Recreation Element

PURPOSE

This 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. 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 151 acres of parkland.
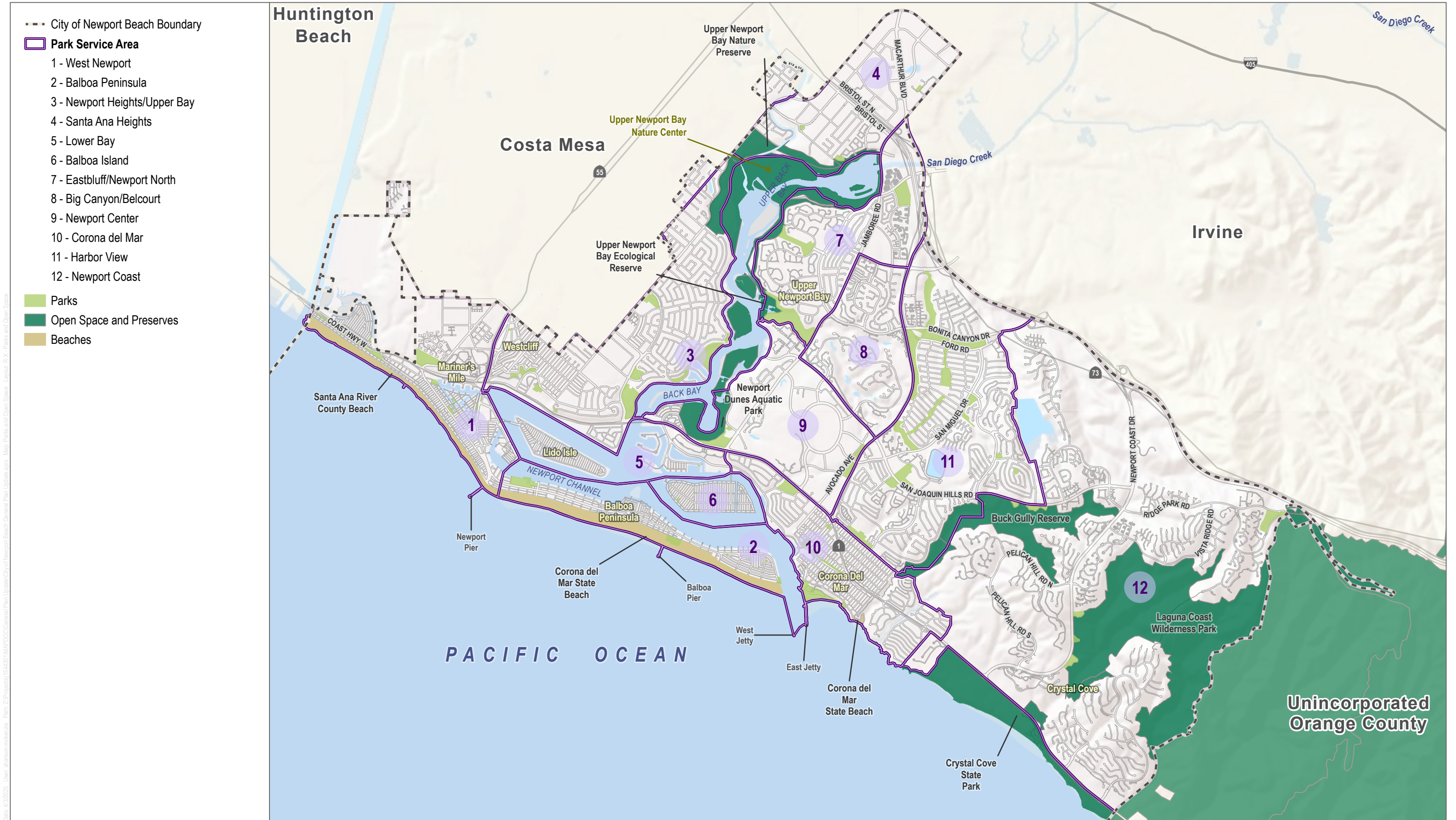
For the purposes of planning parks in a manner that meets the geographic needs of residents, the City divided Newport Beach into 12 park service areas for which the City administers parkland dedications and fees provided by residential development. When the City's parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 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	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

Legend

Huntington Beach

Costa Mesa

Irvine

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Upper Newport Bay Nature Center

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Upper Newport Bay

Santa Ana River County Beach

Mariner's Mile

Westcliff

BACK BAY

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Bonita Canyon Dr / Ford Rd

San Miguel Dr

San Joaquin Hills Rd

Buck Gully Reserve

Lido Isle

NEWPORT CHANNEL

Balboa Peninsula

Newport Pier

Corona del Mar State Beach

Balboa Pier

West Jetty

East Jetty

Corona Del Mar

Corona del Mar State Beach

Pelican Hill Rd N

Pelican Hill Rd S

Crystal Cove

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Ridge Park Rd

Vista Ridge Rd

Newport Coast Dr

Unincorporated Orange County

Crystal Cove State Park

San Diego Creek

San Diego Creek

PACIFIC OCEAN

COAST HWY W

AVOCADO AVE

MACARTHUR BLVD

BRISTOL ST N / BRISTOL ST

JAMBOREE RD

Parks and Open Space

Huntington Beach

Costa Mesa

SANTA ANA RIVER

HUNTINGTON CHANNEL

PACIFIC OCEAN

Newport Shores Park

Santa Ana River County Beach

West Newport Park

Channel Place Park

Sunset Ridge Park

HOSPITAL RD

Sunset View Park

15TH ST W

PLACENTIA AVE

SUPERIOR AVE

WESTMINSTER AVE

Westcliff

OLD NEWPORT BLVD

55

Mariner's Mile

Newport Heights/Upper Bay

RIVERSIDE AVE

IRVINE AVE

WESTCLIFF DR

16TH ST

DOVER DR

SANTIAGO DR

IRVINE AVE

Santa Ana River County Beach

Lake Ave Park

Newport Island Park

38th Street Park

Gateway Park

Lido Park

Rhine Wharf Park

Lido Peninsula

WEST LIDO CHANNEL

COAST HWY W

CLIFF DR

LIDO CHANNEL

BACK BAY

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Newport Center

Lido Isle

Linda Isle

LINDA ISLE MAIN CHANNEL

Lower Bay

BAYSIDE DR

THE RHINE

NEWPORT BLVD

BALBOA BLVD

NEWPORT CHANNEL

NEWPORT BAY

Balboa Peninsula

BALBOA BLVD W

Corona del Mar State Beach

Balboa Island

BALBOA ISLAND CHANNEL

Corona del Mar State Beach

Legend
- - - City of Newport Beach Boundary
- Park Service Area
- Parks
- Beaches - Parks_OS_UF

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

N

0   500   1,000
Feet

West Newport Park Service Area
City of Newport Beach General Plan Update
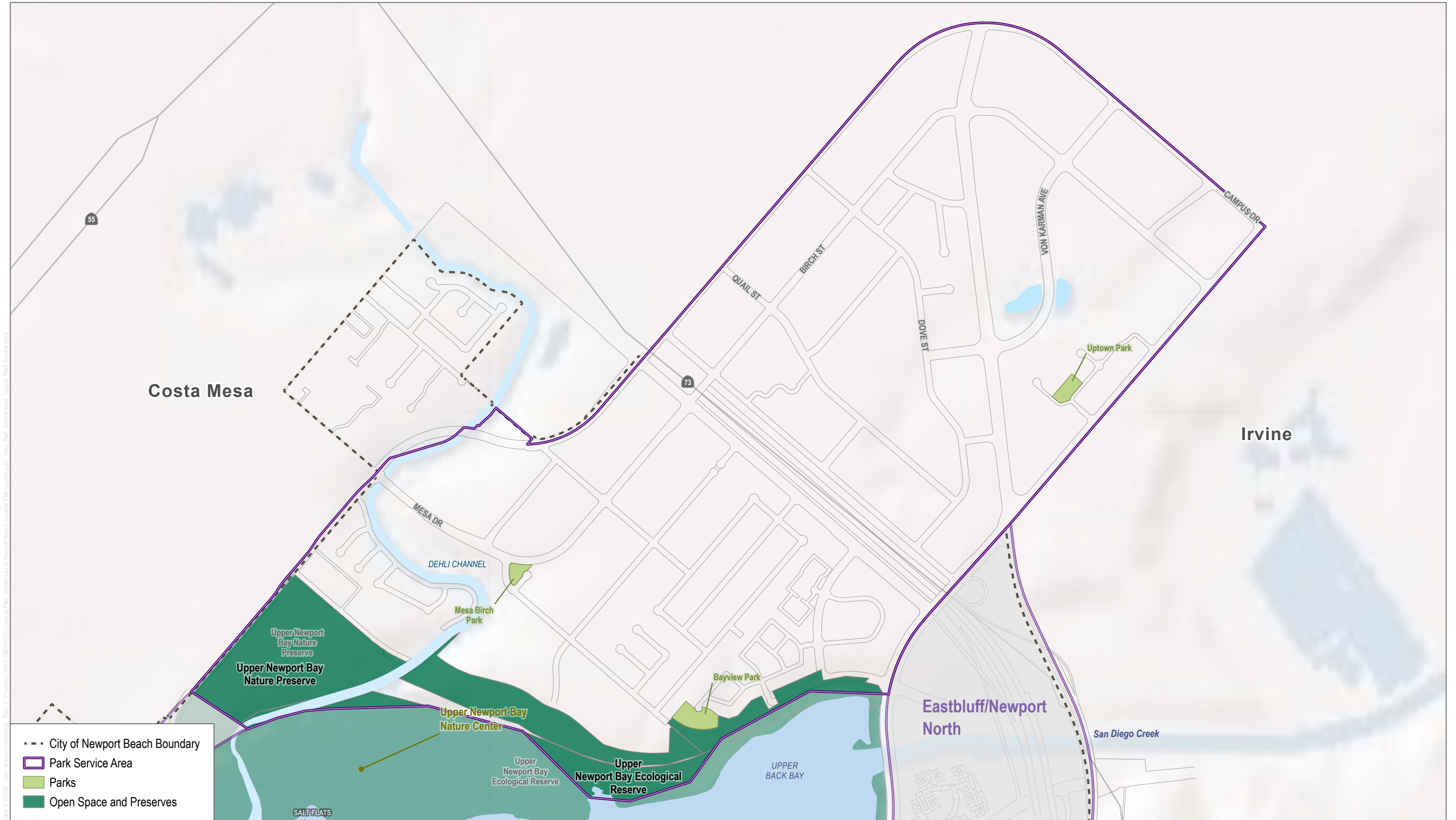
West Newport

WEST LIDO CHANNEL

THE RHINE

LIDO CHANNEL

LINDA ISLE MAIN CHANNEL

PROMONTORY BAY

Lower Bay

BAYSIDE DR

Newport Center

Marina Park (Docks)

Veterans Memorial Park

NEWPORT BAY

BALBOA ISLAND CHANNEL

Marina Park

BAYSIDE DR

Balboa Island

GRAND CANAL

LITTLE BALBOA CHANNEL

Corona del Mar

BALBOA BLVD W

Balboa Peninsula

BALBOA BLVD E

Corona del Mar State Beach

Corona del Mar State Beach

NEWPORT CHANNEL

AVOCADO AVE

Peninsula Park

Miramar Park

L Street Park

M Street Park

BAYSIDE DR

West Jetty View Park

PACIFIC OCEAN

HARBOR ENTRANCE

Legend:
- Park Service Area
- Parks
- Beaches - Parks_OS_UF

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

N

0 480 960 Feet

Balboa Peninsula Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Huntington Beach

SANTA ANA RIVER

Costa Mesa

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Santa Ana Heights

San Diego Creek

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

SALT FLATS

UPPER BACK BAY

Upper Newport Bay Nature Center

IRVINE AVE

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Eastbluff/Newport North

CAMELBACK ST

West Newport

15TH ST W

Mariners Park

WESTCLIFF DR

Galaxy View Park

MIDDLE ISLAND

VISTA DEL ORO

Upper Newport Bay

EASTBLUFF DR

Big Canyon/Belcourt

Bolsa Park

WESTMINSTER AVE

Westcliff

North Star Beach

PLACENTIA AVE

SUPERIOR AVE

HOSPITAL RD

Cliff Drive Park

DOVER DR

Newport Aquatic Center

SHELL MAKER ISLAND

OLD NEWPORT BLVD

Mariner's Mile

RIVERSIDE AVE

John Wayne Park

Bob Henry Park

Westcliff Park

BACK BAY

Newport Center

SANTA CRUZ DR

SANTA BARBARA DR

NEWPORT CENTER DR W

NEWPORT CENTER DR E

Santa Ana River County Beach

16TH ST

IRVINE AVE

Castaways Park

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

SAN MIGUEL DR

CLIFF DR

Kings Road Park

COAST HWY W

1

Lower Castaways Park

BAYSIDE DR

Harbor View

PACIFIC OCEAN

BALBOA BLVD

NEWPORT BLVD

WEST LIDO CHANNEL

LIDO CHANNEL

LINDA ISLE MAIN CHANNEL

Linda Isle

Lido Peninsula

THE RHINE

NEWPORT CHANNEL

Lido Isle

Lower Bay

55

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

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

N

0   500   1,000
Feet

Newport Heights/Upper Bay Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update
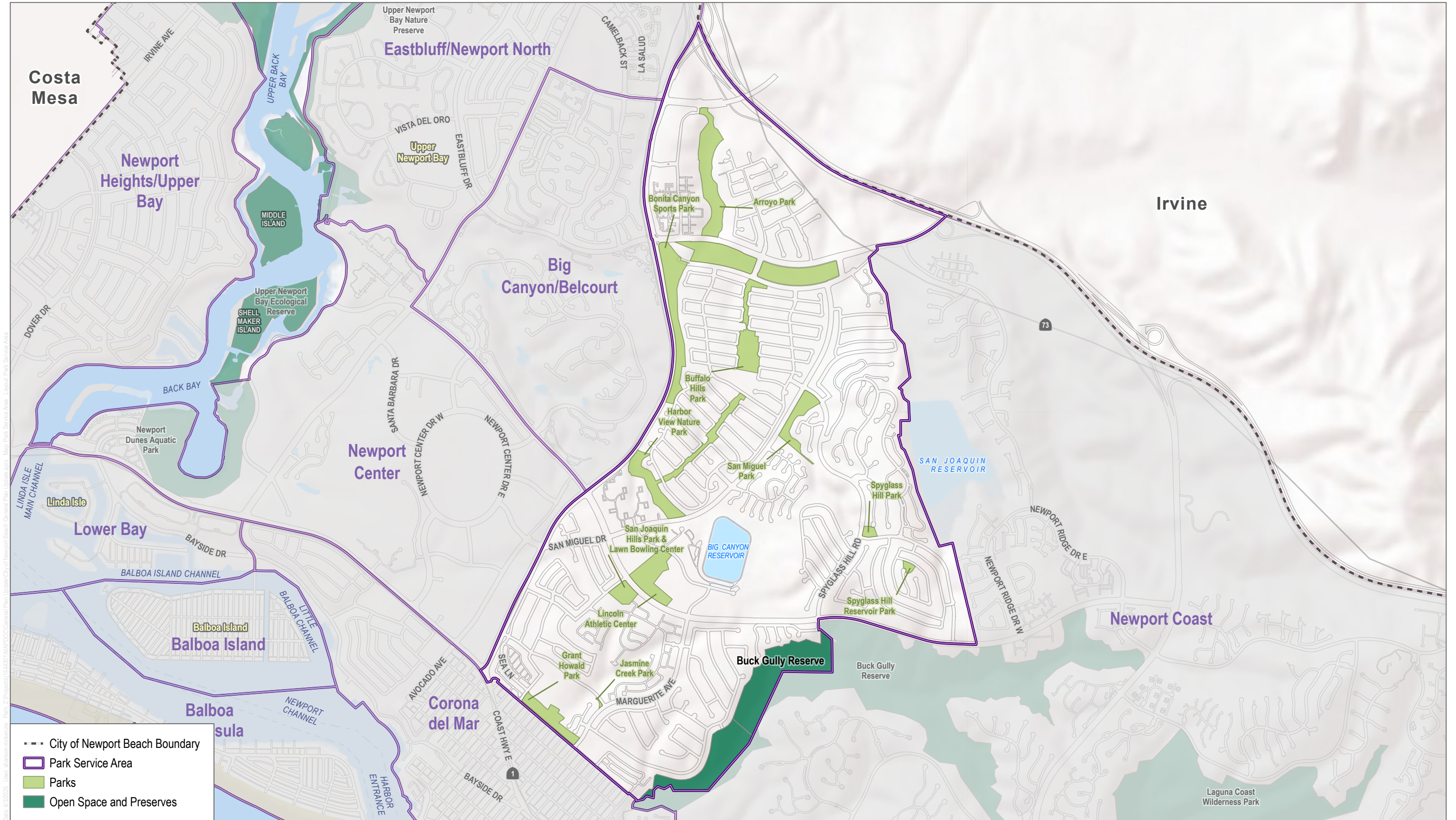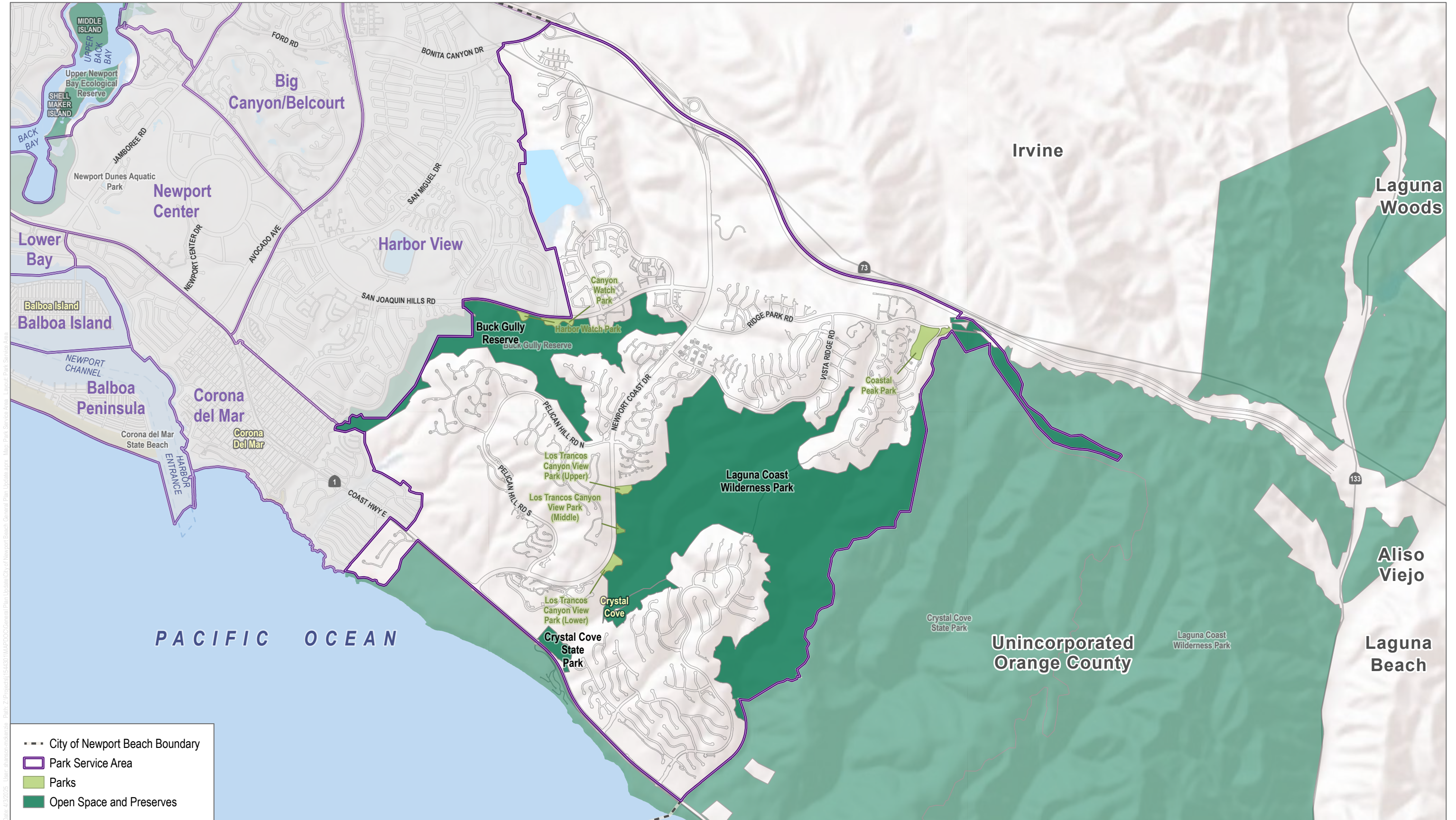
Santa Ana Heights Park Service Area

Costa Mesa

Irvine

Eastbluff/Newport North

DEHLI CHANNEL

MESA DR

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Upper Newport Bay Nature Center

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Mesa Birch Park

Bayview Park

Uptown Park

UPPER BACK BAY

SALT FLATS

San Diego Creek

QUAIL ST

BIRCH ST

DOVE ST

VON KARMAN AVE

CAMPUS DR

55

73

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

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

N

0   450   900
Feet

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Lower Bay Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Legend
- Park Service Area
- Parks

Newport Heights/Upper Bay

Newport Center

West Newport

Balboa Peninsula

Balboa Island

Lido Peninsula

Linda Isle

Lido Channel

West Lido Channel

Newport Island Channel

Newport Channel

Newport Bay

Linda Isle Main Channel

Balboa Island Channel

Little Balboa Channel

Promontory Bay

Back Bay

Upper Back Bay

Evening Star Bay

Morning Star Bay

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Shell Maker Island

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Newport Dunes

Santa Ana River County Beach

Corona del Mar State Beach

OCEAN

Grand Canal

Myrtle Park

The Rhine

Old Newport Blvd, Catalina Dr, La Jolla Dr, La Jolla Ln, Santa Ana Ave, Cliff Dr, Avon St, Coast Hwy W, Central Ave, Via Oporto, Via Lido, Via Malaga, Newport Blvd, 32nd St, 31st St, 30th St, 29th St, 28th St, 27th St, 26th St, 25th St, 24th St, 23rd St, 22nd St, 21st St, 20th St, Lido Park Dr, Villa Way, Lafayette Ave, Rhine The, Balboa Blvd, Ocean Front W, Mc Fadden Pl, Bay Ave W, Vilelle Pl, Balboa Blvd W, Ocean Front W, Ocean Front Alley W, Balboa Blvd W

Riverside Ave, Redlands Ave, Riverside Ave, Ocean View Ave, Tustin Ave, El Modena Ave, Aliso Ave, Fullerton Ave, Beacon St, Irvine Ave, Coral Pl, Haven Pl, 15th St, Clay St, 16th St, Sea Gull Ln, Castaways Ln, Dover Dr, St James Rd, Kings Pl, St James Pl, St Andrews Rd, Pirate Rd, Snug Harbor Rd, Signal Rd, Cliff Dr, Kings Rd

Westcliff Dr, Somerset Ln, Pescador Dr, Santiago Dr, Grove Ln, West Wind Way, Polaris Dr, Morning Star Ln, North Star Ln, Evening Star Ln, Bayside Dr, Back Bay Dr, Dolphin Ter

Via Lido Soud, Via Cordova, Strada Centro, Via Eboli, Via Firenze, Via Genoa, Via Graziana, Strada Havre, Strada Ithaca, Piazza Lido, Via Graziana, Via Havre, Via Ithaca, Strada Lorca, Via Lorca, Via Mentone, Strada Mentone, Via Koron, Via Jucar, Via Nice, Via Orvieto, Strada Centro, Via Quito, Via Ravenna, Via San Remo, Via Trieste, Strada Trieste, Strada Undine, Via Undine, Via Venezia, Via Waziers, Via Xanthe, Strada Xanthe, Via Yella, Strada Yella, Via Zurich, Strada Zurich, Via Lido Nord

Bay Front N, Bay Front Alley N, Emerald Ave, Garnet Ave, Pearl Ave, Agate Ave, Opal Ave, Collins Ave, Ruby Ave, Diamond Ave, Sapphire Ave, Balboa Ave, Coral Ave, Marine Ave, Grand Canal, Topaz Ave, Apolena Ave, Amethyst Ave, Onyx Ave, Park Ave

Harbor Island Rd, Cutter Rd, Cape Cove, Ketch Rd, Shelter Cove, Reef Cove, Yawl Rd, Harbor Island Dr, Beacon Bay

Buena Vista Blvd, Lindo Ave, Island Ave, Anade Ave, Edgewater Ave E

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

0 385 770 Feet

Balboa Island Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

Legend:
- Park Service Area
- Parks

Labels on map:
Lower Bay
Corona del Mar
Balboa Peninsula
Balboa Island
Balboa Island Park
Newport Channel
Grand Canal
Little Balboa Channel
Promontory Bay
Linda Isle Main Channel
Balboa Island Channel

DUDEK

0 185 370 Feet

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

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

Costa Mesa

Santa Ana Heights

Irvine

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

Upper Newport Bay Nature Center

SALT FLATS

UPPER BACK BAY

San Diego Creek

Bonita Creek Park

Eastbluff Park & Boys and Girls Club

Newport Heights/Upper Bay

UPPER BACK BAY

Upper Newport Bay

EASTBLUFF DR

VISTA DEL ORO

CAMELBACK ST

LA SALUD

Harbor View

Big Canyon/Belcourt

MIDDLE ISLAND

Big Canyon Park

Newport Center

Newport Coast

SHELL MAKER ISLAND

MESA DR

BIRCH ST

DOVE ST

IRVINE AVE

SANTIAGO DR

DOVER DR

DUDEK

N

0   500   1,000
Feet

Eastbluff/Newport North Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Newport Center Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Costa Mesa

Eastbluff/Newport North

Newport Heights/Upper Bay

Big Canyon/Belcourt

MIDDLE ISLAND

UPPER BACK BAY

SHELL MAKER ISLAND

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

EVENING STAR BAY

MORNING STAR BAY

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

BACK BAY

WESTCLIFF DR

DOVER DR

IRVINE AVE

16TH ST

DOVER DR

CLIFF DR

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Newport Dunes

Back Bay View Park

SAN CLEMENTE DR

SANTA CRUZ DR

SANTA BARBARA DR

NEWPORT CENTER DR W

NEWPORT CENTER DR E

Harbor View

Dog Park

SAN MIGUEL DR

BIG CANYON RESERVOIR

BIG CANYON RESERVOIR

MARGUERITE AVE

SEA LN

Civic Center Park

LINDA ISLE MAIN CHANNEL

Linda Isle

Lower Bay

LIDO CHANNEL

NEWPORT BAY NEWPORT CHANNEL

PROMONTORY BAY

BAYSIDE DR

BALBOA ISLAND CHANNEL

GRAND CANAL

LITTLE BALBOA CHANNEL

Balboa Island

Balboa Island

Corona del Mar

AVOCADO AVE

OCEAN

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

DUDEK

N

0   500   1,000
Feet

Map Labels

Water Bodies:
- Lower Bay
- Pacific Ocean
- Linda Isle Main Channel
- Promontory Bay
- Balboa Island Channel
- Little Balboa Channel
- Grand Canal
- Newport Channel
- Harbor Entrance
- Big Canyon Reservoir

Areas/Neighborhoods:
- Balboa Island
- Balboa Peninsula
- Newport Center
- Harbor View
- Corona Del Mar
- Newport Coast

Parks and Points of Interest:
- Irvine Terrace Park
- Begonia Park
- Old School Park
- Bayside Park
- CDM Pocket Park
- Buck Gully Reserve
- Buck Gully Reserve
- Lookout Point
- Corona del Mar State Beach
- Inspiration Point
- Corona del Mar State Beach
- Crystal Cove State Park
- Crystal Cove State Park

Streets:
- Bayside Dr
- Newport Center Dr E
- San Miguel Dr
- Spyglass Hill Rd
- Avocado Ave
- Sea Ln
- Marguerite Ave
- Bayside Dr
- Coast Hwy E

Legend

- **Park Service Area** (purple outline)
- **Parks** (light green)
- **Open Space and Preserves** (dark green)
- **Beaches - Parks_OS_UF** (tan)

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

N

0   500   1,000 Feet

Corona del Mar Park Service Area
City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Map labels

Costa Mesa

Eastbluff/Newport North

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

VISTA DEL ORO

Upper Newport Bay

Newport Heights/Upper Bay

MIDDLE ISLAND

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

SHELL MAKER ISLAND

Big Canyon/Belcourt

Bonita Canyon Sports Park

Arroyo Park

Irvine

BACK BAY

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park

Buffalo Hills Park

Harbor View Nature Park

SAN JOAQUIN RESERVOIR

Newport Center

San Miguel Park

Spyglass Hill Park

LINDA ISLE MAIN CHANNEL

Linda Isle

San Joaquin Hills Park & Lawn Bowling Center

BIG CANYON RESERVOIR

SPYGLASS HILL RD

NEWPORT RIDGE DR E

Lower Bay

BAYSIDE DR

San Miguel Dr

Spyglass Hill Reservoir Park

NEWPORT RIDGE DR W

BALBOA ISLAND CHANNEL

Lincoln Athletic Center

Newport Coast

Balboa Island

Grant Howald Park

Jasmine Creek Park

Buck Gully Reserve

Buck Gully Reserve

Balboa Peninsula

MARGUERITE AVE

Corona del Mar

COAST HWY E

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

NEWPORT CHANNEL

HARBOR ENTRANCE

BAYSIDE DR

1

Legend

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

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK   N

0   500   1,000 Feet

Harbor View Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Legend

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

SOURCE: City of Newport Beach

DUDEK

0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Newport Coast Park Service Area

City of Newport Beach General Plan Update

Map labels:

MIDDLE ISLAND
UPPER BACK BAY
Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve
SHELL MAKER ISLAND
BACK BAY
FORD RD
BONITA CANYON DR

Big Canyon/Belcourt

Irvine

Laguna Woods

Newport Dunes Aquatic Park
JAMBOREE RD
Newport Center
NEWPORT CENTER DR
AVOCADO AVE
SAN MIGUEL DR

Harbor View

Lower Bay
NEWPORT CHANNEL

Balboa Island
Balboa Island

SAN JOAQUIN HILLS RD

73

Canyon Watch Park
RIDGE PARK RD

Balboa Peninsula

Corona del Mar

Corona del Mar State Beach

Corona Del Mar

HARBOR ENTRANCE

1

COAST HWY E

Buck Gully Reserve
Harbor Watch Park
Buck Gully Reserve

NEWPORT COAST DR

VISTA RIDGE RD

Coastal Peak Park

PELICAN HILL RD N

Los Trancos Canyon View Park (Upper)

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

PELICAN HILL RD S

Los Trancos Canyon View Park (Middle)

Unincorporated Orange County

Aliso Viejo

PACIFIC OCEAN

Los Trancos Canyon View Park (Lower)

Crystal Cove

Crystal Cove State Park

133

Crystal Cove State Park

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Laguna Beach

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, City Park Categories, 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).

City Park Categories

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

SA 11 | SA 9 🍃 2 | SA 12 🍃 1
SA 7 🍃 1 | SA 3 🍃 1
🍃 9 | SA 2 🍃 1 | SA 1 🍃 1

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

SA 3 | SA 1 🍃 3 | SA 10 🍃 2
🍃 8 | SA 11 🍃 1 | SA 2 🍃 1
SA 12 | SA 9 🍃 1
🍃 5 | SA 7 🍃 1
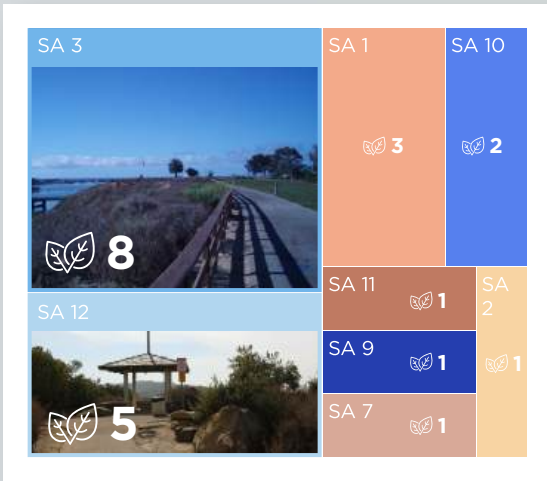
Neighborhood Park
There are 18 Neighborhood Parks across 9 different service areas

SA 1 🍃 6 | SA 2 🍃 2 | SA 12 🍃 1
SA 11 🍃 1 | SA 7 🍃 1 | SA 6 🍃 1
SA 10 | 🍃 4 | SA 4 🍃 1 | SA 3 🍃 1

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

SA 2 🍃 3 | SA 3 🍃 1
SA 1 🍃 1
SA 10 🍃 1
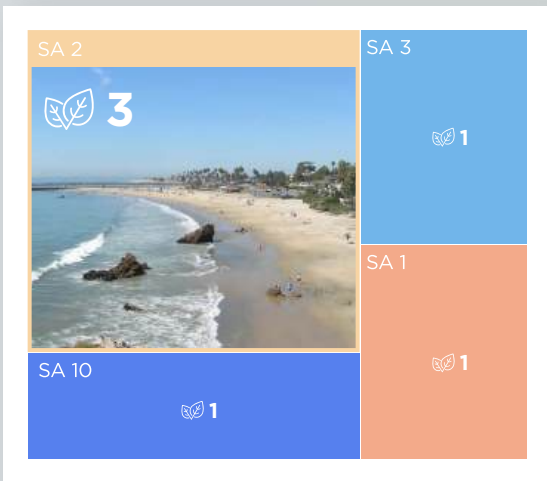
Mini Park
There are 14 Mini Parks across 7 different service areas

SA 2 🍃 3 | SA 11 🍃 2 | SA 10 🍃 2
SA 1 🍃 3 | SA 4 🍃 2 | SA 3 🍃 1
SA 5 🍃 1

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

SA 3 | SA 10 🍃 1 | SA 7 🍃 1
🍃 4 | SA 2 🍃 1 | SA 1 🍃 1
SA 11 | 🍃 3

Newport Beach has **92 Total Parks** *within* **12 Service Areas**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

There are also **6 Open Space/ Preserves** *that cross into* **6 Service Areas**

Not In Designated Service Area | SA 11 | SA 9
SA 4 | SA 3
SA 12 | SA 7
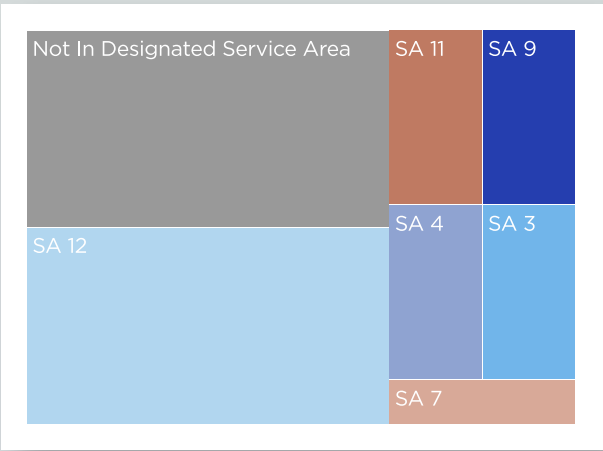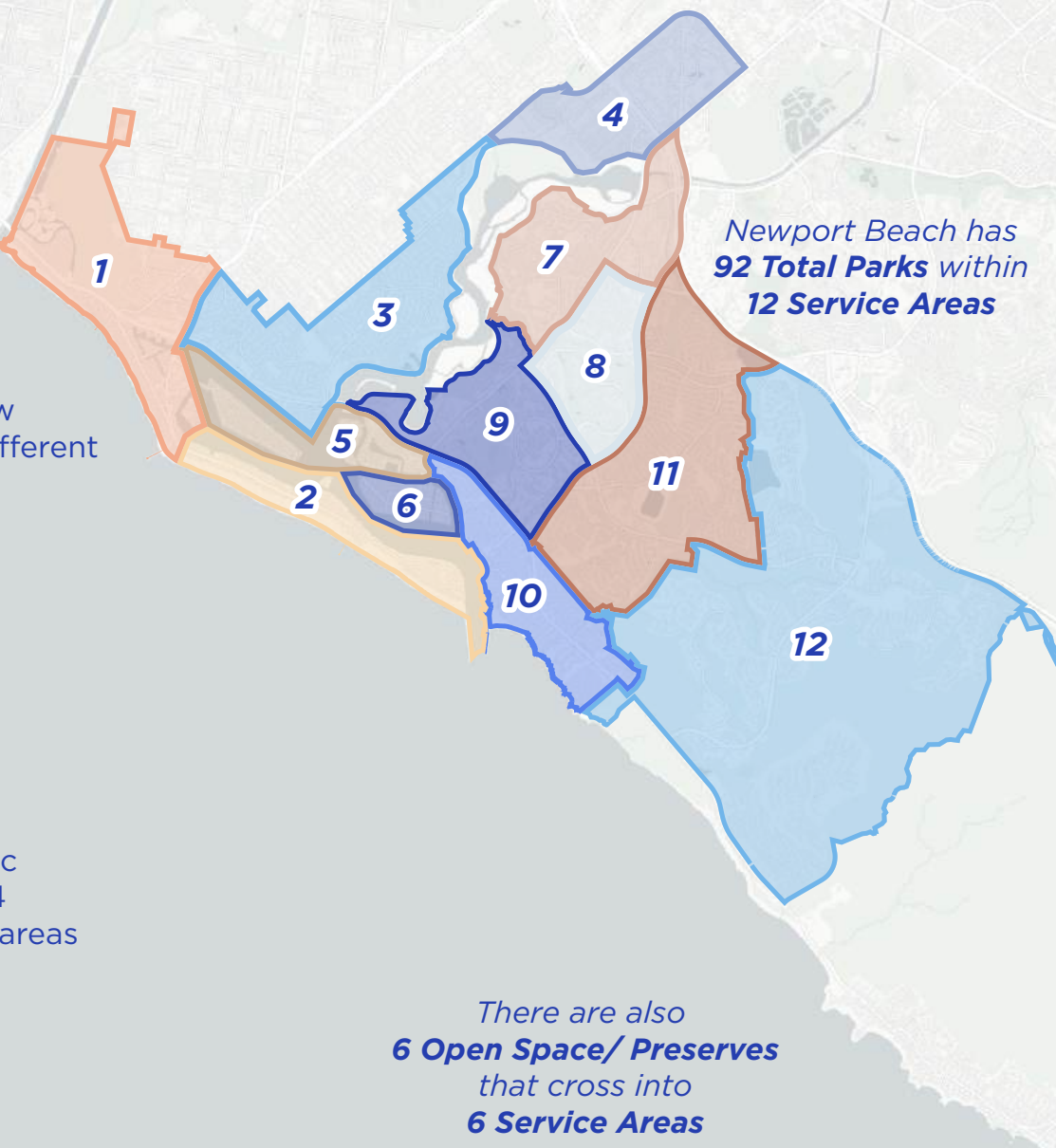
GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

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: Establish and maintain high-quality events and programming for residents, prioritizing older adults and families with children. (Imp. 23.4)

- Policy R-1.2: 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: Coordinate with homeowner's associations to conduct City recreation programs on private parkland. (Imp. 23.3)

- Policy R-1.4: Provide programming and recreational activities compatible with the location and landscape. (Imp. 23.3)

- Policy R-1.5: 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: 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: Create programs for older adults that are financially sustainable. (Imp. 23.4)

- Policy R-2.3: 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: 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: 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: 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: Consider creating a Parks Master Plan to comprehensively assess and plan for park needs across Newport Beach. (Imp. 23.1)

- Policy R-3.5: 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: Support the increase of parkland through joint-use agreements. (Imp. 14.2)

- Policy R-3.7: 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: 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: 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)

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

- Policy R-4.1: 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: 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: 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: Continue funding park improvements through the Park Dedications and Fees Ordinance. (Imp. 23.5)

- Policy R-4.5: Ensure continued protection of public parkland for recreational uses. (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-4.6: Prevent, to the extent possible, any net loss of parkland and open space. (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-4.7: Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses and provide naturalized drainage channels within Newport Beach. Where feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation activities. (Policy S-3.1.1)

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: Enhance recreational facilities to ensure adequate capacity for future user demands and adapt to

evolving services and facility needs. (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-5.2: Develop design standards for parks that are reasonably adaptive to extreme heat (e.g., shade, seating, water fountains) (Imp. 23.2) (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-5.3: 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. (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-5.4: Develop reasonable design standards to ensure ADA-compliant facilities at parks, piers, trails, and public viewing areas for people who require mobility aids. (Imp. 23.2) (Maintenance/Protection Program)

- Policy R-5.5: 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 in the Newport Beach Public Trust Lands Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. (Policy S-3.1.3)

- Policy R-5.6: 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. (Policy S-7.1.2)

- Policy R-5.7: Consider creating a pilot cool pavement program to implement materials that reduce the effects of extreme heat. (Policy S-7.1.1)

- 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)

- Policy R-5.9: Re-evaluate population projections to determine park and recreational needs for 2050. (Imp. 23.1)

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: 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: 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)

- Policy R-6.3: 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, 14.16)

- Policy R-6.4: Continue providing City facilities for City-operated recreational programs and other purposes. (Imp. 23.4)

- Policy R-6.5: 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: 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: Encourage interagency coordination to support planning efforts for the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve (formerly Banning Ranch). (Imp. 14.16)

Beach Recreation

Newport Beach has approximately 251 acres of public beach recreation area, 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, the current boardwalk from 36th Street to just beyond E Street, 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: Use reasonable efforts to ensure the preservation and enhancement of public beaches for public recreation. (Imp. 14.6, 14.8) (Local Coastal Program)

- Policy R-7.2: 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. 23.1) (Local Coastal Program)

- Policy R-7.3: Adapt infrastructure for beach access points to be resilient to coastal hazards. (Local Coastal Program)

- Policy R-7.4: Maintain reasonable beach access points to continue providing adequate public access to the beach and coastal resources. (Imp. 23.1) (Local Coastal Program)

- Policy R-7.5: Identify appropriate, reasonable 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 (Local Coastal Program) (Policy NR-7.1.2)

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: 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. 21.2, 23.1) (Local Coastal Program)

- Policy R-8.2: Reasonably improve support facilities to ensure that they are adaptable to changing needs, interests, and demographics. (Maintenance/Protection Program)