



**Social Facility Sites**  
 Tierrasanta Community Plan

**28**  
 FIGURE

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## **SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

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This element of the Tierrasanta Community Plan focuses directly on the need for social programs and facilities within the community. Various data have been collected to form a social profile of the community, and an inventory of physical facilities which house social and cultural activities has been compiled. Interviews have also been held with various individuals and organizations active in the Tierrasanta community.

### **Social Profile**

Information from the April 1975 special census and April 1980 census has been summarized to describe the population characteristics of the Tierrasanta community in that year.

#### **SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS TIERRASANTA (1975 AND 1980 CENSUS)**

<b>Total Population</b>	1980	24,039
Youths 0-19	1975	48 percent
Median Age	1975	23 years
Median Income	1975	\$14,720
Ethnic Minorities	1980	19 percent
Average Household Size	1980	3.5
<b>Housing</b>		
Single-family		3,372*
Multifamily		3,564*
Owner Occupied	1975	57 percent
Renter Occupied	1975	43 percent

\*September 1980 Planning Department Update

Since 1975, the community has experienced extremely rapid growth. The population has increased by approximately 72 percent in five years, and the number of housing units has increased by approximately 84 percent. The average household size has dropped to 3.5 persons per dwelling unit during this same period, and is expected to continue a gradual decline.

As a whole, census data and other social indicators show Tierrasanta as a predominantly white, middle-income, young community. Although the 1980 census ethnic data is not comparable to the 1975 census due to differing categories and definitions, the latest census appears to show an increase in the ratio of Asian and Hispanic population, similar to a citywide increase. The continuing immigration of young adults with growing families into the community is an established trend in Tierrasanta. It is expected that this trend will continue.

The 1975 Special Census revealed that the private housing sector has a lower percentage of minorities and a higher average education and income level than the Murphy Canyon Naval housing population. Preliminary 1980 census figures also show a sharp contrast in family size between these two sectors, with an average 2.8 persons per household in the private housing sector and 4.5 persons per household in the Navy housing.

The social structures of the two areas, as well as the physical separation, has inhibited mixing of the two groups. While many positive efforts have been made to integrate the two areas, it is the opinion of most community members that more efforts in this direction need to be made.

### **Facilities and Organizations**

There are a number of social and cultural organizations active in the Tierrasanta community representing a wide spectrum of interest and support. One of the principal social service agencies is Social Advocates for Youth (SAY), whose purpose it is to offer counseling services, to serve as an informational clearinghouse on social services in the community, and to act as a forum on community problems and possible solutions.

Several church organizations are represented in Tierrasanta, although only one has a permanent facility. These organizations offer some degree of social services, child care, day care and schooling.

An ongoing community schools program offers a wide range of educational, recreational, social and cultural services.

### **Needs Assessment**

A general, but relatively comprehensive picture of the needs of the community, has been compiled by public input and needs analysis previously performed by various organizations.

The community concern most often mentioned by organizations and individuals is the lack of recreational facilities, especially for the large number of youth. The community support for and participation in Little League, Pop Warner football and other youth sports programs has resulted in a tremendous demand for adequate multipurpose fields to accommodate these activities. At the present time these activities are conducted on school grounds or on fields outside of the community.

The second most often mentioned need is for other forms of recreation for the entire population. Lack of park areas for play by children not competing in organized sports programs is frequently noted as a concern. The lack of movie theaters, amusement areas and other forms of commercial entertainment for youths and adults alike is also noted.

A solution to the juvenile crime problem is a concern of major importance to the community. This problem has been attributed in part to the lack of recreational opportunities. There are at present several organizations in the Tierrasanta community which provide family and youth counseling services.

The need for adequate meeting space has been mentioned by several community groups. The need for meeting space for the various civic, social and cultural organizations within Tierrasanta far outweighs the presently available facilities. At the present time most groups meet in private homes or school facilities.

The final problem mentioned is the need for additional religious facilities in the area. It is believed that religious organizations would make space available within their facilities for meeting space, day care centers, counseling services and other social activities, in addition to their religious activities.

## **GOAL**

PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO MEET THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS AND TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To encourage the development of social, cultural and recreational activities.
- To provide meeting places for the various civic and social groups.
- To encourage the provision of sites for religious facilities.
- To foster the development of a centrally located multi-service facility which would provide community services to area residents.

## **PROPOSALS**

Many proposals which could serve as partial solutions to the social needs of the community have been incorporated into other elements of this Plan. These proposals are briefly summarized below.

1. Consistent with Council Policy 600-10, phase residential construction with the development of adequate community services, including schools and park facilities.
2. Encourage commercial recreation to locate in Tierrasanta.
3. Accelerate the improvement of the community park and recreation center.
4. Provide public access to the school sports fields when not in school use.
5. Crime and substance abuse prevention programs for youth should be encouraged. Funding for such programs should be encouraged from all appropriate City, county and federal sources.

While these proposals will partly meet the needs of the community, the following additional proposals should be put into effect.

6. Community bulletin boards or marquees for announcing community-wide events should be established.
7. The community library should be encouraged to develop a wide range of literary, cultural and educational programs to serve all age groups. Space for community art exhibits, meetings and lectures should be utilized to allow flexibility and joint use of the facility.
8. The religious organizations should be encouraged to offer space and facilities to the community for meeting rooms, child care, counseling services and recreation.
9. New religious facilities should be located on major or four-lane collector streets, and preferably at a street intersection in order to provide easy accessibility to off-street parking areas. This is most important when successive services are held. Furthermore, a corner location allows more flexibility in design than an interior lot, and affords desirable community exposure. Locations near the existing foci of community life (i.e., commercial centers, parks, or schools) are also desirable. **Figure 28** shows existing and potential church sites. Any school sites determined to be surplus should also be considered.
10. Ideally, religious facility sites should have an area of between two and ten acres, depending on the present and prospective membership of the congregation. Such a size would permit a desirable freedom in the location of buildings; adequate off-street parking area and landscaping; visibility from abutting streets; and sufficient separation from adjacent land uses.
11. Local businesses should be encouraged to provide job opportunities for the area youth.
12. Community organized activities such as parades, festivals, bicycle and foot races, excursions to amusement parks and other events which would incorporate members of the entire community should be encouraged.
13. A permanent social service center should be established in the community. A potential site is the former elementary school site on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (**Figure 28**). Large social or cultural groups seeking permanent facilities should locate here. Examples of possible groups are religious organizations, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Boys Club, or other such organizations. These larger organizations should provide meeting areas and office space for nonprofit social, cultural or social service agencies. Such organizations might be community civic groups, counseling and service groups, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior Women Club, etc. Preschool and day care facilities should also be located here.

A possible alternative to the above would be to allow a social service organization to operate the community park and recreation center when constructed and to provide space for other such organizations.

14. The Navy should be encouraged to provide additional social services to the residents of Murphy Canyon including child care, counseling and a chapel.
15. The community and the Navy should aid Navy families in becoming a viable part of the Tierrasanta community. Common use of programs and facilities within each segment of the community should be increased. For example, the Navy housing sector should increase participation in the Tierrasanta Community Council, so that both the needs and activities of the entire community can be known and supported.
16. The Tierrasanta Community Council should continue as a clearinghouse for community issues after adoption of this Plan.