

4.14 RECREATION

4.14.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to describe the potential impacts from the Beaumont Summit Station Specific Plan (Project) to recreation within the City of Beaumont (City) by identifying anticipated demand and evaluating its relationship to existing and planned recreational facilities and availability.

In accordance with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the emphasis in this Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) is on impacts to recreation by the Project that could require construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities resulting in a physical impact on the environment.

4.14.2 Environmental Setting

Parks

The City operates the following recreation facilities:

City of Beaumont's Parks and Recreation Department

1. **Noble Creek Community Center.** Approximately six acres, with two half-basketball courts, and a tot lot. Located at Oak Valley Parkway and Oak View Drive.
2. **Stewart Park.** Approximately 15 acres with community swimming pool, pavilion, and restrooms. Located about two miles to the northeast between 8th and 11th Streets and Orange and Maple Avenues.
3. **Three Rings Ranch Community Park.** Approximately seven acres with half-basketball court, baseball field, tot lot, and playground. Located about two miles northeast at Claiborne Avenue East and Brookside Lane.
4. **Rangel Park.** Approximately four acres with baseball field, full basketball court, restrooms, tot lot, and a playground. Located about two miles east at 4th and B Streets.
5. **Beaumont Sports Park.** Approximately 25 acres with adult and youth soccer fields, a little league baseball field, youth flag football fields, and restrooms. Located approximately three miles northeast at the southeast corner of Brookside and Beaumont Avenues.
6. **Other Community Parks.** Includes Veterans, Seneca Springs, Trevino, Mt. View, Wildflower, Palmer, Stetson, Shadow Hill, and Sunny Hills.

Beaumont Cherry-Valley Recreation and Park District¹

The Beaumont Cherry-Valley Recreation and Park District currently provides park and recreation services for the City. The District provides services to most of the City, part of Calimesa, and surrounding unincorporated areas. The District operates the following facilities:

1. **Noble Creek Community Center and Franco Garden.** Approximately 60 acres located at 390 Oak Valley Parkway, Beaumont.
2. **The Woman’s Club.** Approximately 0.5 acres and located at 306 East 6th Street, Beaumont.
3. **Cherry Valley Grange Community Center.** Approximately one acre and located at 10478 Beaumont Avenue, Cherry Valley.

In addition to operating these facilities, the District manages a number of baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, a horse arena, a raceway, picnic areas and horseshoes pits, tennis courts, and a hockey arena. Further, the District provides numerous recreational programs and services including senior programs, childcare programs, field trips, summer camp, craft shows, theatre groups, karate, and yoga.

4.14.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no federal regulations applicable to recreation and parks.

State

Quimby Act (California Government Code § 66477)

The Quimby Act was established by the California legislature in 1965 to develop new or rehabilitate existing neighborhood or community park or recreation facilities. This legislation was enacted in response to the need to provide parks and recreation facilities for California’s growing communities. The Quimby Act gives the legislative body of a city or county the authority, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval of a tract map or parcel map. Cities can require land or in-lieu fees for a minimum of three acres per 1,000 residents, with the possibility of increasing the requirement to a maximum of five acres per 1,000 residents if the city already provides more than three acres per 1,000 residents. Assembly Bill (AB) 1191, which was approved by the Governor of California on September 8, 2015, amended the definition of park and recreation purposes to include land and facilities for the activity of “recreational community gardening,” which activity consists of the cultivation by persons other than, or in addition to, the owner of the land, of plant material not for sale (AB 1911.) The Quimby Act is implemented through City Ordinance and is discussed further below.

Landscaping and Lighting Act

The Landscaping and Lighting Act (California Streets and Highways Code §§ 22500 et seq.) enables cities, counties, and special districts to acquire land for parks, recreation, and open space. A local government

¹ Beaumont Cherry-Valley Recreation and Park District. (2021). Retrieved from: <https://bcvparks.specialdistrict.org/facilities>. (accessed on June 8, 2021).

may also use the assessments to pay for improvements and maintenance to these areas. In addition to local government agencies (i.e., counties and cities), park and recreation facilities may be provided by other public agencies, such as community service districts, park, and recreation districts, etc. If so empowered, such an agency may acquire, develop, and operate recreational facilities for the public.

State of California Open Space Standards

State planning law provides a structure for the preservation of open space by requiring every city and county in the state to prepare, adopt, and submit to the Secretary of the Resources Agency a “local open-space plan for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open-space land within its jurisdiction” (California Government Code § 65560). The following open space categories are identified for preservation:

- Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas that require special management or regulation due to hazardous or special conditions.
- Open space for the preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, natural vegetation, fish and wildlife, and water resources.
- Open space for resource management and production, including, but not limited to, agricultural and mineral resources, forests, rangeland, and areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins.
- Open space for outdoor recreation, including, but not limited to, parks, and recreational facilities, areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations (such as trails, easements, and scenic roadways), and areas of outstanding scenic and cultural value.
- Open space for the protection of Native American sites, including, but not limited to, places, features, and objects of historical, cultural, or sacred significance such as Native American sanctified cemeteries, places of worship, religious or ceremonial sites, or sacred shrines located on public property (further defined in California Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 5097.9 and 5097.993)).

Local

City of Beaumont Municipal Code

The following chapters of the Beaumont Municipal Code (MC) address issues regarding recreation and park facilities.

Title 3 – Revenue and Finance, Chapter 3.34 – Regional Park, Multipurpose Trail and Open Space Facility Fee²

In September 2005, the Beaumont City Council had been advised that the cumulative impact of all new development permitted under the (2005) General Plan (GP) would exceed the capacity of the City’s two existing regional parks (Noble Cree Park and the City’s Sports Park), which were already operating at capacity. Therefore, in order to meet the increased demand, it was determined that facilities at the two

² City of Beaumont Municipal Code. (2021). Title 3, Revenue and Finance. Retrieved from: https://library.municode.com/ca/beaumont/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3REFI. (accessed on June 8, 2021).

parks must be upgraded and expanded, and two new regional parks are needed on the east and south sides of the City, connected to existing and future open space by a system of multipurpose trails. (Beaumont MC § 3.34.010.) In order to meet the need for additional park, multipurpose trails, and open space, the City Council adopted the "City of Beaumont Regional Park, Multipurpose Trail and Open Space Facility Fee," which is levied and collected at issuance of a building permit for any new residential unit or the conversion of an existing unit to more than one residential unit. The exceptions to payment of this fee are a development or other agreement, low-income residential housing, and the rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of any legal residential dwelling unit and/or the replacement of an existing dwelling unit. (Beaumont MC §§ 3.34.020, 3.34.030, and 3.34.080.)

City of Beaumont 2040 General Plan

The Beaumont 2040 General Plan³ goals and policies that reduce potential impacts to park and recreation include:

Community Design Element

Goal 3.6: **A City with active and comfortable places that encourage social interaction and community gathering.**

Policy 3.6.3 Require project developers to establish mechanisms, such as a Community Facilities District, to adequately maintain new parks, recreational facilities, and infrastructure.

Goal 3.8: **A City that encourages a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages, income levels, and cultural backgrounds.**

Policy 3.8.4 Prioritize health-promoting uses in new development, including neighborhood markets, grocery stores, medical centers, pharmacies, parks, gyms, and community gardens.

Goal 3.10: **A City designed to improve the quality of the built and natural environments to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.**

Policy 3.10.5 Encourage smoke-free and Vape-free workplaces, multi-family housing, parks, and other outdoor gathering places to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

Economic Development Element

Goal 5.8: **A financially stable community.**

Policy 5.8.3 Require new development to pay its fair share of required improvements, including maintenance costs, to public facilities and services through impact fees and other financial and regulatory mechanisms such as benefit assessment districts (BADs) or community facilities districts (CFDs).

³ City of Beaumont General Plan. (2020). Retrieved from: https://www.beaumontca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36923/Beaumont-GPU_Final-rev-22521. (accessed on June 8, 2021).

Equity and Environmental Justice Element

Goal 6.1: A City that improves the overall health and welfare of its residents.

Policy 6.1.9 Encourage smoke-free/vape-free workplaces, multi-family housing, parks, and other outdoor gathering places to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

Goal 6.5: A City that builds neighborhoods that enhance the safety and welfare of all people of all ages, income levels, and cultural backgrounds.

Policy 6.5.8 Encourage health-promoting uses in new development, including neighborhood markets, grocery stores, pharmacies, parks, gyms, and community gardens.

4.14.4 Impact Thresholds and Significance Criteria

State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G contains the Environmental Checklist Form, which includes questions concerning recreation. The questions presented in the Environmental Checklist Form have been utilized as significance criteria in this section. Accordingly, the Project would have a significant effect on the environment if it would:

- Would the Project 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?
- Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

4.14.5 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact 4.14-1 *Would the Project 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?*

Level of Significance: No Impact

The Project does not propose any on-site or off-site park or recreational facilities, nor does it propose any residential developments or any other uses that would contribute population growth requiring the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The Project proposes e commerce and commercial uses, as well as 30.6 acres of open space within Planning Area 3 of the Specific Plan. Therefore, no impacts to existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities are anticipated.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance

No impact.

Impact 4.14-2 Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Level of Significance: No Impact

As noted above, the Project does not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities as the Project is composed of e-commerce, office, and future hotel and general retail uses. The Project does not involve uses that would induce population growth requiring the use of recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is necessary.

Level of Significance

No impact.

4.14.6 Cumulative Impacts

The Project would not result in an overall net increase in City population that exceeds either City and/or regional growth plans. Anticipated increased demands for recreation within the City was accounted for in the City's GP and analyzed in the City's GP EIR, which accounts for cumulative growth in the City. In addition, the Project would pay the required development fees that would be appropriately allocated for parks and other recreational facilities.

Similar to the Project, other cumulative projects would be required to demonstrate their level of impact on recreational facilities including paying the appropriate development fees; therefore, the past, present, and future projects would not result in a cumulative impact related to the provision of recreation.

4.14.7 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

No significant unavoidable impacts have been identified.

4.14.8 References

Beaumont Cherry-Valley Recreation and Park District. (2021). Retrieved from:
<https://bcvparks.specialdistrict.org/facilities>.

City of Beaumont General Plan. (2020). Retrieved from:
https://www.beaumontca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36923/Beaumont-GPU_Final-rev-22521.

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https://library.municode.com/ca/beaumont/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3REFI.

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https://library.municode.com/ca/beaumont/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT12STSIPUPL_CH12.24PAOU.