

## 6. Recreation

### Goals

- Equitable parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of a broad range of users of all ages and abilities.
- Easy, safe and enjoyable access to multiple types of park and recreation opportunities.
- A connected system of parks and recreational facilities.

### Introduction

The Community Plan aims to enhance the recreational value of parks and public spaces by expanding and reimagining them to maximize their value to the community. It seeks to identify new park and public space opportunities on City-owned land and encourages partnerships and joint-use agreements with other public entities and private landowners to create opportunities for public spaces and recreation on non-City properties. The Community Plan guides the development of parks and public spaces with new development, as well as new canyon overlooks, trails and trailhead parks to promote a connected system of parks and public spaces.

The Community Plan envisions a network of parks and recreational facilities connected by a variety of pathways, bikeways, and transit. The Community Plan envisions a well-connected system of parks, recreational facilities, and open space that provide opportunities for passive and active recreation, social interaction, community gatherings, the enhancement of public spaces and streets. The Community Plan also envisions connections between the San Diego State University campus and the community to improve recreational opportunities for the community.

New and improved recreation facilities can help to provide opportunities for exercise, social interaction, community events and safe walking/rolling and bicycling. Recreation needs can be met with a variety of spaces that provide opportunities for active and passive recreation.

### Population-Based Parks and Recreation Facilities

Population-based parks serve the needs of the College Area which could attain a projected population of 87,300 people. Existing and planned parks, recreational centers, and aquatic complexes to help meet the recreational needs of the population are shown in Table 10.1 and Figure 6.1.

**Parks:** To meet the Parks Master Plan standard of 100 Recreation Value-Base points per 1,000 residents, the projected population of 87,300 people results in a need for approximately 8,730 Recreational Value Points.

**Recreation Center:** To meet the Parks Master Plan standard of 17,000 square feet per 25,000 residents, the College Area's projected population results in a need for approximately 59,400 square feet of recreation center building space. The need is the equivalent of 3.5 recreation centers sized at 17,000 square feet each.

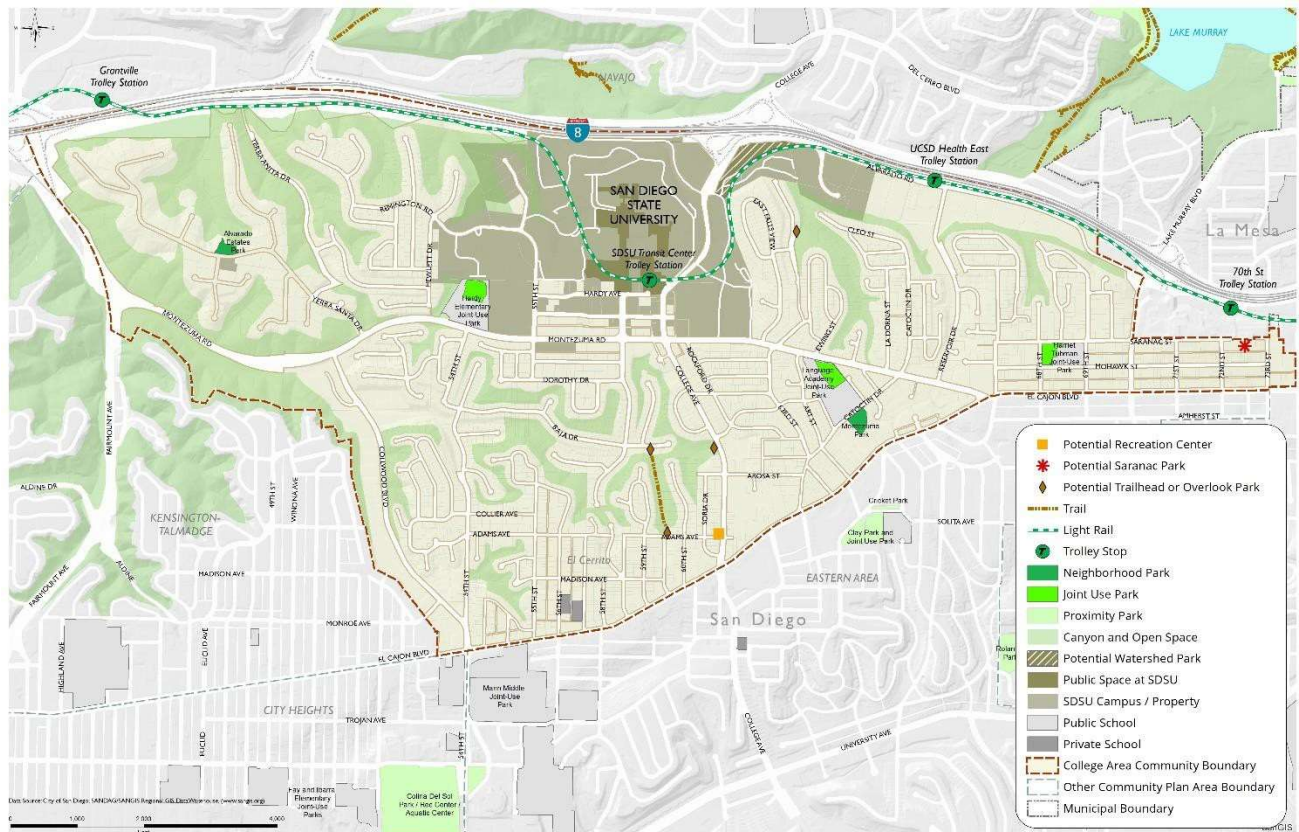
**Aquatic Complex:** An aquatic complex serves a population of 50,000. To meet the Parks Master Plan standard an aquatic complex per 50,000 residents, results in a need for approximately 1.75 aquatic complexes.

### Parks and Recreational Facilities

#### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks can serve a population within a half-mile radius, typically accessible by bicycle, public transit, and walking and can offer picnic areas, play areas, multi-

**Figure 6-1  
Parks**



purpose courts and turf areas, pathways, and smaller facilities like restrooms.

### Mini Parks

Mini parks are small spaces that provide readily accessible recreational opportunities for nearby residential areas and can offer picnic areas, play areas, turf, walkways, and landscaping that support both passive and active recreation.

### Pocket Parks & Plazas

Pocket parks bring recreational opportunity to sites that are otherwise too small or irregularly shaped for larger, traditional park layouts. They can fit into diverse community settings, creating convenient places for play and relaxation. Pocket parks also activate their surroundings by encouraging social interaction. Plazas are like mini and pocket parks except they mostly hardscaped.

### Parks in Community Villages

Development on larger sites within Community Villages have the potential to provide publicly accessible mini parks, pocket parks or plazas. These spaces may remain as privately-owned park spaces or be dedicated as public parks. Park amenities can range from open green spaces or children's play areas. Amenities offering public access and recreational opportunities that meet the criteria of the Parks Master Plan can be eligible for park credits.

### Linear Parks

Linear parks along streets can provide an inviting pedestrian environment with passive or active recreation spaces adjacent to a street way or a linear feature and can be continuous or multiple recreational spaces linked by a pedestrian and/or multi-use path.



### Trails, Overlooks, and Trailhead Pocket Parks

Trails, overlooks and trailhead parks allow people to enjoy views and learn about natural resources. Interpretive and wayfinding signs at overlooks and along trails and at trailhead pocket parks can educate people on the unique natural history and value of open spaces. Refer to the Open Space and Conservation Element.

### Joint-Use Parks & Facilities

Joint-use parks and recreation facilities provide active and passive recreational opportunities for school children when school is in session and the public when school is not in session. Joint-use agreements with the San Diego Unified School District, other organizations and private development allow for the shared use of facilities and resources.

This can provide more parkland and additional recreational opportunities where there is limited available land for new parks. Each joint-use site is unique and has different constraints and opportunities and can include turfed multi-purpose fields, walking track, paved hardcourts, exercise equipment, group seating, playground equipment, and off-street parking.

### Planned Parks and Recreational Facilities

The Community Plan identifies enhancements to increase their recreational value and the potential for new park opportunities through the acquisition of land, the reuse of City-owned land or with new developments as shown in Figure 6.1.

**Figure 6-2**  
**Montezuma Park Improvement Concept Diagram**



### Montezuma Park

Montezuma Park contains a multi-purpose lawn, mature trees and picnic tables. Planned Improvements in the [General Development Plan](#) include a children's play areas, shade pavilions with picnic seating, updated pathways, restroom, fenced off-leash dog areas for small and large dogs as shown in Figure 6.2.

### Montezuma Road Promenade

The proposed urban greenway along Montezuma Road could provide exercise and fitness stations, placemaking, seating and gathering opportunities for recreation.

### College Avenue Recreation Center

The College Avenue Recreation Center on City-owned property could involve retrofitting the existing building as a community serving recreation center and include outdoor public space if feasible.

**Figure 6-3  
Recreation Center Concept**



### Adams-Baja Trail and Trailhead Pocket Park

The 1/4-mile Adams-Baja Trail is along a public easement. A potential trailhead pocket parks at each end of the trail on Baja Drive and Adams Avenue could provide passive

recreational opportunities for seating and gathering as shown in Figure 6.4.

**Figure 6-4  
Adams-Baja Trail and Trailhead Pocket Park Concept**



### Brockbank Place Overlook Park

A overlook park along Brockbank Place could include an overlook to the adjacent canyon with passive recreational opportunities for seating, a shade structure, picnic or play areas, habitat educational elements and fitness stations as shown in Figure 6.5.

**Figure 6-3  
Brockbank Place Overlook Park Concept**



### 62nd Street Park

A park at 62nd Street Park would require collaboration and an agreement with the



College Avenue Baptist Church to develop a portion of the parking area. between Rose Street and El Cajon Boulevard, which could include both active and passive recreational opportunities as shown on Figure 6.6.

**Figure 6-4**  
**62nd Street Concept**



#### Saranac Pocket Park

A potential 0.41-acre pocket park on City-owned property located along Saranac Street could provide recreational opportunities for seating and gathering and fitness stations.

#### Alvarado Creek Park

**Figure 6-5**  
**Alvarado Creek Park Concept**



A 3.9-acre park at Alvarado Creek would require an agreement with Caltrans and San Diego State University to transform the area into a play area space, multi-use paths and trails, shade structures and habitat educational components as shown in Figure 6.7.

## Nearby Parks & Recreation Facilities

Nearby parks and recreation facilities provide services and resources for College Area community members which include Lake Murray within the Mission Trails Regional Park and the Colina Del Sol Community Park, Recreation Center and Aquatic Complex.

## San Diego State University

The San Diego State University campus provides recreation facilities that include gymnasiums, tennis courts, outdoor pools, basketball courts, climbing wall, playing fields and other facilities that are available to all students on, as well as the off-campus community.

## Policies

- 6.1** Pursue the implementation of the planned park sites and improvements to existing parks.
- 6.2** Pursue land acquisition for the creation of new public parks, recreation facilities and public spaces as opportunities arise.
- 6.3** Pursue the implementation of recreation centers and aquatic centers to serve the community.
- 6.4** Pursue opportunities to develop mini or pocket parks, plazas and recreation facilities as part of future developments with visual and physical access from one or more street frontages wherever feasible.

- 6.5** Provide a variety in recreational programming and design to serve the community such as off-leash dog parks, community gardens, and other innovative recreational spaces.
- 6.6** Pursue opportunities for new parks and recreation facilities through partnerships and joint-use agreements.
- 6.7** Pursue lease agreements with private property owners and public agencies to incorporate active or passive recreation into existing buildings or surrounding grounds, where space is available and appropriate for public use.
- 6.8** Increase recreational opportunities to provide for park and recreation uses by reconfiguring streets, where feasible.
- 6.9** Support development of the Montezuma Road promenades with public space and recreational features within the promenades.
- 6.10** Consider special activity parks on a case-by-case basis, including but not limited to, trailhead pocket parks, skateboard parks, off-leash dog parks, and other uses.
- 6.11** Plan wayfinding signage that identifies the location of parks and recreation facilities.
- 6.12** Providing trails, overlooks, kiosks and interpretive and wayfinding signs to educate users on the sensitive natural habitats and unique biologic, cultural, and scenic qualities of open space areas.
- 6.13** Design trails within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area that comply with the Multiple Species Conservation Program guidelines.