

Jurupa Community Services District

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JURUPA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JURUPA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Richard Welch, *Director of Parks and Community Affairs*

Ross Johnson, *Park Maintenance Supervisor*

Dani Cullens, *Park Services Supervisor*

Burt Ferguson, *Recreation Supervisor*

CONSULTANTS

Robert Mueting, *Principal Landscape Architect*, RJM Design Group, Inc.

Greg Moeser, *Landscape Designer*, RJM Design Group, Inc.

Zachary Mueting, *Project Manager*, RJM Design Group, Inc.

Pamela Wooldridge, *Telephone Survey Consultant*, Research Network Ltd.

Barbara Harison, *Recreation Program Consultant*, Harison & Associates

Chris Coman, *Demographic and Demand/Needs Consultant*, Coman Consulting

Tim Gallagher, *Operations and Maintenance Consultant*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The JCSD Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks and recreational facilities and programs for the JCSD Parks territory. The Master Plan process is part of the defined strategy of the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department to achieve its objective of providing high quality parks, facilities and recreation programs which meet the needs of the community by engaging residents, community leaders and civic organizations to determine the community's needs for parks and recreation facilities and programs.

THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The Master Plan process commenced with an examination of the characteristics that define the community, and an inventory of the existing recreational opportunities and resources available within the JCSD Parks territory. The inventory and analysis provides the foundational understanding of the community, and serves as the starting point from which community members are engaged and their needs are identified. Established methods of community involvement including a JCSD Parks territory-specific telephone survey, stakeholder interviews, community workshops, and workshop attendee questionnaires provide multiple opportunities to engage the community members, and multiple measures from which a broad understanding of community issues, recreational facility and program usage patterns and the community needs for parks and recreation facilities and programs is developed. Identified needs, facility usage patterns, recreation standards and population projections provide the basis for the quantification of facilities required to meet identified community needs. Facility and program recommendations are derived based on priority of needs, and general cost and potential funding sources for recommendations are identified.



EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

The JCSD Parks territory has twelve (12) parks with over 160 acres of parkland currently, with plans to develop Eastvale Community Park, which will create the 13th park within the JCSD Parks system and will increase the total amount of parkland to 234 acres. Parks within the system include community parks, and neighborhood parks containing a variety of recreational opportunities including sports fields, skateboard parks, disc golf, dog parks, tennis courts, spray play areas, and basketball courts, as well as access to the trails and open space along the Santa Ana River. Eastvale Community Center is currently under construction and will house a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Master Plan process utilizes a variety of methods to gather community information to ensure the process is as inclusive as possible and has the greatest benefit to the community. Information was gathered from residents and stakeholders through a variety of methods including stakeholder interviews, community workshops, a community workshop questionnaire, a sports organization questionnaire, and a JCSD Parks territory-specific telephone survey.

Stakeholder Interviews:

One on one stakeholder interviews were conducted with selected individuals to establish an initial impression of relevant issues related to parks with the JCSD Parks territory.

Community Workshops:

Three community workshops were held at different locations during the month of February, 2012. Each workshop had a separate goal and topic. Workshop #1 focused on community character and issues; Workshop #2 involved sports organization user groups; and Workshop #3 included community feedback and prioritization.

Sports Organization Survey:

Nine (9) sports organizations responded to a questionnaire designed to gather information about organization participation, needs, and facilities used. . The survey provides quantitative information on how sports organizations use parks and recreation facilities within the JCSD Parks territory, and qualitative information that allows for feedback from sports organization representatives on issues and concerns related to facility use and needs. .

JCSD Parks Territory Telephone Survey

A total of 200 interviews were completed, contacted through use of a random digit dial sample. The purpose of the survey is to obtain statistically valid, community-wide input on a variety of issues related to the Master Plan including community characteristics, ratings of parks and recreation facilities, parks and recreation facility use, desired facilities and programs, and issues and challenges facing the community.

How Many Fields, Courts, Swim Facilities, and other Recreation Elements Does the JCSD Parks Territory Need Now and in the Future?

Knowing “how much” and “how often” residents use parks and recreation facilities and the specific types of recreational activities in which they participate, is essential to establishing the type and number of facilities in which to plan. Some of the most important information derived from the telephone survey highlights how residents of the JCSD Parks territory actually participate in parks and recreational activities. Information from the telephone survey, along with the usage data from the sports organization survey, provide the basis for calculations which quantify how many parks and recreation facilities are actually needed to by the community.



Are Neighborhood Parks Conveniently and Appropriately Distributed throughout the JCSD Parks Territory?

In addition to providing appropriate quantities and types of recreation facilities, the location and accessibility of facilities influences how they will be utilized by the community. The JCSD Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide access to parks and recreation facilities to all members of the community.. The Service Area Analysis analyzes the distribution of parks within the JCSD Parks territory, and their accessibility to residents in the JCSD Parks territory.

What Are the Top Priority Facility Needs of the JCSD Parks territory?

Utilizing a variety of methods and tools of community engagement and analysis provides the greatest amount of feedback and ensures that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is as inclusive as possible. The Facility Needs Summary (Exhibit 3.9-1) combines these methods to together and highlights and the specific facilities identified by each process as being needed by the community, and provides a means for prioritization.

Top priority facility needs for the JCSD Parks territory include:

- › Recreational Swimming Pool
- › Trails – Walking, Jogging, Hiking
- › Trails – Biking
- › Football Fields
- › Tennis Courts



What Programs and Services Are Needed?

In addition to facilities, the Master Plan process also determines the programs and services that needed in the JCSD Parks territory.

Top priority programs and services needed in the JCSD Parks territory include:

- › Swimming Programs
- › Healthy Living Programs
- › Fitness Programs
- › Activities/Programs for families and seniors
- › Cultural Arts Classes – Arts and Crafts/Painting and Performing Arts



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the needs identified in the Master Plan process, key issues are identified and recommendations are made and addressed in detail in Section Five. The Key Issues include:

- › Provision for a recreational swimming pool to meet the needs of the current and future population.
- › Development of an effective, connected, multi-use trail system for walking, jogging, hiking, biking, and equestrian uses.
- › Provision of quantities of sports facilities appropriate to the current and future population, to include:
 - › Baseball fields
 - › Soccer fields
 - › Softball fields
 - › Football fields
 - › Tennis courts
- › Provision of parkland acreage quantities consistent with a goal of 5 acres per 1,000, with appropriate distribution.

What Overall Strategies are Recommended to Address Identified Needs?

Satisfaction of identified needs does not appear to be an overly daunting task; the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department has effectively pursued park and recreation facility additions and currently plans for more park improvements including a centrally located new community center (under construction) and the development of Eastvale Community Park. Continued parks and recreation facility planning and development will be needed to satisfy current and future needs. It is intended that the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department pursue satisfaction of recreation facility needs using the following key strategies and improvements:

- › Satisfaction of sports field needs should be pursued at existing sites, by new land acquisition, and increased joint use of school sites.
- › A significant recreational swimming pool within the JCSD Parks territory should be pursued.
- › Increased trail connectivity and opportunities should be emphasized, focusing on corridors and links to adjacent natural open space, parks, schools, and commercial areas.
- › Neighborhood Parks should be within reasonable walking distance of most homes.
- › Design and use of opportunity sites should be pursued in order to meet recreation needs and goals (parkland acreage and recreation element quantities).
- › New residential development should be planned to include park and recreation facilities that adequately serve the planned population and complements and enhances the JCSD Parks territory as a whole.

What are the costs for implementation?

Section Six describes approximate anticipated project costs and identifies potential funding sources.

- › Anticipated costs for recommendations total \$13,866,000 to meet current and future facility needs.

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SECTION ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation facilities and programs are important resources with significant community benefits, and can strengthen community identity and sense of place, serve to protect important places for future generations (environmentally, historically, aesthetically), foster human development and education, support economic activity, promote health and wellness through physical activity, strengthen families by providing places and programs for families, and increase vitality and quality of individual neighborhoods by creating opportunities for social interaction (adapted from California Parks and Recreation Society).

The JCSD Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) is guided by an understanding of the importance of parks and recreation facilities to the community of the JCSD Parks territory, and the value of involving the community in the process of planning. Key questions discussed in this Master Plan include: What parks, recreational facilities, and programs does JCSD Parks territory have? Who uses parks, facilities, and programs? What role do parks, facilities, open space, and recreation programs have in the lives of residents? What types of parks, facilities, and programs does the JCSD Parks territory need and which are the most important? What changes should be made to existing parks and facilities? Where will new parks, facilities, and programs be placed and how will they be funded and maintained?

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The JCSD Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks and recreational facilities and programs within the JCSD Parks territory. The Master Plan process is part of the defined strategy of the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department to achieve its objective of providing high quality parks, facilities and recreation programs which meet the needs of the community by engaging residents, community leaders and civic organizations. The Master Plan builds on previous planning efforts and provides an up-to-date understanding of current and future recreation needs and opportunities in the JCSD Parks territory.

The Master Plan is intended to be flexible, and presents findings and recommendations that should be evaluated, validated, and/or modified periodically as the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department responds to unforeseen opportunities and constraints as well as changes in residents' needs and demands in the context of other JCSD priorities.

1.2 APPROACH AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The Master Plan document is organized into the following sections:

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

This section summarizes the Master Plan's purpose and process, and outlines the, and implications for recreation trends is briefly outlined. A list of related documents that were reviewed as part of the Master Plan is identified.

SECTION TWO: EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

Section Two provides inventory and classification of existing JCSD Parks and Recreation Department facilities, key recreational resources available, and potential sites for future parks and recreation facilities.

SECTION THREE: RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Section Three provides an assessment and outlines the methods used to identify the specific parks and recreation facilities needed in the JCSD Parks territory including:

Community Involvement: provides direct responses from the community and stakeholders and includes stakeholder interviews, community workshops, and workshop participant questionnaires.

JCSD Parks Territory-specific Telephone Survey: provides statistically valid information regarding the types of recreation facilities most often utilized by residents.

Recreation Demand and Needs Analysis: estimates current and future facility needs based on the JCSD Parks Territory-specific Telephone Survey.

Service Area Analysis: evaluates how parks and recreation facilities are distributed throughout residential areas in the JCSD Parks territory.

Acreage Analysis: evaluates the parkland acreage needs in the JCSD Parks territory based on established standards and specific facility needs of the JCSD Parks territory.

Program Needs Analysis: evaluates recreation programs and associated need for facilities

Societal and Recreation Trends and Implications Report: reviews the current literature and studies on state and national, social and recreational trends and patterns, and discussion of potential impacts on recreation in the JCSD Parks territory.

SECTION FOUR: RECREATION PROGRAMS

Section Four provides an inventory and assesses the need for JCSD Parks and Recreation Department programs and services.

SECTION FIVE: RECREATION FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Section Five provides facility recommendations, which are intended to address the recreation needed facilities.

SECTION SIX: FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Section Six discusses funding, funding strategies, and the capital costs associated proposed recommendations discussed in Section Five.

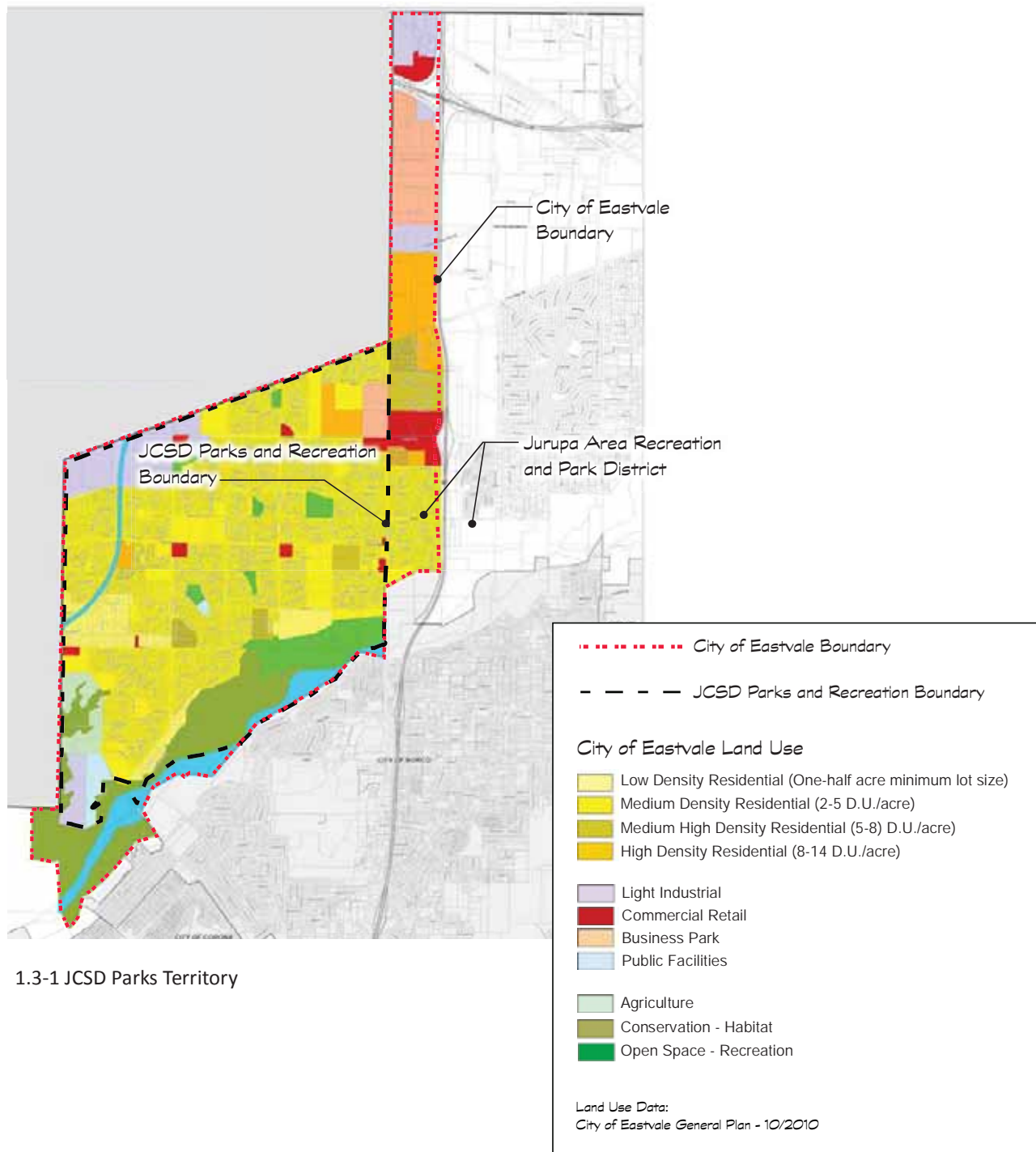
APPENDIX (SEPARATE DOCUMENT)

The Appendix contains many of the full original reports (workshop summaries, trends analysis, demand and needs analysis, etc.), which have been summarized in the Master Plan.

1.3 JCSD PARKS TERRITORY

Since its founding in 1996, the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department has provided parks and recreation services in the area of northwestern Riverside County known as the “Eastvale Area.” In 2010 the Eastvale Area became the incorporated City of Eastvale. The JCSD Parks territory is within the boundaries of the newly incorporated City; the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department provides parks and recreation services for most of the City, in the area west of Hamner Avenue. Another agency, the Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District (JARPD), provides parks and recreation services in the portion of the City of Eastvale east of Hamner Avenue and in the neighboring City of Jurupa Valley.

Growth in the region and demand for housing has caused the area to undergo a rapid transition from agricultural (dairy) land uses to residential developments. According to The City of Eastvale General Plan (Public Hearing Draft, March 2012), residential housing currently makes up sixty-two percent (62%) of the land uses in the City. The shift to residential housing has resulted in an increased demand for parks and recreation services. The existing JCSD Parks territory covers close to 14 square miles, and includes 160 acres of existing parks with an additional 74 acres of property planned for development. Exhibit 1.3-1 reflects land uses in the City of Eastvale and the boundary of the JCSD Parks territory.



1.3-1 JCSD Parks Territory

1.4 PHYSICAL SETTING

Within the JCSD Parks territory, and the surrounding area, several significant natural and man-made features help shape neighborhoods and provide both opportunities and constraints with respect to parks, recreation, circulation, and community life. These include:

- › ***Interstate 15 freeway***, which parallels the eastern JCSD Parks territory boundary connects residents to other cities and employment centers in the region.
- › ***The Santa Ana River***, which flows from east to west roughly along the southern border of the District and is the only natural open space in the JCSD Parks territory.
- › ***Cucamonga Creek***, a concrete drainage channel that flows southward to Mill Creek and the Prado Flood Control Basin, which is planned to be a regional/class I bike path but also obstructs east-west pedestrian and vehicle travel in some areas of the JCSD Parks territory.
- › ***A grid network of local roads, secondary and major collectors, arterials and urban arterials*** which provide access to parks, but tend to favor the automobile.

1.5 DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The JCSD Parks territory has a significantly high above average proportion of population under 18 years of age which is reflected in the relatively large proportion of households with children. This together with an above average homeownership rate, high home values, rents, and income levels is indicative of an active community and defines the demand profile for the various types of facilities provided by the JCSD Parks and Recreation Department.

The JCSD Parks territory has experienced explosive growth since 2000, increasing almost 1,950 percent between 2000 and 2010, from 2,119 residents in 2000 to 43,429 in 2010. It is anticipated that the population of the JCSD Parks territory may grow by an additional 7,702 residents by the year 2025, and that the JCSD Parks territory will experience a slowly increasing level of ethnic diversity, reflecting expected changes countywide. Household sizes are expected to remain high according to the Riverside County projections of population and housing units. It is not expected that the extremely high proportion of children under 18 years of age will continue to increase and it could decrease somewhat over time.

1.6 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

The Master Plan is drawn directly from the previous Parks Plan (updated 1998). In addition, there are other existing documents and plans that relate to the Master Plan and influence its direction, which are briefly discussed below.

JCSD STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2012

The JCSD Strategic Plan 2011-2012 is a top level planning document for the JCSD to set clear direction over all operational aspects of its mission, serving as a framework for decision-making over a five-year period. According to the Strategic Plan, the objective of the JCSD for Parks and Recreation is to:

“Provide high quality parks, facilities and recreation programs for the community.”

The defined strategy to achieve this objective is to engage residents, community leaders and civic organizations to carefully evaluate and meet the community’s needs.

The Master plan is one of the strategic plans outlined in the document, the purpose of which is to “more accurately reflect the current needs and desires of the community.” Other strategic plans include:

- › ***Substantially Complete the 1998* Eastvale Parks Plan:*** the 1998 Eastvale Parks Plan included a Community Park component, Eastvale Community Park (Phase I and II) will serve as the realization of this component from the 1998 Parks Plan.
- › ***Achieve National Accreditation:*** the JCSD completed the self-assessment for National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) accreditation in FY 2009-2010. Accreditation will be dependent on the Department’s continued growth and work toward meeting all required standards. Accreditation will involve NRPA review including visitation and hearing stages, which are expected during the fiscal year 2012-2013.
- › ***Maintain Safe and High Quality Parks*** in an Efficient Manner.
- › ***Complete the Construction of the Eastvale Community Center.***
- › ***Meet the Park and Recreation Needs of the Eastvale Area.***
- › ***Partner with Other Agencies.***

**Created in 1996; updated in 1998.*

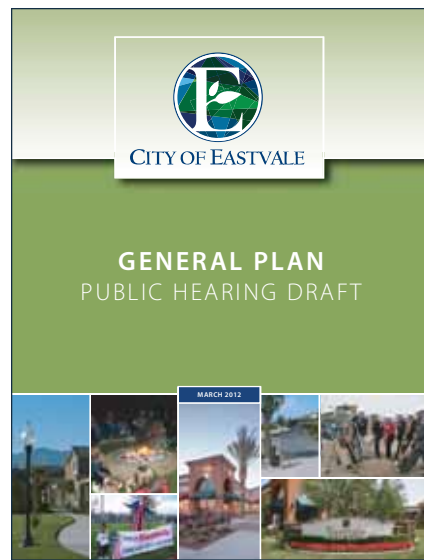


EASTVALE GENERAL PLAN (DRAFT)

Each city in California is required by State law to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for its own physical development. The General Plan consists of mandatory and discretionary elements including land use, housing, circulation, conservation and open space, safety, noise, air quality, and economic development. California State law requires that the day-to-day decisions of a city should follow logically from, and be consistent with, the General Plan.

The JCSD Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be used in conjunction with the Eastvale General Plan to provide a coordinated program of recreational facility development and management. The goals for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space from the General Plan include:

- › Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents.
- › Provide active and passive park facilities and recreation programs that satisfy the leisure time and recreation needs of all residents
- › Develop a citywide trails system that provides safe, convenient, and attractive off-street opportunities for residents to travel, recreate, and exercise.
- › Maintain the Santa Ana River corridor as an important resource for open space, recreation, wildlife, and scenic beauty.



The current version of the Eastvale General Plan (Public Hearing Draft, March 2012) is under review and can be viewed at the website of the City of Eastvale.

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