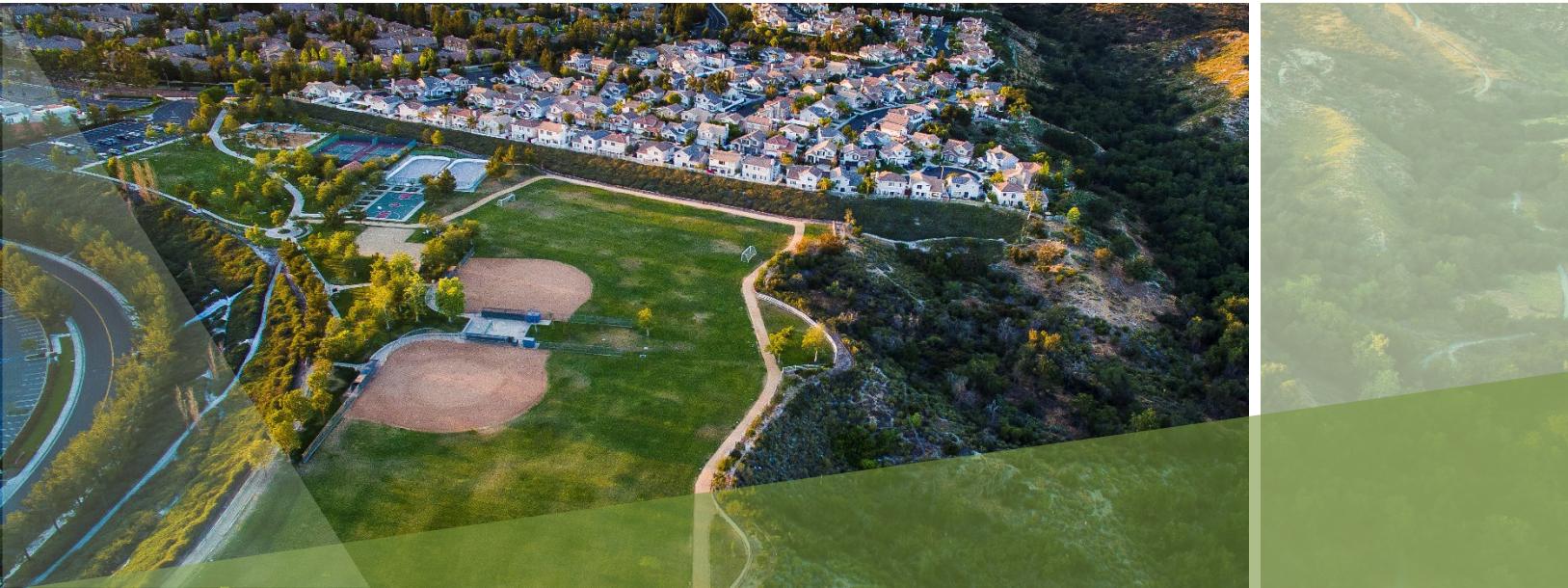




RECREATION AND RESOURCES

LAKE FOREST GENERAL PLAN 2040



Introduction to Recreation and Resources

Lake Forest's recreational amenities and natural resources form an important part of its unique character and quality of life. In our community, these resources include the City's parks and trails, natural open space areas, scenic vistas, and cultural, and biological, resources. It is important to understand, document, and appreciate these resources so that these valuable pieces of the community can be preserved and protected for future generations. Additionally, through the reduction of solid waste, Lake Forest can reduce impacts to local landfills and support a more sustainable future. The City also supports local and regional efforts to improve air quality and expand multimodal transportation options which can help create a healthier environment for Lake Forest residents.

Organization of Element

The Recreation and Resources Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to Lake Forest. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- *Parks and Recreation*
- *Open Space and Scenic Beauty*
- *Cultural Resources*
- *Air Qualtiy*
- *Biological Resources*
- *Solid Waste Management and Recycling*

Contents:

- + Parks and Recreation
- + Open Space and Scenic Beauty
- + Cultural Resources
- + Air Qualty
- + Biological Resources
- + Solid Waste Management and Recycling

GOAL RR-1 PARKS AND RECREATION

A community with high-quality parks and recreational amenities.

Policies

- RR-1.1 **Recreation Types.** Offer residents a wide variety of public and private recreational lands, facilities, trails, and recreational amenities to foster a comprehensive system for residents that is usable for a diverse community.
- RR-1.2 **Proximity.** Strive for and maintain a public park and trail system that is accessible to all parts of the City.
- RR-1.3 **Acreage Requirements.** Maintain the City adopted standard for park space acreage at 5.0 acres for every 1,000 residents; require all new development projects to satisfy this standard.
- RR-1.4 **Design and Maintenance.** Implement established design, construction, and facility maintenance standards to ensure that existing and future City amenities are of high quality in regard to safety, utility, and aesthetic quality.
- RR-1.5 **Innovative Design.** Maintain and update design standards for City parks and trails based on proven best practices and innovations in public safety, active transportation, and recreation planning.
- RR-1.6 **Maximized Use.** Maximize the utilization of existing parks, recreational facilities, and open space within Lake Forest.
- RR-1.7 **Trail System.** Maintain park and open space connectivity by expanding the integrated system of trails within Lake Forest to connect local bikeways, equestrian trails, and hiking trails to regional trails, open space areas, residential neighborhoods, employment centers, and mixed-use activity centers.
- RR-1.8 **Funding.** Continue to pursue funding from established sources and explore non-traditional funding options and innovative partnerships to bolster and support the development, improvement, and maintenance of City parks and recreational amenities.
- RR-1.9 **Landscaping.** Protect local and regional resources by fortifying new parks and recreational development with sustainable drought-tolerant landscaping.
- RR-1.10 **Accessibility.** Require that any park construction and any new development on existing park facilities meet the accessibility standards defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and playground safety requirements (Senate Bill 2733).
- RR-1.11 **Public Input.** Promote a high level of public outreach regarding park and recreation opportunities and facility design in Lake Forest.

GOAL RR-2 OPEN SPACE AND SCENIC BEAUTY

A community that protects and manages natural open space areas to allow for scenic beauty and community enjoyment.

Policies

- RR-2.1 **Open Space Boundaries.** Maintain the amount of existing open space within the City of Lake Forest by carefully considering the impact of new development in established open space areas.
- RR-2.2 **Regional Open Space.** Coordinate with regional actors to maintain and preserve open space areas under overlapping jurisdiction or within nearby communities to protect all local and regional opportunities for recreation available to Lake Forest residents.
- RR-2.3 **Scenic Resources.** Protect Lake Forest's scenic resources, including scenic corridors along roads and views of the hillsides, prominent ridgelines, canyons, and other significant natural features, to the extent practical.
- RR-2.4 **Education.** Work with state, federal, and community partners to develop educational and other materials that promote the preservation and conservation of Lake Forest's natural resources

Policy Set Review Draft

GOAL RR-3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

A community that values its history and preserves its cultural features to bolster community identity and protect sensitive resources.

Policies

- RR-3.1 **Preservation.** Protect areas of important historic, archaeological, and paleontologic resources.
- RR-3.2 **County of Orange Coordination.** Work with the County of Orange to preserve local historic resources, conserve historical assets within the City, and allow for local community events to occur at these special locations.
- RR-3.3 **Development.** Require projects with a potential to impact archeological or paleontological resources to be monitored by a relevant expert. In the event of a resource discovery, require all ground disturbing and construction to be halted until a qualified expert is able to analyze the project site and determine appropriate mitigation.
- RR-3.4 **Tribal Consultation.** Consult with Native American tribes that may be impacted by proposed development, as necessary, in accordance with state, local, and tribal intergovernmental consultation requirements.

GOAL RR-4 AIR QUALITY

A community with optimal air quality for its residents.

Policies

- RR-4.1 **Regional Standards.** Coordinate planning efforts with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to meet local and regional air quality standards and ensure attainment of established goals.
- RR-4.2 **Land Use Planning.** Utilize land-use planning techniques to reduce traffic congestion and promote alternative modes of transportation for the community.
- RR-4.3 **Development.** Encourage and incentivize the development of mixed-use residential opportunities and live-work environments within the City to lessen the impacts of traffic congestion on local air quality.
- RR-4.4 **Active Transportation.** Improve active transportation options within the City by connecting local bikeways and trails to City bus stops and public transportation centers.
- RR-4.5 **Public Transit.** Coordinate with the OCTA and actively pursue the improvement and expansion of public transit for Lake Forest residents.
- RR-4.6 **Sensitive Receptors.** Insulate sensitive receptors from areas of heightened air quality pollution, including highways, by utilizing land use planning to buffer and protect residential areas.
- RR-4.7 **Mitigation.** Require the implementation of relevant mitigation measures for all future development upon identification of potential air quality impacts.
- RR-4.8 **Public Engagement.** Establish programs to inform the public on regional air quality concerns and encourage the engagement of all Lake Forest residents in future planning decisions related to air quality.

GOAL RR-5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A community that harmoniously coexists with existing plant and animal life.

Policies

- RR-5.1 **City Programs.** Promote City programs that focus on habitat maintenance and biological conservation.
- RR-5.2 **Regional Coordination.** Coordinate with county and state departments and local non-profits to protect and preserve biologic resources in Lake Forest.
- RR-5.3 **Sensitive Communities.** Protect and conserve Lake Forest's biological resources, with a special focus on sensitive, rare, or endangered plant and wildlife species in accordance with state and federal resource agency requirements.
- RR-5.4 **Habitat Conservation.** Support habitat conservation efforts to set aside and preserve suitable habitats, with priority given to habitats for rare and endangered species in Lake Forest in accordance with state and federal resource agency requirements.
- RR-5.5 **Native Species.** Encourage new development to preserve existing native vegetation where possible and integrate regionally native plant species.
- RR-5.6 **Wildlife Corridors.** Participate in the planning of drainage channels, ridgelines, and other areas that provide potential wildlife linkages between open space areas in the community and the vicinity.
- RR-5.7 **Development.** Require that all new development identify potential impacts to existing biological resources and provide mitigation measures as necessary pursuant to CEQA in order to protect these resources from negative externalities.
- RR-5.8 **Local Coordination.** Coordinate with private and public organizations within the region to implement strategies and programs that protect and preserve biological resources within Lake Forest.
- RR-5.9 **Human Interaction.** In areas where residents and sensitive biological resources interact, establish protective policies and/or implement design features to protect and insulate biological resources from human impacts.
- RR-5.10 **Urban Forest.** Build upon existing streetscapes and develop an urban forest along the City's major corridors and in residential neighborhoods to provide avian habitat, sequester carbon monoxide emissions, foster pedestrian activity, and provide shade. The City's "urban forest" refers to all public- and privately-owned trees, vegetation, and landscaping throughout Lake Forest which provide a range of benefits to the community, including reduced energy use, cooling along streets and sidewalks, improved air and water quality, diversification of wildlife habitat, and increased health and well-being.
- RR-5.11 **Education and Appreciation.** With community partners, support a range of educational programs that cultivate an appreciation of Lake Forest's natural environment and biological resources.

GOAL RR-6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING

A community that minimizes the generation and disposal of waste to landfills through recycling and participation in waste diversion programs.

Policies

- RR-6.1 **Compliance with State Legislation.** Comply with Assembly Bill 939 source reduction and recycling requirements of 50 percent diversion of solid waste from landfills and strive to partner, plan for, and document compliance with Assembly Bill 341 source reduction, recycling, and composting requirements of 75 percent by 2020.
- RR-6.2 **Compliance with Regional Plans.** Reduce the per capita production of solid waste in Lake Forest in concert with the County of Orange source reduction and recycling plans for reducing solid waste.
- RR-6.3 **Waste Service Performance Collection Facilities.** Support efforts of the solid waste service provider to maintain adequate residential, commercial, and industrial solid waste and mixed recycling collection service levels and solid waste facilities in accordance with state law, and periodically review waste collection performance to verify adequacy of service.
- RR-6.4 **Landfill Capacity.** Continue to coordinate with the County of Orange to ensure adequate landfill capacity in the region.
- RR-6.5 **Municipal Waste.** Increase the City's role in the source reduction and recycling components of waste management through recycling programs at City facilities to reduce the quantity of City-generated waste.
- RR-6.6 **Fees and Funding.** Work with the solid waste service provider to periodically review collection, recycling, and disposal fees to achieve state and federal mandates, meet community expectations, and reflect cost efficiencies or increases for service delivery.
- RR-6.7 **Hazardous Waste.** Promote the proper disposal of hazardous waste—including paint, tires, medications, medical sharps, infectious waste, asbestos waste, construction waste, and electronic waste; encourage materials to be recycled or disposed of in a manner that is safe for the environment, residents, and visitors to Lake Forest.
- RR-6.8 **Organic Waste.** Explore opportunities to collect and compost organic matter, including grass clippings, landscaping, Christmas trees, composting and mulch, and other sources of organic waste; when feasible distribute for use in parks, medians, and other municipal areas
- RR-6.9 **Public Education.** Promote citywide educational programs to inform citizens of the benefits of recycling and appropriate recycling options and locations.