

Attachment A

Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element

Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element



HARBOR, BAY, & BEACHES

PURPOSE

The Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element guides the preservation and enhancement of water-dependent recreational and commercial activities and uses along the beaches and in Newport Bay, which includes Upper Newport Bay and Newport Harbor in Lower Newport Bay.

OVERVIEW

The Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element builds on the adopted General Plan’s vision of balancing the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors while ensuring that Newport Bay and Newport Harbor are accessible and preserved, offer recreational opportunities, and support the local economy. The harbor, bay, and beaches in Newport Beach support substantial economic opportunities and activity that are vital to the City’s economy. The Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element addresses a wide range of topics, including land and water uses; harbor coordination and administration; the economic value of the harbor, bay and beaches; public access to coastal resources; and coastal ecosystems.

The Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element is coordinated with the Natural Resources Element, Recreation Element, Safety Element, and Land Use Element to support the preservation of water-dependent recreational and commercial activities.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Land and Water Use

Diversity of Land Uses

Newport Beach offers a diversity of water use opportunities to support recreation on Newport Bay and the wider Pacific Ocean. Recreational and boating activities include sailing, use of motorized and human-powered vessels, and other activities. Vessels can be used for cruising, racing, and other competitive activities, or for angling. Angling can also be enjoyed from many public docks and other locations throughout Newport Harbor. Vessels can be secured to docks, slips, or mooring buoys in the harbor. There are also vessel storage facilities in off-water locations. As of 2024, Newport Harbor featured approximately 1,200 moorings spread across 10 offshore fields,¹ the Balboa Peninsula, Balboa Island and Lido Isle, and in West Newport. There are 15 public docks and one commercial public wharf within the harbor.^{2,3} There are approximately 1,100 docks and several commercial marinas.⁴ Additionally, dry storage facilities are available for boats on trailers, stands, and racks at various locations. Recreational and commercial use of Newport Bay and Newport Harbor depend on prioritizing water quality and safety, as well as coastal-dependent uses and coastal-related uses, such as chandleries;⁵ service yards; boating launches, storage, and rentals; tourism-serving uses and recreation; habitat; and scenic areas. Scenic areas

¹ Nguyen, Lilly. “Pilot Program for Mooring Changes to Go to State Coastal Commission.” *Los Angeles Times*, May 24, 2023.

² City of Newport Beach. “City Celebrates Opening of New Public Dock, Welcomes First Electric Patrol Vessel Among U.S. Public Agencies.” News release, August 27, 2024.

³ City of Newport Beach. “Commercial Rhine Wharf Use Permit.”

⁴ California State Lands Commission. Assembly Bill 691 Summary – Newport Beach.

<https://slcprdwordpressstorage.blob.core.windows.net/wordpressdata/2022/09/ab691-summary-newportbeach.pdf>

⁵ A chandlery is a store or business selling maritime supplies.

and visual resources are further discussed in the Natural Resources Element and are shown in Figure NR-4, Viewpoints and Corridors. Visual resources include viewpoints and corridors that provide scenic views and are considered to be of public importance.

Recreational, commercial, water-dependent, and tourism-serving uses contribute to the local economy, resident and visitor activities, and the character of the community. Attracting tourism while preserving the unique character of coastal neighborhoods is key to maintaining Newport Beach’s charm and appeal. This includes maintaining architectural components that match Newport Beach’s character, as well as protecting coastal-dependent uses, local businesses, and coastal resources. By supporting a tourism industry that celebrates Newport Beach’s cultural and historical resources and community feeling, the City of Newport Beach (City) can create an attractive environment for residents and visitors alike.

Goal HBB-1: Local businesses and water-dependent commercial uses in the Newport Harbor area that are preserved to maintain and enhance the economic activity charm of the waterfront community

Policy HBB-1.1: Water-Dependent Uses. Preserve and enhance the following uses that contribute to the diversity and charm of Newport Bay, including Upper Newport Bay, and the balance among them:

- Water-dependent and water-related recreational activities, such as boating, sailing, wind surfing, angling, kayaking, rowing, paddle boarding, and swimming.
- Water-dependent and water-related commercial activities, such as passenger/sightseeing boats, passenger fishing boats (“day boats”), boat rentals and sales, entertainment boats, boat/ship repair and maintenance (shipyards), and harbor maintenance facilities.
- Water-enhanced commercial uses, such as restaurants and retail stores.
- Water-related public recreation and education areas and facilities, such as beaches, piers, view parks, and related public areas providing access to and views of Newport Harbor.
- Coastal residential communities. (Imp. 2.1, 14.3, 14.6, 21.1, 24.1)

Policy HBB-1.2: New Development. Site and design new development to avoid significant impacts to existing and potential water-dependent and water-related uses. (Imp. 2.1, 7.1, 8.1)

Policy HBB-1.3: Land Use Considerations. Consider the impact on water-dependent and water-related land uses when reviewing proposals for land use changes, considering both the subject property and adjacent properties. (Imp. 2.1, 14.6, 24.1)

Policy HBB-1.4: Marine Support Uses. Encourage the preservation and enhancement, including new innovations, to existing marine support uses (such as ferry service, fuel docks, and shipyards) serving the needs of existing waterfront uses and the boating community, and encourage the evaluation of impediments to access, such as bridges across City-controlled roads, that may prevent on-land transportation of tall loads. (Imp. 2.1, 14.3, 14.6, 21.1)

Policy HBB-1.5: Private Services. Accommodate private-sector uses, such as vessel assistance and fueling, that provide emergency support, environmental enhancement, and other services that are not provided by the public sector and that are essential to the operation of a working harbor. (Imp. 21.3, 21.4)

Policy HBB-1.6: Property Reuse. Discourage reuse of properties that result in the significant reduction of water-dependent commercial uses. Allow the reuse of properties that ensure water-dependent uses remain, especially in those areas with adequate infrastructure and parcels suitable for redevelopment as an integrated project. (Imp. 2.1, 14.3, 24.1)

Policy HBB-1.7: Use Operations. When establishing land use regulations, consider the operational characteristics of land uses that support Newport Harbor and whether such uses can be or should be relocated to inland locations and/or if technological advances will eliminate the need for such support uses in the foreseeable future. (Imp. 2.1, 14.3, 21.1)

Policy HBB-1.8: Boating. Support continued operation of passenger/sightseeing boats, passenger fishing boats (day boats), and long-term boat rentals and sales. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-1.9: Short-Term Rentals. Support continued short-term rental of boats, wave runners, stand-up paddle boards, and other human-powered watercraft, and require vendors to provide formal training that includes safety briefings. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1, 21.3)

Policy HBB-1.10: Entertainment and Tour Boats. Support continued operation of entertainment and tour boats subject to reasonable regulations designed to ensure that the operations do not have unreasonable adverse impacts on the environment or land uses surrounding the harbor, such as unsafe navigation, impaired water quality, reduced visual quality, excessive noise, unsafe street traffic conditions, or parking shortages. (Imp. 14.3, 21.3)

Goal HBB-2: Minimized risk of displacement by coastal hazards

Policy HBB-2.1 (S-1.1): Sea-Level Rise Plan. Adopt a Sea-Level Rise Plan consistent with Senate Bill 272 (2023) and update the Local Coastal Program, including the Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan, as necessary. Establish and maintain shoreline protection reserves to implement early actions identified in the Sea-Level Rise Plan. The Sea Level Rise Plan should at least consider the following:

- Preservation of private property rights;
- Preservation and migration of inter-tidal habitats;
- Preservation of public access; and
- Protection and retrofit of critical infrastructure, such as water and wastewater infrastructure. (Imp. 5.1, 5.2, 30.1)

Policy HBB-2.2: Emergency Preparedness. Provide information to at-risk property owners about emergency and disaster preparedness and best practices. (Imp. 29.1)

Policy HBB-2.3: Data Collection. Collect king tide and related flood monitoring data to identify location, severity, and frequency of flooding by working with non-profits, educational institutions, and other informed sources, such as (but not limited to) the Newport Bay Conservancy and Back Bay Science Center. (Imp. 10.5)

Goal HBB-3: A harbor, bay, and beaches that attract tourism and maintain the character of coastal neighborhoods

Policy HBB-3.1: Waterfront Public Spaces. Encourage the preservation of public spaces and beaches along the waterfront, to the extent reasonable. Prioritize preservation efforts of public spaces and beaches with adjacent public water access and docking facilities that serve as identity and activity “centers” of Newport Harbor for special events of community/regional interest. (Imp. 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 21.3)

Policy HBB-3.2: Design and Character. Preserve and/or enhance existing water-enhanced, water-related, and water-dependent commercial uses and marine-oriented commercial areas through building improvements and programs that preserve the design and character of Newport Harbor. (Imp. 2.1, 24.1)

Goal HBB-4: Sufficient coastal infrastructure that protects coastal-dependent and public recreational uses while matching the character of the surrounding development and protecting coastal and visual resources

Policy HBB-4.1: New Bulkhead Siting and Design. Balance private property rights, natural harbor tidal and current forces, other coastal processes (such as erosion and accretion), and harbor aesthetics with other public access policies when considering siting and design for new or renovated bulkhead permits. (Imp. 2.1, 5.1)

Policy HBB-4.2: Beach Profile. Permit and design bulkheads and groins, when allowed, to protect the character of the existing beach profiles and restore and/or sustain eroded beach profiles found around Newport Harbor and island perimeters. (Imp. 2.1, 5.1)

Policy HBB-4.3: Structures Impacting Visual Resources. Limit structures bayward of the bulkhead line to piers, floats, groins, appurtenances related to marine activities, and public walkways. (Imp. 2.1, 5.1)

Policy HBB-4.4: Abandoned Vessels. Employ City, County of Orange, State, and Federal regulations and resources to promptly remove derelict, abandoned, or unseaworthy vessels from City-controlled tidelands. (Imp. 14.3, 14.6, 21.1, 21.4)

Policy HBB-4.5: Launch Ramp Facility. Support the continued use of the launch ramp facility through coordination with the County of Orange, and consider opportunities for the siting and development of a new launch ramp facility owned by the City. (Imp. 14.3, 21.4)

Policy HBB-4.6: Vessel Fueling. Coordinate with fuel dock owners to develop strategies for the long-term preservation of vessel fueling stations. (Imp 21.4)

Harbor Coordination and Administration

Administration of Newport Harbor and Newport Bay involves coordination among various government agencies and internal City departments. The Harbor Department is responsible for many of the harbor-related programs and services in Newport Beach, providing essential services such as daily harbor patrols, coordinating the use of anchorages and mooring fields, renting available slip space and moorings, and managing the guest marina and Marina Park. The Harbor Department's role is vital for supporting the local marine-dependent economy while also supporting residents, businesses, and visitors through coordinated safety efforts and on-the-water support, and generating revenue for the Harbor Department budget and the Tidelands Fund. The Harbor Department supports both the daily operations and long-term sustainability of Newport Harbor

Additionally, several commissions and committees handle administrative and advisory tasks, including advising the City Council, reviewing decisions, and managing permits. These are listed below.

Harbor Commission. One of the Harbor Commission's primary charges under Newport Beach City Charter Section 713 is to advise the City Council on all matters related to Newport Harbor, including improvements and vessel regulation.

Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission. Per Newport Beach City Charter Section 709, the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission advises the City Council on parks, beaches, recreation, and street trees. It helps plan and promote recreational programs, establishes policies for park and beach development, and manages trees and shrubs, subject to City Council authority.

Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee. The Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee advises the City Council on water quality and habitat protection in Newport Bay and the ocean. It strengthens regulations,

implements the Tidelands Infrastructure Capital Plan, and recommends educational initiatives about Newport Bay and the ocean.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. The California Department of Parks and Recreation owns and has delegated to the City the development, operation, control, and maintenance of Corona del Mar State Beach, a popular spot for surfing and diving. The park features a 0.5-mile-long sandy beach enclosed by rocky cliffs.

Goal HBB-5: Coordination among City, County of Orange, State, and Federal agencies having regulatory authority of Newport Harbor and Newport Bay

Policy HBB-5.1: Harbor Standards and Regulations. Periodically review and update, as appropriate, all Newport Harbor planning, design, engineering, and environmental criteria, standards, requirements, and processes. (Imp. 9.1, 21.1, 21.4)

Policy HBB-5.2: Harbor Maintenance Equipment and Facilities. Provide harbor access for harbor maintenance equipment and facilities, including for dredging; dock demolition, repair, and construction; mooring services; debris and spill management equipment; and general harbor construction, maintenance, and repair. (Imp. 14.3, 14.6, 21.1, 21.4)

Policy HBB-5.3: Interagency Cooperation. Work with other applicable controlling agencies within Newport Harbor and/or Newport Bay to define an area that can support harbor maintenance facilities and equipment. (Imp. 14.3, 14.6, 21.1, 21.4)

Policy HBB-5.4: Harbor Patrol. Coordinate with the Orange County Sheriff's Department on patrol of Newport Harbor to provide consistent, effective, and well-coordinated law enforcement on the water. (Imp. 14.3)

Policy HBB-5.5: Coastal Resilience. Ensure that the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee has adequate representation of experts in coastal resilience to ensure that this topic remains a priority for the City. (Imp. 29.3)

Goal HBB-6: Maintenance and enhancement of deep-water channels to ensure they remain navigable by boats

Policy HBB-6.1: Sediment Management. Develop a comprehensive sediment management program that provides for safe navigation and improved water quality. (Imp. 5.2, 21.2, 30.1)

Policy HBB-6.2: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coordination. Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in its maintenance and delineation of Federal navigational channels within Newport Harbor in the interest of providing safe navigation. (Imp. 14.12)

Policy HBB-6.3: Permit Processing. Secure blanket permits or agreements through the regulatory agencies to expedite permit processing for residential and commercial dock owners in Newport Bay. (Imp. 14.6, 14.11)

Policy HBB-6.4: Sediment Management Funding. Develop a sediment management funding plan to identify long-term funding pursuit strategies to support deep-water channels. (Imp. 5.2, 30.1)

Policy HBB-6.5: Streamlined Dredging. Evaluate opportunities to streamline City-led dredging efforts. (Imp. 21.4)

Goal HBB-7: Protection and restoration of beaches and dunes

Policy HBB-7.1 (S-1.4): Nature-Based Solutions. Encourage the use of nature-based solutions for beach and dune preservation and restoration as alternatives to traditional hard infrastructure, to the extent feasible.

Nature-based solutions could include options such as dune restoration and sand replenishment and nourishment. (Imp. 5.2, 8.1, 21.2)

Policy HBB-7.2: Beach Replenishment. Develop and implement a comprehensive sand replenishment program to assist in maintaining beach width and elevations. Analyze monitoring data to determine sand replenishment and nourishment priorities, and try to use sand replenishment and nourishment as shore protection, in lieu of more permanent, hard shoreline armoring options. (Imp. 8.1, 21.2)

Policy HBB-7.3: Beach Erosion Thresholds. Monitor and analyze beach width and elevation data to establish beach erosion thresholds at which backshore development becomes unreasonably exposed to wave runup flooding risks. (Imp. 28.1)

Policy HBB-7.4 (S-1.5): Emergency Use of Coastal Facilities and Equipment. During Emergency Operations Plan updates, reevaluate protocols for the coordinated emergency use of public and private coastal facilities and equipment (i.e., partnerships for allowed use of docks) in advance of flood, storm, pollution, dredging, vessel sinking, and other potentially hazardous events to supplement existing safety and rescue operations. (Imp. 28.2)

Policy HBB-7.5: Shoreline Protection Thresholds. Establish and maintain action thresholds for beach width and elevation that, when exceeded, trigger actions such as defined nourishment, dune management responses, and budget requests. Identify structural armoring enhancements such as groins, jetties, and artificial reefs to advance sand and beach retention while maintaining surfing function. (Imp. 5.2, 30.1)

Economic Value of Newport Harbor, Bay, and Beaches

The City manages an interconnected 47.4-mile-long shoreline system composed of bay and ocean beaches, vital dunes, and the navigational waters of Newport Harbor and the tidal wetlands of Upper Newport Bay⁶. Newport Harbor is among the largest recreational boat harbors on the West Coast, with more than 9,000 recreational boats and a thriving coastal industry that includes maritime-related businesses (e.g., shipyards, fueling facilities, boat rentals, charters, ferry services), food and beverage establishments, retail stores, and hotel industries that service the community and visitors. The beaches serve an estimated 8 million visitors, swimmers, and surfers each year. Beach and boating users are vital to the local economy.

As further detailed in the Harbor and Bay Element Existing Conditions and Background Analysis, Newport Harbor, Bay, and beaches, provides significant economic benefits to both the City and the County of Orange. Based on visitor spending patterns, these areas are estimated to account for slightly more than 30% of all direct tourism-related spending (nearly \$400 million annually) in Newport Beach. This includes spending on accommodations, entertainment, restaurants, retail, and other amenities during their stay, which, for day-trip visitors, is estimated to average slightly less than 4 hours.

Further, based on an analysis of maritime and visitor-serving industries that are in Newport Beach due to the presence of the harbor, bay, and beaches it is estimated that these areas create \$547.4 million in direct economic output annually. This level of economic activity supports approximately 4,440 direct jobs with earnings of \$195.8 million annually. The harbor, bay, and beaches are also estimated to support approximately 5,900 indirect jobs, or 1,500 additional indirect jobs, in Orange County. It is estimated that these areas create \$787 million in total economic output to the County of Orange's economy.

Administration and management of the harbor, bay, and beaches requires coordination among departments, a balance of public investment with revenue, and provision of well-maintained public facilities. Efficient and

⁶ City of Newport Beach. 2026. Demographics and Statistics. <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/i-am-a/visitor/about-newport-beach/demographics-and-statistics>

effective management policies will maintain the City’s ability to provide high-quality services that are accessible to a broad range of people and business.

Goal HBB-8: Well-managed and economically productive harbor, bay, and beaches

Policy HBB-8.1: Marinas and Dry Boat Storage. Protect and, where feasible through the use of new designs and technology, enhance marinas and expand dry boat storage facilities. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.2: Berthing and Mooring. Provide a variety of berthing and mooring opportunities, including lower-cost recreational boating, throughout Newport Harbor, reflecting state and regional demand for various slip sizes and affordability. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.3: Anchorages. Maintain anchorages in designated Federal areas that minimize interference with safe navigation and where shore access and support facilities are available. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.4: Piers. Authorize, pursuant to permit, license, or lease, new and existing piers and docks bayward of waterfront residential properties, subject to appropriate conditions that ensure compatibility with residential uses. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.5: Vacant Moorings. Facilitate access to vacant moorings for temporary rental use. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.6: Mooring Transfers. Foster public access to moorings by enforcing and refining the derelict boat ordinance and regulating permitted transfers by permit holders. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.7: Live-Aboard Vessels. Allow “live-aboard” vessels, subject to a reasonable maximum number of renewable annual permits, and provide for regulation and vessel inspection. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-8.8: Economic Assessment. Conduct regular assessments at least every 5 years of the economic viability of the harbor, bay, and beaches to track potential changes. (Imp. 1.2, 12.2, 21.4)

Goal HBB-9: Cost-efficient servicing and managing of Newport Harbor

Policy HBB-9.1: Tidal Revenue. Explore revenue options to receive a reasonable rate of return from all tideland users to recapture related City investment, services, and management costs. (Imp. 30.2)

Policy HBB-9.2: Supplemental Funding. Provide alternative and supplemental Newport Harbor funding, including seeking Federal and State grants, loans, or partnership agreements, for boater safety, education, maintenance, and capital improvements of Newport Harbor. (Imp. 30.2)

Policy HBB-9.3: Tideland Leases and Permits. Review the administration of tidelands leases and permits; consider accepted best management practices to assist in redevelopment, maintenance, and financing of waterfront developments; and reflect reasonable value in the lease rates. (Imp. 30.2)

Policy HBB-9.4: Cost Recovery. Review costs and procedures to receive reasonable cost recovery for permit processing. (Imp. 21.1)

Policy HBB-9.5: Efficient Harbor Management. Support efficient Newport Harbor management through the use of emerging technologies such as smart buoys, online mooring rentals, vessel tracking, and other technologies, to the extent feasible. (21.2)

Public Access to Coastal Resources

Newport Beach has a well-established system of accessways to ocean beaches and Newport Bay, including public beaches, parks, shoreline trails, walkways, and boardwalks. The City protects public access from adverse impacts due to new development, per the California Coastal Act.

Higher tides and storm surges from sea-level rise can accelerate erosion of sandy beaches, which can often be mitigated through sand nourishment and replenishment. This increased erosion may impact public access to many beach areas, and thus, in extreme cases, to public beach access within Newport Beach. Additionally, unmitigated bluff erosion, which may increase due to sea-level rise, may cause loss and damage to development, including roads, sidewalks, and beach and harbor access points in Corona del Mar and Newport Coast. The possibility of this occurring is greatest in long-term, worst-case sea-level rise scenarios.

Higher sea levels can also lead to increased risk of coastal flooding during consequential storms, which can temporarily impede access to the beach and harbor. Low-lying beach access points may be threatened by significant sea-level rise. The General Plan Safety Element includes maps and additional detail on sea-level rise, potential coastal flooding, and beach erosion.

Access to coastal resources provides recreational, health, and economic benefits. The harbor, bay, and beaches should be valued for the passive and active recreational opportunities they provide, and reasonable access should be provided and maintained for current and future generations. Enhanced reasonable recreational opportunities and user amenities should be available at appropriate locations to enhance the user experience. The types and locations of amenities will consider the needs for both passive and active coastal experiences. As active mobility opportunities are provided, safe pedestrian access should always be prioritized.

Goal HBB-10: Safe and accessible beach and harbor access points

Policy HBB-10.1: Public Access. Provide adequate public access to the shoreline, beach, coastal parks, trails, and Newport Bay; acquire additional public access points and consider new vertical access points to these areas and provide parking, where possible. (Imp. 2.1, 5.1, 20.2)

Policy HBB-10.2: Public Access Facilities. Ensure that new or improved public access facilities are compatible with existing permitted land uses and with the availability of supporting infrastructure, such as parking and restrooms. (Imp. 2.1, 21.1)

Policy HBB-10.3: Access Assessment. Assess beach and harbor access points that are at risk of impacts from coastal hazards, and create long-term management plans to maintain or replace them with similar access. (Imp. 5.2)

Policy HBB-10.4: Facility Accessibility. Maintain and enhance existing infrastructure to support accessibility for a range of users with varied abilities, including enhanced restrooms, parking, bike racks, and other supportive infrastructure. (Imp. 30.1)

Policy HBB-10.5: Marine Safety. Provide for marine safety, such as lifeguards, harbor patrol, on-the-water fire suppression, police, and traffic and parking enforcement through dedicated funds for the Harbor Department and other applicable departments. (Imp. 23.1, 21.4)

Goal HBB-11: Multiple, well-connected coastal access options

Policy HBB-11.1: Provision of Visitor Facilities. Maintain the provision of guest slips, moorings, vessel waste pump-out stations, and anchorages in Newport Harbor. Coordinate with the Orange County Parks Department to provide such facilities where appropriate and feasible within Orange County tidelands. (Imp. 14.3, 21.4)

Policy HBB-11.2: Public Water Transportation. Enhance and maintain public water transportation services and expanded public water transportation uses and land support facilities. (Imp. 16.12)

Policy HBB-11.3: Coastal Transportation. Promote opportunities to expand water transportation modes, such as water-based shuttle services and water taxis, and land-based transportation modes aimed at increasing coastal access, such as the Balboa Peninsula Trolley. (Imp. 16.12)

Policy HBB-11.4: Navigation Tools. Improve accessibility to coastal areas and represent neighborhood character through the use of navigation tools such as physical wayfinding signage, real-time maps, QR codes, and other applicable methods. (Imp. 21.6)

Policy HBB-11.5: Wayfinding. Assess potential improvements to wayfinding in coastal areas highlighting visitor resources. (Imp. 21.6, 16.13)

Upper Newport Bay

Upper Newport Bay, nestled in the heart of Newport Beach, is one of the largest remaining wetlands in the region, spanning approximately 700 acres.⁷ This area provides sanctuary to a diverse array of fish, birds, reptiles, plants, and other species. Also known as the Back Bay, this estuarine ecosystem is a popular destination for migratory birds, offering numerous birdwatching opportunities. The Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area, covering just over 1 square mile, includes lagoons, tidal flats, and coastal marsh habitats. It protects a variety of small mammals, fish, birds, crustaceans, and other creatures, including some endangered species, and provides residents and visitors opportunities for recreation. This area is vitally important as a rest stop for migratory birds, with up to 30,000 birds visible in a single day during winter migration periods⁸.

Management of this ecological reserve balances conservation with public access, governed by policies that protect sensitive habitats while promoting educational and recreational opportunities. Public access considerations include trails, walkways, and educational facilities that allow visitors to experience this ecological treasure while minimizing environmental impacts. Upper Newport Bay exemplifies the delicate balance between preserving critical habitat and providing meaningful public access to natural coastal resources.

Goal HBB-12: Protection of the visual and ecological resources of Upper Newport Bay

Policy HBB-12.1: Public Access. Maintain public use in Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve and Ecological Reserve to the extent that such use is consistent with the preservation of sensitive resources. (Imp. 2.1, 23.1)

Policy HBB-12.2 (NR-11.1): Interagency Coordination. Continue interagency coordination with relevant entities involved in the protection and preservation of Upper Newport Bay. (Imp. 14.3, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.13, 14.14, 14.15)

Policy HBB-12.3 (NR-12.1, S-6.1): Stormwater Drainage. Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within Newport Beach. Where feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation opportunities. (Imp. 1.1, 5.2, 7.5)

Policy HBB-12.4 (NR-12.2, S-6.2): Stormwater Management Coordination. Continue to coordinate the needs of stormwater pollution management with the overlapping (and sometimes competing) needs for habitat management, flood management, capital improvement projects, development, aesthetics, and open space needs. (Imp. 14.15, 19.1)

Policy HBB-12.5: Supplemental Funding. Provide alternative and supplemental Upper Newport Bay funding, including seeking Federal and State grants, loans, or partnership agreements for boater safety, education, maintenance, and capital improvements of the estuary and conservation areas. (Imp. 17.2, 23.7, 29.1, 29.3)

Policy HBB-12.6: Visual Resources Maintenance. Protect and manage visual and scenic resources by maintaining scenic resource inventories, protection plans, regulations, and other tools. (Imp. 5.2, 10.1)

⁷ Newport Bay Conservancy. 2024. "Bay Management." <https://newportbay.org/the-bay/bay-management/>.

⁸ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2026. "Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area." <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Upper-Newport-Bay>.

Policy HBB-12.7: New Visual Resources. Encourage new public and private development to create new public viewpoints that provide views of Upper Newport Bay. (Imp. 2.1, 5.2)

Policy HBB-12.8: Reduce Pollution. Minimize pollution in Upper Newport Bay through support of actions and infrastructure that reduce trash, such as the Newport Bay Trash Interceptor. (Imp. 10.3, 16.15)

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Attachment B

Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Natural Resources Element

Natural Resources Element



NATURAL RESOURCES

PURPOSE

The Natural Resources Element of the General Plan guides the conservation, protection, development, and use of natural resources in Newport Beach, as well as the preservation of cultural and historic resources.

OVERVIEW

The Natural Resources Element addresses a wide range of topics, as follows: air quality, mineral and oil resources, energy transition, biological resources, rivers and waterbodies, sandy beaches, water conservation, visual resources, and archaeological and paleontological resources. The Natural Resources Element includes policies designed to help restore, improve, preserve, conserve, and manage natural resources, and to help improve ecosystem services and functions in the natural and built environment. This Natural Resources Element seeks to support the natural function of the systems and their continued provision of benefits to the Newport Beach community.

The Natural Resources Element is coordinated with the Recreation Element; Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element; Safety Element; and Land Use Element to support the conservation, protection, development, and use of natural resources, and the preservation of cultural and historic resources. Goals and policies are aided by the Arts and Culture Element and the Historical Resources Element.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Air Quality

South Coast Air Basin

Newport Beach is within the South Coast Air Basin, named so because its geographical formation is that of a basin, with the surrounding mountains trapping the air and its pollutants in the valleys and low-lying areas below. The South Coast Air Basin includes all of Orange County and non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, in addition to the San Geronio Pass in Riverside County. The region's climate is generally mild and tempered by cool sea breezes, but is interrupted infrequently by periods of hot weather, winter storms, and Santa Ana winds (i.e., hot wind from the east). The extent and severity of the air pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin are functions of the region's natural weather and topography, as well as human influences such as land use patterns, type and density of development, and the location of major roadways. More specifically, mobile sources, such as emissions from motor vehicles, account for a significant portion of air pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin. Newport Beach is a relatively low-density community with fewer public transportation routes, which may result in more motor vehicle trips and associated air pollutants. Notably, two major highways run through Newport Beach: Highway 1 along the coast (i.e., Pacific Coast Highway) and Highway 73, south of John Wayne Airport and along the northeastern boundary of Newport Beach. Air pollution from motor vehicles along these major highways is most concentrated within 1,000 feet of the source; therefore, neighborhoods adjacent to these routes may have higher exposure to air pollutants.

Ambient Air Quality

The Federal and State governments have established ambient air quality standards for outdoor concentrations of various pollutants to help protect public health. The South Coast Air Quality Management District is responsible for bringing air quality within the South Coast Air Basin into conformity with the Federal and State standards. To monitor the various concentrations of air pollutants throughout the South Coast Air Basin, the South Coast Air Quality Management District divided the region into 27 source receptor areas (SRAs). Newport Beach is within SRA 18, which encompasses the northern coastal Orange County area. The air pollutants most relevant to air quality planning and regulation in SRA 18 are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. As of 2025, SRA 18 exceeds State and Federal standards for two pollutants: ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Due to its small size, PM_{2.5} can be inhaled, and prolonged exposure to these particles can result in negative health effects. Ground-level ozone, often referred to as “smog,” also affects lung and heart health. Together, these pollutants may lead to potential health concerns, such as breathing difficulties, inflamed and irritated airways, asthma attacks, and heart disease.

Aircraft Pollution

Aircraft operations at John Wayne Airport also contribute air pollutants that may affect residents and visitors of Newport Beach. Specifically, jet aircraft engines emit water vapor, carbon dioxide, small amounts of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, sulfur gases, soot, and metal particles formed by the high-temperature combustion of jet fuel during flight. Piston aircraft engines burning leaded gasoline can emit other pollutants, including lead. These emissions can cause pulmonary and respiratory health effects.

The City of Newport Beach (City) does not have aircraft emissions standards. Rather, the Secretary of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set and enforce emissions standards, and the Federal Aviation Administration administers certification requirements. The EPA collaborates with the International Civil Aviation Organization to develop standards and recommended practices for aircraft emissions; thus, EPA standards are highly aligned with those of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Goal NR-1: Reduced transportation-related emissions to improve air quality

- **Policy NR-1.1: Safe Streets.** Promote walkable and bikeable neighborhoods that are safe for all users by providing amenities such as wayfinding, maintained sidewalks, bike lanes, secure bike and stroller parking, well-designed intersections, and Americans with Disabilities Act–compliant infrastructure to support people of all abilities. (Imp. 16.13)
- **Policy NR-1.2: Mixed-Use Development.** Encourage mixed-use development as a way to preserve natural resources. (Imp. 8.2)
- **Policy NR-1.3: Minimize Pollution Exposure.** Identify high-volume roadways near existing and planned sensitive uses, such as residences and schools, and encourage trees and hedge barriers to reduce air pollution, when not already present. (Imp. 8.2, 16.2, 16.15)
- **Policy NR-1.4: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled.** Employ incentives, regulations, and/or transportation demand management programs in cooperation with other jurisdictions in the South Coast Air Basin to reasonably reduce vehicle trips. (Imp. 7.3, 14.1)
- **Policy NR-1.5: Unleaded Aviation Fuel.** Continue to advocate for phase-out of sales of leaded aviation gasoline at John Wayne Airport. (Imp. 14.3, 16.15)

Goal NR-2: Electric vehicle charging or other clean technology infrastructure to serve the growing share of clean-energy vehicles

- **Policy NR-2.1: Clean Vehicle Charging for Visitors.** Create public and/or private partnerships to increase clean-vehicle charging and/or refueling stations at or near visitor lodging and popular tourist destinations, as deemed appropriate. (Imp. 16.14)
- **Policy NR-2.2: Clean Vehicle Charging for Residents.** Identify, prioritize, and incentivize the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in residential areas that have limited charging options, such as apartments. (Imp. 16.14)
- **Policy NR-2.3: Clean Energy Boat Charging.** Encourage the provision of needed additional electric boat charging stations or other clean-energy technology. (Imp. 16.14)

Goal NR 3: Reduced air pollution emissions from ground operations at John Wayne Airport

- **Policy NR-3.1: Reduce Airport Pollution.** Collaborate with John Wayne Airport to help reduce air pollution generated by stationary and nonstationary sources. (Imp. 14.3)
- **Policy NR-3.2: Reduced Emissions Equipment and Vehicles.** Collaborate with John Wayne Airport to encourage reasonable development and cost-effective use of reduced-emissions ground service equipment and transit vehicles. (Imp. 14.3)

Mineral and Oil Resources

The City owns and operates 16 oil wells that were drilled between 1953 and 1958. Fourteen are in operations as of 2026, one is used for water injection to increase productivity from other wells, and one is completely out of service. The well heads are located on two sites in unincorporated County of Orange territory along West Coast Highway. The wells are slant-drilled under property in Newport Beach into an area under the ocean called the Newport Offshore Oil Field. The California Department of Conservation maintains a current database, and should be utilized where needed.¹ Section 1401 of the City Charter bans oil and gas drilling inside the incorporated area, and any annexed area has 10 years to comply with the standards detailed in the City Charter. However, the Charter allows for drilling for production or processing of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances by vertical, slant or other drilling methods originating from two identified areas in unincorporated County of Orange territory along West Coast Highway. The locations of oil well heads can be seen on Figure NR-1, Oil and Gas Wells.

Oil production in Newport Beach has declined from 60,000 barrels per year in the 1980s to 20,000 barrels per year in 2020. The City earns \$1 million to \$1.2 million annually from offshore oil and gas, which is deposited into the Tidelands Fund to support and maintain tidelands.² California’s climate goals include phasing out the extraction of oil and gas by 2045. The City will monitor and proactively address implementation of California laws to facilitate a sustainable transition and dependable revenue streams.

¹ California Department of Conservation. 2026. “Well Finder.” <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/WellFinder.aspx>

² City of Newport Beach. 2023. “Utilities: Oil and Gas.” <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/utilities/oil-and-gas>.

Goal NR-4: Preparation for the orderly transition of oil and gas resources, as deemed appropriate

- **Policy NR-4.1: Phaseout Process.** If deemed appropriate, engage with community members and interest groups in the phaseout analysis process for oil and gas. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-4.2: Tidelands Fund Sources.** Pursue alternate funding sources to replace the potential loss of oil revenue funding for the Tidelands Fund. (Imp. 21.1, 24.1, 30.2)

Energy Transition

Meeting California’s greenhouse gas reduction goals may require converting some natural gas appliances and gas cars to electric or alternatives, while simultaneously increasing renewable energy in the grid. Senate Bill 100 (2018) mandates that 100% of the State’s electricity retail sales come from renewable and zero-carbon sources by 2045, with interim targets of 90% by 2035 and 95% by 2040. Consequently, Southern California Edison and other utilities across the state will need to boost their renewable energy supply over the next two decades. The Advanced Clean Car rule establishes a year-by-year roadmap so that by 2035, 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California will be zero-emission vehicles. As of 2024 there is no State legislation to reduce natural gas consumption; however, electrification of landscape equipment and heating and cooking systems may be a strategy to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

Goal NR-5: Increased electrification or use of renewable energy at public facilities to reduce gasoline and natural gas usage and emissions

- **Policy NR-5.1: City Vehicle Fleet.** To the extent reasonable and appropriate, adopt a schedule for replacing the City vehicle fleet and consider clean-energy vehicles for any new acquisitions or City programs. (Imp. 16.14)
- **Policy NR-5.2: Clean Energy and Public Facilities.** If feasible, consider installation of solar panels or other alternative energy technologies on public facilities such as parking lot shade structures, rooftops, and other appropriate surfaces, especially where electric vehicle charging can be facilitated. (Imp. 16.14)

Goal NR-6: Electrification or renewable energy incentives for existing buildings to reduce natural gas emissions

- **Policy NR-6.1: Alternative Energy Engagement.** To the extent reasonable and appropriate, perform outreach to raise awareness of electrification and alternative energy incentive programs. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-6.2: Clean Energy Landscaping Equipment.** Consider expansion of ordinances requiring electric or clean-energy landscaping equipment. (Imp. 8.2)

Biological Resources

Newport Beach is made up of a diverse range of elevations, biogeographic features, and ecosystems. Within Newport Beach, there are 6 plant and 23 animal species classified as endangered, threatened, or both by Federal and/or State agencies (see Natural Resources Existing Conditions and Background Analysis). Many of these species live in **environmental study areas**, as shown in Figure NR-2, and **environmentally sensitive habitat areas**. Both environmental study areas and environmentally sensitive habitat areas are subject to stricter regulations, implemented through the Local Coastal Program.

Consistent with Assembly Bill 1889 (2024), wildlife corridors should be developed to connect environmentally sensitive habitat areas with other core habitat areas. This may be accomplished by protecting existing open spaces between habitats, planting native plants that provide food and/or shelter on developed sites, and reducing the introduction of invasive species.

Ecosystems provide important services, such as filtering and storing water, storing carbon in vegetation and soil, purifying the air, providing habitat for wildlife, and creating visually appealing and enjoyable places for people. Well-functioning ecosystems include diverse **native** and **naturalized non-invasive species**, and they support complex food webs, a mix of habitats, and nutrient cycling. Promoting native and environmentally adapted species across public and private land will enhance and expand an integrated network of resilient ecosystems.

Ecosystem restoration and conservation can reverse the effects of invasive species and support the development of large contiguous or interconnected ecosystems. These ecosystem reserves can serve as nurseries and connected networks for local plant and animal communities to access food, water, shelter, and breeding areas.

Goal NR-7: Native and naturalized non-invasive species habitats in parks and public open spaces

- **Policy NR-7.1: Native Plant Species.** Review existing policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding plant, shrub, and tree palettes, and consider revisions to ensure they feature native and naturalized non-invasive species. (Imp. 8.2)
- **Policy NR-7.2: Native Plants in Parks.** Adopt standards for new public parks to include vegetation for the revised plant, shrub, and tree palette. Imp. 8.2)
- **Policy NR-7.3: Invasive Plant Species Removal.** Perform regular removal of invasive species on public lands to protect native habitats. (Imp. 27.2)
- **Policy NR-7.4: Resilient Landscaping.** Create and distribute educational resources and incentives to increase awareness and use of native and resilient species in landscaping on private properties. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-7.5: Local Plant Nurseries.** Work with local nurseries to highlight native and naturalized non-invasive species and discourage the sale of invasive species. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-7.6: Habitat Certification.** Create or promote a yard habitat certification program encouraging landscaping practices that support native ecosystems. (Imp. 8.2, 29.1)
- **Policy NR-7.7: Air Quality and Trees.** Monitor and assess the health and air quality benefits of the urban forest canopy through regular tree surveys and air quality measurements. (Imp. 10.1, 10.3, 28.1)
- **Policy NR-7.8: Urban Forest Management Plan.** Consider drafting an Urban Forest Management Plan that prioritizes native and naturalized non-invasive tree species known to improve air filtration and species habitat. (Imp. 8.2, 16.15, 20.1)

Goal NR-8: Cooperation with State and Federal resource protection agencies and private organizations to protect terrestrial and marine resources

- **Policy NR-8.1: Conservation Plans.** Comply with the policies contained in the Orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan or other applicable plans as they become available. (Imp. 1.1, 2.1, 16.5)

- **Policy NR-8.2: Interagency Coordination.** Make reasonable efforts to coordinate with the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other relevant State agencies. (Imp. 14.7, 14.8)
- **Policy NR-8.3: Reforestation.** Protect and support reforestation programs for eelgrass and giant kelp. (Imp. 14.1, 14.3, 14.13, 14.14)

Goal NR-9: Community-driven initiatives for ecosystem conservation

- **Policy NR-9.1: Local Conservation Coordination.** Continue to partner with local non-profits that host beach cleanups and community data-collection initiatives. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-9.2: Conservation Education.** Provide informational signage that educates residents and visitors about local ecosystems, stewardship, and opportunities for citizen science. (Imp. 29.1)

Goal NR-10: Land use and development standards to conserve important ecosystem services and habitats

- **Policy NR-10.1: Habitat Corridors.** Create and regularly update mapping of habitat corridor areas and evaluate appropriate additional landscaping or study requirements for developments in these areas. (Imp. 8.1, 8.2)
- **Policy NR-10.2: Development Analysis.** As appropriate, require a site-specific survey and analysis prepared by a qualified biologist as a filing requirement for any development permit applications where development would occur within or contiguous to areas identified as environmental study areas. (Imp. 2.1, 6.1)
- **Policy NR-10.3: Resource Protection.** Require that the siting and design of new development, including landscaping and public access, reasonably protect sensitive and rare resources against any significant disruption of habitat values. (Imp. 1.1, 2.1)
- **Policy NR-10.4: Resource-Dependent Uses.** Subject to Federal, State, and other legal requirements, limit uses within areas containing any significant or rare biological resources to only those uses that are dependent on such resources, except where application of such a limitation would result in a taking of private property. If application of this policy would likely constitute a taking of private property, then a non-resource-dependent use shall be allowed on the property, provided development is limited to the reasonable amount necessary to avoid a taking, and the development is consistent with and subject to other applicable resource protection policies. Public access improvements and educational, interpretative, and research facilities are considered resource-dependent uses. (Imp. 2.1)
- **Policy NR-10.5: Resource Buffer.** Maintain a buffer of sufficient size around significant and rare biological resources to ensure the protection of these resources. Require the use of native vegetation and prohibit invasive plant species within these buffer areas. (Imp. 2.1)
- **Policy NR-10.6: Habitat Protection Regulations.** Prepare natural habitat protection regulations for Buck Gully and Morning Canyon to provide standards to ensure the protection of the natural habitats in these areas and of private property rights. Include standards for the placement of structures, native vegetation/fuel modification buffers, and erosion and sedimentation control structures. (Imp 2.1, 8.2)

Rivers and Waterbodies

The rivers and waterbodies of Newport Beach significantly contribute to the area’s ecological diversity and enhance the experiences of residents and visitors. As illustrated in Figure NR-3, Rivers and Waterbodies in

Newport Beach, Newport Beach features freshwater, saltwater, estuarine, riverine, and lake ecosystems. Of particular importance are Upper Newport Bay and the Santa Ana River. Upper Newport Bay, designated as an ecological reserve, is one of the largest remaining natural estuarine ecosystems in Southern California. The west end of Newport Beach lies within the Santa Ana River watershed, with the river itself forming Newport Beach’s westernmost boundary.

Upper Newport Bay

Upper Newport Bay, nestled in the heart of Newport Beach, is one of the largest remaining wetlands in the region, spanning approximately 700 acres.³ This area provides sanctuary to a diverse array of fish, birds, reptiles, plants, and other species. Also known locally as the Back Bay, this estuarine ecosystem is a popular destination for migratory birds, offering numerous birdwatching opportunities. The Upper Bay State Marine Conservation Area, covering just over 1 square mile, includes lagoons, tidal flats, and coastal marsh habitats. It protects a variety of small mammals, fish, birds, crustaceans, and other creatures, including some endangered species, and provides residents and visitors opportunities for recreation.

Santa Ana River

The Santa Ana River spans nearly 100 miles across San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties. Its rich biodiversity supports various ecosystems and provides habitats for numerous species of birds, reptiles, fish, and mammals. The river forms a small boundary with Newport Beach at Newport Beach’s westernmost edge, where the river flows into the Pacific Ocean. To protect the river and its biological resources, the City has implemented regulations, including a maximum speed limit of 5 miles per hour for aquatic vessels navigating the river, encroachment limits for residential homes near the riverfront and other property development standards, and discouragement of off-leash dogs near the river mouth.

Water Quality

Both **Lower and Upper Newport Bay** have concentrations of pollutants that exceed EPA standards for marine habitat and for fish and shellfish consumption. Unlike Upper Newport Bay, however, Lower Newport Bay is safe for swimming and boating. Coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean are generally safe for swimming and boating. See Table NR-1 for the water quality condition of each waterbody in Newport Beach.

Clean water is necessary for human health and recreation, and for aquatic habitat and organisms. Improving water quality in Newport Bay and in coastal waters can ensure safe enjoyment of these irreplaceable natural resources for residents and visitors while continuing to support the businesses that rely on proximity to the coast. Reducing stormwater runoff, restoring floodplains, and preventing waste from entering waterbodies can improve water quality and help to realize the benefits of clean water.

Table NR-1. Water Body Uses and Conditions

Waterbody	Identified Pollutants	Waterbody Uses	Conditions
Newport Beach	PCBs, pesticides	Fish and shellfish consumption	Impaired
Newport Beach	None	Swimming and boating	Good
Big Canyon Creek	None	Aquatic life, fishing, and boating	Unknown
Costa Mesa Channel	None	Aquatic life	Unknown

³ Newport Bay Conservancy. 2024. “Bay Management.” <https://newportbay.org/the-bay/bay-management/>.

Table NR-1. Water Body Uses and Conditions

Waterbody	Identified Pollutants	Waterbody Uses	Conditions
Lower Newport Bay ¹	Bacteria and other microbes, metals, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, PCBs, pesticides, total toxic chemicals	Fish and shellfish consumption; marine habitat	Impaired
Lower Newport Bay ¹	None	Swimming and boating	Good
Upper Newport Bay (Ecological Reserve)	Bacteria and other microbes, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, PCBs, pesticides, sediment, total toxic chemicals	Aquatic life; fish and shellfish consumption; swimming and boating; marine habitat	Impaired

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2024. "How's My Waterway?" <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>. **Note:**

¹ Includes entire Lower Bay, including Rhine Channel, Turning Basin, and South Lido Channel to east end of H- J Moorings.

Goal NR-11: Coordination with relevant agencies to reduce pollutants of concern in Newport Bay

- **Policy NR-11.1 (HBB-12.2): Upper Newport Bay Protection.** Continue coordination with relevant entities involved in the protection and preservation of Upper Newport Bay. (Imp. 14.6, 14.7, 14.8)
- **Policy NR-11.2: Stormwater Runoff Reduction.** Coordinate with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and neighboring cities to implement measures to reduce stormwater runoff. (Imp. 14.1)

Goal NR-12: Enhanced green infrastructure to help prevent runoff into Newport Bay

- **Policy NR-12.1 (S-6.1, HBB-12.3): Stormwater Drainage.** Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within Newport Beach. Where feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation opportunities. (Imp. 17.1, 23.6)
- **Policy NR-12.2 (S-6.2, HBB-12.4): Stormwater Management Coordination.** Coordinate the needs of stormwater pollution management with the overlapping (and sometimes competing) needs for habitat management, flood management, capital improvement projects, development, aesthetics, and open space needs. (Imp. 7.5, 17.1, 17.2)
- **Policy NR-12.3: Wetland Preservation.** Promote the use of natural wetlands through preservation or restoration to improve water quality. (Imp. 19.1, 23.2, 23.6)
- **Policy NR-12.4: Watershed Coordination.** Represent the City of Newport Beach by participating in watershed-based runoff reduction, water quality control, and other planning efforts with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, the County of Orange, and upstream cities. Use reasonable efforts to promote regulation of upstream dischargers (cities, Orange County, residential and commercial uses) in the San Diego Creek and Santa Ana-Delhi Channel watersheds. (Imp. 14.1, 14.3, 14.15)

Goal NR-13: Standards and programs to limit runoff of pollution to preserve water quality of groundwater sources

- **Policy NR-13.1: Chemicals Impacting Water Quality.** Support regulations limiting or banning the use of insecticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals shown to be detrimental to water quality. (Imp. 2.1, 17.1)

- **Policy NR-13.2: Water Pollution Prevention.** Promote pollution prevention and elimination methods that minimize the introduction of pollutants into natural waterbodies. Methods may include the installation of storm drain screens, increased green infrastructure to absorb runoff, and the use of retention ponds and wetlands. (Imp. 16.15)
- **Policy NR-13.3: Groundwater Contamination.** Suspend activities and implement appropriate health and safety procedures in the event that previously unknown groundwater contamination is encountered during construction. Where site contamination is identified, implement an appropriate remediation strategy that is approved by the City and the State or Federal agency with appropriate jurisdiction. (Imp. 1.1, 10.4, 11.1)
- **Policy NR-13.4: Storm Drain System Permits.** Require all development to comply with the regulations under the City's municipal separate storm drain system permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. (Imp. 19.1, 26.1)
- **Policy NR-13.5: Water Quality Checklist.** Develop and maintain a water quality checklist to be used in the permit review process to assess potential water quality impacts. (Imp. 10.4, 11.1, 16.15, 17.1, 17.2)
- **Policy NR-13.6: Water Quality Management Plan.** Continue to require new development applications to include a Water Quality Management Plan to minimize runoff from rainfall events during and after construction. (Imp. 10.4, 11.1, 16.15, 17.1, 17.2)
- **Policy NR-13.7: Best Management Practices.** Implement and improve upon water quality best management practices (BMPs) for residences, businesses, development projects, and City operations. (Imp. 7.5, 16.15, 17.1, 17.2)
- **Policy NR-13.8: Site Design and Source Control.** Include site design and source-control BMPs in all developments. When the combination of site design and source-control BMPs are not sufficient to protect water quality as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, structural treatment BMPs will be implemented, along with site design and source-control measures. (Imp. 7.5)
- **Policy NR-13.9: Reduction of Infiltration.** Include equivalent BMPs that do not require infiltration where infiltration of runoff would exacerbate geologic hazards. (Imp. 7.5)
- **Policy NR-13.10: Street Drainage Systems.** Require all street drainage systems and other facilities created by the City or developers of new subdivisions to be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize or reduce adverse impacts on water quality. Investigate the possibility of treating or diverting street drainage to minimize or reduce impacts to waterbodies. (Imp. 6.1, 7.1, 17.1)
- **Policy NR-13.11: Impervious Surfaces.** Require new development and public facilities to minimize the creation of and increases in impervious surfaces, especially those directly adjacent to existing impervious areas, to the maximum extent possible. Require redevelopment to increase the area of pervious surfaces, where feasible. (Imp. 6.1, 7.1, 17.1)
- **Policy NR-13.12: Pollution Prevention Tracking.** Conduct periodic analysis of the overall effectiveness of the pollution prevention programs in Newport Beach. (Imp. 10.3)
- **Policy NR-13.13: Grading and Erosion Control Plans.** Require grading/erosion control plans that provide for structural BMPs that prevent, minimize, or reduce possible erosion during and after construction for development on steep slopes and on graded or disturbed areas. (Imp. 7.5)
- **Policy NR-13.14: Plastic Usage Reduction.** Assess methods to reduce plastic waste to protect water quality, natural habitats, and local wildlife, and to comply with Assembly Bill 1276 (2022) and any subsequent applicable laws and revisions. The assessment should identify short- and long-term strategies to meaningfully reduce single-use plastics, and the potential for water usage, landfill capacity, and economic impacts of such strategies. Strategies may include outreach and engagement,

partnerships with local non-profit organizations, and partnerships with local establishments with higher single-use plastic usage. (Imp. 8.2, 16.15)

Goal NR-14: Minimized adverse effects to water quality from sanitary sewer outflows

- **Policy NR-14.1: City Sewer Management and Master Plans.** Implement the Sewer System Management Plan and the Sewer Master Plan. (Imp. 18.1)
- **Policy NR-14.2: Waste Discharge Permits.** Require waste discharge permits for all applicable food preparation facilities that produce grease. (Imp. 18.1)
- **Policy NR-14.3: Sewer Pump Stations.** Renovate all older sewer pump stations and install new plumbing according to the most recent standards. (Imp. 18.1)
- **Policy NR-14.4: Waste Discharge Permits.** Comply with the California State Water Resources Control Board’s Waste Discharge Requirements associated with operation and maintenance of the City’s sewage collection system. (Imp. 18.1)

Sandy Beaches

Sandy beaches are at risk as a result of sea-level rise and from coastal development interrupting natural beach nourishment and replenishment. Sand nourishment and replenishment projects have been conducted locally since the 1960s, first by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, then by local governments in the 2000s.⁴ Sand naturally migrates, and effective nourishment requires regional efforts. Comprehensive sand nourishment, retention, and replenishment recognizes the role of natural processes, built facilities, and human solutions, where appropriate.

Goal NR-15: Beach nourishment, sand retention, and sediment restoration projects

- **Policy NR-15.1: Beach Protection Partnerships.** Work with regional governments to create partnerships and cross-boundary projects that benefit the region. (Imp. 14.1, 14.15)
- **Policy NR-15.2: Beach Protection Needs.** Identify appropriate sites for beach nourishment, living shoreline restoration, and built structures as part of a comprehensive sea-level-rise adaptation plan. (Imp. 5.2)
- **Policy NR-15.3: Beach Protection Monitoring.** Monitor progress of sand nourishment and retention projects. (Imp. 10.2)

Water Conservation

As of 2025, the City’s water supply comes from a combination of imported water (18.5%), which includes water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project; recycled water (1.5%); and groundwater from the Orange County Basin (80%). As outlined in the City’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan,⁵ the City intends to reduce reliance on imported water by improving water-use efficiency and through increased reliance on groundwater.

⁴ Brey, Jared. 2024. “California Neighbors and Cities Fight over Sand as Beaches Shrink.” *Governing*. Accessed November 25, 2024. <https://www.governing.com/resilience/california-neighbors-and-cities-fight-over-sand-as-beaches-shrink>. Connelly, Laylan. 2023. “Dates Set for Sand Replenishment Project for Orange County Beaches.” *Los Angeles Times*, November 22, 2023. <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2023-11-22/dates-set-for-sand-replenishment-project-for-orange-county-beaches>.

⁵ City of Newport Beach. 2021. *Newport Beach 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. June 2021. <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/75001/638579289862370000>.

To plan for the event of water shortage due to drought, a catastrophic event (e.g., earthquake), or other circumstances, the City has created a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, most recently updated in 2020, to help maintain adequate, reliable supplies and reduce impacts of supply interruptions. The Water Shortage Contingency Plan provides real-time water supply availability assessments and strategic steps to respond to current conditions.⁶

Clean water is a precious resource in Southern California. Reduced indoor and outdoor water use can play an important role in conserving water. By implementing best practices for landscaping and irrigation on public property, and by offering incentives to residents and businesses to conserve potable water on their property, the City may be able to reduce reliance on imported fresh water.

Goal NR-16: Reduced potable water use for landscaping on public lands

- **Policy NR-16.1: Demonstration Gardens.** Create demonstration water-saving gardens with educational signage on public property. (Imp. 23.1, 23.2)
- **Policy NR-16.2: Graywater Systems.** Evaluate the feasibility of graywater systems for irrigation of landscaped public property. (Imp. 7.4)
- **Policy NR-16.3: Non-Functional Turf on City-Owned Properties.** Unless no longer required by State law, work to implement the Assembly Bill 1572 (2023) non-functional turf ban for properties owned by the City by 2027. (Imp. 23.8)

Goal NR-17: Water-efficient landscaping incentives for private property

- **Policy NR-17.1: Landscaping Incentives.** Adopt incentives for property owners to install graywater systems, rain gardens, and rain barrels; plant drought-tolerant vegetation; and implement other practices to increase water-efficient landscaping. (Imp. 8.2, 7.4, 17.1)
- **Policy NR-17.2: Landscaping Awareness.** Conduct education and outreach to raise awareness of water-efficient landscaping practices and offered incentives. (Imp. 29.1)
- **Policy NR-17.3: Water-Efficiency in New Construction.** Enforce water conservation measures that limit water usage, prohibit activities that waste water or cause runoff, and require the use of water-efficient landscaping and irrigation in conjunction with new construction projects. (Imp. 7.4, 17.1)
- **Policy NR-17.4: Water Conservation.** Continue to actively promote the use of water-conserving devices and practices in both new construction and major alterations and additions to existing buildings. This can include the use of rainwater capture and storage, and water reuse facilities. (Imp. 7.4, 17.1)
- **Policy NR-17.5: Non-Functional Turf.** Implement the Assembly Bill 1572 (2023) non-functional turf ban for private properties in accordance with the timeline outlined in legislation. (Imp. 23.8)

Visual Resources

Visual resources contribute to a community's quality of life and may help build a connection to an area. Public access to visual resources is not only important for connecting individuals to these resources, but may be a key component to ensuring that the preservation of such resources remains a priority for the community. To protect

⁶ City of Newport Beach. 2021. *2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan*. June 2021.
<https://www.newportbeachca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/75003/638579298931530000>.

visual resources, the City has identified and designated public viewpoints and corridors to ensure that public access to visual resources is preserved to the extent possible.

Viewpoints and view corridors are often situated near dynamic and inspiring natural environments, including the Pacific Ocean, Crystal Cove State Park, the San Joaquin Hills, and the wetlands and bluffs of Newport Bay. Due to its coastal nature, much of Newport Beach’s development, as well as its streets and highways, has been designed to capture and preserve picturesque views of the coastline, harbor, and bay. Additionally, the approximately 560 acres of parkland and open space and approximately 47.7 miles of coastline in Newport Beach are considered visual resources.

Sweeping views of the beaches, harbor, and coast distinguish Newport Beach as a city with unparalleled natural beauty. Viewsheds often hold historic or scenic value and should be protected to the maximum extent possible for current and future generations. Preserving viewpoints and corridors allows the public to appreciate Newport Beach’s beauty, character, and history. Figure NR-4, Viewpoints and Corridors, shows public viewpoints, coastal view roads, and existing and proposed beaches and parks.

Goal NR-18: Viewsheds and corridors that are preserved

- **Policy NR-18.1 (LU-2.7): Public Views.** Protect and, where feasible, enhance significant scenic and visual resources that include views of open space, mountains, canyons, ridges, the ocean, and the harbor from public vantage points, as shown in Figure NR-4. (Imp. 5.2, 20.4)
- **Policy NR-18.2: Restored Visual Quality.** Require new development to restore and enhance the visual quality of visually degraded areas, where feasible, and encourage view easements or corridors designed to protect public views or to restore public views in developed areas, where appropriate. (Imp. 5.2, 20.4)
- **Policy NR-18.3: View Corridors.** Protect and enhance public view corridors from roadway segments (shown in Figure NR-4) and other locations that may be identified in the future. (Imp. 5.2, 20.4)
- **Policy NR-18.4: Updated Visual Resources.** Update visual resources, as needed, through an update to the City’s Local Coastal Program, including an updated map of identified visual resources. (Imp. 5.2, 20.3, 20.4)

Goal NR-19: Minimized visual impacts of signs and utilities

- **Policy NR-19.1: Sign and Utility Design.** Design and site signs, utilities, and antennas to minimize visual impacts. (Imp. 2.1, 20.4)
- **Policy NR-19.2: Illegal Signs.** Implement programs to remove illegal signs. For temporary signage on public or private property, ensure all signs are removed promptly. (Imp. 2.1, 26.1)
- **Policy NR-19.3: Utility Undergrounding.** Continue to support programs to remove and underground overhead utilities in new development and existing neighborhoods. (Imp. 2.1, 30.1)

Archaeological and Paleontological Resources

Archaeological and paleontological resources are invaluable and irreplaceable. Fossils in the central Santa Ana Mountains represent the oldest formations in Orange County, at 145 to 175 million years old. Changes in geological land formations over time, brought upon by tectonic activity, have resulted in a mix of aquatic and terrestrial fossils underlying Newport Beach. The Miocene-age rock units (26 to 7 million years ago), particularly in the Newport Coast area, are considered to be of high paleontological significance (6 to 9 on a scale of 1 to 10).

Other fossil deposits found in the Newport Beach area include a variety of marine mammals, sea birds, mollusks, and a number of vertebrate animals typically associated with the Ice Age (2.5 million years ago to 15,000 years ago). Local paleontological sites, particularly near the Castaways area along Dover Drive, have yielded fossils of Ice Age horses, elephants, bison, antelopes, and dire wolves. Also, a number of localities in the portions of the Vaqueros formation that underlie the Newport Coast area have yielded a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils that are considered to be of high paleontological significance. Other areas with significant fossils and known paleontological deposits include the Randall Preserve area, which contains at least 14 documented sites of high significance, and Fossil Canyon in the North Bluffs area, which is considered a unique paleontological locality.

Newport Beach also contains many significant archaeological sites. The Upper Newport Bay area has yielded some evidence for the earliest human occupation of Orange County, dated to approximately 9,500 years before present. More than 50 sites, including human burials, have been documented in the Newport Beach area, including the Newport Coast area and Randall Preserve, with many yielding substantial information regarding the prehistory of Newport Beach and Orange County. At least two and possibly three distinct cultural groups once inhabited the area, including the Tongva and Acjachemen tribes, although the boundaries of their tribal territories are unclear.

Protecting archaeological and paleontological resources in Newport Beach is important for preserving the area's rich cultural and natural history. These resources offer invaluable insights into the lives of Indigenous peoples, the evolution of ecosystems, and the region's geological past. Safeguarding these remnants ensures that future generations can study and learn from them, fostering a deeper understanding of human history and the natural world. Additionally, these resources hold significant cultural importance for local communities, particularly for Indigenous groups whose heritage is tied to these lands.

Goal NR-20: Protection of archaeological and paleontological resources

- **Policy NR-20.1: New Development Activities.** Require new development to protect and preserve paleontological and archaeological resources from destruction, and to avoid and minimize impacts to such resources in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Through planning policies and permit conditions, ensure the preservation of significant archaeological and paleontological resources and require that the impact caused by any development be mitigated in accordance with CEQA. (Imp. 7.1, 11.1)
- **Policy NR-20.2: Grading and Excavation Activities.** As deemed appropriate and necessary, prepare and maintain sources of information regarding paleontological and archaeological sites, and the names and addresses of responsible organizations and qualified individuals who can analyze, classify, record, and preserve paleontological and archaeological findings. (Imp. 10.1)
- **Policy NR-20.3: Cultural Organizations.** Notify cultural organizations, including Native American organizations, of proposed developments that have the potential to adversely impact cultural resources. Allow qualified representatives of such groups to monitor grading and/or excavation of development sites. (Imp. 14.15)
- **Policy NR-20.4: Paleontological or Archaeological Materials.** Require new development, where on-site preservation and avoidance are not feasible, to donate scientifically valuable paleontological and archaeological materials to a responsible public or private institution with a suitable repository in Newport Beach or Orange County, whenever possible. (Imp. 11.1)

--- City of Newport Beach Boundary

Oil and Gas Well

- Active
- Canceled
- Idle
- Permitted
- Plugged

These sites were collected in 2024, for up-to-date data please visit the following:

Oil and Gas Wells

<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/>



SOURCE: City of Newport Beach 2023; CA Dept of Conservation 2024;



SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;





SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;



SOURCE: California Geological Survey 2024; City of Newport Beach; SCAG 2024;



Attachment C

Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Recreation Element

Recreation Element

PURPOSE

The Recreation Element addresses parks and recreation facilities, recreation programs, shared facilities, coastal recreation and support facilities, marine recreation and public access, and the provision of parklands and recreation programs. The primary purpose of this Recreation Element is to guide the provision of parks and recreation facilities sufficient for current and future residential, business, and visitor populations of Newport Beach.



OVERVIEW

Recreational spaces and programs play an important role in the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of Newport Beach's residents. Newport Beach's landscape is made up of coastal, beach, tideland, reserve, and urban areas, creating an opportunity for a diverse range of parkland and recreation types.

The Recreation Element overlaps with the Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element; Natural Resources Element; Safety Element; Housing Element; and Land Use Element to help support the preservation of open spaces, including beaches and the harbor, as recreational spaces.

Parks and Recreation

As of 2025, the City of Newport Beach (City) had approximately 595 acres of City- and State- owned land dedicated to parks and recreational facilities consisting of 344 acres of parks and 251 acres of recreational beaches. Additional recreational opportunities in Newport Beach include 66 acres of parks under school jurisdiction that are under a joint-use agreement with the City, and approximately 2,478 acres of land dedicated to open space and preservation, much of which offers recreational opportunities, such as trails (see Figure R-1, Parks and Open Space).

The Newport Beach Municipal Code establishes a parkland dedication standard for new subdivisions of 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 persons allotted to the subdivision (refer to Newport Beach Municipal Code Title 19, Subdivisions, for applicability). The parkland dedication standard applies to recreational parks and excludes open space and preserves because open space is not always accessible, and its primary purpose is the preservation of open lands. Applying this standard citywide, Newport Beach has a surplus of parkland to meet the current and projected population. As further described in the Recreation Element Existing Conditions and Background Analysis (April 2024), in 2045, the total population is estimated to be 88,650 people, which would need to be served by approximately 443 acres of parkland. Given the City's 344 acres of parks and recreational facilities (inclusive of playgrounds, picnic tables, sports fields and courts, passive parks, and community centers) and 251 acres of recreational beaches, there is a current surplus of 152 acres of parkland.

For the purposes of planning parks in a manner that meets the geographic needs of residents, the City divided Newport Beach into 12 park service areas for which the City administers parkland dedications and fees provided by residential development. When the City's parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents is applied by service area, 8 of the 12 service areas are considered to be deficient in total park acreage to meet projected population needs. Figure R-1 shows the public parks and recreational opportunities by service area. As shown in Table R-1, and further detailed in the Recreation Element Existing Conditions and Background Analysis, the park service areas that are anticipated to meet and exceed projected population parkland needs are West Newport, Balboa Peninsula, Eastbluff/Newport North, and Harbor View; the eight other service areas are not anticipated to meet the needs of the projected population. Figures R-2 through R-12 provide an overview of parks and open space for each park service area listed in Table R-1.

Table R-1. 2045 Projected Park Needs by Service Area

Park Service Area	2045 Projected Park Acreage Needs ¹	2024 Existing Parkland Acreage			Deficit (–) or Excess (+) Acreage
		Parks	Beaches	Combined	
1. West Newport	64.6	23.89	58.9	82.79	18.19
2. Balboa Peninsula	20.5	16.21	163.26	179.47	158.97
3. Newport Heights/ Upper Bay	69.6	42.50	11.68	54.18	-15.42
4. Santa Ana Heights	9	3.73	0	3.73	-5.27
5. Lower Bay	17	0.05	0	0.05	-16.95
6. Balboa Island	13.4	0.28	0	0.28	-13.12
7. Eastbluff/ Newport North	36.4	66.6	0	66.60	30.2
8. Big Canyon Belcourt	17.9	0	0	0	-17.9
9. Newport Center	26.1	19.93	0	19.93	-6.17
10. Corona del Mar	42.2	16.19	17.12	33.31	-8.89
11. Harbor View	67.1	129.51	0	129.51	62.41
12. Newport Coast	59.5	25.17	0	25.17	-34.33
Total	443.30	344.06	250.96	595.02	+151.72

¹ Projected park needs are estimated by proportionally allocating the total projected population to each service area based on its share of the existing population, and applying the City’s park acreage standard. Existing parkland acreage was then compared to projected needs to determine deficits or surpluses.

Park Type Classifications

The types of parks in Newport Beach vary in size, communities served, and recreational opportunities offered. The specific park types are summarized below:

- **Community Park.** Community parks serve all of Newport Beach and are easily accessible via arterial roads. Community parks typically include community buildings, parking, swimming facilities, facilities for picnicking, active sports facilities, and other facilities that serve a larger population.
- **Mini Park.** Mini parks are smaller parks that have two general purposes. Most mini parks are less than 1 acre, serve an area in a 0.25-mile radius, and are located within a neighborhood separate from major collector roads. Some mini parks serve the entire community of Newport Beach and are located at urban trailheads along major trails or streets.
- **Neighborhood Park.** Neighborhood parks serve all ages and are generally 1 to 8 acres. They are located adjacent to public schools, when possible. Neighborhood parks contain amenities such as turf areas, active sport fields and courts, community buildings, playground equipment, and picnic facilities. Some neighborhood parks may also include senior centers, youth centers, and aquatic facilities.
- **View Park.** View parks are small, passive parks at significant vistas or viewpoints. They are often located on coastal bluffs and highlight ocean and bay views. Most view parks are 0.5 to 3 acres and serve the entire Newport Beach community. View park amenities include improved landscaping, walkways, and benches.

- **Open Space.** Open space includes passive and active open space areas that do not function as public spaces but do provide open space relief. Some open space areas are open to and accessible by the public.
- **Public Beach.** Public beaches serve a number of local and regional functions. In some neighborhoods, beaches function as neighborhood or community parks. Easy accessibility, a lack of entrance fees, and a lack of other available parks have contributed to this function. Public beaches all include sandy beach areas adjacent to Newport Bay or the ocean, and may include active sport areas, snack bars, showers, drinking fountains, restrooms, walkways, docks, benches, shade trees, and parking areas. Active beach area acreage is measured 100 feet from the observed water edge (based on satellite imagery) into the water area based on the standard for shoreline swimming and previous observations from the 2004 Newport Beach Technical Report prepared for the adopted 2006 General Plan.
- **School.** Public schools are a part of the Newport Beach’s recreation system because indoor facilities, outdoor fields, and playground areas can serve the general public during weekends, holidays, and after school.

The number of park types within a service area varies based on the nature of the physical geographic area. For example, a service area with a canyon or bay may have more view parks than a more urbanized and developed service area. Figure R-13, Park Classification, summarizes the number of park types throughout Newport Beach.

Support Facilities

Many of the parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities in Newport Beach provide support facilities. Support facilities, such as parking, restrooms, seating areas, and water fountains, are crucial for enhancing accessibility, encouraging longer stays, and improving the overall experience. By providing adequate and well-maintained support facilities, the City contributes to cleaner and more-welcoming public spaces.

To further support the recreational needs of the community, there are several programs that encourage the use of public spaces by engaging residents and visitors. Programs include arts, theater, and dance classes; various sports; hiking and nature exploration; and special events, such as movies in the park. Such programs offer structured opportunities for social and physical activity, encourage people to visit and interact with public spaces, and contribute to Newport Beach’s culture.

For a full list of public parks and recreational facilities and a summary of the service areas, refer to the Recreation Element Existing Conditions and Background Analysis (April 2024).

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Goals, policies, and actions support the purpose of the Recreation Element to ensure an appropriate balance between the provisions of sufficient parks and recreational facilities and the current and future residential, business, and visitor populations of Newport Beach. The goals, policies, and actions are categorized into six topics: Recreation Programs, New Parks, Maintenance and Improvements, Funding and Coordination, Beach and Recreation, and Support Facilities.

Recreation Programs

Recreation programs enrich community members’ lives by building social connections and providing opportunities for learning and physical activity. High-quality recreation programs that are tailored to the community’s needs can foster an engaged and healthy community. Recreation programs vary based on the population they serve, such as children and adolescents, adults, and older adults. The older adult population in

Newport Beach is expected to double over the next 20 years, creating an increased demand for recreational activities and programming for older individuals. Additionally, Newport Beach’s diverse landscapes provide unique programming opportunities that may be tailored to the natural environment and landscape.

Goal R-1: A community with high-quality recreation programs

- Policy R-1.1: Events and Programming. Establish and maintain high-quality events and programming for residents, prioritizing older adults and families with children. (Imp. 23.4)
- Policy R-1.2: Community Engagement. Continue to inform the community about upcoming events, new facilities and programs, and other pertinent parks and recreation news. (Imp. 29.1)
- Policy R-1.3: Homeowner’s Association Coordination. Coordinate with homeowner’s associations to conduct City recreation programs on private parkland. (Imp. 23.3)
- Policy R-1.4: Compatible Recreation Activities. Provide programming and recreational activities compatible with the location and landscape. (Imp. 23.3)
- Policy R-1.5: Water-Related Programs. Protect and enhance specific programs that use the harbor, bay, and ocean, such as the City’s sailing program and junior lifeguard program. (Imp. 23.4, 21.4)

Goal R-2: Programs for older adults that benefit and are used by residents

- **Policy R-2.1: Optimization of Senior Programs.** Continue to maintain partnerships with relevant organizations, such as Friends of OASIS (Older Adult Social and Information Services), and determine potential improvements to increase participation in recreational programs targeted toward older adults. (Imp. 23.3)
- **Policy R-2.2: Self-Sustaining Adult Recreational Programs.** Create programs for older adults that are financially sustainable. (Imp. 23.4)
- **Policy R-2.3: Program Awareness.** Continue to increase program awareness among older adults. (Imp. 29.1)

Parks and Playgrounds

Parks are a vital asset in any community, providing opportunities for refuge, recreation, and socialization, in addition to physical and mental health benefits. Increasing park access and recreational opportunities throughout the community can help to ensure that these benefits are available to residents of all ages and needs.

Most residents can walk to a park in 10 to 15 minutes, but the types of parks available vary due to Newport Beach’s varying landscape. These variable landscapes provide unique recreational facilities for the community depending on the location of the park, such as access to walking trails or the beach in certain areas of the city. Because land for new parks in urbanized areas is limited, the design of new parks should consider parks and recreational facilities that are needed in the respective service area. Additionally, new development should be paired with innovative park types to capitalize on limited land opportunities and promote equitable access to parks to improve the quality of life for residents.

Equally as important, the preservation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities are essential for maintaining community access to recreational opportunities. Maintenance and needed upgrades to these

facilities can help protect City investments while ensuring that residents have continued access to high-quality recreational facilities that meet changing needs.

As the environment changes and the population shifts, it is important that parks and recreational facilities continue to meet community needs and provide benefits to human health and well-being, and the environment. Finding opportunities to expand or adapt parks and recreational facilities to serve older adults and people with disabilities can help serve all residents now and in the future. Furthermore, designing parks and recreational facilities to be resilient to extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires can ensure these amenities continue to function despite environmental changes. This can include planning for cooling centers, which are free indoor air-conditioned locations where residents can keep cool during extreme heat conditions, or using materials for parks, surfaces, and pathways that reflect more solar energy to reduce the amount of heat absorbed and radiated, referred to as cool pavement.

Goal R-3: New parks and connections that increase resident access to recreation, parks, and open space opportunities

- **Policy R-3.1: Innovative Park Types.** Support innovative park types that encourage community gathering and integrate nature into the urban environment. This could include publicly accessible open spaces that create or enhance mobility connections, such as paseos, promenades, or small accessible spaces that offer refuge, such as courtyards, pocket parks, rooftop gardens, and other park types not identified in the park type classifications. (Imp. 23.2)
- **Policy R-3.2: Service Area Recreational Needs.** Support the recreation needs of residents by service area by reviewing and possibly revising the methodology for determining park needs in each service area by considering existing park types, demographics, physical geography, and connectivity to nearby parks and open spaces, as well as access across and between different service areas. (Imp. 23.1)
- **Policy R-3.3: New Park Needs.** Continually evaluate open space acreage and park type classification across Newport Beach to identify areas to prioritize for new parks and green spaces that are tailored to community needs. (Imp. 23.1)
- **Policy R-3.4: Parks Master Plan.** Consider creating a Parks Master Plan to comprehensively assess and plan for park needs across Newport Beach. (Imp. 23.1)
- **Policy R-3.5: Park Incentives.** Continually evaluate potential development incentives for developers to contribute to new parks or to make improvements to existing parks, in addition to the required park dedication and/or fees. (Imp. 23.5)
- **Policy R-3.6: New Joint-Use Facilities.** Support the increase of parkland through joint-use agreements. (Imp. 14.2)
- **Policy R-3.7: Community Hubs.** Develop new community parks near public facilities, such as schools, libraries, or community centers, to create hubs for community gathering. (Imp. 23.2)
- **Policy R-3.8: Public Facilities.** Design public facilities to incorporate recreational elements, such as children’s play areas, pocket parks, and usable public plazas. (Imp. 23.2)
- **Policy R-3.9: Park Dedications and Fees.** Support the assessment of the Park Dedications and Fees Ordinance to consider the benefit and feasibility of expanding the in-lieu park fees to for-rent residential developments. (Imp. 23.5)
- **Policy R-3.10: Dog Parks.** Encourage the incorporation of dog parks to provide opportunities for residents to let their dogs off leash in protected areas. (Imp. 23.2, 23.5)

Goal R-4: Parks and recreation facilities that are preserved, upgraded, and well-maintained

- **Policy R-4.1: Community Engagement.** Conduct outreach on a neighborhood or district scale to identify desired improvements to parks and recreational facilities, which may include a community pool or aquatic center. (Imp. 23.3)
- **Policy R-4.2: Priority for Park Improvements.** Prioritize park improvements based on identified needs, including shade structures, dog parks, and other improvements identified through community outreach. (Imp. 23.1)
- **Policy R-4.3: Service Area Park Improvements.** Identify areas with lower-than-average park access, park variety, or based on findings from the methodology analyzing parks in each service area identified in Policy R-3.2 to prioritize improvements by service area. (Imp. 23.1)
- **Policy R-4.4: Park Dedications and Fees.** Continue funding park improvements through the Park Dedications and Fees Ordinance. (Imp. 23.5)
- **Policy R-4.5: Preservation of Recreational Uses.** Ensure continued protection of public parkland for recreational uses. (Imp. 23.9)
- **Policy R-4.6: Preservation of Parkland and Open Space.** Prevent, to the extent possible, any net loss of parkland and open space. (Imp. 23.9)
- **Policy R-4.7: Natural Watercourses and Drainage.** Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses and provide naturalized drainage channels within Newport Beach. Where feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation activities. (Imp. 23.6, 23.9)
- **Policy R-4.8: Usage and Need-Based Enhancements.** Evaluate park and recreational facility usage and needs to identify needed enhancements. (Imp. 23.3)

Goal R-5: Parks and recreational facilities that are adapted to meet a variety of needs for existing and future residents

- **Policy R-5.1: Evolving Recreational Needs.** Enhance recreational facilities to ensure adequate capacity for future user demands and adapt to evolving services and facility needs. (Imp. 23.2)
- **Policy R-5.2: Adaptive Parks.** Develop design standards for parks that are reasonably adaptive to extreme heat (e.g., shade, seating, water fountains). (Imp. 23.2)
- **Policy R-5.3: Retrofitted Park Facilities.** Continue efforts to expand accessibility and serve diverse populations by making reasonable efforts to retrofit existing facilities and encouraging development of new facilities that ensure adequate access for people with disabilities, in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. (Imp. 21.6, 23.2)
- **Policy R-5.4: Facility Design.** Develop reasonable design standards to ensure ADA-compliant facilities at parks, piers, trails, and public viewing areas for people who require mobility aids. (Imp. 21.6, 23.2)
- **Policy R-5.5: Flood Management.** Maintain reasonable flood management standards for development, public facilities, and infrastructure located within an officially designated 100-year floodplain. Use reasonable efforts to design development in a manner that does not negatively impede or redirect floodwaters or raise anticipated flood heights as identified by current applicable data. (Imp. 5.2, 8.2, 28.1)

- **Policy R-5.6 (S-10.1): Cooling Centers.** Use reasonable efforts to improve cooling centers with resilience improvements, such as battery backup power and amenities that help promote a sense of community and socialization. (Imp. 27.1)
- **Policy R-5.7 (S-10.5): Cool Pavement.** Review cool pavement technology effectiveness and consider a pilot cool pavement program to reduce the effects of extreme heat. (Imp. 16.3)
- **Policy R-5.8 (S-10.4): Shade Enhancements.** Evaluate the availability of shade in parks and the public right-of-way to identify areas that could be enhanced with more shade to improve the user experience on hot days. Public parks and active-transportation corridors should be prioritized for any identified enhancements. To the extent reasonable, evaluation could occur through the development of a Parks Master Plan or similar citywide effort or through a site-specific project such as a Capital Improvement Program project. (Imp. 20.1, 23.1, 23.3)
- **Policy R-5.9: Population-Based Park Needs.** Re-evaluate population projections to determine park and recreational needs for 2050. (Imp. 23.3)

Partnerships

Coordination with internal City departments and outside agencies and organizations creates opportunities to share resources, promotes effective communication, and can help facilitate the successful implementation of General Plan goals and policies. Moreover, such coordination can increase the quality of and access to parks and open space through integrated strategies and efficient use of resources.

There are several open space areas, preserves, and beaches within the boundaries of Newport Beach and the City's Sphere of Influence that are managed by the County of Orange, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Additionally, school facilities provide indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in Newport Beach on approximately 66 acres of Newport-Mesa Unified School District land, which are available to the public under joint-use agreements. These other types of recreational opportunities provide a significant resource for the community, and continued coordination between various City, County of Orange, and State departments and agencies ensures that these diverse recreational resources continue to serve the needs and enhance the quality of life for all residents of and visitors to Newport Beach.

Goal R-6: Established and well-maintained relationships to facilitate interagency and interorganizational coordination

- **Policy R-6.1: Existing Joint-Use Agreements.** Maintain and expand existing joint-use agreements with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for use of school recreational facilities as public parks to provide public access to play areas, pool facilities, gymnasiums, and sports fields. (Imp. 14.2)
- **Policy R-6.2: New Joint-Use Agreements.** Develop appropriate new, long-term, joint-use agreements with other public and private agencies to expand the use of non-City recreational facilities/amenities and supplement the parks and recreational needs of the community. (Imp. 14.2, 14.3, 14.8, 14.15)
- **Policy R-6.3: Trail Maintenance.** Continue collaborating with County of Orange and State agencies to maintain trails in public open space, such as Upper Newport Bay. (Imp. 14.3, 14.7, 14.8, 14.15)
- **Policy R-6.4: Maintenance of Existing Facilities.** Continue providing City facilities for City-operated recreational programs and other purposes. (Imp. 23.4)

- **Policy R-6.5: County and State Facilities and Services.** Continue efforts to protect and enhance recreational activities and support facilities at County of Orange and State beaches and parks in cooperation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and County of Orange. (Imp. 14.3, 14.7, 14.8)
- **Policy R-6.6: Interagency Coordination to Provide New Facilities.** Coordinate with the Orange County Community Resources Department (OC Parks) to provide facilities at Bayside Beach within Newport Harbor, where appropriate and feasible. (Imp. 14.3, 21.2)
- **Policy R-6.7: Interagency Coordination for the Randall Preserve.** Encourage interagency coordination to support planning efforts for the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve (formerly Banning Ranch). (Imp. 14.15)

Beach Recreation

Newport Beach has approximately 251 acres of public beach recreational areas, offering numerous opportunities for passive and active beach and coastal recreation. There are more than 8 miles of sandy beaches in Newport Beach that provide public facilities and opportunities for walking, sunbathing, volleyball, swimming, surfing, windsurfing, and other recreational activities. Maintaining physical access points and supportive facilities and services can help protect continued public beach access. Additionally, Newport Beach offers a diversity of water use opportunities to support recreation on Newport Bay and the wider Pacific Ocean. The recreational and boating activities include sailing and motorized and human-powered vessels. These water-dependent recreational and commercial activities and uses along the beaches and in Newport Bay are addressed, in part, in the Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element.

Goal R-7: Protection of public beach access

- **Policy R-7.1: Preservation of Public Beaches.** Use reasonable efforts to ensure the preservation and enhancement of public beaches for public recreation. (Imp. 14.6, 14.8, 23.2)
- **Policy R-7.2: Beach Access Assessment.** Conduct a periodic assessment of at-risk beach access points to determine risk of damage or impairment from coastal hazards, including flooding and erosion. (Imp. 5.2, 21.6, 23.3)
- **Policy R-7.3: Resilient Beach Access.** Adapt infrastructure for beach access points to be resilient to coastal hazards. (Imp. 21.5)
- **Policy R-7.4: Adequate Beach Access.** Maintain reasonable beach access points to continue providing adequate public access to the beach and coastal resources. (Imp. 21.6, 23.1)
- **Policy R-7.5: Maintained Beach Access.** Prioritize sites experiencing natural erosion for beach nourishment and replenishment, living shoreline restoration, and built structures as part of a comprehensive sea-level-rise adaptation plan. (Imp. 21.6, 23.1)
- **Policy R-7.6: Passive and Active Beach Recreation.** Provide opportunities for both passive and active beach recreation, prioritizing safe pedestrian activity. (Imp. 20.2, 23.2, 23.3)

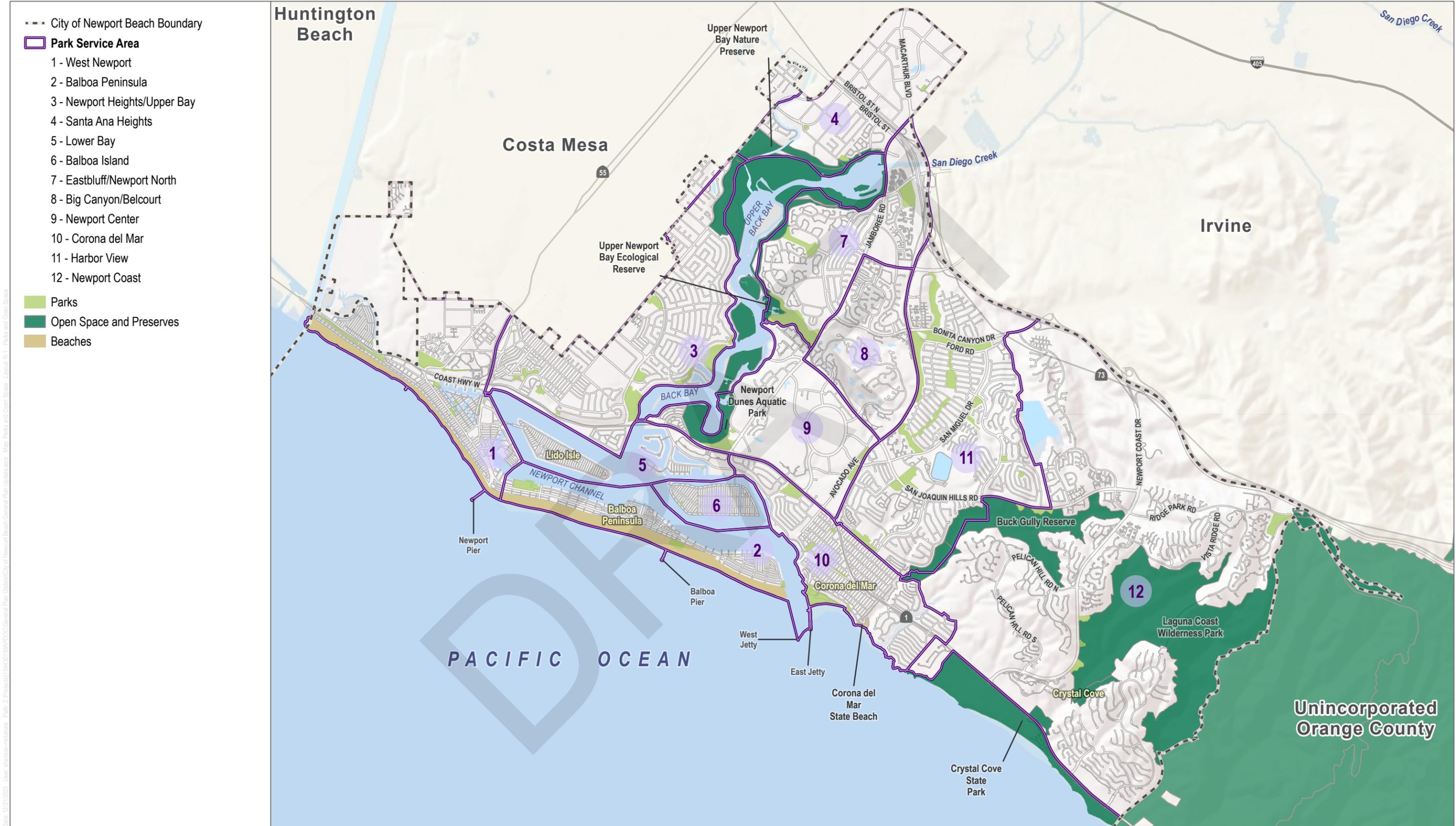
Support Facilities

Support facilities are an important aspect of providing parks and recreational spaces that are highly used and enjoyed by the community. Support facilities include restrooms, showers, lifeguard towers, parking, bicycle racks, and staffing. Providing and maintaining facilities needed to support varying parks and recreation spaces in Newport Beach can help ensure parks and open spaces are enjoyed by the community and provide a high-quality level of service.

Goal R-8: Adequate support facilities at parks and recreation areas

- **Policy R-8.1: Provision of Public Recreational Facilities and Services.** Provide reasonable and appropriate support facilities and services needed to serve recreational uses in parks, beaches, the harbor, and other open space areas, and to protect reasonable public access and recreation in coastal areas for residents and visitors. (Imp. 21.1, 21.4, 23.1)
- **Policy R-8.2: Adaptive Support Facilities.** Reasonably improve support facilities to ensure that they are adaptable to changing needs, interests, and demographics. (Imp. 23.2, 23.3)
- **Policy R-8.3: Upper Newport Bay Facility Needs.** Assess support facility needs in Upper Newport Bay to accommodate the needs of pedestrians and those using active forms of transportation. The assessment should specifically consider the need for restrooms and drinking fountains. (Imp. 23.3)

DRAFT



SOURCE: City of Newport Beach;



**R-1
Parks and Open Space**

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update



Date: 12/31/2025 User: ahanson-mcneide Path: Z:\Projects\1541307\MAP\DDOC\General Plan Update\City of Newport Beach\General Plan Update.aprx Map: Park Service Area Layout: Park Service Area

- City of Newport Beach Boundary
- Park Service Area
- Parks
- Beach

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach



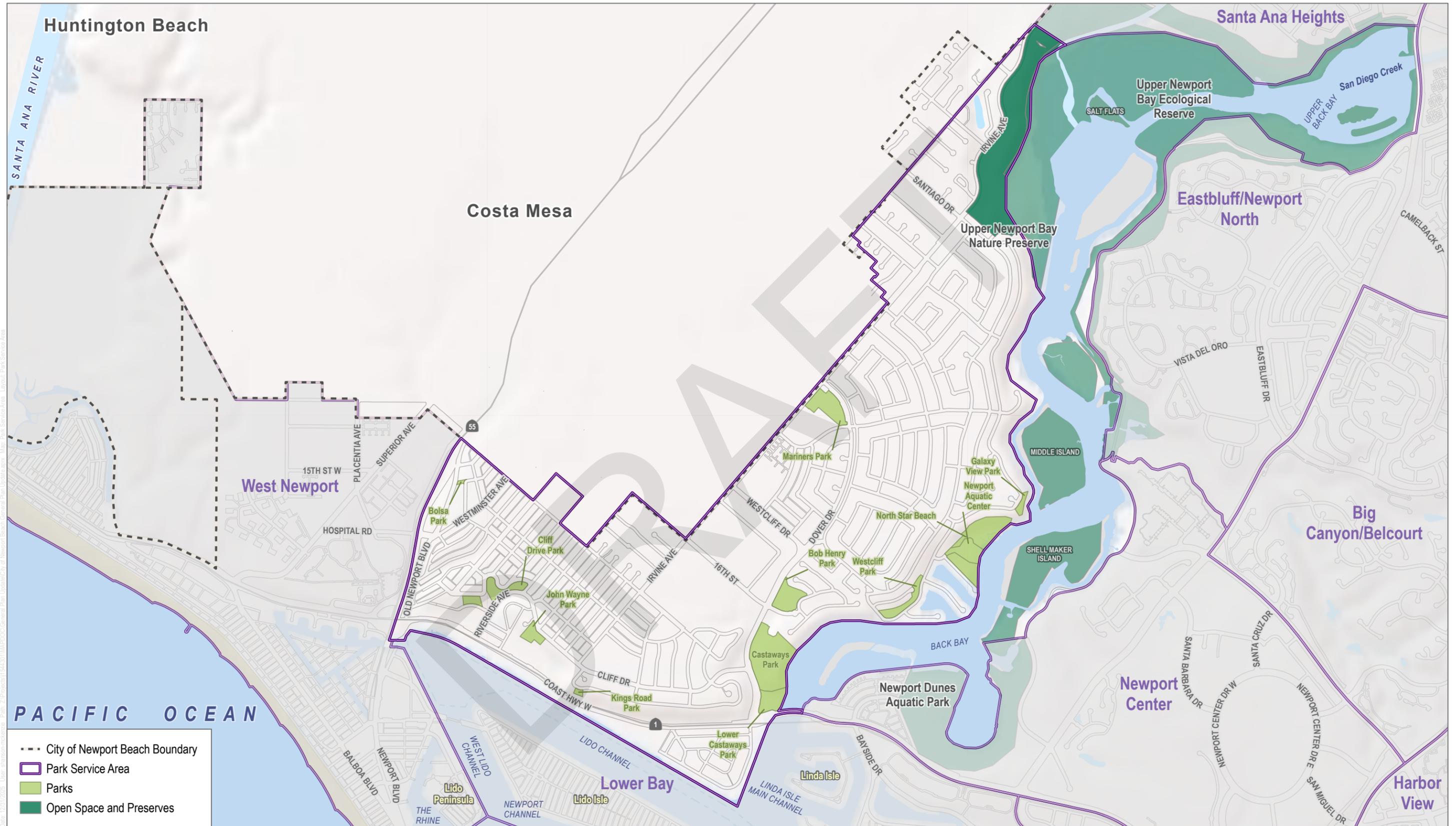


Date: 12/11/2025 User: ahanson-mckendrick Path: Z:\Projects\15430\1\MAP\DOC\General Plan Update\City of Newport Beach\General Plan Update.aprx Map: Park Service Area Layout: Park Service Area

	Park Service Area
	Parks
	Beach

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK   0 480 960 Feet

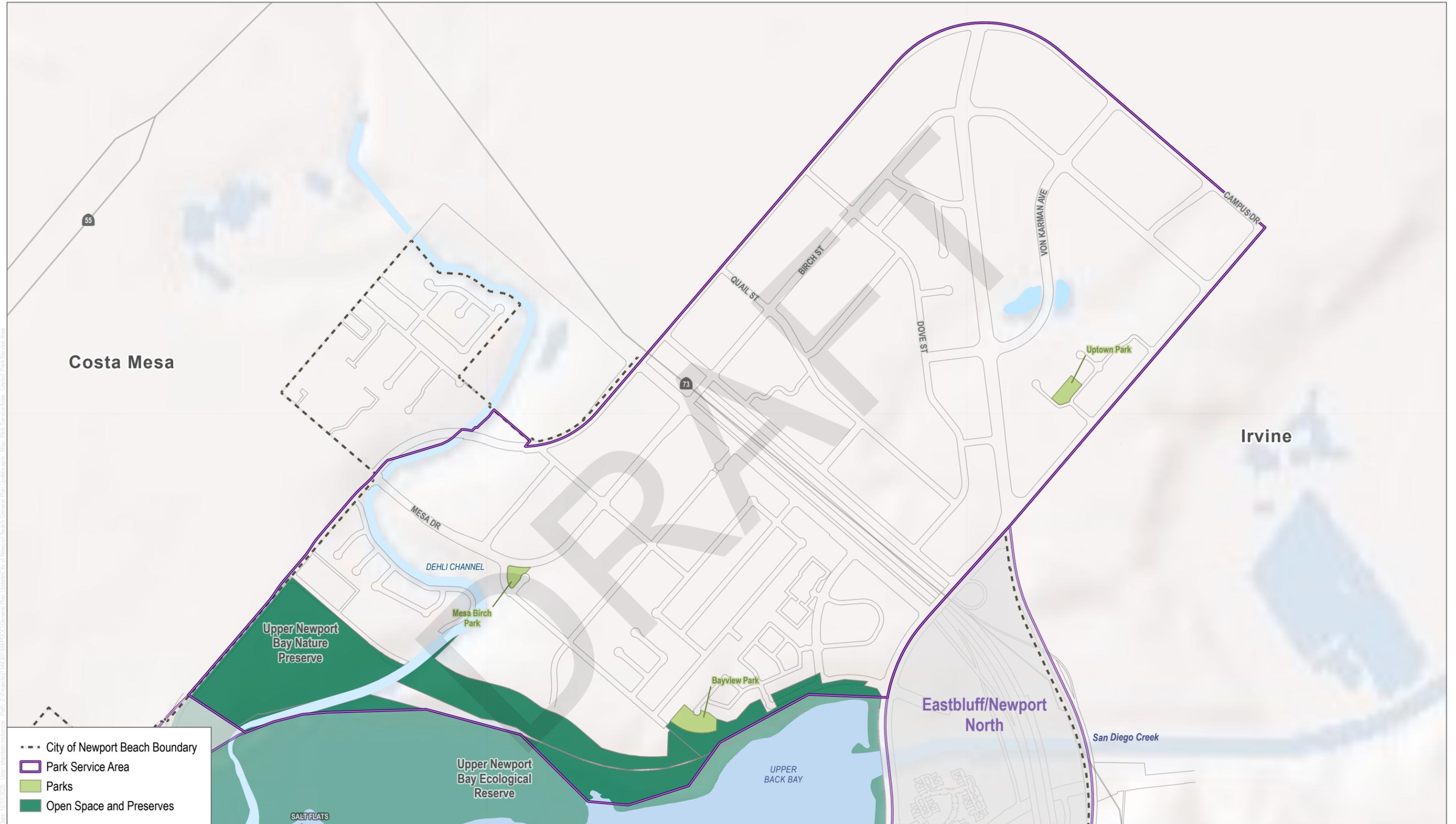


SOURCE: City of Newport Beach



R-4
Newport Heights/Upper Bay Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update



Date: 12/17/2025 User: ahanson-mcneil Path: Z:\Projects\154430\MAPDOC\General Plan Update\City of Newport Beach\General Plan Update.aprx Map: Park Service Area Layout: Park Service Area

- City of Newport Beach Boundary
- Park Service Area
- Parks
- Open Space and Preserves

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach





SOURCE: City of Newport Beach



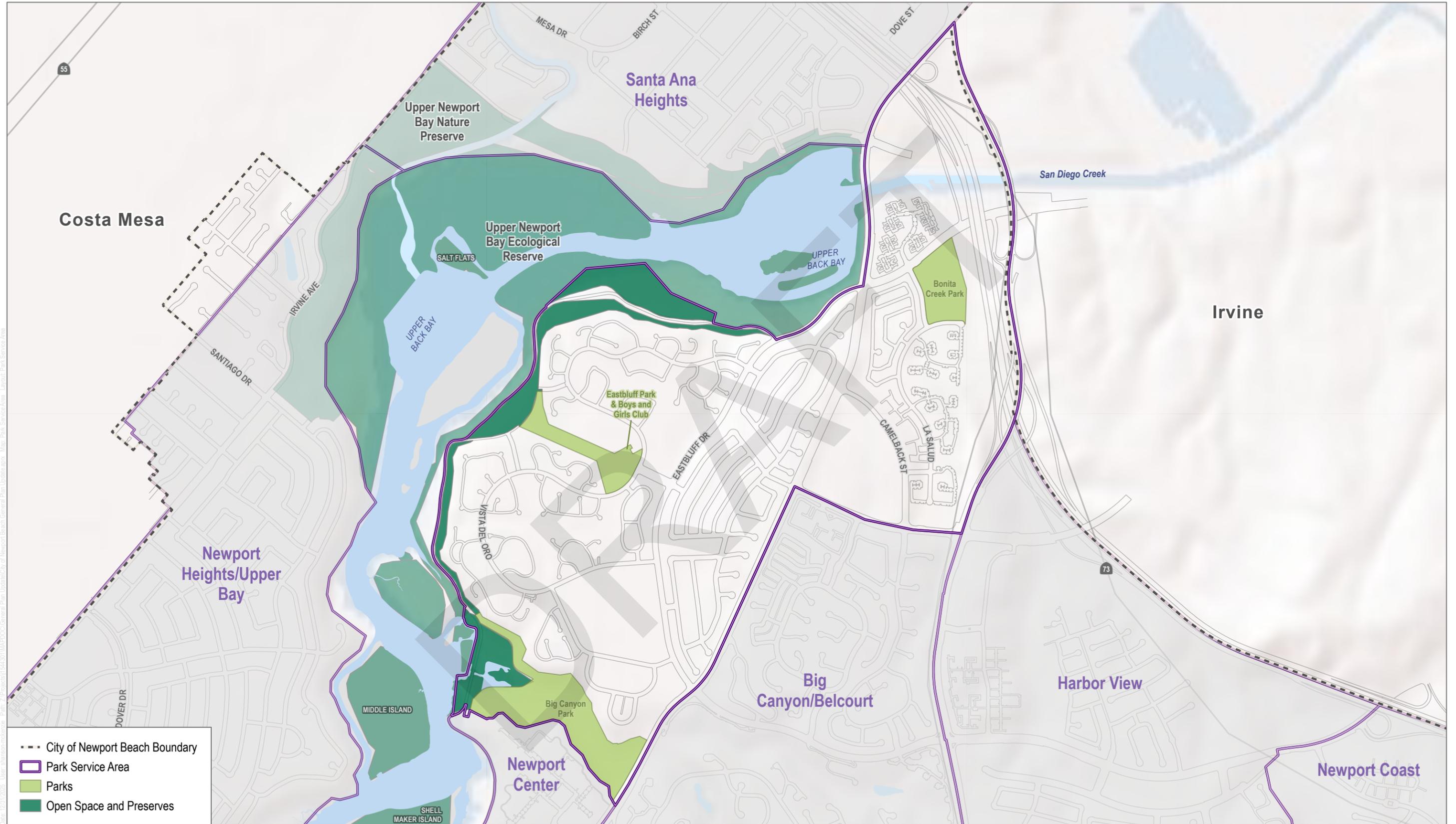
Date: 12/31/2025 User: ahanson-mckendrick Path: Z:\Projects\1544307\MAPDOC\General Plan Update\City of Newport Beach\General Plan Update.aprx Map: Park Service Area Layout: Park Service Area

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

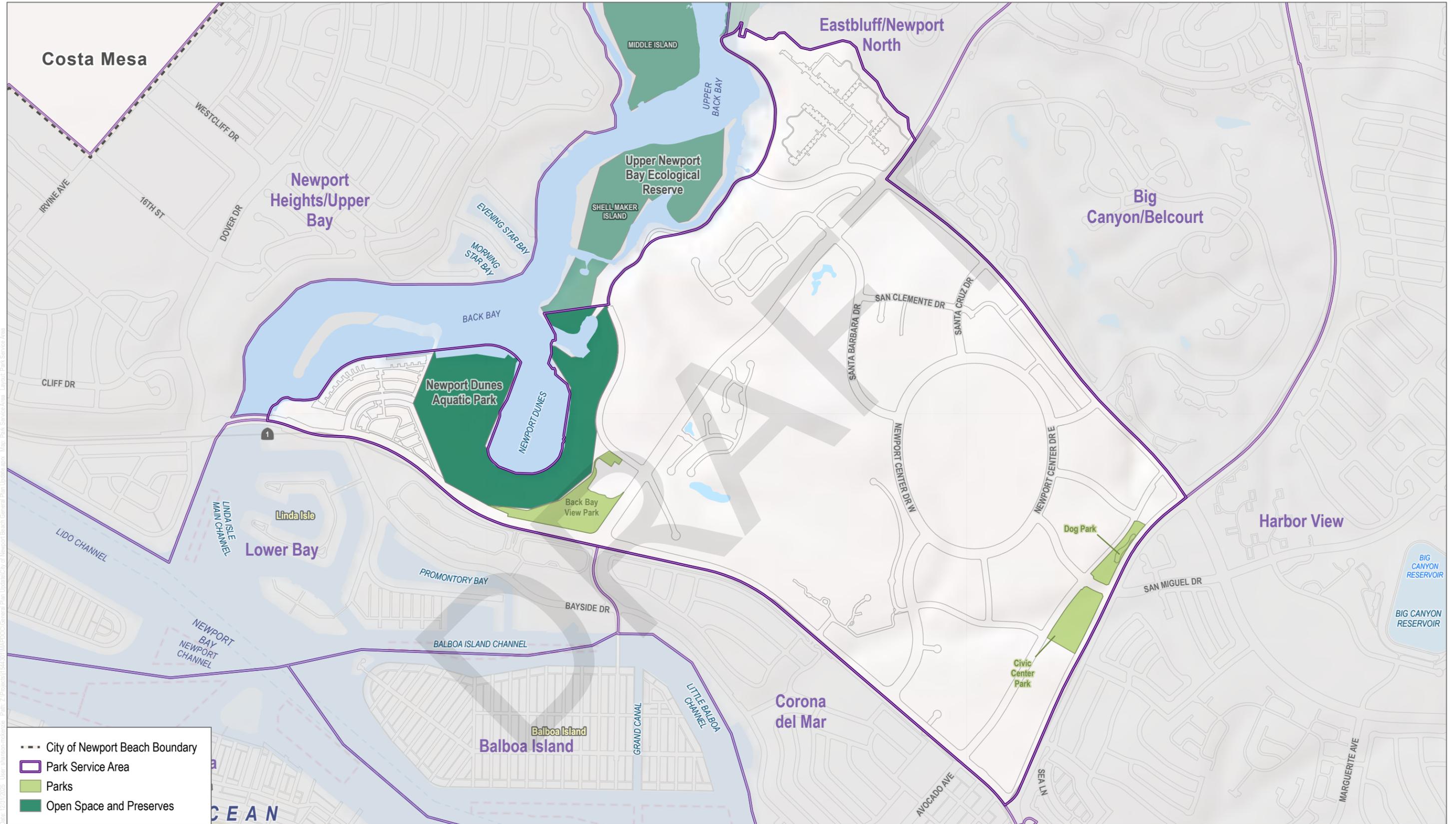


R-7 Balboa Island Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update



SOURCE: City of Newport Beach



- - - City of Newport Beach Boundary
 [Purple Outline] Park Service Area
 [Light Green] Parks
 [Dark Green] Open Space and Preserves

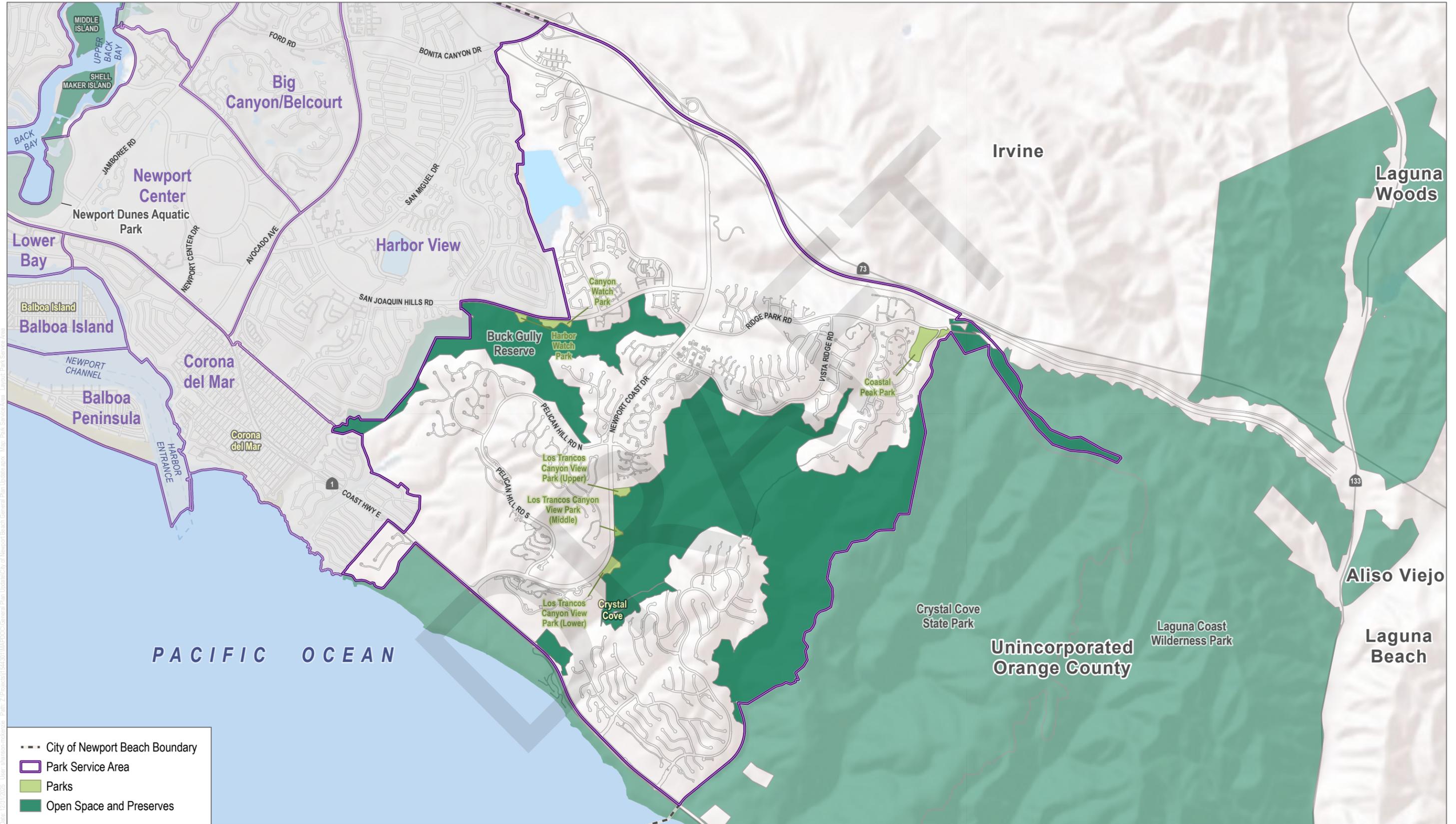
SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

 0 500 1,000 Feet



SOURCE: City of Newport Beach



SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

City Park Categories

Community Park
There are 16 Community Parks across 7 different service areas



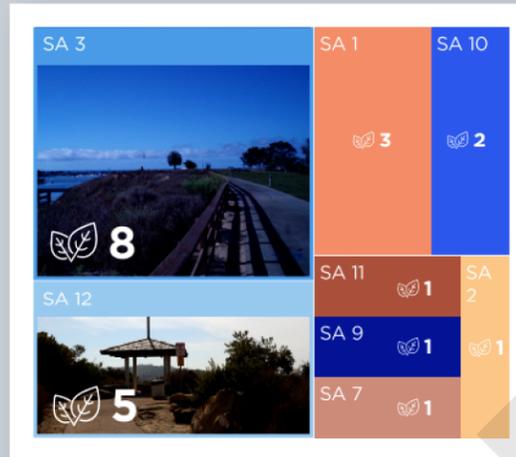
Neighborhood Park
There are 18 Neighborhood Parks across 9 different service areas



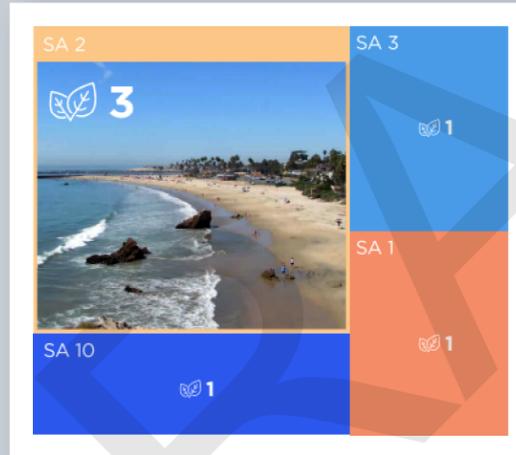
Mini Park
There are 14 Mini Parks across 7 different service areas



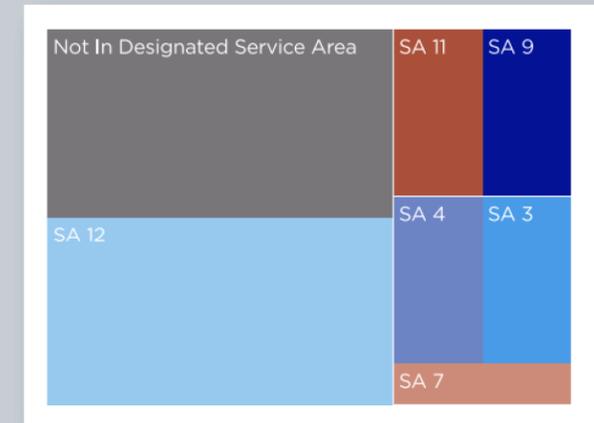
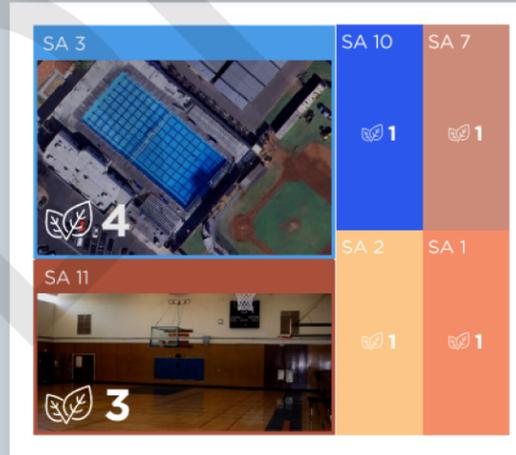
View Park
There are 22 View Parks across 8 different service areas



Public Beach
There are 6 Public Beaches across 4 different service areas



School
There are 10 School Recreation Facilities across 6 different service areas



Attachment D

Table of PB&R Commission Comments and Revisions

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 1, PB&R Commission Feedback – Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element			
Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-1: Local businesses and water-dependent commercial uses in the Newport Harbor area that are preserved to maintain and enhance the economic activity charm of the waterfront community	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-2: Minimized risk of displacement by coastal hazards	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-3: A harbor, bay, and beaches that attract tourism and maintain the character of coastal neighborhoods	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-4: Sufficient coastal infrastructure that protects coastal-dependent and public recreational uses and view corridors while matching the character of the surrounding development and protecting coastal and visual resources	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-5: Coordination among City, County of Orange, State, and Federal agencies having regulatory authority of Newport Harbor and Newport Bay	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-6: Maintenance and enhancement of deep-water channels to ensure they remain navigable by boats	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-7: Protection and restoration of beaches and dunes	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-8: Well-managed and economically productive harbor, bay, and beaches	N/A	N/A

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 1, PB&R Commission Feedback – Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element

Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-9: Cost-efficient servicing and managing of Newport Harbor	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-10: Safe and accessible beach and harbor access points	We believe the safety of people on foot versus motorized and other non-foot traffic should be a balancing factor in the Preamble to HBB-10 and where otherwise applicable. Especially in consideration of prioritizing safe access to parks, beaches, & other recreation facilities.	See Page HBB-8. A responsive sentence has been added to preamble as follows: “As active mobility opportunities are provided, safe pedestrian access should always be prioritized.”
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-11: Multifaceted and integrated coastal access	N/A	N/A
Harbor, Bay, and Beaches	HBB-12: Protection of the visual and ecological resources of Upper Newport Bay	Who exactly is the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee? Also, should the Newport Bay Conservancy be referenced as a coordinating entity in HBB-12.2 , as the Upper Newport Bay is their area of specialty and there is longstanding coordination with the City?	See Page HBB-10. Policy HBB-12.2 (Interagency Coordination) has been updated to remove references to specific groups to ensure the General Plan remains relevant.



City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 2, PB&R Commission Feedback – Natural Resources Element

Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Natural Resources	NR-1: Reduced transportation-related emissions to improve air quality	We believe the safety of people on foot versus motorized and other non-foot traffic should be a balancing factor in NR-1.1 (safety consideration in addition to promoting walkable & bikeable neighborhoods) and where otherwise applicable. Especially in consideration of prioritizing safe access to parks, beaches, & other recreation facilities.	See Page NR-2. Policy NR-1.1 (Safe Streets) has been revised as follows: “Promote walkable and bikeable neighborhoods that are safe for all users by providing amenities such as wayfinding, maintained sidewalks, bike lanes, secure bike and stroller parking, well-designed intersections, and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant infrastructure to support people of all abilities.”
Natural Resources	NR-2: Electric vehicle charging or other clean technology infrastructure to serve the growing share of clean-energy vehicles	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR 3: Reduced air pollution emissions from ground operations at John Wayne Airport Mineral and Oil Resources	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-4: Preparation for the orderly transition of oil and gas resources, as deemed appropriate	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-5: Increased electrification or use of renewable energy at public facilities to reduce gasoline and natural gas usage and emissions	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-6: Electrification or renewable energy incentives for existing buildings to reduce natural gas emissions	N/A	N/A

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 2, PB&R Commission Feedback – Natural Resources Element			
Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Natural Resources	NR-7: Native and naturalized non-invasive species habitats in parks and public open space	We like that the policies in this Goal highlight the importance and value of our Urban Forest. Additionally, we think it is important to recognize the threat of invasive species and the significance of their eventual removal.	No change needed.
Natural Resources	NR-8: Cooperation with State and Federal resource protection agencies and private organizations to protect terrestrial and marine resources	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-9: Community-driven initiatives for ecosystem conservation	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-10: Land use and development standards to conserve important ecosystem services and habitats	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-11: Coordination with relevant agencies to reduce pollutants of concern in Newport Bay	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-12: Enhanced green infrastructure to help prevent runoff into Newport Bay	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-13: Standards and programs to limit runoff of pollution to preserve water quality of groundwater sources	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-14: Minimized adverse effects to water quality from sanitary sewer outflows	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-15: Beach nourishment, sand retention, and sediment restoration projects	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-16: Reduced potable water use for landscaping on public lands	N/A	N/A

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 2, PB&R Commission Feedback – Natural Resources Element

Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Natural Resources	NR-17: Water-efficient landscaping incentives for private property	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-18: Viewsheds and corridors that are preserved	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-19: Minimized visual impacts of signs and utilities	N/A	N/A
Natural Resources	NR-20: Protection of archaeological and paleontological resources	N/A	N/A



City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 3, PB&R Commission Feedback – Recreation Element

Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Recreation	R-1: A community with high-quality recreation programs	N/A	N/A
Recreation	R-2: Programs for older adults that benefit and are used by residents	N/A	N/A
Recreation	R-3: New parks and connections that increase resident access to recreation, parks, and open space opportunities	Would it be relevant to include something about assessing the use of parks and how under-utilized areas might be repurposed for public use? (i.e. the back corner of Sunset Ridge Park behind the playground)	See Page R-7. New Policy R-4.8 (Usage and Need-Based Enhancements) added as follows: “Evaluate park and recreational facility usage and needs to identify needed enhancements.”
Recreation	R-4: Parks and recreation facilities that are preserved, upgraded, and well-maintained	We like the idea of promoting more dog parks. We believe this should have its own bullet point as opposed to being a part of Policy R-4.2. The bullet point prioritizing new dog parks might mention the frequency of infractions related to dogs off leash, dogs in protected areas, etc., and that additional dog parks would not only provide dogs a safe place to recreate, but reduce the dangers to people of dogs off leash and to wildlife and more of dogs in protected open spaces.	See Page R-6. New Policy R-3.10 (Dog Parks) added as follows: “Encourage the incorporation of dog parks to provide opportunities for residents to let their dogs off leash in protected areas.”
Recreation	R-5: Parks and recreational facilities that are adapted to meet a variety of needs for existing and future residents	Policy R-5.8: Use reasonable efforts to evaluate tree canopy cover in parks and the public right-of-way, considering shade and priority active transportation corridors. (Policy S-7.1.5) What is meant by this highlighted portion?	See Page R-7. Policy R-5.8 (Shade Enhancements) has been revised for clarity as follows: “Evaluate the availability of shade in parks and the public right-of-way to identify areas that could be enhanced with more shade to improve the user experience on hot days. Public parks and active-transportation corridors should be prioritized for any identified enhancements. To the extent reasonable, evaluation could occur through the development of a Parks Master Plan or similar citywide effort or through a site-specific project such as a Capital Improvement Program project.”

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Feedback
GPAC/GPUSC Revisions from December 3, 2025

Table 3, PB&R Commission Feedback – Recreation Element

Element	Goal/Section	Comment(s)	GPAC/GPUSC Revisions
Recreation	R-6: Established and well-maintained relationships to facilitate interagency and interorganizational coordination	N/A	N/A
Recreation	R-7: Protection of public beach access	We believe the safety of people on foot versus motorized and other non-foot traffic should be a balancing factor in the Preamble to R-7 and where otherwise applicable. Especially in consideration of prioritizing safe access to parks, beaches, & other recreation facilities.	See Page R-9. New Policy R-7.6 (Passive and Active Beach Recreation) has been added as follows: “Provide opportunities for both passive and active beach recreation, prioritizing safe pedestrian activity.”
Recreation	R-8: Adequate support facilities at parks and recreation areas	We like the recognition of the need for providing and maintaining support facilities in parks and recreational spaces in Policy R-8. We suggest specifically calling out the need for additional restrooms or porta potties and drinking fountains near the Upper Newport Bay where increasing numbers of people are traversing the streets and pathways on foot, bicycles, and other non-foot vehicles.	See Page R-9. New Policy R-8.3 (Upper Newport Bay Facility Needs) has been added as follows: “Assess support facility needs in Upper Newport Bay to accommodate the needs of pedestrians and those using active forms of transportation. The assessment should specifically consider the need for restrooms and drinking fountains.”

