

Parks and Recreation
Serra Mesa Community Plan

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FIGURE

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

There are two developed neighborhood parks, one partially developed community park and three joint-use school/park sites in the Serra Mesa community. Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park is on a 13.68-acre site located adjacent to Angier Elementary School and Murray Ridge Neighborhood Park is on an 11.09-acre site located northwest of Murray Ridge Road and Mission Center Road. The partially developed Serra Mesa Community Park is on a 22.55-acre site stretching south from Aero Drive to Village Glen Drive; Wegforth Elementary School is located immediately to the west. The 7.40-acre and 5.20-acre joint-use facilities at Fletcher Elementary and Juarez Elementary Schools address additional park needs for the community. A four-acre joint-use facility at Algiers Elementary School has not been developed under the original lease.

Cabrillo Neighborhood Park includes lighted multi-sport fields, children's play area, picnic facilities, a concession stand, two comfort stations (restrooms) and parking. Murray Ridge Neighborhood Park is developed with a multi-purpose court, tennis court, horseshoe area, open play areas, a comfort station and picnic facilities.

Serra Mesa Community Park site occupies a 20.55-acre site of which ten acres are developed. Existing facilities include the Serra Mesa Recreation Center, lighted sports fields, multi-purpose courts, playgrounds and parking. The long-range plan for the remaining portion of the community park, adjacent to Aero Drive, at one time called for additional active recreational uses such as lighted ball fields, children's play area, open lawn, picnic facilities, concession stand/comfort station and parking. This area of the community park is now proposed to house a new Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library.

The community's joint-use facilities are used by the children of the San Diego Unified School District during school hours and by the general public after school hours, on weekends and during holidays. The Fletcher Elementary School joint-use lease area, referred to as "Birdland Neighborhood Park," contains a children's play area, picnic facilities, turf ball fields, hard court game area and parking. The Juarez Elementary School joint-use lease area contains decomposed granite ball fields, picnic facilities, children's play area and hard court area. The Angier Elementary School joint-use area was once proposed for development by local citizens but was never built. The decomposed granite fields are used by the Little League.

Recreational opportunities within the Serra Mesa community are somewhat limited for adult usage since the majority of the current facilities serve the youth of the community. The recreation center is heavily used and in need of improvement; meeting rooms within the building are not conducive to public use due to noise impacts from the gymnasium located in the same building. The proposed Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library is planned to have meeting space to serve the needs of the general public.

A 1999 evaluation made of Serra Mesa’s park and recreation needs, and the community’s compliance with the City’s Progress Guide and General Plan (General Plan), established the following park needs:

1. General Plan Standard For Neighborhood Parks	One neighborhood park per 3,500-5,000 people, ten acres in size or five acres if adjacent to an elementary school.
2. General Plan Standard	One community park per 18,000-25,000 people, 20 acres in size or 13 acres if adjacent to a junior high school.
3. General Plan Standard Resource Based Parks*	15-17 acres per 1,000 people.

Serra Mesa, with an ultimate buildout of approximately 25,100 population (according to the San Diego Association of Governments’ 2020 Cities/County Forecasts), has a park acreage need based on General Plan standards shown in the table below.

Population	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Resource-Based Parks*
Existing Conditions 1999	3 Parks	1 Park	444 acres
24,000 population	3 joint-use agreements		
General Plan Standard for Build Out	5 Parks	1 Park	376 acres (15-acres per 1,000 people, times 25,000 population)
25,100 population			

GOALS

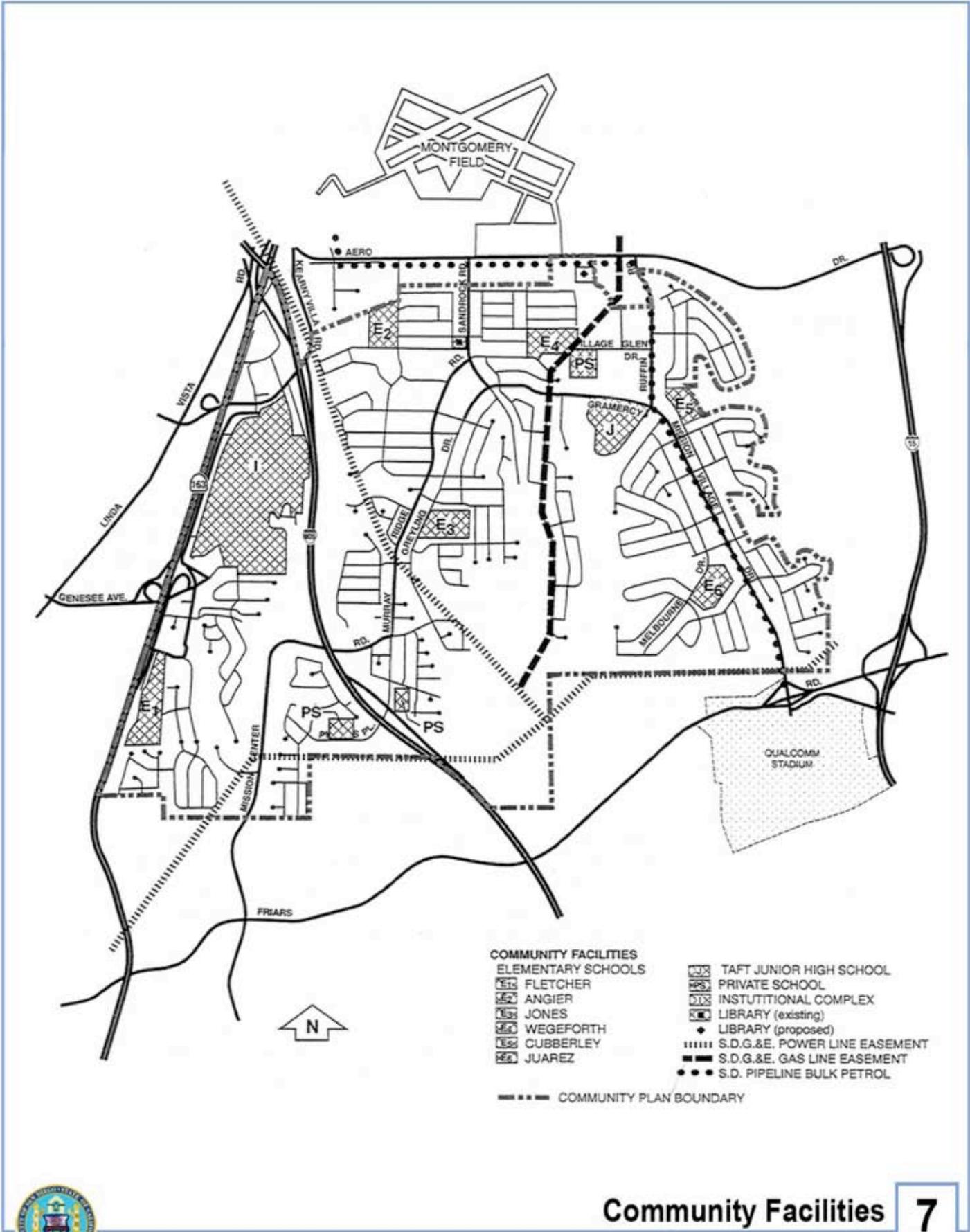
- TO DEVELOP SUFFICIENT AND CONVENIENT PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO SERVE THE EXISTING AND FUTURE RESIDENTIAL AND WORKING POPULATION OF THE COMMUNITY.
- TO DEVELOP PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE LINKAGES CONNECTING OPEN SPACE, NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS, SCHOOLS AND SHOPPING FACILITIES.
- TO FOSTER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE JOINT-USE FACILITIES, INCLUDING TURFED MULTI-SPORTS FIELDS, FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SERRA MESA.

* The Progress Guide and General Plan defines Resource Based Parks as natural hillsides, canyons and other natural areas that are designated open space in the community plan.

PROPOSALS

- Serra Mesa Community Park should be enhanced as follows:
 1. The recreation center building should be extensively upgraded and expanded to relieve the chronic overuse of the existing facility.
 2. The portion of the community park near Aero Drive should be improved with active and passive recreational facilities to the extent feasible while also accommodating the needs of the proposed Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library.
- Serra Mesa Community Park should be combined with the Wegeforth Elementary School playground and the eight acres of City-owned land in Research Park subdivision addition. This would provide a park with a full range of recreational facilities, including tennis courts and a community pool. The community park and recreation center should be integrated with the Mission Village Community Activity Center. The proposed park expansion would enhance the working environment in the San Diego Research Park and could be considered support facility for the working population.
- Cabrillo Heights Park should be retained as a developed park with four baseball diamonds.
- The Murray Ridge Neighborhood Park should be retained as a neighborhood park, emphasizing picnic and leisure activities.
- A five to ten-acre neighborhood park site should be developed in Park District 391 (Juarez Elementary School). The parcel at the west end of Shawn Avenue appears to be the best potential site.
- A joint-use agreement between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District should be considered for joint-use improvements at or adjacent to the Jones Elementary School site. Additionally, the Angier Elementary School site should also be evaluated for joint-use opportunities.
- A three-acre neighborhood park site should be acquired and developed in Park District 402 (Fletcher Elementary School, Birdland). The vacant piece located on the west side of Cardinal Road north of Cardinal Drive appears to be the best potential site. This proposed park site could be supplemented by turfing a portion of the Fletcher School playground. This could be accomplished by a joint development agreement between the City and the school district.
- A least one facility for quiet meetings or passive indoor recreation should be designated in the community, preferably in the proposed Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library.

See **Figure 6: Parks and Recreation**



Community Facilities
Serra Mesa Community Plan

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FIGURE