3.12 RECREATION

As a result of the analysis undertaken in the Initial Study for the Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) determined that the proposed project may result in environmental impacts to recreation. Therefore, this issue is being carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIR. This analysis was undertaken to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate potential significant impacts recreation facilities as well as to identify potential alternatives.

The analysis of recreation includes a description of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, existing conditions of the proposed project area, thresholds for determining if the proposed project would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. The potential impacts to recreation has been analyzed in accordance with the methodologies provided by the Los Angeles Community College District, County of Los Angeles General Plan, City of Los Angeles General Plan, published maps, the available information from the City of Los Angeles.

3.12.1 SETTING

3.12.1.1 Regulatory Setting

As a state agency the District Board of Trustees may adopt a resolution to exempt the project from local zoning ordinance requirements pursuant to Government Code Section 53094. Local policy and regulation is provided as a courtesy.

Local

County of Los Angeles General Plan

The County of Los Angeles General Plan was prepared in 1980, with several Elements being revised and updated in subsequent years. The Streamlined General Plan is a document that was prepared by Los Angeles County in January 1993 to provide a simplified version of the General Plan, and ease user access to its key components. The General Plan also contains guidelines for major planning areas which link county wide policies to the policies of cities and unincorporated communities. The Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan was last updated in 1986 and sets forth countywide policy for open space related resources within the County.

The Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element contain two sections. The first section addresses natural resources, such as air, water, soils, biotic, and mineral resources. The policies of this section of the Element are based on the need to conserve

---

natural amenities, protect against natural hazards, and meet the public’s desire for open space experiences. This portion of the Element places special emphasis on hillside protection and the protection of significant ecological areas. The second section addresses regional recreation areas. Applicable policies from Section I: Conservation and Open Space include the following:

- Policy 8: Preserve significant ecological areas by appropriate measures, including preservation, mitigation, and enhancement.
- Policy 13: Protect watershed, streams, and riparian vegetation to minimize water pollution, soil erosion and sedimentation, maintain natural habitats, and aid in ground water recharge.

Applicable policies from Section II: Regional Recreation Areas Plan includes the following:

- Policy 2: Provide diverse recreational opportunities.
- Policy 3: Coordinate efforts with other jurisdictions in the County to determine present and future needs for regional recreation areas and facilities.\(^2\)

### County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2010

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2010, was prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation in May 1992. This plan presents an assessment of existing park acreage and future recreation needs; the goals, objectives, and policies for appropriate future action; and development of conclusions based on needs, goals and public involvement to guide the future direction of parks and recreation within Los Angeles County. The overall goal of this plan is to improve the quality of leisure and environment within Los Angeles County. The objectives that are relevant to the project and/or the project site include:

1) To strive to acquire parklands that will achieve both local and regional county standards; and

2) To encourage community involvement in all phases of park planning.\(^3\)

### City of Los Angeles General Plan

The Framework Element of the City’s General Plan defines goals, objectives, and policies for the provision of recreational amenities to serve residents of the City. The objectives and policies relevant to the project and/or the project site were created to

---


\(^3\) County of Los Angeles, Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2010, Department of Parks and Recreation, adopted May 1992.
promote the City’s overall recreation goal of providing sufficient accessible parkland and recreation opportunities in every neighborhood of the City thereby giving all residents the opportunity to enjoy green spaces, athletic activities, social activities, and passive recreation.\(^4\)

**Sylmar Community Plan**

The Sylmar Community Plan defines goals, objectives, and policies for the provision of recreational amenities to serve residents of the City. Those relevant to the project and/or project site promote conservation, maintenance, and better utilization of existing recreation and park facilities, the use of the appropriate public lands for open space purposes, as well as support the improvement of existing recreational facilities and park space.\(^5\)

3.12.1.2 Environmental Setting

A total of eight parks exist within a 2.5-mile radius that serves both the community of Sylmar and the nearby City of San Fernando. (Figure 3.12-1 *Local and Regional Parks*) These eight parks are:

1- El Cariso Community Regional Park  
2- Veterans Memorial County Park  
3- Wilson Canyon Park  
4- Sylmar Park  
5- Layne Park  
6- Pioneer Park  
7- Recreation Park  
8- Hubert Humphrey Memorial Park

Of these parks, two community parks and two regional parks are located in the Sylmar Community Plan area in which the project site is located. The two community parks are Stetson Ranch Equestrian Park consisting of 28.86 acres and Sylmar Recreation Center consisting of 19.65-acres. The two regional parks, described below, are El Cariso Community Regional Park and Veterans Memorial Community Regional Park, both owned and operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Veterans Memorial Community Regional Park**

Veterans Memorial Community Regional County Park is located approximately one mile from the project site. Veterans Memorial Community Regional County Park is 96.5 acres in size and includes play equipment, picnic areas, disc golf course areas, and a community Cultural Arts Center building.

\(^4\) City of Los Angeles. 2001. *City of Los Angeles, General Plan Framework.* Available at: http://www.ci.la.ca.us/lacity79.htm

\(^5\) City of Los Angeles. *Sylmar Community Plan.* Available at: http://www.ci.la.ca.us/PLN/complan/valley/sylplan.htm
Figure 3.12-1
El Cariso Community Regional County Park

El Cariso Community Regional County Park is located directly north of the existing LAMC campus, consists of 79 acres, and contains a mix of recreational uses. There are four softball fields, two multi-purpose fields (each field is approximately 125,000 sf) located between and on the softball outfields, and one baseball field with one multi-purpose field located on the outfield. The park also contains outdoor basketball courts, picnic area, children’s play equipment, a swimming pool, tennis courts, passive pedestrian pathways, and a community building. Several organized recreation teams currently utilize the fields at El Cariso Community Regional Park. Coed, men’s, and women’s softball teams practice play on three of the four softball fields. During summer and fall months, the multi-purpose fields are utilized for tackle football and cheerleading practice during the weekdays (6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Park Needs

According to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about half the students in Los Angeles participate in one or more team sports during the year. Based on the national Census Bureau’s 2000 survey, that statistic translates into approximately one million students in the County of Los Angeles between the ages of 5 and 18 who take part in an organized team sport each year.

Based upon the County-wide population estimates, the required number of acres of regional parkland for the County is 39,883 acres. There are 26,586 acres of regional parkland, which leaves a regional park deficiency of 13,296 acres. Currently, there are six new parks being planned, which together total 2,692 acres, each one being more than 100 acres in size. In addition, there are currently 18 parks under construction, either under expansion or development. The completion of the development of these new parks and construction projects will add additional park acreage for regional recreational service.

The City of Los Angeles General Plan has established a parkland-to-population ratio of five acres per 1,000 residents. According to the City of Los Angeles Census 2000 Statistical Profile, the current Sylmar Community Plan area population estimate of 69,624 together with the planned standard of 5.0 acres per 1,000 population results in an existing parkland requirement of 348.1 acres. Parkland acreage for the Sylmar Community Plan area total 313.01 acres. Therefore, based on the City’s standard, a

---

6 United States Department of health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health, YRBSS: Youth Online, available at: www.apps.nccd.cdc.gov/YRBSS
7 http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html
Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

parkland deficit of 35 acres presently exists in the Sylmar Community Plan area in which the project is located.

3.12.2 Significance Thresholds

The LACCD uses the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criteria to determine the significance of an impact. The project would have a significant impact on recreation if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or

- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment.

3.12.3 Environmental Impact Analysis

3.12.3.1 Construction Impacts

Construction of the proposed project within the existing LAMC campus would involve site preparation activities including grading and excavation, as well as removal of temporary facilities and construction of permanent facilities. These activities would occur on the campus during weekdays and would not restrict parking for, or access to, the recreational facilities adjacent to the LAMC campus, nor would staging of construction equipment or activities occur within any parkland or recreational facility. Each construction location within the LAMC campus would be secured with temporary fencing to separate the construction activity on campus from the adjacent El Cariso Community Regional Park. Construction crews working on the LAMC campus would not use the adjacent El Cariso Community Regional County Park in such a manner that any physical deterioration of facilities would occur. As such, construction would not result in a loss of open space/parkland or organized recreation opportunities. No construction impacts on recreation would occur.

3.12.3.2 Operational Impacts

The LAMC campus and Harding Street property are not classified by the City or County as parkland. Therefore, the increased development of these sites associated with the project would not result in direct impacts associated with the loss of parkland or loss of organized recreational opportunities.

The proposed development would not include residential development and therefore, would not result in an indirect demand for open space and recreational facilities that would be triggered by an increased residential population to the community. Development of the project would result in an increase of on-site employees and students.
However, since most of these employees and students would already be local residents, their increased attendance at the school as a result of the project would not be expected to increase demand for local City or County parkland. The LAMC project is in response to the current local population as well as forecasted population and projected community college needs. Therefore, the LAMC project would not draw a new population or outside population to the local parks. In addition, LAMC has no plans to utilize El Cariso Community Regional Park for instructional activities, including sports, and therefore an increase in organized recreational demand is not anticipated to occur. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not increase the demand on existing local parks and recreational facilities. As a result, a less than significant impact is anticipated and no mitigation measures would be required.

3.12.3.3 Cumulative Impacts

Development of several of the related projects identified may result in the need for additional recreational uses within the Sylmar community; specifically those projects proposing residential development. Since, the proposed project is a “responsive project” - in that it is in response to projected student and community needs - the proposed LAMC project would not pose an impact to recreational facilities; and therefore would not add to any proposed or anticipated impact. It is assumed that planned housing development projects would pose an impact an increase in demand on local parks; however, the LAMC project would not add to these anticipated impacts, since the LAMC project will serve the existing community population. In addition, all planned development projects; including the LAMC project would need to comply with the Sylmar Community Plan in regards to demand on recreational facilities. The LAMC project would not add a cumulative impact or demand on recreational facilities.

3.12.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts to recreation are anticipated. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.12.5 Level of Significance after Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.