

10 PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Public parks and recreational facilities are important contributions to quality of life in Chino. Parks are prime locations for physical activity, sports, relaxation and community gatherings, which are all keys to a healthy community. Residents are more likely to participate in these activities when park space is in close proximity to their homes and recreational opportunities are readily available.

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to ensure the comprehensive and long-range preservation and management of a wide range of parks and recreation facilities throughout Chino. While State guidelines do not require a Parks and Recreation Element, it is a key component of the General Plan and plays an important role in planning for a healthy city.

This element is divided into six sections:

- ◆ **Parks Standards.** This section describes park types and standards in Chino.
- ◆ **Funding Sources.** This section describes the Quimby Act and how it is implemented in Chino.
- ◆ **Existing and Planned Facilities and Programs in 2009.** This section describes existing and planned park and recreational facilities in Chino.
- ◆ **Recommended Park and Recreational Facilities.** This section describes the locations and types of parks and recreational facilities needed to meet Chino's needs.
- ◆ **Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Actions.** This section provides policy guidance for the future of Chino's parks and recreation.
- ◆ **Indicators.** This section contains tools for evaluating the City's progress with regard to parks and recreation.

A. Parks Standards

1. Park Design Standards

In order to plan for an efficient and beautiful park system in Chino, careful park standards for space requirements and park facilities are essential. Standards are not absolute and must be evaluated in terms of local development and need. The following list summarizes park standards in Chino, which are based on standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association. These standards are widely used as criteria by many local jurisdictions and have been modified slightly to meet the needs of Chino.

- ◆ **Mini Parks:** Mini parks are less than 2 acres and have a service radius of up to ¼-mile. They are intended to be centrally located within each residential neighborhood. They are typically designed for families with preschool children, and include a playground and grassy areas. Other amenities may include picnic areas, shade shelters, BBQs, and basketball and tennis courts. These parks are generally considered local neighborhood features, and do not count towards the City's total park acres unless they are one-half acre or more and have amenities that include a barbeque and picnic tables at a minimum.
- ◆ **Formative Parks:** Formative parks are between 2 and 5 acres, and are intended to be focal points within residential neighborhoods and to serve neighborhood residents. They have a service radius of up to ½-mile. Formative parks may have amenities such as picnic areas, tot lots, BBQs, play areas, restrooms, shade shelters, and basketball and tennis courts.
- ◆ **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks range from 5 to 20 acres and have a service radius of up to 1-mile. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve recreational needs of local children, and may include tot lots, picnic facilities, multiple use courts, passive recreational areas, active recreation fields, such as for baseball or soccer, parking lots, community centers, special use facilities, and restrooms.
- ◆ **Community Parks:** Community parks are between 20 and 50 acres in size and have a service radius of up to 3 miles. Community parks are intended to provide for both local recreational activities and community-wide activities, and include lighted sports fields, tennis courts, swimming

pools, community recreation centers, outdoor amphitheatres, and pedestrian and bicycle trails.

- ◆ **Regional Parks:** Regional parks are at least 50 acres in size, serving a large population within a one-hour drive. They may include picnic areas, informal sports fields, formal sports activities, nature centers, boating and swimming areas, nature hiking and riding trails, and sports camps. Amenities typically found in Community and Neighborhood parks may also be included.
- ◆ **Parkways and Recreational Trails:** Parkways and recreational trails provide space for walking, running, skating, horseback riding, and cycling.
- ◆ **Special Use Facilities:** Special use facilities can include community centers that provide a variety of programmed recreation and education activities, as well as public pools, skateboarding/BMX facilities, equestrian centers, handball courts, outdoor shuffleboard courts, amphitheatres, and community gardens.

2. Parkland Provision

Cities commonly set a goal of how many acres of park space they would like to have per 1,000 residents. In Chino, the standard for provision of parks to residents is 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard includes formative, neighborhood, and community parks, as well as mini parks that are at least a one-half acre in size and that contain a barbeque and picnic tables at a minimum, and regional parks under the City's jurisdiction.

The Quimby Act requires cities to calculate park acreage relative to population using the most recent U.S. Census. Additional background information about the Act is provided in Section B of this element. Chino's population at the time of the 2000 Census was 67,168. Using the standard of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, 202 acres of parkland are required to meet the City's standard. As of 2009, Chino has approximately 228 acres of formative, neighborhood, community and mini parks, and regional parks, meeting the criteria described above, and regional parks under the City's jurisdiction, and therefore exceeds this requirement.

As Chino's population grows, additional parks must be built to keep the ratio as high as possible. With a projected population of approximately 122,647 by 2025, Chino will need approximately 368 acres of parks, an increase of approximately 145 acres, to meet the goal of providing 3 acres per 1,000 residents.¹ The completion of the remaining parks planned for The Preserve and College Park areas will add approximately 117 acres, bringing the city's total parkland to 345 acres. This would still leave a shortfall of approximately 23 acres.

3. Proximity to Parks

In addition to the importance of the overall park acreage in the City, the location and relationship of park facilities to neighborhoods is extremely important. A ½-mile walk is the average maximum distance people will be inclined to walk to reach a destination, including a local park.

B. Funding Sources

The 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) authorizes cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements or pay fees as a means of ensuring adequate provision of parkland. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the maintenance and operation of park facilities. A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) to the Quimby Act requires agencies to demonstrate a strong relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land, and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed.

Under the Act, the dedication of land, payment of fees or both cannot exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide 3 acres of park area per 1,000 residents, unless the amount of existing parkland already exceeds that limit. Chino's neighborhood and community parkland does not exceed 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

¹ This projected population does not include the incarcerated population, which does not contribute to the demand for parks.

In addition to the Quimby Act, the City has numerous options for funding parks. These include the use of monies from the General Fund, Redevelopment funds within Redevelopment areas, the sale of local bonds, State-level competitive grants for park funding available through the Prop 84 Statewide Park Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Habitat Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program. At the federal level, entitlement community funds are available through the Community Development and Block Grant (CDBG) program.

C. Existing and Planned Facilities and Programs in 2009

1. Existing Parks and Open Space Facilities

As previously discussed, Chino counts the following park categories towards its total park acreage: formative, neighborhood, and community parks, mini parks that are at least a one-half acre in size and contain a barbeque and picnic tables at a minimum, and regional parks under the City's jurisdiction. As of 2009, Chino has approximately 228 acres of formative, neighborhood, and regional parks, including mini parks greater than a ½-acre. There is also a 2,000-acre regional park, Prado Regional Park, in the southwestern part of the City. In addition to facilities formally recognized as parks, some school playgrounds and ballfields are available through permit outside of school hours. The current parks and recreational facilities in Chino are heavily used for a wide variety of recreational activities. Table PR-1 lists the City's current and planned parks. Figure PR-1 shows the locations of City parks. Additional parks not operated by the City of Chino are listed in Table PR-2

There are also trails and corridors that contribute to open space in Chino. Equestrian, cycling, and multi-use trails are discussed in the Traffic and Circulation Element. Two Southern California Edison easements, in East Chino and in The Preserve, serve as open space corridors in Chino. In addition, there are open space areas along portions of Chino Creek, Cucamonga/Mill Creek, Cypress Channel, and Magnolia Channel. In the future, these creeks and channels may be protected under conservation and preservation easements. Policies under Objective OSC 1.1 in the Open Space and Conserva-

tion Element call for the protection of these areas, and for the promotion of easements to protect habitat areas and corridors. Cucamonga/Mill Creek would be protected under a conservation easement as a result of a mitigation measure of the Edgewater Communities EIR.

In addition to the range of parks and open space areas located within Chino, Chino Hills State Park, located in the City of Chino Hills, provides 14,102 acres and 65 miles of trails for camping, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

2. Planned Parks and Open Space Facilities

As of 2009, several additional parks are planned as part of The Preserve and College Park Specific Plan areas. These are listed in Table PR-1. The planned parks in these areas are designed to provide neighborhood access within a maximum 10-minute walking distance. The Preserve will include 21 parks: one 42-acre community park, seven neighborhood parks ranging between 5 and 10 acres in size, eight formative parks ranging between 2 and 4 acres in size, and several mini parks smaller than 2 acres in size. The Preserve will also include an urban plaza. One neighborhood park, two formative parks, and five mini parks have already been completed, with the remainder yet to be constructed.

The College Park area will include one neighborhood park, one formative park and eight mini parks. Of these, the formative park and two mini parks have been completed.

The addition of park and recreational space at key locations will increase residents' opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles.

3. Recreation Program Facilities

The City of Chino offers a variety of recreation programming for residents. These services are administered by the City's Community Services Department. Chino's recreation program facilities are shown in Table PR-3. The City currently provides a comprehensive range of recreation and social service programs to all of its residents, from infants to seniors.

TABLE PR-1 **CHINO PARKS**

Existing Park	Type	Acreage	Amenities
Centennial Square	Mini	N/A	Gazebo and picnic table
Riverside Park	Mini	N/A	Picnic table
Seventh Street Park	Mini	0.1	BBQ, picnic tables
Evergreen Park	Mini	0.3	Playground, picnic tables
Secret Garden Park	Mini	0.3	Playground, picnic tables
Mulberry Park	Mini	0.3	Playground, picnic tables
Inspiration Park	Mini	0.4	Benches
Hidden Hollow Park	Mini	0.4	Playground, picnic tables
Nature Retreat	Mini	0.4	Benches, nature trail
Sebring Park	Mini	0.7	BBQ, picnic tables
Gallery Park	Mini	1.0	Benches
Aguiar Civic Square	Mini	1.0	Benches, shade structure, amphitheatre
Garden Park	Formative	3.0	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, basketball, playground, restrooms
Forest Park	Formative	3.0	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, playground, restrooms
McLeod Park	Formative	3.5	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, basketball, playground
Constellation Park	Formative	3.7	BBQ, picnic tables
Walnut Park	Neighborhood	5.1	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, basketball, restrooms
Shady Grove	Neighborhood	5.5	BBQ, pavilion, basketball, playground, restrooms
Monte Vista	Neighborhood	5.5	BBQ, picnic tables, basketball, restrooms, splash pad, playground, medical clinic
Liberty Park	Neighborhood	7.5	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, basketball, restrooms, playground
Founders Park	Neighborhood	8.0	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, playground, ball fields, restrooms

TABLE PR-1 CHINO PARKS (CONTINUED)

Existing Park	Type	Acreage	Amenities
Cypress Trails Park	Neighborhood	8.6	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, tennis courts, restrooms, playground
Villa Park	Neighborhood	9.1	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, basketball, ball fields, horseshoe pit, restrooms, snack bar
Heritage Park	Neighborhood	10	BBQ, pavilion, ball fields, picnic tables, restrooms, playground
Mountain View	Neighborhood	10	BBQ, picnic tables, pavilion, ball fields, restrooms, playground, snack bar
Ruben S. Ayala Park	Regional	140	BBQ, pavilions, picnic tables, ball fields, skate park, batting cages, restrooms, horseshoe pits, snack bar
Planned Park	Type	Acreage	Amenities
One 42-acre park (The Preserve)	Community	42	N/A
One 10-acre park (The Preserve)	Neighborhood	10	N/A
Two 8-acre parks (The Preserve)	Neighborhood	16	N/A
Two 6-acre parks (The Preserve)	Neighborhood	12	N/A
Five 3-acre parks (The Preserve)	Formative	15	N/A
One 2-acre park (The Preserve)	Urban Plaza	2.0	N/A
One 8-acre park (Edgewater)	Neighborhood	8.0	N/A
One 3-acre park (Edgewater)	Formative	3.0	N/A
One 5-acre park (College Park)	Neighborhood	5.0	N/A
Six parks less than one acre (College Park)	Mini	4.2	N/A

Note: N/A = Not Available

Source: City of Chino Community Services Department, 2009.

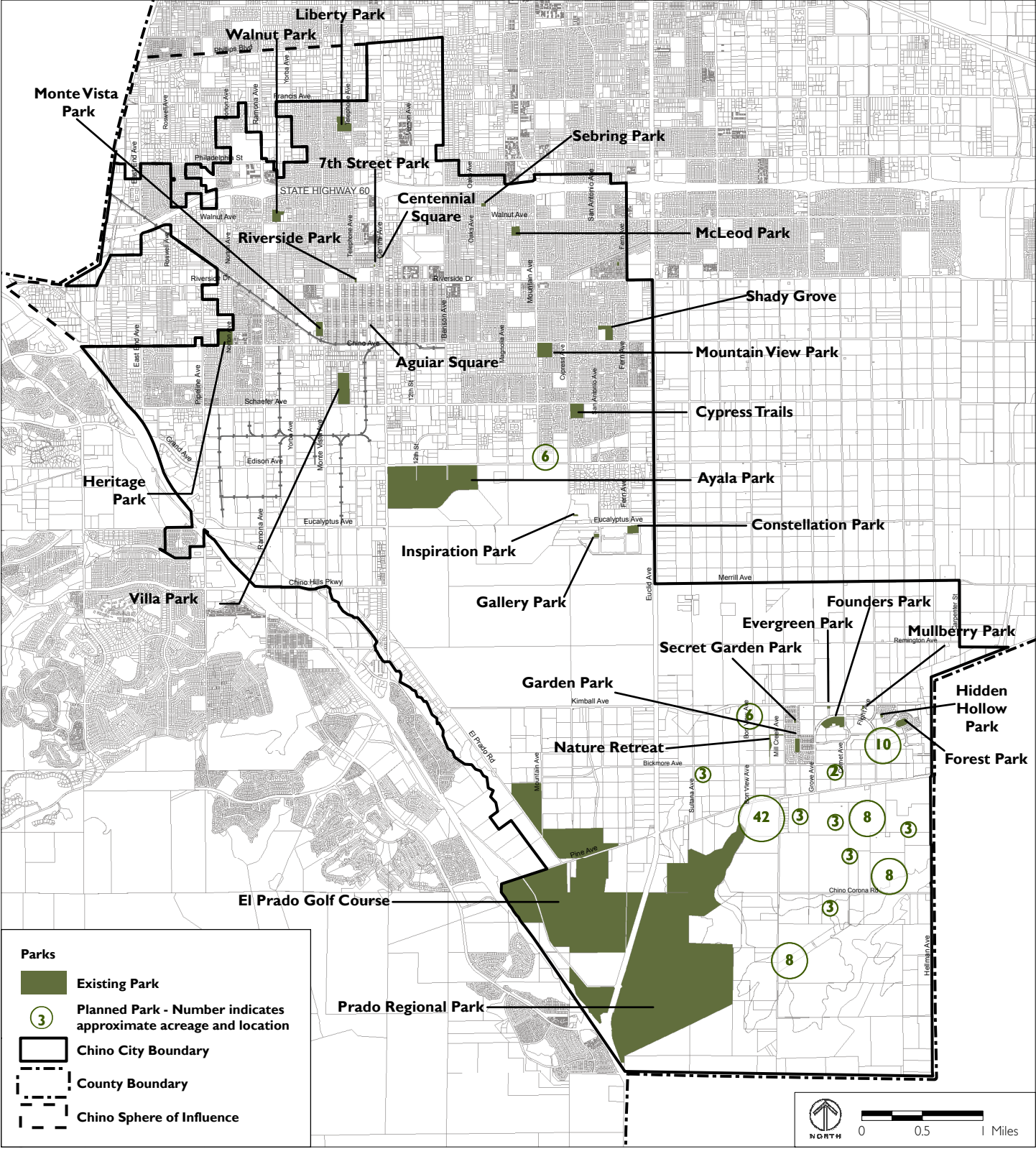


FIGURE PR-1
 EXISTING AND PLANNED PARKS

TABLE PR-2 **OTHER PARKS NOT OPERATED BY CHINO**

Existing Park	Type	Acreage	Amenities
Prado Regional Park	Regional	2,000	Fishing, boating, camping, horseback riding, golfing, picnics
Chino Hills State Park	Regional	14,102	Hiking, camping, horseback riding, picnics
Chino Fairgrounds	Special Use Facility	17	Facilities for holding special events

Source: Liguori, Nicholas. Principal Planner. City of Chino. Personal email communication with Alejandro Huerta, DC&E, November 30, 2009.

TABLE PR-3 **CHINO RECREATION PROGRAM FACILITIES**

Community Facility	Services and Activities
Carolyn Owens Community Center	Meeting rooms, classrooms, exercise rooms, and recreational classes
Community Building	Recreation and education programs
Senior Center	Services for seniors
Neighborhood Activity Center	Chino Boxing Program, gymnasium, recreation and education programs
The Chino Experience	Teen center
Liberty Park Community Center	Pavilion, event space
Monte Vista Park Recreational Center	Recreational programs
Chaffey College Chino Community Center	Banquest hall, classes
Preserve Community Center	Gymnasium, exercise room, multi-purpose room, after-school and recreational programs
Chino Youth Museum	Youth museum

D. Gaps in Park and Recreation Facilities

1. Parks

There are many residential areas in Chino that are a ½-mile or more from the nearest park; these areas are mainly concentrated north of Highway 60 and east of Pipeline Avenue. Figure PR-2 shows the general locations where there are an insufficient amount of parks, including the following areas:

- ◆ Northeast neighborhoods around Vernon Avenue
- ◆ North San Antonio Avenue Corridor
- ◆ Neighborhoods around the intersection of Benson Avenue and Riverside Drive
- ◆ Neighborhoods north of Highway 60 and west of Yorba Avenue
- ◆ West Riverside Drive Corridor
- ◆ Neighborhoods west of East End Avenue

There are currently no community parks in Chino. A community park is expected to be built in The Preserve. However, the majority of the city will remain 3 miles or more from a community park, with the northern, more-established areas of the City furthest from a community park.

With the addition of the already-planned parks, Chino would have 117 additional acres of parkland, which would increase total park acreage to 345. This increase still falls short of the 368 acres needed to meet the needs of Chino's projected 2025 population.

2. Other Recreational Facilities

Chino does not have a year-round aquatics center. While there are two pools available at high schools, the City only uses the Chino High School pool for recreation programs during the summer months. The YMCA pool is available to the public for a fee. In addition, there is high demand for indoor recreation spaces, such as those provided by the Neighborhood Activity Center, community centers, and spaces dedicated to after-school activities.

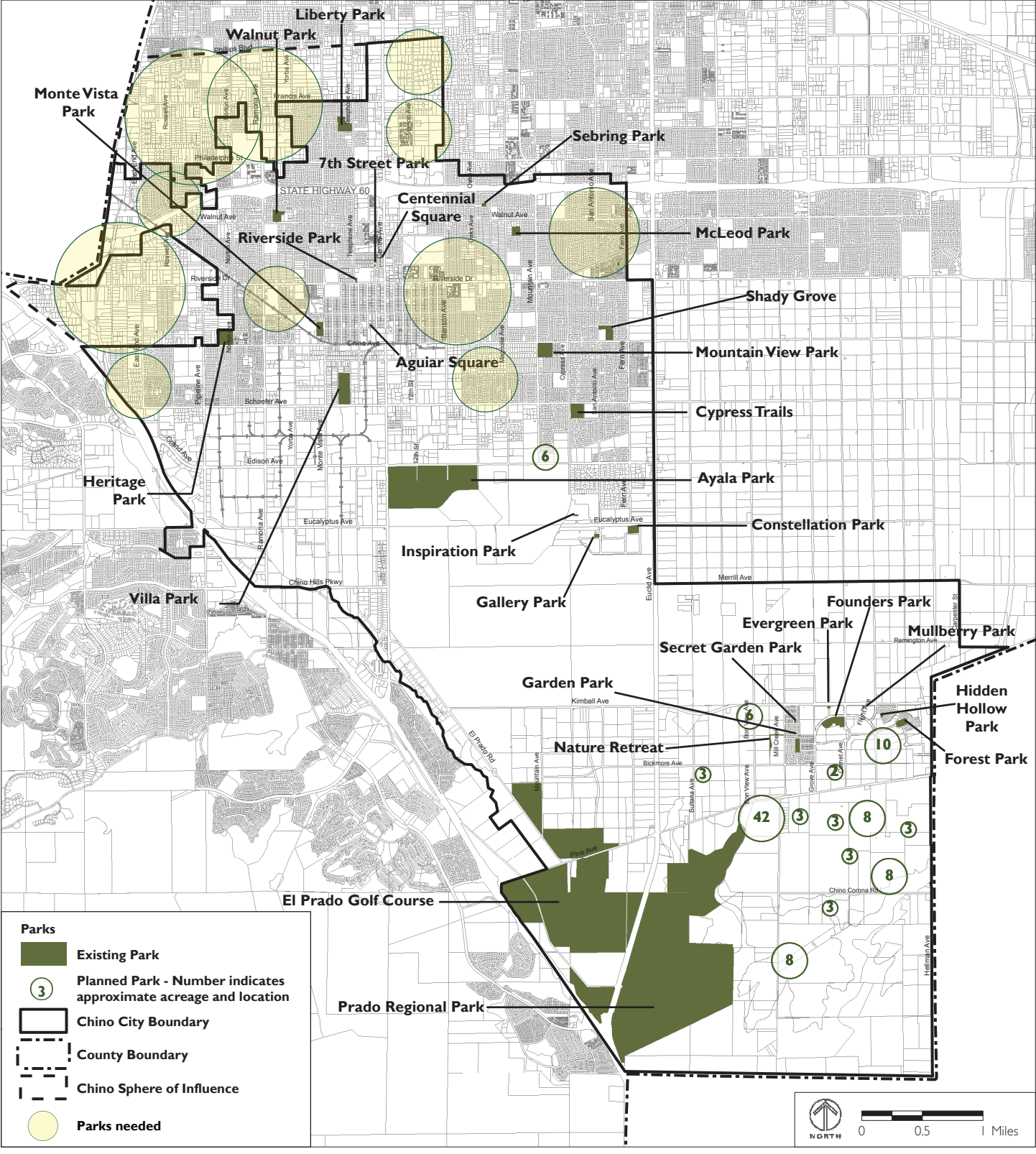


FIGURE PR-2
 RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITH INSUFFICIENT PARKS

E. Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Actions

Goal PR-1 Maintain existing park and recreational areas and create new ones in and around the City.

Objective PR-1.1 Increase the amount and quality of parks and recreational areas available to Chino residents.

Policies

- P1. The City shall achieve and maintain a standard of 3 acres of parks per 1,000 Chino residents. The following categories of parks shall be included in the park acreage totals: formative, neighborhood, and community parks, mini parks that are over one-half acre in size and that contain sufficient amenities, and regional parks under the City's jurisdiction.
- P2. The City shall allow new infill development projects to provide mini parks in infill areas to help meet the park standard, as long as they are over ½-acre and include sufficient amenities.
- P3. The City may permit homeowners' associations to manage mini parks, formative parks and neighborhood parks, so long as parks are publicly accessible and maintained to a level equivalent to City cleanliness, landscaping, and safety standards.
- P4. In order to encourage active, healthy lifestyles, the City will work toward ensuring that all residential areas are within ½-mile walking distance of a public park.
- P5. The City shall prioritize the development of new parks in underserved areas and low-income neighborhoods.

- P6. The City shall ensure that the development of parks and recreational facilities and services keeps pace with development and growth in Chino.
- P7. The City shall create pedestrian, bicycle and/or equestrian trail links between parks where possible, in order to increase the accessibility of parks to area residents.

Actions

- A1. Develop a Community Parks, Facilities and Services Master Plan to reflect Chino's current park and recreational facilities and programs, as well as describe additional facilities and programs to develop in the future. The Master Plan should examine the need for a City-owned aquatics facility, indoor recreation space, community centers, and space for after-school activities, particularly in the northern section of the City. The Master Plan should also assess the need for additional amenities such as splash pads, dog parks, Frisbee golf, recreational trails, open space areas, and skate/BMX facilities.
- A2. Establish cleanliness, landscaping maintenance, and safety standards for parks managed by the City or private entities. Consider including requirements for native non-invasive plants in landscaping, water efficiency, and reduced need for harmful chemicals.

Objective PR-1.2 Provide park and recreation areas in a manner that minimizes impacts on the City's fiscal resources while providing a benefit for the public.

Policies

- P1. The City shall require new development to dedicate land or pay in-lieu fees to maintain park standards.

- P2. The City shall support efforts to sustain a long-term funding source for parks acquisition, development, and maintenance in Chino.

Actions

- A1. Enter into joint-use agreements by which Chino schools, particularly those in neighborhoods with a disproportionate lack of recreational facilities, help to provide civic functions such as parks and community meeting spaces.
- A2. Review City and other publicly-owned properties in Chino to identify underutilized properties that could be used to provide additional recreational areas. Examples could include rights-of-way and utility easements.

Goal PR-2 Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities in Chino that will meet the changing needs of the City.

Objective PR-2.1 Provide recreational opportunities that are responsive to Chino residents' wide array of interests.

Policies

- P1. The City shall support and expand public activities and resources that enhance the City's "small-town feel" such as cultural events, street fairs, parades, the farmers market, outdoor concerts, after-school programs, and community centers.
- P2. The City shall provide recreational programs and activities that are accessible and appealing to residents of all age groups, abilities, and income levels.

- P3. The City shall evaluate recreational programming, parks and facilities on an on-going basis to ensure that the City's programs and facilities meet the needs of residents.

Goal PR-3 Provide parks, public facilities and recreational programs that promote and support a healthy lifestyle in Chino.

Objective PR-3.1 Use parks and recreational programs to expand upon public health programs and activities in Chino.

Policies

- P1. The City shall encourage public and private providers of recreational activities to collaborate with Healthy Chino, the County of San Bernardino Public Health Department, and other public health agencies to design healthy recreation programs that incorporate physical activity and healthy eating.
- P2. The City shall develop park designs to ensure they provide a combination of both active and passive recreational opportunities for all age levels, including walking, jogging, organized team sports, and informal group sports.

Actions

- A1. Conduct a review of park and recreation facilities to identify ways that they could be utilized to promote healthy lifestyles and activities for all age levels, including diet, exercise and mental well being.

F. Indicators

The following trends are indicative of progress made in regards to the above policies. Each indicator is followed by the ideal direction of the trend.

- ◆ Park acreage per 1,000 residents:
 - Direction: minimum of three acres
- ◆ Acres of public open space by type:
 - Direction: *Increase*
- ◆ Percentage of households and population within ½-mile of a park or open space area:
 - Direction: *Increase*
- ◆ Number of free, public events:
 - Direction: *Increase*
- ◆ Percentage of Chino residents participating in the City's recreational programs:
 - Direction: *Increase*
- ◆ Number of students participating in after-school programming:
 - Direction: *Increase*

