connection of 54th Street across the Trolley tracks to Market Street, improving neighborhood connectivity.
- Site 13, at the south end of Amethyst Street, is City-owned open space on a relatively flat parcel that could be improved to function as a small pocket park and a more appealing access point for the Chollas Radio Open Space.

- Site 14, along Akins Avenue at Iona Drive, would similar create park land adjacent to Chollas Creek in a growth corridor and park-deficient area, and could be created in conjunction with a redesigned connection between Market Street and Akins Avenue. Park development here would require purchase of private property currently containing houses and businesses.
- Sites 17 through 22 have high potential as future joint use school sites, with readily available land that could be improved; size (in the case of O’Farrell); proximity to land use change (Horton); and location in an underserved area (Knox).

Existing and potential parks and park equivalencies are shown in Figure 7-2 and summarized in Table 7-2.

A major park could be created in conjunction with the existing telecommunications facility (top). A park along Castana Street (middle) could join the Market Creek Plaza amphitheater (bottom) along Chollas Creek.

FIGURE 7-2: EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARKS AND PARK EQUIVALENCIES



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TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND PARK EQUIVALENCIES INVENTORY				
PARK OR PARK EQUIVALENCY	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	ACQUISITION REQUIRED	RECREATION COMPONENTS AND AMENITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
Parks				
<i>Major Parks</i>				
(1)60th St north of Old Memory Lane, west side		31.3	X	Large, sloping site with telecommunications towers. Could be acquired and partially improved as developed park, with lease-back for telecommunications.
<i>Community Parks</i>				
Encanto	6.97	0.00		Existing facilities consisting of both active and passive recreation that includes a recreation center, teen center, multi-sports fields, tennis courts, children’s play area, walkways, seating and picnic tables.
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial	27.42	0.00		Existing facilities consisting of both passive and active recreation that includes a recreation center, a senior center, comfort station, ball fields, multi-use courts, children’s play area, walkways, seating and picnic tables.
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>				
Emerald Hills	7.66	0.00		Existing facility consisting of passive recreation that includes comfort station, multi-purpose court, tennis court, shade structure, children’s play area, walkways, seating and picnic tables. Construct a Recreation Center.
Gompers	4.82	0.00		Existing facility consisting passive recreation that includes, comfort station, children’s play area, walkways, seating and picnic tables
John F. Kennedy	4.08	0.00		Existing facility consisting passive recreation that includes, comfort station, children’s play area, walkways, seating and picnic tables
(2)Guymon Street, west of Horton Elementary School	0.00	3.00		Park land with park development potential currently identified as open space.
(3)South side of El Rey Mobile Home Park along Chollas Creek		4.4	X	Creek-facing portion planned for parks and trails, included in Euclid+Market Master Plan (EMLUMP).
(4)Klauber Avenue & Bittern St.		4.5	X	Potential park with gentle grade requiring terracing. Close to Encanto Community Park.
(2) South end of San Miguel Av		3.20		City fee-owned property. Adjacent to Chollas Creek. Historically farmed. Includes a lot line adjustment and acquisition of a portion of private property to south of city property.
<i>Mini-Parks</i>				
(5)Castana St east of 47th St along Chollas Creek		2.1	X	Public Utilities Department, planned for park and trail as part of Euclid+Market Master Plan
(6)Naranja St between 53rd & 54th St. north side, along Chollas Creek		2.3	X	Mostly vacant block in area where additional development is expected. Park could be created in tandem with 54th St. connection to Market St.

TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND PARK EQUIVALENCIES INVENTORY				
PARK OR PARK EQUIVALENCY	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	ACQUISITION REQUIRED	RECREATION COMPONENTS AND AMENITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
(7)Division St. & Valencia Parkway, northeast corner		1.3	X	Church-owned site contains vacant area. Lot split could create potential park site.
(8)Scimitar Drive north of Broadway, west side		2.2	X	Potential park site on view property.
(9)Cervantes Ave, north side		2.0	X	Potential park site adjacent to existing open space that could provide an improved pedestrian link where Cervantes dead ends.
(10)47th St between Imperial Ave & Ocean View Blvd, west side		1.9	X	Potential linear park; special activity area
(11)Hilger St between Klauber Ave & Madera St, west side		1.5	X	Potential park in a park deficient area.
(12)Leghorn Ave north of Varney Dr, west side		1.2	X	Potential park in a park deficient area.
<i>Pocket Parks/Plazas</i>				
Santa Isabel		.10		Currently undeveloped park land.
Valencia (La Paz)		.36		Currently undeveloped park land.
Walls of Excellence	0.12			Existing facility landscape and seating recognizing outstanding local citizens.
(13)Amethyst Street, south end		?		Park land with park development potential currently identified as open space.
(14)Akins St between 60th St and Iona Dr		0.7	X	Park site could be developed in tandem with roadway redesign linking Market St to Akins St. One block of Akins could be vacated and included in the park, providing direct access to creek.
(15)Brooklyn Ave between 67th & 68th St		0.5	X	Potential park in an area of potential additional residential development.
(16)Broadway & Klauber Ave		0.7	X	Sites could be incorporated into Encanto Park.
Park Equivalencies				
<i>Joint Use Facilities</i>				
Chollas-Mead Elementary	3.45			Existing facilities consisting of turf multi-purposed playfield
Kennedy-Porter Elementary	3.05			Existing facilities consisting of turf multi-purposed playfield
Valencia Park Elementary	6.78			Existing facilities consisting of turf multi-purposed playfield. Pursue a recreation easement to allow a trail from the joint use area to the City fee-owned Valencia Canyon open space.
(17) Encanto Elementary		2.00		Potential turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, hardscape for games, and children's play area.
(18) Horton Elementary		0.9		Potential turt multi-purpose playfield, hardscape for games

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TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND PARK EQUIVALENCIES INVENTORY				
PARK OR PARK EQUIVALENCY	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	ACQUISITION REQUIRED	RECREATION COMPONENTS AND AMENITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
(19) Johnson Elementary		3.00		Potential turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, hardscape for games, and children's play area.
(20) Knox Elementary		1.50		Potential turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, hardscape for games, and children's play area.
(21) Nye Elementary		1.50		Potential turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, hardscape for games, and children's play area.
(22) O'Farrell Middle		16.00		Potential turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, hardscape for games, and children's play area.
<i>Trails</i>				
TBD				
<i>Privately-Owned Park Sites</i>				
(23) Festival Park		0.84		Creek portion planned to accommodate park amenities. Already approved as an equivalency.
<i>Non-Traditional Park Sites</i>				
None				
<i>Facility or Building Expansion or Upgrade</i>				
None				
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE AND EQUIVALENCIES CREDITS	64.35	85.80		

Note: Site #s refer to potential park sites evaluated by City Staff and shown on Figure 7-2. Many sites were recommended by the community.

Source: City of San Diego, 2013.

TABLE 7-2: PROPOSED POPULATION-BASED PARK INVENTORY SUMMARY

PARK SPACE	USABLE ACRES
Existing & Future Population-based Parks	111.13
Park Equivalency Credits	39.02
Population-based parks requirements for year 2030	TBD
Population-based park deficit for year 2030	TBD

Source: City of San Diego, 2013.

In summary, an estimated ___ acres of population-based parks will be needed to serve the Encanto Neighborhoods by the year 2030. With 51 acres of existing population-based parks combined with the 60 acres of park that have been identified, a _- acre deficit will result. Of the combined 150 useable acres of existing park land and identified potential parks and park equivalencies, 84 acres will serve the community's neighborhood park needs, and 66 acres will serve the community's community or major park needs. The deficit will need to be fulfilled in the future by land acquisitions/donations or future park equivalencies identified by the City or the community.

Policies

- P-RE-1:** Continue to pursue land acquisition for the creation of new public parks through urban infill and redevelopment proposals, and as identified in Table 7-2.
- P-RE-2:** Pursue park equivalencies as opportunities arise, and as identified in Table 7-2.
- P-RE-3:** Pursue expansion of recreation opportunities through joint use or leasing of public and private facilities.
- P-RE-4:** In areas of the community where there are land constraints, encourage new private development proposals to include recreational facilities within their land holdings to serve existing, as well as new residents. Provision of non-traditional park and recreation amenities should be considered on rooftops of buildings and parking structures, and/or on the ground level or within new buildings.
- P-RE-5:** As public agency land or buildings are redeveloped, incorporate active or passive recreation into buildings, or the surrounding exterior, where space allows.
- P-RE-6:** Increase recreational opportunities by acquiring and developing land through street/alley rights-of-way vacations (paper streets), where appropriate and legally defensible, to provide park and recreation uses.
- P-RE-7:** Retain and promote safety of Encanto parks to the public by providing park designs that incorporate the City's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) measures (see General Plan Policy UD-A.17).
- P-RE-8:** Implement recommendations contained in the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan which specifically serve the neighborhood and community park needs of the Encanto Neighborhoods.
- P-RE-9:** Encourage development of pocket parks and plazas within commercial districts.

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Existing recreation centers will be updated (top). Passive use improvements around open space and creekside trails (middle and bottom) are another form of enhancement.

7.2 Preservation, Protection and Enhancement

The demand for park and recreation opportunities will continue to grow as the population grows. Undeveloped land for parks has already become difficult to find in the Encanto Neighborhoods making preservation of the existing parks and open space essential to providing recreation opportunities in this community. Preservation can include improvements to existing facilities to increase their life span, or expand their uses and sustainability. With increased demand and usage, the facilities at Encanto and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial parks may need to be reconstructed, upgraded and expanded with sustainable and green technology features.

Preservation can also include the enhancement of open space that provides a balance between protecting natural resources and allowing for a certain level of public recreation use. For the Encanto Neighborhoods, this would mean focusing passive use improvements on the edge of open space areas, such as at the Amethyst Street mini-park. In addition, to protect natural resources and add recreation value, interpretive signs could be featured at these parks to educate the public on the unique natural habitat or the history of the place. See the Conservation and Sustainability Element for additional discussion of preservation of natural resource preservation.

The City maintains a list of projects that have been defined but not yet funded. These include numerous projects in parks in the Encanto Neighborhoods. Projects common to several parks include upgrading security and ballfield lighting; upgrading irrigation systems; adding picnic shelters; repairing sidewalks; upgrading tot lots to meet State and Federal accessibility guide-

lines; and improving or expanding parking lots.

Policies

- P-RE-10:** Preserve, expand and enhance existing park and recreation facilities to increase their life span, or expand their uses and sustainability.
- P-RE-11:** Preserve, protect and restore canyons and hillsides as important visual amenity and limit public use to designated trails.
- P-RE-12:** Provide interpretive signs on the biologic and scenic value of the open space systems, at strategic Open Space overlooks and trail entryway locations.
- P-RE-13:** Provide sufficient human and economic resources to preserve and enhance the existing parks and open space areas serving the Encanto Neighborhoods.

7.3 Accessibility

The 1990 American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that newly constructed and/or altered local government facilities are to be readily accessible and usable by individuals with physical disabilities. Therefore, all new and existing parks and recreation facilities within the Encanto Neighborhoods are required to meet ADA guidelines when they are constructed or retrofitted for improvements. This could include adding accessible pedestrian ramps, providing paved pathways at acceptable gradients that lead from a public street sidewalk or parking area to a children's play area or other park destination, remodeling of restrooms and building interiors, and providing interpretive signage along a nature trail.

Accessibility also means the availability of active and passive recreation to all community residents. The Encanto

and Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Community Parks are programmed through the recreation centers while making the facilities available to organized sport leagues use and unstructured play and impromptu users of the facilities at other times. The schedule is adjusted each year to make sure a balance is provided for community residents. Future park and recreation areas should be designed to accommodate a variety of uses as determined by community desires consistent with General Plan Guidelines. When special uses are designed into parks, such as off-leash dog areas or community gardens, the areas should also include amenities, such as pathways, benches, exercise stations, or picnic tables on the perimeter that could accommodate more than one type of user and enhance the recreational and leisure experience. Special uses, such as off-leash dog areas and community gardens, would be required to undergo a City approval process.

Accessibility within the Encanto Neighborhoods has three main components: 1) all facilities should be located within walking distance of neighborhoods and employment centers; 2) facilities should be accessible to the broadest population possible, and 3) facilities should be open for use by the general public with a balance between programmed and non-programmed activities.

Access to parks is one of the criteria used to consider potential new park sites. Potential park sites that would add usable recreational space within a quarter-mile walk of residents not currently served by parks should generally be prioritized.

Chollas Creek corridor has the potential of providing a major pedestrian and bicycle link connecting the various Encanto Neighborhoods to each other and to surrounding communities.

Policies

- P-RE-14:** Ensure all parks meet local, state and federal accessibility guidelines.
- P-RE-15:** Future acquisitions which provide parks within one quarter mile of residents to be served, should be given highest priority.
- P-RE-16:** Provide bus stops or accessible parking to community and neighborhood park and recreation facilities in the Encanto Neighborhoods so persons with disabilities have access.
- P-RE-17:** Provide an information kiosk and map at the gateways to the community that identifies all parks that serve Encanto and how to get to each by walking, biking or public transit.
- P-RE-18:** Develop and increase access to senior and youth services, activities and facilities wherever possible within the community's public park and recreation system.
- P-RE-19:** Design all new recreation facilities for an inter-connected park and open space system that is integrated into and accessible to Encanto Neighborhoods residents.
- P-RE-20:** Pursue public use easements for trails on private properties within the Chollas Creek open space system.
- P-RE-21:** Pursue public use easements for trails on private properties to ensure continuous trail connections through open space systems.



Accessible paths and improved walkability between parks and adjacent areas (top and middle) will be enhanced. Joint-use school sites will be made more attractive and usable (bottom).

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Creek conditions vary, with sections of concrete-lined channel (top, at Hilltop Drive); bordered by steep slopes (at Elwood Avenue, middle), and natural sections (Emerald Hills Canyon, bottom).

7.4 Open Space Lands and Resource-based Parks

Open space lands are City-owned property located within canyons, mesas and other natural land forms. Open space is intended to preserve and protect native habitats of flora and fauna while providing responsible, public access through hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Open space lands are typically free from development and kept in their natural state to protect their biological resources and habitat value. Encanto Neighborhoods contain open space lands in canyons, along ridges, and along Chollas Creek, totaling 177 acres (Refer to and Figure 7-3).

Most of the open space in the Encanto Neighborhoods is classified as Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). These lands are part of a Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) involving the City of San Diego and other jurisdictions, to support approximately 85 species by conserving core biological resource areas. Local jurisdictions implement their portions of the MSCP Plan through sub-area plans. MHPA includes Chollas Radio Canyon Open Spaces; Emerald Hills Open Space; Valencia Canyon; and unnamed open spaces along Market Street.

The Chollas Creek system extends over 25 miles from Mid-City and Lemon Grove through the Encanto Neighborhoods and Southeastern San Diego to San Diego Bay. The Emerald Hills and Encanto branches flow from east to west, joining to form the South Branch near Euclid Avenue and Market Street. Creek conditions vary from concrete-lined channel, concrete on one bank only, earthen channel. Certain reaches have intermittent flow, while other sections have water throughout the year.

Chollas Creek Open Space and Trails

Chollas Creek Enhancement Program and South Branch Implementation

The Chollas Creek Enhancement Program calls for restoring disturbed areas; avoiding future channelization; developing a system of linear trails, access points, and enhanced sidewalks where routes must follow streets; and ensuring that development preserves connections and addresses the corridor. The program includes a 20-year phasing schedule, and identifies the South Branch as the first phase, due to its potential for restoration and its exposure to a wide swath of neighborhoods and commercial areas. The City initiated a more detailed program for the South Branch and has proceeded to carry out improvements. The Market Creek Plaza development has revealed the creek to the community and has made its presence a strong part of the site's master plan with adjoining terraces and community amphitheater. Actions proposed for other segments include:

- Trail and public art along the channelized creek segment along 51st Street, and pedestrian linkages to Gompers Learning Laboratory, the Multiple Species Conservation Program preserve, and Malcolm X Library;
- Habitat enhancement and restoration along the channelized but not concrete-lined segment of the creek west of Euclid Avenue and north of Market Street;
- Trail connection along the creek between Market Creek Plaza and 47th Street.

Additional Improvement Opportunities

Figure 7-3 shows existing and potential future open space along Chollas Creek, and shows a recommended route for developing a path system. The diagram shows locations where paths are feasible or feasible with minimal adjustment, and where paths would require land acquisition, agreements, or major grading. Where providing a path directly along the creek would be difficult, an alternate route is identified. The diagram shows where critical crossings of major streets and freeways could be done with relative ease, and where they would be challenging. Trailheads and gateways are identified, pointing to the importance of visibility and access, in a system that has been historically hidden from view.

Urban development along the creek has led to land ownership obstacles for creek re-construction. Restoring access and environmental quality along Chollas Creek will require action both by the City and future private development adjacent to the creek. These actions can include public access easements, and public land acquisition at key locations.

In other places, steep topography, major roadways and freeways complicate completing a trail connection. Major street crossings will require signalization improvements and bike/pedestrian bridges. Freeway undercrossings may require substantial infrastructure modification. Where the creek passes under freeways, long, low tunnels will require substantial infrastructure modification. Caltrans must also account for pedestrian/bicycle movement over freeways in future projects, such as the current re-design of Interstate 805. Temporary alternative routes are recommended as interim steps to bypass or circumvent significant obstacles.

Open Space and Trail System in the Hills and Canyons

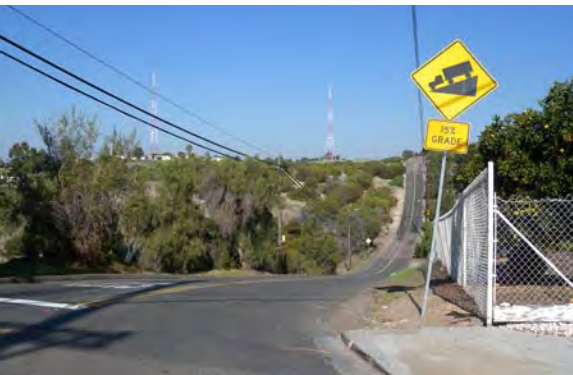
Encanto Neighborhoods' open space systems contain trails that connect neighborhoods and in some cases provide links to parks and joint use areas. These trails can also provide a user with the chance of "getting away from it all," a natural open space classroom, as well as a source of passive recreation such as hiking, biking and bird watching. However, some trails cross private property, other agency lands, or have no particular destination. To ensure a trail system that respects the surrounding natural habitat and reduces impacts associated with human use, new trail segments need to be constructed to provide more direct links; some existing trails need to be reconstructed to reduce erosion and other impacts, and trails that are redundant will be closed. Trailheads can feature kiosks providing information on the natural open space as well as maps of the trail system. Figures 7- 3: Open Space and Trail System provide recommendations for a future open space trail system for the Encanto Neighborhoods.

Existing trails along the Radio Drive right-of-way and along the Emerald Hills branch of Chollas Creek are recommended to become the basis for an interconnected system with links to trails along Chollas Creek and routes with enhanced streetscapes. Improved wayfinding signage and amenities such as benches, shade structures, viewing blinds and platforms, and interpretive panels will all enhance the community's use and enjoyment of nature. A second trail circuit could emerge connecting Encanto Canyon to the Encanto business district and the O'Farrell neighborhood, following unused rights-of-way and enhancements along Woodman Street, Skyline Drive, and Valencia Parkway.



The amphitheater at Market Creek Village (top) and the path east of Euclid Avenue (middle) show the promise of creekside enhancements. Many creek segments present challenges (Imperial Avenue, bottom).

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Chollas Radio and Canyon Radio Canyon Open Spaces (top and middle). Trail or streetscape improvements could create loops connecting neighborhoods with nature “in the backyard” (bottom).

Cemeteries

The approximately 45-acre Holy Cross Cemetery is not public land and is not counted as park land, but nevertheless provides visual relief and other open space values in the Planning Area’s northwestern corner.

Open Space Lands and Resource-based Park Recommendations

P-RE-22: Protect and enhance the natural resources of open space lands by re-vegetating with native drought tolerant plants and utilizing open wood fences adjacent to very sensitive areas to provide additional protection while still allowing views into the area.

P-RE-23: Require all storm water and urban run-off drainage into open space lands be filtered or treated before entering the area.

P-RE-24: Provide recognizable entrances (trailheads) to the trail system as shown on Figure 7-3: Open Space and Trail System. The trailheads should include a kiosk that includes a map of how the canyon interfaces with the Encanto Neighborhoods and interpretive signs on the biologic and scenic value of the open space systems.

P-RE-25: Construct approximately ___ linear feet of new trails within the Encanto Neighborhoods’ City -owned open space.

P-RE-26: Provide interpretive signs at major trailheads to educate users on the sensitive natural and cultural habitats and unique biological and scenic qualities of these areas.

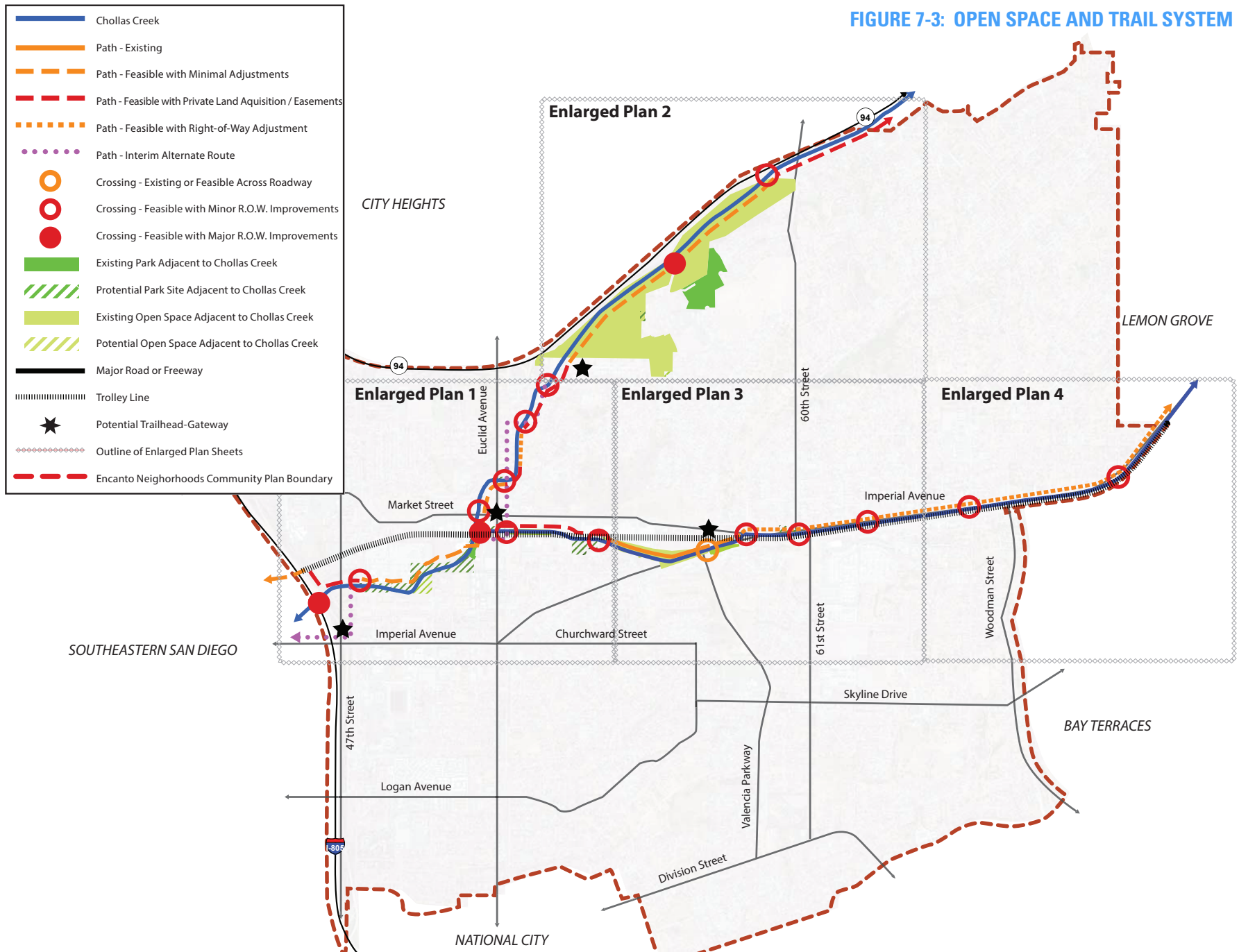
P-RE-27: Provide accessible trails with benches and overlooks to ensure all residents of the community can enjoy open space in the Encanto Neighborhoods.

P-RE-28: Create a comprehensive plan for open space system preservation and management of Chollas Creek and area canyons.

P-RE-29: Prepare a comprehensive study to analyze Chollas Creek’s outstanding, distinctive natural, cultural or historic resources of a regional nature for consideration of designation as a Regional Park.

P-RE-30: Implement recommendations contained in the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan.

FIGURE 7-3: OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL SYSTEM



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