

5.15 RECREATION

This section of the EIR evaluates the potential for implementation of the general plan to impact recreation in the City of Menifee. The potential for adverse impacts on accessibility of recreational facilities to existing and future residential neighborhoods and impacts resulting from the construction of additional recreational facilities is evaluated based on current and proposed facilities and their usage.

5.15.1 Environmental Setting

Parks and other recreational facilities provide a multitude of benefits to the community, such as open space, conservation of natural and significant resources, buffers between land uses, preservation of scenic views, trails, and other recreational uses.

Parks

Menifee offers both active and passive recreation facilities. Menifee's active parks offer an array of facilities, including playgrounds, sports courts, and barbeque facilities and picnic benches. The largest active recreation facility is the Menifee recreation center/Wheatfield Park at the southwest corner of Menifee and La Piedra Roads. The recreation center and park provide a gymnasium, baseball fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and a picnic area. Overall, 16 of Menifee's existing parks have playground facilities, and 14 have sports fields/courts. The recently completed 25,000-square-foot Marion Ashley Community Center on Briggs Road in northern Menifee includes a child-care center, gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, kitchen, snack bar, park with two lighted baseball fields, a tot lot, and picnic shelters (Powell 2013).

The City's passive parks primarily offer space for outdoor activities. Some of Menifee's parks are designated especially for passive recreation. Desert Green Park, Pepita Square Park, and Richmond Park are three spaces in the City devoted entirely to passive recreation. Aldergate Park and E. L. Pete Peterson Park also have off-leash dog parks.

Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District administers Menifee's parks east of I-215; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, County Service Area #145 administers the parks west of I-215 on behalf of the City.

In addition to the City's active and passive recreational facilities, the demand for golf courses in Menifee is particularly high due to the City's sizable senior population. The City has four 18-hole golf courses, two in Sun City (one is executive style) and another two in Menifee Lakes. A fifth golf course is proposed as part of the Menifee Valley Ranch Specific Plan, but development has not yet begun.

- **Mini-Parks:** May be as large as one acre, although they typically occupy infill parcels. These parks are used to address limited recreation needs and generally offer targeted amenities.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** The basic unit of the City's park system. Neighborhood parks range in size from 1 to 10 acres and generally accommodate informal activities and passive recreation.
- **Community Parks:** These parks serve a broader purpose than Neighborhood parks. Community parks meet the City's recreation needs for more formal and highly programmed activities. Amenities may include lighted sports fields, gymnasiums, art venues, and community meeting facilities.



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- **Regional Parks:** These parks serve an area larger than the community in which they are located and are usually greater than 40 acres in size. Amenities may be similar to those of Community parks, but on a larger scale that would attract users from a wider area.
- **Special Use Properties/Facilities:** These parks provide more specific park and recreation facilities such as tennis courts or swimming pools.

There are currently 641 acres of parks and recreation uses in Menifee. Table 5.15-1 list Menifee's parks and their amenities.

**Table 5.15-1
Parks and Recreational Facilities in Menifee**

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Amenities</i>
Parks Maintained by Riverside County Economic Development Agency Community Services			
Neighborhood Parks			
E. L. Pete Peterson Park	29621 Park City Avenue	7	Basketball courts, one full court and two half courts Playground facilities Jogging path Soccer field Restrooms Drinking fountain Covered picnic tables with BBQ grills Horseshoe pit Off-leash dog park
La Ladera Park	29629 La Ladera Road	8	Baseball field Soccer field Basketball court, full sized Tennis court Playground facilities Covered picnic tables with BBQ grills Jogging path, with fitness facilities Restrooms
Lazy Creek Park	26480 Lazy Creek Road	6	Basketball court, two half courts Beach volleyball court Playground facilities Picnic tables with BBQ grills Restrooms Recreation center
Lyle Marsh Park	27050 School Park Drive	5	Soccer field with goal posts Picnic tables Two gazebos
Nova Park	25444 Nova Lane	5	Playground facilities Soccer field with goal posts
Rancho Ramona Park	28050 Encanto Drive	2	Basketball courts Volleyball courts Playground facilities Picnic tables Barbecue pits
Parks Maintained by Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District			
Mini-Parks			
Desert Green	Painted Desert Drive	0.5	Grass and benches
Eldorado Pocket Park	Rose Meadow	0.34	Play area Picnic area

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Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
Grand Vista Park	Lindenberger Road & Olive Avenue	0.5	
Pepita Square	Camino Pepita Drive	0.5	
Richmond Park	Grande Vista Ave & Promenade Rd	0.5	Picnic tables
Neighborhood Parks			
Aldergate Park	Menifee Road & Aldergate Drive	7	Playground facilities Baseball diamond Basketball courts (2) Pickleball courts (2) Off leash dog park Restrooms
Autumn Breeze Park	Autumn Lane & Cordero Lane	2	Playground facilities Picnic tables BBQ grill
Eldorado Park	Rustic Glen & Long Leaf	4	Baseball field Playground facilities BBQ grills Jogging path
Eller Park	25926 Antelope Road	5	Baseball field (lighted) Basketball court Play areas (2) Restrooms Fitness trails
Heritage Park	McCall Blvd. & Heritage Lake Dr.	5.5	Basketball court, two half courts Playground facilities Jogging path Covered picnic tables
Hidden Meadows Park	Highland Court	2.5	Volleyball court Play area
La Paloma Park	Menifee Road & Bayport Lane	5	Play area Picnic benches with barbecue grills
McCall Park	Palomar Road & Grand Avenue	4	Basketball courts (2) Play area
Menifee Gym	28545 La Piedra Rd.	Not applicable	Gymnasium Basketball court Restrooms
Menifee South Tot Lot	31941 Feather Creek	2	Play areas
Mira Park	Mira Street & Wickerd Road	5	Ball field Basketball courts (2) Play area Picnic area
Nova Park	25444 Nova Lane	5	Playground facilities Soccer field with goal posts
Rolling Hills Park	Pacific Bluff Street	1.5	Play area Picnic area
Sunrise Park	Simpson Road & Lindenberger Road	11	Baseball fields (2) Basketball courts (2) Play areas (2) Picnic area Restrooms



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**Table 5.15-1
Parks and Recreational Facilities in Menifee**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
Community Parks			
Marion Ashley Community Center	25625 Briggs Road	12	Gymnasium Ball fields (2 lighted) Basketball court Volleyball court Play area Picnic area Fitness trail Restrooms
Wheatfield Park (Menifee Community Center)	30627 Menifee Road	25	Gymnasium Ball fields (6, 2 lighted) Basketball court Tennis courts (2) Volleyball court Horseshoe pits (2) Play areas (2) Picnic area Restrooms
TOTAL All Parks in Menifee		131.84	---
Regional Park Maintained by Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District			
Roy W. Kabian Memorial Park	28001 Goetz Rd. (Goetz Rd & Kabian Park Rd). outside City next to northwest City boundary	640	Gazebos, with BBQ grills Playground facilities Hiking trails Equestrian trails Wildlife viewing 1 acre developed recreational facilities; 639 acres regional wildlife refuge.
Golf Courses			
California Golf & Art Country Club	26583 Cherry Hills Blvd.		
North Golf Course	26660 McCall Boulevard		
Menifee Lakes Country Club (2 courses)	29875 Menifee Lakes Drive		
Sources: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District 2012; City of Menifee 2012; Menifee 24/7 2012.			

Open Space

Kabian County Park, next to the northwest City boundary, offers about 639 acres (one square mile) of open space.

Trails

City planning efforts for a network of trails are ongoing. A trails map dated July 2012 is shown in Section 5.16 *Transportation and Traffic*, in Figure 5.16-1, *Trails Map*. Types of trails planned by the City include:

- Off-road bike trails (subregional)
- Off-road neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV)/bike trails (community)

- On-street bike lanes (subregional)
- On-street bike lanes and NEV/bike lanes (community)
- Hiking/biking trail (community)
- Collector/interconnected local (potentially signed, Class III bike routes)
- Rural collector/interconnected local (potentially signed, Class III bike routes)

The trail network would serve the entire City. Subregional routes included in WRCOG's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan are:

- Route 15 (Salt Creek/Domenigoni): Crosses the City east-west, partly along Salt Creek. Extends east to Hemet, southwest to Wildomar.
- Route 19 (Bundy/Scott): Crosses the City east-west on Bundy Canyon Road and Scott Road. Extends west to Wildomar and east of Menifee.
- Route 23 (I-215 South, Menifee, Murrieta): North-South mainly on Haun Road and Bradley Road. Extends south to Murrieta.
- Route 24 (Case-Leon): Runs northwest-southeast alongside Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad track; extends north to Perris, south to Murrieta. (WRCOG 2010)

Route 15 and parts of Route 24 would be off-road, and the remaining subregional trails would be on-road.

Regulatory Setting

Quimby Act

This act is state legislation that authorizes cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities (California Government Code 66477). The Quimby Act permits local jurisdictions to require dedication of land, payment of fees, or both, to provide up to five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in new developments. Where a local jurisdiction has not adopted its own parkland per resident standard, the Quimby Act authorizes payment of fees, dedication of land, or both, to provide up to three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in new developments.

Riverside County

Riverside County Ordinance No. 460-151, Section 10.35, sets forth county requirements for dedication of land and/or payment of fees for park and recreational facilities as a condition of approval of a tentative map or parcel map. Dedication and/or payment of fees devoted to neighborhood and community park and recreational facilities is required at a minimum ratio of three acres of land per 1,000 persons. Where the existing neighborhood and community park area exceeds three acres per 1,000 persons, the required park area ratio can range up to five acres of land per 1,000 persons where so specified by a Community Parks and Recreation Plan as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District

The Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District has a standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (Wetter 2013).



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City of Menifee

The City of Menifee requires a minimum of five acres of public open space to be provided for every 1,000 City residents.

5.15.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project:

- R-1 Would 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.
- R-2 Includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

5.15.3 Environmental Impacts

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Initial Study disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

IMPACT 5.15-1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS THAT WOULD INCREASE THE USE OF EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. [THRESHOLD R-1]

Impact Analysis: General Plan buildout would result in an increase of the City's population by 81,423 more than the 2010 Census count to a total of 158,942. Future growth in the City in accordance with buildout of the General Plan would increase the demand for parks and increase existing park usage.

The Quimby Act, California Government Code Section 66477, requires the dedication of land and/or fees for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval of a tentative map or parcel map. The Quimby Act establishes procedures that can be used by local jurisdictions to provide neighborhood and community parks and recreational facilities and services for new residential subdivisions. New developments in Menifee involving a tentative map or parcel map would pay fees, dedicate land, or both, to the City of Menifee for park and recreation purposes in accord with the Quimby Act.

The City of Menifee a standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, and the Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District has a standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (Wetter 2013).

General Plan buildout would create demand for 407 acres of new parkland at a ratio of five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The proposed General Plan designates 725 acres for parks. As a result, under the General Plan, development of park facilities keep pace with the anticipated increase in population, and no significant impacts would occur. Impacts would be similar for the Expanded EDC Scenario.

IMPACT 5.15-2: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT RESULT IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO PROVIDE NEW AND/OR EXPANDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. [THRESHOLD R-2]

Impact Analysis: The General Plan guides growth and development within the City and is not a development project, therefore it does not include or require the construction of recreational facilities that would result in

any environmental impacts. However, development pursuant to the General Plan would result in the construction of new or expansion of existing recreational facilities in the City. Development and operation of new recreational facilities may have an adverse physical effect on the environment, including impacts relating to air quality, biological resources, lighting, noise, and traffic. Environmental impacts associated with construction of new and/or expansion of recreational facilities in accordance with the proposed Land Use Plan are addressed separately (see appropriate environmental topical areas in Chapter 5, *Environmental Impacts*). However, it is speculative to determine the location of proposed park facilities in the City and impacts arising from development of individual park projects. Goals, policies, and actions in the General Plan, along with existing federal, state, and local regulations, would mitigate potential adverse impacts to the environment that may result from the expansion of parks, recreational facilities, and trails pursuant to buildout of the proposed Land Use Plan. Furthermore, subsequent environmental review would be required for development of park projects under the proposed Land Use Plan. Consequently, the General Plan would not result in significant impacts relating to new or expanded recreational facilities. Impacts would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.

5.15.4 Existing Regulations and Standard Conditions

- Quimby Act (California Government Code 66477)
- Subdivision Map Act (California Government Code 66410)
- Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks District parkland standard

Relevant General Plan Policies

Relevant Menifee General Plan policies are in the Open Space and Conservation Element, and are listed in Appendix C of this EIR.



5.15.5 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements and standard conditions of approval, the following impacts would be less than significant under the proposed General Plan and the Expanded EDC Scenario: 5.15-1 and 5.15-2.

5.15.6 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

5.15.7 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant under the proposed General Plan and the Expanded EDC Scenario.

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