



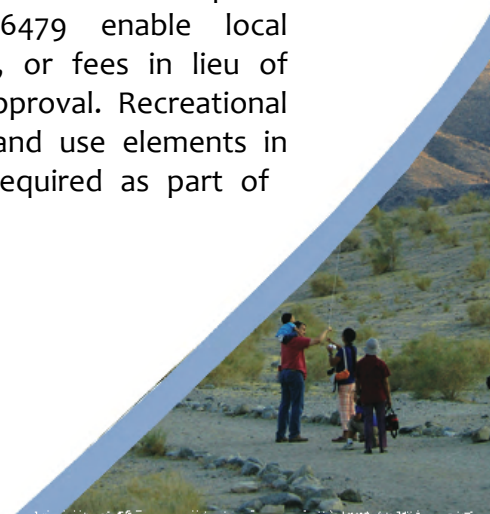
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS

PURPOSE

Public parks, recreational programs, and sports facilities are vital components of a healthy and successful community. The City of La Quinta recognizes the connection between public health and the built environment, understanding that access to enjoyable and well-maintained public parks and recreational opportunities are vital to the health and well-being of its citizens.

The Parks and Recreation Element provides descriptions of existing parks and recreational facilities, identifies the current and projected demand for parks as the City and its Sphere of Influence grow, and establishes the goals, policies and programs which allow the City to continue to provide a full range of recreational amenities and services to its residents and businesses.

Government Code Sections 65103(c) and 65302(a) both address the need to include parks and recreational facilities in the General Plan. The former requires that all cities annually review capital improvement needs for consistency with the General Plan. The latter requires that the General Plan discuss the location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities, and whether such facilities are adequate. Government Code Sections 66477 and 66479 enable local governments to require park site dedications, or fees in lieu of dedication, as conditions of tract or parcel map approval. Recreational land uses are included in the description of land use elements in Section 65302(a). Trail designations are also required as part of Section 5076 of the Public Resources Code.



BACKGROUND

Public Parks and Recreational Facilities

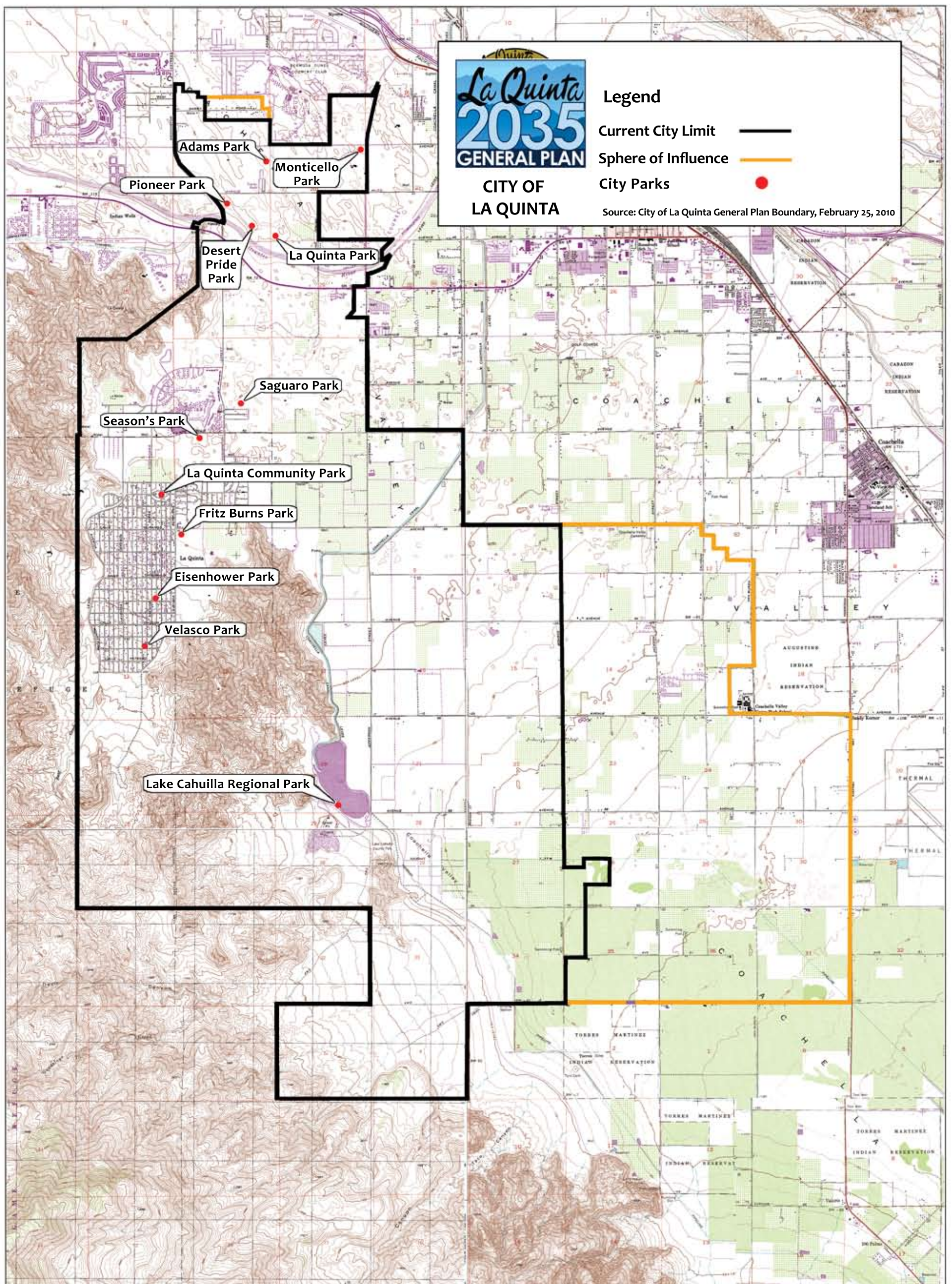
The City of La Quinta currently operates 11 city parks, the Civic Center Campus, and three nature preserve areas. All city parks, with the exception of the Civic Center Campus, provide a children's playground facility. La Quinta's three nature preserves are also available for public recreation, as they all contain trails for hiking and bicycling. There are also a number of public pocket parks located within existing subdivisions.

Two regional parks located within the City of La Quinta are managed by other agencies. The 6.5 acre La Quinta Community Park, located in the Village, is managed by the Desert Recreational District, and the 845 acre Lake Cahuilla Regional Park, located in the southwestern portion of the City, is managed by the Riverside County Parks Department. Lake Cahuilla Regional Park charges a user fee for day visitors, fishing, and overnight camping.

The City of La Quinta also works in conjunction with the Desert Sands Unified School District to share the use of recreational facilities on school grounds. Two examples of this are the Sports Complex at the La Quinta Middle School and the soccer fields located at Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School.

La Quinta is also home to one public and 22 privately owned and operated golf courses, seven of which are open and available for public use. The City's SilverRock Golf Course consists of 18 holes over 525 acres of land. Both public and private golf courses are included with the land use calculation for Recreational Open Space.

La Quinta's designated recreational open space totals approximately 5,259 acres



La Quinta 2035 GENERAL PLAN

CITY OF LA QUINTA

Legend

- Current City Limit ———
- Sphere of Influence ———
- City Parks ●

Source: City of La Quinta General Plan Boundary, February 25, 2010

Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Maps:
 La Quinta, CA 1959, Photorevised 1980
 Martinez Mtn., CA 1981, Photorevised 1988
 Indio, CA 1956, Photorevised 1972
 Valerie, CA 1956, Photorevised 1972



07.03.12

In addition to its parks and nature preserves, the City of La Quinta maintains a number of public recreational facilities for its residents:

The Fritz Burns Pool, located at 78-107 Avenue 52, is an outdoor swimming facility consisting of a 20 by 11 meter pool and a 9 by 5 meter children's pool. The facility has locker rooms and features a misting system, a sun deck, and lifeguards. Swimming lessons, aqua aerobics, and public swim hours are offered every summer by the local YMCA.

The La Quinta Sports Complex, at 78-900 Avenue 50, is a joint-use athletic facility managed and operated in conjunction with the Desert Sands Unified School District. The facility contains six baseball fields, restrooms, and a snack bar.

The La Quinta Community Center, at 77-865 Avenida Montezuma, is a 6,000 square foot facility jointly operated with the Desert Recreation District. Located within the La Quinta Community Park, the facility contains a fitness center and provides youth and preschool programs for La Quinta residents.

Colonel Paige Middle School Fields, at 43-495 Palm Royale Drive, is a joint use athletic facility managed and operated in conjunction with the Desert Sands Unified School District. This facility contains five smaller multi-use fields for soccer, sports lighting and restrooms.

The Boys and Girls Club of La Quinta, at 49-995 Park Ave, contains a gymnasium and activities room. The City of La Quinta utilizes the shared facility for fitness classes such as Pilates, yoga, and other wellness related activities for all age groups.

The La Quinta Museum is located at 77-885 Avenida Montezuma. It provides historic and cultural exhibits and collections relating to the history of the City and region. This facility is also used for education, special events and smaller entertainment events.

The La Quinta Senior Center, located at 78-450 Avenida La Fonda, offers a wide range of recreational services to adults. The facility includes a multi-purpose room with stage, kitchen, hospitality area, computer lab, arts and crafts room, lounge, and an outdoor putting green.

The SilverRock Golf Course, located at the southwest corner of Jefferson Street and Avenue 52, currently (2010) offers 18 holes of public play, and is a host course for numerous golf tournaments. SilverRock offers instruction, reduced-cost play for residents, and clubhouse facilities containing a restaurant and pro shop (please also see the Economic Development Element).

La Quinta's recreational activities and events are organized and promoted by the Community Services Department, providing the public with opportunities that include organized sports, classes, excursions, and special events. The department also oversees the City's numerous parks and rental facilities, the SilverRock Resort, the Senior Center, the Fitness Center, the La Quinta Library, and the La Quinta Museum.

Parks Planning and Implementation Tools

La Quinta's Community Services Master Plan serves as an important tool for short to mid-term parks and recreation planning and decision making. The five-year plan monitors and surveys public needs and current service levels, and in turn provides service recommendations for implementation. The plan conducts a community needs survey, details an inventory of existing services and facilities, and presents a comparison to standardized state and national benchmarks.

Healthy Eating Active Living Campaign

On February 16, 2010, the La Quinta City Council passed Resolution 2010-013, declaring a commitment to improve and encourage community health and wellness through the *Healthy Eating Active Living* campaign sponsored by the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. This commitment includes the promotion of policies to help shape the built environment so that it encourages walking, biking, hiking and other forms of physical activity and provides pedestrian connectivity between parks, schools, retail businesses and residential areas. This initiative also includes supporting access to health and fitness facilities such as the La Quinta Fitness Center, promoting healthy eating through farmers markets and community gardening, and encouraging higher nutrition standards at public concessions.

Trails and Connectivity

In La Quinta, trails are valued as both a recreational amenity and as a mode of transportation. In a survey of residents conducted for the 2007 Community Services Master Plan, recreational trails were identified as being among the highest-ranked amenities desired by the

public.⁷ The City's multi-use path network, public sidewalks, and bicycle routes serve as an important link between City parks and residential areas. While these linkages have been provided in various parts of the community, their design and construction has been inconsistent, disjointed, and unconnected. In future development, emphasis should be given to providing complete and consistent linkages between residential and recreational areas.

Current Facilities

Residents of the City of La Quinta currently have access to 72 acres of parks, 146.75 acres of nature preserves containing recreational parkland areas, 845 acres of regional parks, a 525 acre municipal golf course, the nearby Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, numerous pocket parks, golf courses, and other public and private recreational facilities.

La Quinta's total designated recreational open space is approximately 5,259 acres. These lands consist of both public and private recreational areas, and include playgrounds, golf courses, pocket parks, trails, fitness centers, and similar recreational facilities. Many recreational areas which serve a dual purpose of recreational use and habitat preservation, such as the Fred Wolff Bear Creek Nature Preserve and the Cove Oasis Trailhead, are also located within the natural open space land use designation.

The City of La Quinta strives to provide an adequate and comprehensive system of parks and recreational facilities to serve all residents. While the Quimby Act sets a minimum threshold of 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, the City of La Quinta has a policy of providing a minimum of 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The City of La Quinta exceeds its level of service, at 5.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for a 2010 population of 37,467 residents (California Department of Finance).

⁷ 2007 Community Service Master Plan, P.95

**Table II-18
Quimby Act Parkland in La Quinta**

Quimby Act Parkland in La Quinta	
Park	Acreage
Adams Park	3.5
Civic Center Campus	17.5
Desert Pride Park	1
Eisenhower Park	0.5
Fritz Burns Park	12
La Quinta Park	18
Monticello Park	4
Saguaro Park	0.75
Season's Park	5
Velasco Park	0.25
Pioneer Park	3
Bear Creek Trail	4.75
La Quinta Community Park	6.5
Cove Oasis Trailhead	114
Fred Wolff Bear Creek Nature Preserve	28
Total Quimby Parkland Acreage	218.75

Future Buildout Needs

The General Plan land use scenario is anticipated to result in a total build-out population of about 134,352 in the City and its Sphere of Influence. This population growth will increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities. Quimby Act standards can be used to determine the number of neighborhood and community park acres needed to adequately serve the build-out population. The Quimby Act allows local governments to exact from developers of residential subdivisions, through the dedication of parkland or in-lieu fees, or both. The City of La Quinta’s established minimum standard of parkland is 5.0 acres per 1,000 population. When this standard is applied to the estimated General Plan build-out population, a total of 403 acres of neighborhood and community parks will be required to adequately serve the City (239.9 acres) and its Sphere of Influence (163.1 acres).

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The continued growth of the City will require the expansion of recreational facilities to serve the City’s expanding population. It is important that the City plan for this future need, to assure that the

City's services are adequate at all times to serve its population, its visitors and its businesses. This will include a need to build new City parks and provide additional staff. The City's Community Services Master Plan will play a key role in planning for future facilities. By regularly updating the Community Services Master Plan, the City will have an opportunity to consider growing demand for services well in advance of need, to assure timely construction and expansion of facilities.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL PR-1

A comprehensive system of parks, and recreation facilities and services that meet the active and passive needs of all residents and visitors.

❖ [Policy PR-1.1](#)

Expand or modify community services to meet the health, well-being, and recreational needs of the community.

❖ [Policy PR-1.2](#)

Continue to provide a minimum standard of 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

- [Program PR-1.2.a](#): Annually review parks and recreational facilities as part of the City's long-range planning.
- [Program PR-1.2.b](#): Identify those areas where residents live more than one-half mile from a public or private park, nature preserve, or other recreational area and identify acquirable parcels of land that could be developed into parks within underserved areas.

❖ [Policy PR-1.3](#)

Identify all viable financing mechanisms for the funding of construction, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreational facilities.

❖ [Policy PR-1.4](#)

The design and construction of parks and recreational facilities shall comply with all the development standards that apply to privately constructed facilities.

❖ [Policy PR-1.5](#)

Coordinate with partner agencies and neighboring communities to expand recreational opportunities and access to recreational facilities.

- *Program PR-1.5.a:* Continue to work with adjacent cities and the County of Riverside on the Regional Bicycle Trails Master Plan and future regional sports facilities.
- *Program PR-1.5.b:* Continue to explore the potential for the joint use of recreational facilities with the Desert Sands and Coachella Valley Unified School Districts, neighboring cities, and the Desert Recreation District.
- *Program PR-1.5.c:* Continue to work with adjacent cities and the Coachella Valley Water District to utilize the Whitewater Channel as an intercity trail opportunity.

❖ [Policy PR-1.6](#)

Encourage patterns of development that promote safe pedestrian and bicycle access to schools, public parks, and recreational areas.

❖ [Policy PR-1.7](#)

Identify opportunities to integrate public health concerns into parks and trails planning.

❖ [Policy PR-1.8](#)

Promote a healthy and active lifestyle for all residents.

- *Program PR-1.8.a:* Strive to provide residents with affordable access to fitness facilities such as the public pool, fitness center, and golf course.
- *Program PR-1.8.b:* Promote the consumption of healthy foods by encouraging healthful foods to be sold at concessions in all public buildings and parks.
- *Program PR-1.8.c:* Promote and improve public access to farmers markets and grocery stores that sell fresh produce and healthy foods.

RELATED GOALS

GOAL OS-1: Preservation, conservation and management of the City's open space lands and scenic resources for enhanced recreational, environmental and economic purposes.



La Quinta

— GEM *of the* DESERT —
